



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

March 23, 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AMBERROSE MERINO

Division 1

DON WILSON

Division 2

GLORIA DIZMANG

Division 3

KATHY MAC LAREN-GOMEZ

Division 4

VINCENT DINO

Division 5

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT TO BE HELD AT 2029 EAST AVENUE Q, PALMDALE OR VIA TELECONFERENCE

FOR THE PUBLIC: VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY

DIAL-IN NUMBER: 571-748-4021 ATTENDEE PIN: 207-748-666#

Submit Public Comments at: <https://www.gomeet.com/207-748-666>

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

6:00 p.m.

DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX

General Manager

ALESHIRE & WYNDER LLP

Attorneys

NOTES: To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to participate in any Board meeting please contact Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 at least 48 hours prior to a Board meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Additionally, an interpreter will be made available to assist the public in making **comments** under Agenda Item No. 4 and any action items where public input is offered during the meeting if requested at least 48 hours before the meeting. Please call Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 with your request. (PWD Rules and Regulations Section 4.03.1 (c))

Adicionalmente, un intérprete estará disponible para ayudar al público a hacer **comentarios** bajo la sección No. 4 en la agenda y cualquier elemento de acción donde se ofrece comentarios al público durante la reunión, siempre y cuando se solicite con 48 horas de anticipación de la junta directiva. Por favor de llamar Dawn Deans al 661-947-4111 x1003 con su solicitud. (PWD reglas y reglamentos sección 4.03.1 (c))

Agenda item materials, as well as materials related to agenda items submitted after distribution of the agenda packets, are available for public review at the District's office located at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale (Government Code Section 54957.5). Please call Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 for public review of materials.

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES: The prescribed time limit per speaker is three-minutes. Please refrain from public displays or outbursts such as unsolicited applause, comments, or cheering. Any disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the District to carry out its meeting will not be permitted, and offenders will be requested to leave the meeting. (PWD Rules and Regulations, Appendix DD, Sec. IV.A.)

Each item on the agenda shall be deemed to include any appropriate motion, resolution, or ordinance to take action on any item.

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.
- 2) Roll Call.
- 3) Adoption of Agenda.



- 4) Public comments for non-agenda items.
- 5) Presentations:
 - 5.1) Presentation of Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) refund. (Randall Reed, JPIA Executive Committee Member)
- 6) Action Items - Consent Calendar (The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item on the Consent Calendar as the Consent Calendar is considered collectively by the Board of Directors prior to action being taken.)
 - 6.1) Approval of minutes of Regular Board Meeting held March 14, 2022.
 - 6.2) Payment of bills for March 28, 2022.
 - 6.3) Approval of Resolution No. 22-5 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Proclaiming a Local Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor Issued March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Palmdale Water District for the Period Beginning April 1, 2022 and Ending April 30, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Ly)
 - 6.4) Approval of Resolution No. 22-6 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Adopting the State CEQA Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) and Adopting the Environmental Review Procedures. (No Budget Impact– Assistant General Manager Ly)
- 7) Action Items – Action Calendar (The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Board of Directors prior to action being taken.)
 - 7.1) Consideration and possible action on Resolution No. 22-7 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the General Manager or Designee to Sign on Behalf of the District the Hauled Water Grant Funding Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Ly)
 - 7.2) Consideration and possible action on adoption of a Negative Declaration and authorization of staff to sign subsequent Notices of Determinations regarding the proposed Multi-Year Transfer Between Palmdale Water District and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District. (No Budget Impact – Resource and Analytics Director Thompson II) **(THE DIAL-IN INFORMATION FOR THIS ITEM HAS CHANGED FROM THE PUBLISHED NOTICE OF INTENT. PLEASE SEE AGENDA COVER PAGE FOR DIAL-IN INFORMATION.)**
 - 7.3) Consideration and possible action on authorization of the following conferences, seminars, and training sessions for Board and staff attendance within budget amounts previously approved in the 2022 Budget:
 - a) None at this time.

- 8) Information Items:
 - 8.1) Reports of Directors:
 - a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:
 - 1) Outreach Committee – March 16. (Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair/Director Wilson)
 - 2) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) – March 22. (Director Dino/Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)
 - b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.
 - 8.2) Report of General Manager.
 - a) March 2022 written report of activities through February 2022.
 - 8.3) Report of General Counsel.
- 9) Board members' requests for future agenda items.
- 10) Adjournment.



DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX,
General Manager

DDL/dd

RE: AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.1 – PRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES/JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY (ACWA/JPIA) REFUND. (RANDALL REED, JPIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER)

The District participates in ACWA/JPIA's liability, property, and workers compensation programs, and refunds are awarded annually to participating agencies with low loss ratios. Mr. Reed will be presenting the District's refund check at the March 28, 2022 Regular Board meeting.

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 21, 2022 **March 28, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.3 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 22-5 BEING A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR ISSUED MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2022 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2022 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS. (NO BUDGET IMPACT – ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LY)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution No. 22-5 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Proclaiming a Local Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor Issued March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Palmdale Water District for the Period Beginning April 1, 2022 and Ending April 30, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

Alternative Options:

The Board can choose not to approve Resolution No. 22-5.

Impact of Taking No Action:

Teleconference options for the District's publicly noticed meetings will end.

Background:

With the issuance of the Governor's State of Emergency Executive Order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Brown Act was modified regarding agenda postings, Board member attendance from remote locations via teleconference, public attendance, and participation at publicly noticed meetings via teleconference. These modifications were rescinded by the Governor effective September 30, 2021; however, agencies and special districts have the option to continue remote teleconferencing options under the provisions of newly enacted AB 361. AB 361 provides agencies the ability to meet remotely during proclaimed state emergencies under modified Brown Act requirements beyond September 30, 2021.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager

March 21, 2022

The criteria to rely on the provisions of AB 361 are as follows:

- 1) The local agency is holding a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or
- 2) The local agency is holding a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or
- 3) The local agency is holding a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Resolution No. 22-5 addresses these criteria and will remain in effect for a period of 30 days. If the District wishes to continue meeting under modified Brown Act requirements under AB 361 after 30 days, Resolution No. 22-5 must be renewed.

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.

This item directly relates to the District’s Mission Statement.

Budget:

There is no budget impact.

Supporting Documents:

- Resolution No. 22-5 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Proclaiming a Local Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor Issued March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Palmdale Water District for the Period Beginning April 1, 2022 and Ending April 30, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

RESOLUTION NO. 22-5

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR ISSUED MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2022 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2022 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the Palmdale Water District is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of Palmdale Water District's ("District") legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District's boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the District, specifically, a State of Emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020 in response to the global outbreak of the novel Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, meeting in person would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors does hereby find that a State of Emergency has been proclaimed as a result of the threat of COVID-19 and the contagious nature of COVID-19 have caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the District that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the District, and desires to proclaim a local emergency and ratify the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency, the Board of Directors does hereby find that the legislative bodies of the Palmdale Water District shall conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, the Palmdale Water District offers the option of teleconferencing to ensure access for the public to attend meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Board hereby proclaims that a local emergency now exists throughout the District, and meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees due to the serious and contagious nature of COVID-19.

Section 3. Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of a State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The staff, General Manager, and legislative bodies of the Palmdale Water District are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect on April 1, 2022 and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) April 30, 2022, which is 30 days from the adoption of this Resolution, or (ii) such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of the Palmdale Water District may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District this 28th day of March, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, General Counsel

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 21, 2022 **March 28, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.4 – APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-6 BEING A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT ADOPTING THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 14, CHAPTER 3) AND ADOPTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES. (NO BUDGET IMPACT – ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LY)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution No. 22-6 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Adopting the State CEQA Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) and Adopting the Environmental Review Procedures required in Assembly Bill (AB) 819.

Alternative Options:

The Board can choose not to approve Resolution No. 22-6 and be out compliance with State of California CEQA regulations.

Impact of Taking No Action:

District staff will need to come back to the Board requesting approval for all CEQA related matters.

Background:

The last time the District updated the CEQA policy was in 2005. Since then, there have been numerous changes made to the regulations. Some of those changes include the posting and filing procedures that streamline the process and reduce paper waste. In addition, the regulation currently allows for an agency to reference the legislation and procedures. This will give staff flexibility to adhere to the changes and be consistent with the regulations.

The current Appendix L of the Rules & Regulations will be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the revised Appendix L referencing the State CEQA website and clearinghouse portal.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager

March 21, 2022

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 2 – Organizational Excellence and Strategic Initiative No. 3 – Systems Efficiency.

This item directly relates to the District’s Mission Statement.

Budget:

There is no budget impact.

Supporting Documents:

- Resolution No. 22-6 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Adopting the State CEQA Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) and Adopting the Environmental Review Procedures
- Revised Appendix L with website reference.

APPENDIX L

Resolution No. 22-6

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Adopting the State CEQA Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) and Adopting the Environmental Review Procedures

WEBSITES:

Palmdale Water Website:

[California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\) Information and Filings - Palmdale Water District](#)

California Environmental Quality Act:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>

CEQAnet Web Portal:

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>

RESOLUTION NO. 22-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT ADOPTING THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 14, CHAPTER 3) AND ADOPTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, Section 21082 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15022 of the California Code of Regulations require each California public agency to adopt specific procedures for administering the California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 15022 of the California Code of Regulations permits a public agency to adopt the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, referenced hereinafter as the State CEQA Guidelines through incorporation by reference and to then adopt only the procedures which are necessary to tailor the general provisions of the State CEQA Guidelines to the specific operations of the agency; and

WHEREAS, Palmdale Water District must adopt and subsequently periodically revise its local guidelines for implementing CEQA to make them consistent with the current provisions and interpretations of CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the State CEQA Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 15000 et seq.), as currently amended, would ensure the District's policy is in compliance with the most current version and interpretation of the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 15000 et seq.), as currently amended, are hereby adopted and are incorporated by reference as Appendix L of Palmdale Water District's Rules and Regulations.
2. To the extent applicable in connection with the construction of any Facilities or Project-related activities, the District shall fully comply with all CEQA requirements in reviewing and approving such Facilities or activities as a component of the Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District this 28th day of March, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, General Counsel

P A L M D A L E W A T E R D I S T R I C T
B O A R D M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 21, 2022 **March 28, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Adam C. Ly, Assistant General Manager
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.1 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 22-7 BEING A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT THE HAULED WATER GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD. (NO-BUDGET IMPACT – ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LY)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution No. 22-7 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the General Manager or Designee to Sign On Behalf of the District the Hauled Water Grant Funding Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

Alternative Options:

The Board does not approve the resolution.

Impact of Taking No Action:

The District will inform SWRCB of the decision and ask them to work with Alpine Springs Mobile Home to process the agreement.

Background:

In June 2020, the Board approved a contract with Kennedy Communication to process the application under SB 200 for funding to connect Alpine Springs Mobile Home (ASMH) to the District's system. The first step of this process is to qualify ASMH under the guideline of Human Right to Water. This was accomplished in 2021, and we moved forward for funding the hauling of water delivery to temporarily meet ASMH's needs. This agreement will allow the State to help fund the need as we complete the process for funding of design and construction of the connections.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager

March 21, 2022

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 3 – System Efficiency; Strategic Initiative No. 4 – Financial Health, and Stability and Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.

Budget:

There is no budget impact. Water costs will be reimbursed through the agreement.

Supporting Documents:

- Resolution No. 22-7 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the General Manager or Designee to Sign on Behalf of the District the Hauled Water Grant Funding Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board

RESOLUTION NO. 22-7
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE
DISTRICT THE HAULED WATER GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

WHEREAS, the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park is a mobile home park located within the service territory of the Palmdale Water District (“District”); and

WHEREAS, the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park would like to enter into a Master Meter Consolidation (“Project”) with the District to ensure a safe and reliable water supply; and

WHEREAS, the District is applying for State funding from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Project; and

WHEREAS, if state funding is granted, the District will plan, design and implement the Project. The system improvements include installing a pipeline connecting Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park to the District’s system.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The District’s General Manager or designee (“Authorized Representative”) is hereby authorized and directed to sign and file, for and on behalf of the District, a Hauled Water Grant Funding Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for the temporary hauling of water to Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park.

SECTION 2. The Authorized Representative is designated to represent the District in carrying out the responsibilities under the funding agreement, including certifying disbursement requests on behalf of the District and compliance with applicable State and Federal laws.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 28th day of March 2022 by the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, General Counsel

P A L M D A L E W A T E R D I S T R I C T
B O A R D M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 22, 2022 **March 28, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Peter Thompson II, Resource and Analytics Director
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.2 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
ON ADOPTION OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND
AUTHORIZATION OF STAFF TO SIGN SUBSEQUENT NOTICES OF
DETERMINATIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED MULTI-YEAR
TRANSFER BETWEEN PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AND
LITTLEROCK CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT (NO BUDGET
IMPACT- RESOURCE AND ANALYTICS DIRECTOR THOMPSON II)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the Negative Declaration and authorize staff to sign subsequent Notices of Determination regarding the proposed multi-year transfer between Palmdale Water District (District) and the Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (Littlerock).

Background:

The approval of the Water Management Tools Amendment to the District's State Water Project (SWP) contract enables the District to enter into long term transfer agreements with other State Water Contractors.

Staff has worked on developing an agreement with Littlerock that would enable Littlerock to transfer excess SWP water to the District. Staff has developed, and the General Manager has signed, a term sheet to further the development of this agreement. Concurrently, staff has been working with Littlerock staff and an environmental consultant to ensure the agreement complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For this purpose, an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been developed and made public. The IS/ND found the agreement would have no significant impact on the environment. Two public comments were received from Caltrans and the State Water Resource Control Board, and both comments were fully addressed. Following adoption of the Negative Declaration, staff will file Notices of Determination with the county office and the Office of Planning and Research.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager

March 22, 2022

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This work is part of Strategic Initiative 1 – Water Resource Reliability.

This item directly relates to the District's Mission Statement.

Budget:

No budget impact.

Supporting Documents:

- Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration
- Initial Study/Negative Declaration
- Comment Letter from Cal-Trans
- Comment Letter from State Water Resource Control Board

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PALMDALE
WATER DISTRICT AND LITTLOCK CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT MULTI-YEAR
WATER TRANSFER PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Palmdale Water District (PWD) plans to adopt Negative Declaration for the proposed Palmdale Water District and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) Multi-Year Water Transfer Project. The public hearing is expected to be held by the Board of Directors on March 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM, at the District Office, 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550. PWD Board meetings are currently accessible to the public via teleconference only. The dial in number is: 571-748-4021, Attendee PIN: 433-288-765#. Public comments can be submitted using the following link: <https://www.gomeet.com/433-288-765>.

PWD and LCID seek to enter into a mutually beneficial water transfer of a portion of LCID's SWP annual Table A water. In this Project, LCID would transfer its portion of SWP annual Table A water to PWD. PWD would receive an amount not less than 75 percent and not more than 100 percent of LCID's annual Table A allocation, up to a maximum of 2,300-acre feet. In addition, LCID has an annual option to retain up to 25% of its Table A water. The annual transfer would take place from the date that the agreement is fully executed, until December 31, 2035. The parties may mutually revise the agreement in the years 2025 and/or 2030.

All water transferred from LCID to PWD would use existing conveyance infrastructure and would not require any new construction. The water transferred to PWD would be used to increase the water supply reliability within the service area.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared, describing the degree of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. Palmdale Water District has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed project and has determined that they will be less than significant. Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration are on file and available for public review at the Palmdale Water District Office, 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550 or website at <https://www.palmdalewater.org/>. The public review period during which the PWD will receive comments on the proposed Negative Declaration will begin on February 18, 2022 and end on March 20, 2022. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Dena Giacomini at Provost & Pritchard, 1800 30th Street, Suite 280, Bakersfield, CA 93308, or at dgiacomini@ppeng.com.

Palmdale Water District

Palmdale Water District (PWD) and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) Multi-Year Water Transfer Project

Administrative Draft Initial Study / Negative Declaration

March 2022

Prepared for:
Palmdale Water District
2029 East Avenue Q
Palmdale, CA 93550

Prepared by:
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
1800 30th Street, Suite 280, Bakersfield, CA 93308



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Report Prepared for:

Palmdale Water District

2029 East Avenue Q
Palmdale, CA 93550

Contact:

Peter Thompson, Resource and Analytics Director
Palmdale Water District
(661) 456 1042

Report Prepared by:

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

1800 30th Street, Suite 280
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Contact:

Dena E. Giacomini, Senior Planner
(661) 616 5900

Project Team Members

Dena Giacomini, Principal Planner, Project Manager
Wyatt Czesinski, Assistant Planner, Writer
Ryan McKelvey, Assistant Planner, Writer
Mallory Serrao, Associate GIS Specialist
Jackie Lancaster, Project Administrator, Document Coordinator
Briza Sholars, Senior Planner, QA/QC

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	Acre Feet
AFY	Acre Feet/year
AVAQMD	Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO _{2e}	Carbon Dioxide equivalent
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
IS	Initial Study
IS/ND	Initial Study/ Negative Declaration
LACSD	Sanitation District of Los Angeles County
LCID	Little Rock Creek Irrigation District
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
ND	Negative Declaration
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
PBP	Priority Basin Project
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PM ₁₀	particulate matter 10 microns in size
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter 2.5 microns in size
ppb	parts per billion
Project	PWD/LCID Multi-Year Water Transfer Project
PWD	Palmdale Water District
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SO _x	Sulfur Oxide

SWP	(California) State Water Project
USEPA.....	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS.....	United States Geological Survey

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Chapter 1 Introduction

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (Provost & Pritchard) has prepared this Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) on behalf of Palmdale Water District to address the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Palmdale Water District and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District Multi-Year Water Transfer Project (Project). This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.* The Palmdale Water District is the CEQA lead agency for this Project.

The site and the Project are described in detail in the **Chapter 2 Project Description**.

1.1 Regulatory Information

An Initial Study (IS) is a document prepared by a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 14 (Chapter 3, Section 15000, *et seq.*)-- also known as the CEQA Guidelines--Section 15064 (a)(1) states that an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the proposed Project under review may have a significant effect on the environment and should be further analyzed to determine mitigation measures or project alternatives that might avoid or reduce project impacts to less than significant levels. A negative declaration (ND) may be prepared instead if the lead agency finds that there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. An ND is a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project, not otherwise exempt from CEQA, would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why it would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a ND or *mitigated* ND shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a. The IS shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
- b. The IS identified potentially significant effects, but:
 1. Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed *mitigated* ND and IS is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur is prepared, and
 2. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the Project as *revised* may have a significant effect on the environment.

1.2 Document Format

This IS/ND contains three chapters. **Chapter 1 Introduction**, provides an overview of the Project and the CEQA process. **Chapter 2 Project Description** provides a detailed description of Project components and objectives. **Chapter 3 Impact Analysis** presents the CEQA checklist and environmental analysis for all impact areas, mandatory findings of significance, and feasible mitigation measures, if warranted. If the Project does not have the potential to significantly impact a given issue area, the relevant section provides a brief discussion of the reasons why no impacts are expected. If the Project could have a potentially significant impact on a resource, the Impacts Analysis Sections provides a description of potential impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures and/or permit requirements that would reduce identified impacts to a less than significant level. **Chapter 3** concludes with the Lead Agency's determination based upon this initial evaluation.

Chapter 2 Project Description

2.1 Project Background and Objectives

2.1.1 Project Title

Palmdale Water District and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District Multi-Year Water Transfer Project.

2.1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

Palmdale Water District
2029 East Avenue Q
Palmdale, CA 93550

2.1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number

Lead Agency Contact
Peter Thompson
(661) 456-1042

CEQA Consultant
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Dena Giacomini, Principal Planner, Project Manager
(661) 616-5900

2.1.4 Project Background

2.1.4.1 Palmdale Water District

Palmdale Water Company dug the first irrigation ditch from the Littlerock Creek in the late 1800s. When storage facilities for water became necessary, the South Antelope Valley Irrigation Company was formed for the construction of storage via the Palmdale Dam forming Palmdale Lake. In the early 1900s, the Palmdale Water Company and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID), which was founded in 1892, had acquired facilities from earlier water companies and began weighing options for constructing more dams on the Littlerock Creek. To finance the construction of new dams, the Palmdale Irrigation District (District) was formed in 1918. At its foundation, the District supplied irrigation water to the approximately 4,500 acres of agricultural land within its boundaries. The primary functions of the District were to acquire, control, conserve, store, and distribute water for the benefit of the inhabitants and water users within the District.

In the 1950s, industry in the area switched from agriculture to aerospace with the introduction of Air Force Plant 42. This changed the primary use of water from agricultural irrigation to domestic water. To supplement groundwater and reservoir water, the District entered into a contract with the California State Water Project (SWP) becoming a State Water Contractor. The capacity of Palmdale Lake was increased, and a water treatment facility was constructed. At that time, the District boundaries were expanded to encompass an approximate total of 34,000 acres.

By 1966, the Palmdale Irrigation District was only providing municipal and industrial water. As a result, the name was changed to Palmdale Water District (PWD). Presently, PWD has a service area that encompasses approximately 187 square miles of land in northeastern Los Angeles County. PWD consists of more than 30 non-contiguous areas scattered throughout the Antelope Valley with PWD's primary service area within the

City of Palmdale's planning area. The distribution system has over 433 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 4" to 48" in diameter, 24 active water wells, 14 booster pumping stations, and 20 water tanks with a total storage capacity of 50 million gallons of water.

PWD's service area population is expected to more than double over the next 25 years which will cause water demands to more than double. A Strategic Water Resources Plan has been developed to address these demands and identifies a number of water resource options available to meet these needs, including the use of imported water from the SWP, groundwater, local runoff, recycled water, conservation, and water banking, and considers and evaluates these options with respect to cost, reliability, flexibility, implement-ability, and sustainability. The PWD service area is shown in **Figure 2-1**.

2.1.4.2 Littlerock Creek Irrigation District

Under the provisions of the Wright Act of 1887, local farmers and landowners were allowed to form irrigation districts to support agricultural and farming interests. In 1892, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) was formed and oversaw an area of more than 2,000 acres with less than 100 inhabitants. The first infrastructure was constructed to bring surface water flow from Littlerock Creek to newly cultivated lands. Although LCID customers suffered during the great drought of the 1890s, LCID never ceased to function in some capacity and is one of the oldest irrigation districts in the State of California.

After an extended drought that began in 1896, LCID, together with the financial support of the Palmdale Water Company, began devising plans to build a dam that would hold in reserve the previously uncontrollable spring runoff and floods of the Littlerock Creek. In a joint venture between Palmdale Water Company (present-day PWD) and LCID, the Little Rock Dam was built in 1924 and was the tallest multiple-arch reinforced concrete dam in the world at that time. The reservoir water supply continued to provide water to local orchards in the area holding over 2,400-acre-feet of water. The dam was renovated in 1994 to increase capacity, strengthen the face, and add a spillway. This increased reservoir capacity to 3,700-acre-feet. LCID provides water for agricultural use for the surrounding areas of Littlerock. The LCID service area is shown in **Figure 2-1**.

2.1.4.3 State Water Project

The State Water Project (SWP) diverts and carries long-term water supplies from northern California through a state-run water conveyance aqueduct to southern California. Approximately 70 percent of the water is used for residential, municipal, and industrial uses and about 30 percent is used for agricultural irrigation. It is the largest state financed water project ever built. SWP facilities deliver each year's available water through contracts between the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the 29 State Water Contractors (Contractor), including PWD and LCID.

The Contractor contracts were initially structured to reflect anticipated increasing population and water demand, estimated by DWR and the Contractors, and completion of SWP facilities. The SWP Table A allocation is specified in each Contractor's contract in a schedule that sets forth the maximum annual amount of water that may be requested to be delivered in any given year. PWD has a maximum annual Table A amount of 21,300 AFY and LCID has a maximum annual Table A amount of 2,300 AFY.

Whenever the available supply of Table A water is determined by DWR to be less than the total of all Contractors' requests, the available supply of Table A water is allocated among all Contractors in proportion to each Contractor's Table A amount relative to the total Table A amounts pursuant to Article 18 of the SWP Water Supply Contracts. Table A water allocation vary and are subject to change year by year based on the availability of water throughout the state.¹ Due to persistent dry conditions in California, DWR decreased all

¹ Department of Water Resources. State Water Project Historical Table A Allocations Water Years 1996-2022. PDF. Accessed 12/15/21.

Table A allocations for 2021 to 5 percent of Contractor requested Table A amounts.² SWP allocations were increased to 15 percent in 2022.

2.1.5 Current Water Supply

Palmdale Water District

Table 2-1. Summary of PWD Current and Projected Supplies (In AF)³

Year	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Existing Supplies					
Groundwater	4,220	2,770	2,770	2,770	2,770
Groundwater Return Flow Credit	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Groundwater or Surface Water Augmentation	5,325	5,325	5,325	5,325	5,325
Local Surface Water	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Imported SWP Water	12,030	11,720	11,400	11,080	11,080
Butte Transfer Agreement	5,650	5,500	5,350	5,200	5,200
Recycled Water	500	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,000
Total Supplies					
Total Supply	36,725	35,315	35,345	35,375	35,375
Existing Demands					
Potable Water Demands	19,720	20,310	21,480	22,780	24,250
Recycled Water Demands	500	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,000
Total Water Demands					
Total Demands	20,220	21,310	22,980	24,780	26,250
Difference (Supply – Demand)					
Difference	16,505	14,005	12,365	10,595	9,125

PWD's water supplies include imported water, local and regional supplies, groundwater, and recycled water. As a Contractor of the SWP, PWD purchases imported water from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Each year, PWD receives an annual allocation, which is based on available SWP supplies; PWD has a maximum SWP contract amount of 21,300 AFY. Since 2010, PWD has received between 5 and 85 percent of their annual allotment. The amount available varies on the final annual allocation from DWR to its Contractors.

PWD's local water sources include groundwater, surface water, and recycled water. Groundwater is pumped from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin and has accounted for 35 percent of PWD's supplies since 2016. According to the Palmdale Urban Water Management Plan, the District is projected to have a larger supply than demand within the District through the foreseeable future, into 2045 (See Table 2-1).

In late 2015, PWD and other parties agreed to a stipulated judgment for the adjudication of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. Per the judgment, PWD has the permanent right to pump 2,770 AFY from the basin's existing safe yield, the right to pump a portion of the unused Federal right to pump from the basin estimated at 1,450 AFY through at least 2025⁴, and the right to pump Ground Water Return Flow Credits generated through using imported water in the basin estimated at 5,000 AFY. PWD is planning to augment its groundwater and or surface water supply through advanced treatment of recycled water and subsequent aquifer recharge and or blending with raw surface water supplies prior to treatment at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant at an estimated rate of 5,325 AFY.

² Department of Water Resources. 2021. 2021 State Water Project Allocation Decrease – 5 Percent. Number 21-06. March 23, 2021. Accessed on August 21, 2021.

³ Palmdale Water District. Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. PDF. Accessed 12/20/21.

⁴ Palmdale Water District. Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. PDF. Accessed 12/15/21.

PWD jointly owns and operates the Littlerock Dam Reservoir, which constitutes PWD’s local surface water supply source and is located in the hills southwest of the PWD service area. PWD projects being able to take approximately 4,000 AFY from Littlerock Dam Reservoir in normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. PWD is actively working with the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County (LACSD) to develop recycled water supplies for its service area customers and future groundwater recharge projects. Recycled water will help PWD meet its future water demands. The supplies are anticipated to be available in a normal year, a single-dry year, and during multiple-dry years.

2.1.5.1 Littlerock Creek Irrigation District

LCID has a maximum Table A allocation of 2,300 acre-feet of water per year. Without the addition of any Table A allocation proposed through a water transfer agreement, LCID is meeting current demands. The inclusion of allotted Table A water provides additional water supply for current demand and would aid in storage and reliability to LCID’s future demands. Table 2.2 below outlines the supply and demand of LCID without the inclusion of SWP Table A allocation and identifies LCID’s water supply and demand through the duration of the proposed transfer agreement timeframe of 2035 and beyond to 2045, if the agreement should ever be extended.

Table 2-2 Summary of LCID Current and Projected Supplies (In AF)⁵

Year	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Existing Supplies					
Groundwater (Estimate)	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190
Groundwater Return Flow Credit	200	200	200	200	200
Local Surface Water	400	400	400	400	400
Wheeled Imported Water Owed to LCID (Estimate)	300	300	300	300	300
Total Supplies					
Total Supply	2,090	2,090	2,090	2,090	2,090
Total Water Demands					
Total Demands	1,500	1,530	1,561	1,592	1,623
Difference (Supply – Demand)					
Difference	590	560	529	498	467

At 100% Table A allocation, LCID would receive 2300-acre feet of water. To better understand the water availability from SWP allocation, beyond existing supplies, the following scenario is provided. In a year in which Table A allocations are at 60%, LCID would receive 1,380-acre feet of water ($2300 \times .60 = 1,380$). Per the agreement between PWD and LCID, LCID would transfer up to 100% of its Table A allocation water to PWD, with a right to retain 25% of their Table A water in a given year, resulting in 75% of its Table A allocation being sent to PWD, or 1,035-acre feet ($1,380 \times .75 = 1,035$). This example is illustrated in [Error! Reference source not found.](#) of the availability of SWP Table A allocations. LCID has an estimated supply of 2,090-acre feet of water without the inclusion of Table A allotted water. The example provides a result in a total supply of LCID in a 60% Table A allocation year, with 2,435-acre feet of water ($((1,380 \times .25) + 2,090 = 2,435)$). As discussed above, the additional Table A allocated water received by LCID provides for improved storage and reliability within the District.

Table 2-3 Example of SWP Table A Water Supply (In AF)

LCID Table A Supply 60% Allocation	
100% Table A allocation	2,300-acre-feet
60% Table A allocation	1380 (.6 x 2300)
Delivery of 75% to PWD	1035 (.75 x 1380)

⁵ LCID Existing Water Supplies. Email from James Chaisson (LCID), 3/21/22.

LCID Table A Supply 60% Allocation	
25% Table A allocation retained	345 (.25 x 1380)
Net Total Supplies	
Total Supply	345 + 2090 = 2435

LCID serves an estimated 3,405 customers with existing infrastructure consisting of 1,352 (1,113 domestic, 65 commercial, 6 industrial, and 168 irrigation) connections. There is roughly 15 miles of pipe ranging from six to 16-inch of existing infrastructure. LCID's primary water source is from groundwater with its secondary source from the SWP.

Groundwater is obtained from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. The SWP water is used for groundwater recharge and recovery, and LCID can take 1,000 AF or 10% (whichever is greater) and deliver to Lake Palmdale for storage. Lake Palmdale can store approximately 4,129 AF which includes water from SWP and Littlerock Dam Reservoir. PWD provides LCID with water treatment and delivers the water back to LCID for distribution to its customers. PWD's treatment and delivery arrangements have no effect on PWD demands or supplies.

LCID receives an annual allocation of SWP Table A water from DWR with a maximum contract amount of 2,300 AFY. Yearly allotments vary based on each water year. LCID has an annual allotment of Antelope Valley Adjudicated Basin Ramp Down and Federal Reserve supply of water. These make up an average of 797 AF and 406 AF respectively, for a total of 1,203 AFY. The LCID has an average annual water demand of 1,031 AF over the last 6 years. The highest annual water demand has reached 1,350 resulting in a remaining demand of approximately 147 AFY. Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency owes LCID a total of 4,255 AF of water (to be wheeled by PWD), which could be used to cover the LCID remaining demand for more than 28 years.⁶ This 4,255 AF of water is shown as "Wheeled Imported Water Owed to LCID" in **Table 2-2** above as an estimate of anticipated demands in each year shown. In addition, LCID can use its remaining Table A water that has not been transferred in a given year to cover remaining demands. Between groundwater wells, SWP Table A water for groundwater recharge, water storage at Palmdale Lake and Littlerock Dam Reservoir, and water owed to LCID by other agencies, LCID can transfer the SWP water to PWD while continuing to provide water reliability for its customers.

As seen in Table 2-2 **Summary of LCID Current and Projected Supplies (In AF)** and **Error! Reference source not found.**, LCID has a large enough expected water supply to serve its demand through 2045. Water use by LCID consists of approximately 30 percent irrigation use and 70 percent domestic water supply use. None of the water transferred to PWD from LCID as a part of this agreement would be returned to LCID. LCID may have some of its retained SWP water delivered to Lake Palmdale for wheeling back to LCID as a part of a separate agreement.

2.1.6 Description of Project

PWD and LCID seek to enter into a mutually beneficial water transfer of a portion of LCID's SWP annual Table A water. In this Project, LCID would transfer its portion of SWP annual Table A water to PWD. PWD would receive an amount not less than 75 percent and not more than 100 percent of LCID's annual Table A allocation, up to a maximum of 2,300-acre feet. In addition, LCID has an annual option to retain up to 25% of its Table A water. The annual transfer would take place from the date that the agreement is fully executed, until December 31, 2035. The parties may mutually revise the agreement in the years 2025 and/or 2030.

⁶ Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency. AVEK/Littlerock (LCID) Water Exchange Update Delivery & Return, Years 2007-2028. Letter to James Chaisson, dated 2/1/21.

All water transferred from LCID to PWD would use existing conveyance infrastructure and would not require any new construction. The PWD turnout at milepost 346.98 would be utilized for the transfer of water. This is an existing turnout, and no additional turnout would be required to move LCID's SWP water from the SWP facilities to PWD. The water transferred to PWD would be used to increase the water supply reliability within PWD's service area. Water received through this transfer would primarily be used for water production at the PWD treatment plant.

Implementation of the Project does not include the construction of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in LCID's or PWD's service areas and will not require modification to the operation of any such facilities. The total amount of SWP water available for allocation to all Contractors in any year would not change. The total amount of SWP water pumped by DWR from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) would not change. The SWP, Water Supply Contracts, Table A amount for LCID and PWD or any other SWP contractor would not change.

2.1.7 Project Location

The Project is located in the northeast section of Los Angeles County. The Mojave Desert is located to the east, while the San Gabriel and Sierra Pelona Mountains, the Angeles National Forest, and the Los Angeles Metropolitan area are located to the west and south. PWD is located in the City of Palmdale and has a service area of 187 square miles. **Figure 2-1** shows PWD's existing service area.

LCID is located in the community of Littlerock in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Littlerock is located approximately 11 miles southeast of downtown Palmdale and 40 miles from Victorville. Pearblossom Highway (Hwy 138) transects the center of the community. The California Aqueduct runs through both Palmdale and Littlerock.

2.1.8 Latitude and Longitude

The centroid of the PWD and LCID service areas are identified in **Table 2-4** below.

Table 2-4. Latitude and Longitude in Decimal Degrees of Each Participating District.

District	Latitude	Longitude
Palmdale Water District	34.578734° N	-118.116322° W
Littlerock Creek Irrigation District	34.521104° N	-117.983679° W

2.1.9 Site and Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

Specific site and surrounding land uses are varied and include urban and rural uses, agricultural lands, rural and desert open spaces. Palmdale lies in the Antelope Valley region of Southern California. The San Gabriel Mountain range separates Palmdale and Littlerock from the Los Angeles Basin to the south, which is about 40 miles wide. This range forms the southern edge of the Antelope Valley portion of the Mojave Desert. Palmdale is at an elevation of approximately 2,655 feet above mean sea level. Littlerock is at an elevation of approximately 2,892 feet above mean sea level.

2.1.10 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required

- Littlerock Creek Irrigation District
- California Department of Water Resources

2.1.11 Consultation with California Native American Tribes

Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, *et seq.* (codification of Assembly Bill 52, 2013-14)) requires that a lead agency, within 14 days of determining that it will undertake a project, must notify in writing any California Native American Tribe traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project if that Tribe has previously requested notification about projects in that geographic area. The notice must briefly describe the project and inquire whether the Tribe wishes to request formal consultation. Tribes have 30 days from receipt of notification to request formal consultation. The lead agency then has 30 days to initiate the consultation, which then continues until the parties come to an agreement regarding necessary mitigation or agree that no mitigation is needed, or one or both parties determine that negotiation occurred in good faith, but no agreement will be made.

On behalf of PWD, tribal notification letters were prepared and mailed to potentially interested Native American stakeholders on March 21, 2021, for a 30-day consultation request period pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. Tribes notified of the Project included: the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and the Serrano Nation of Mission Indians. During the 30-day consultation request period, PWD received one (1) response from Mr. Jairo Alvila, M.A., RPA., who is the Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. On June 15, 2021, a meeting between PWD and the Tribe occurred discussing potential concerns associated with the Project. With the understanding that the Project would not have any construction or ground disturbing activities, but is only a water transfer through existing facilities, both parties agreed there would be no Tribal Resource impacts associated with this Project. However, Mr. Avila requested that PWD continue, in good faith, consulting with the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on any future projects implemented within the PWD boundaries.

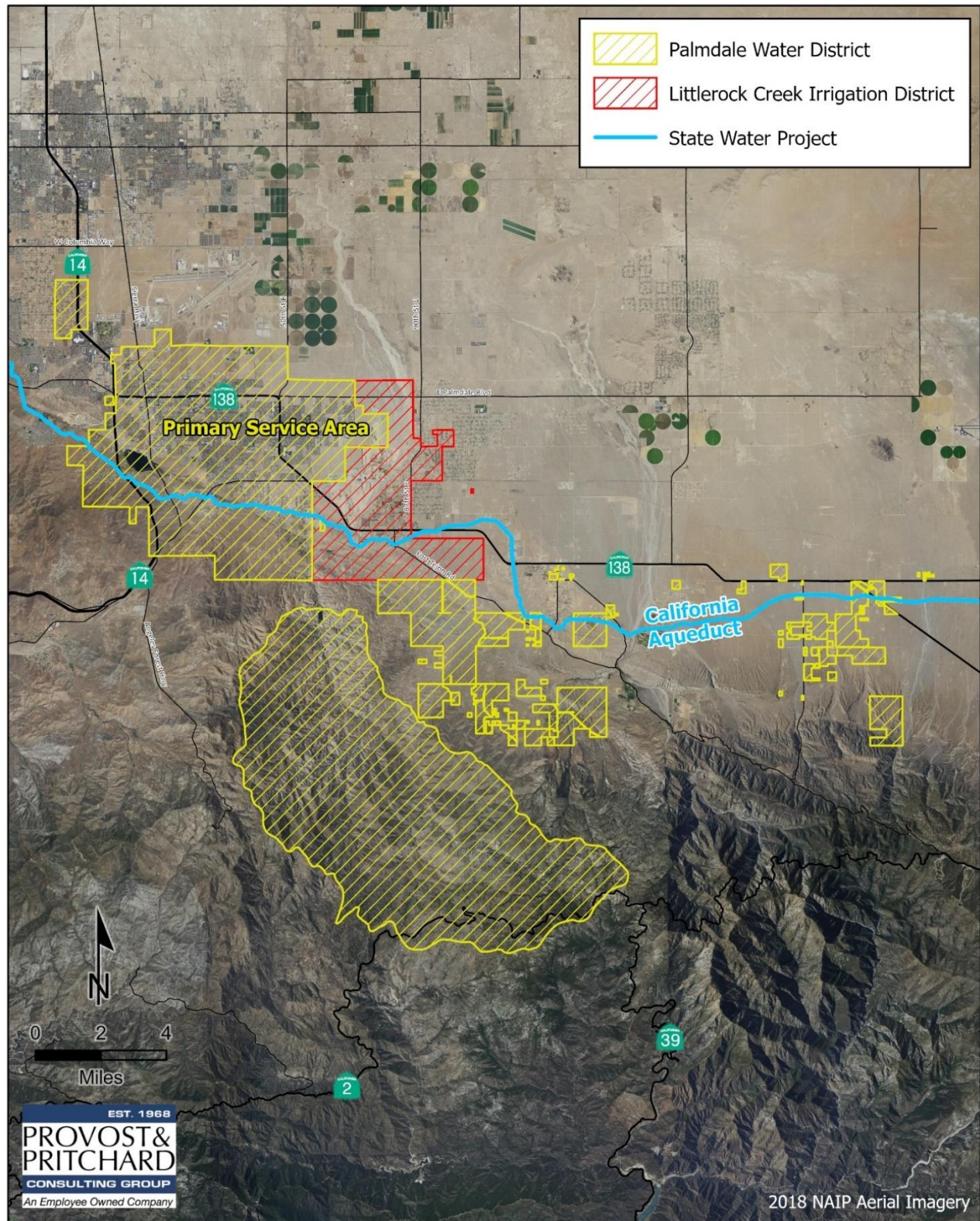


Figure 2-1. PWD and LCID Service Areas Map

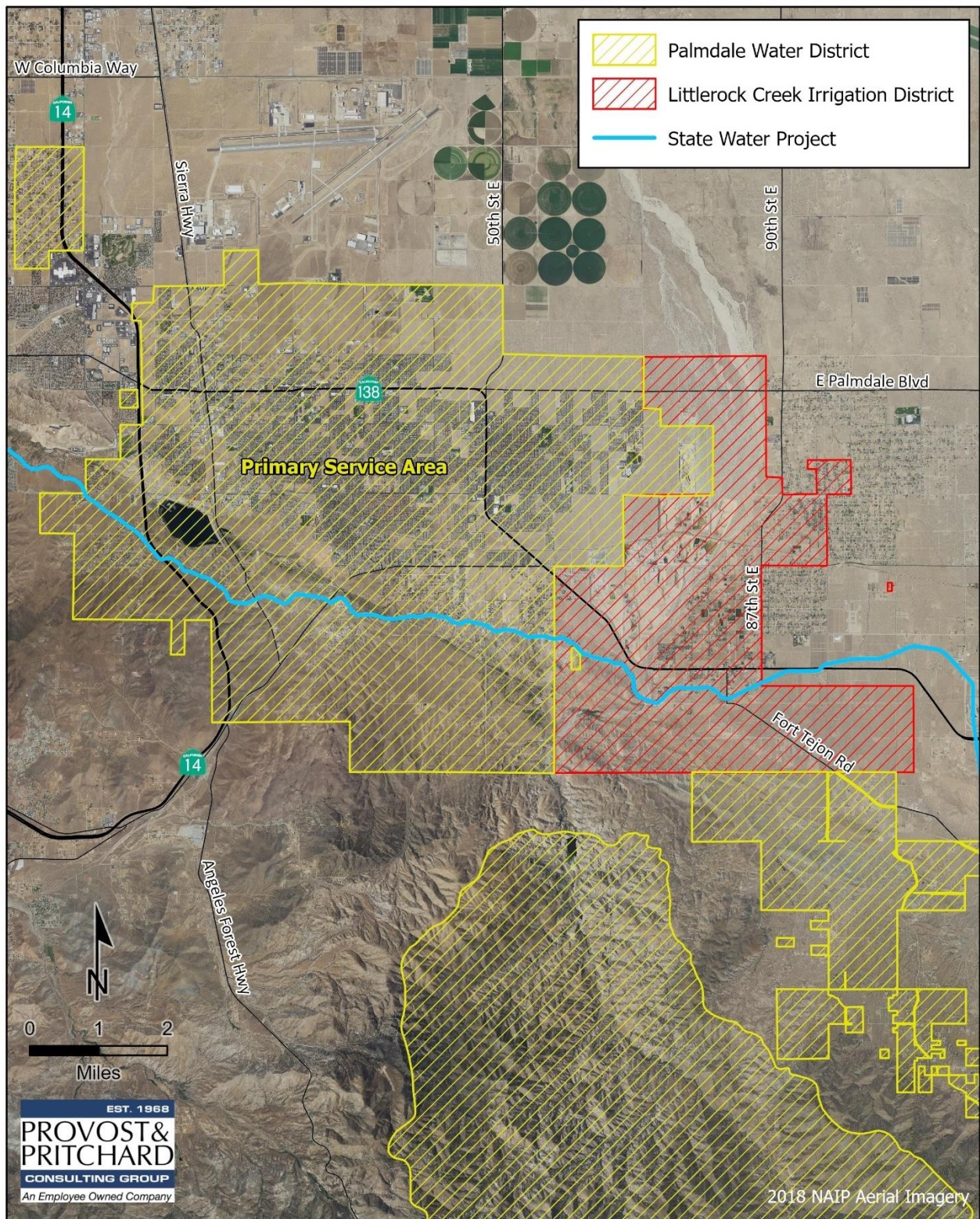


Figure 2-2. PWD and LCID Primary Service Area Map

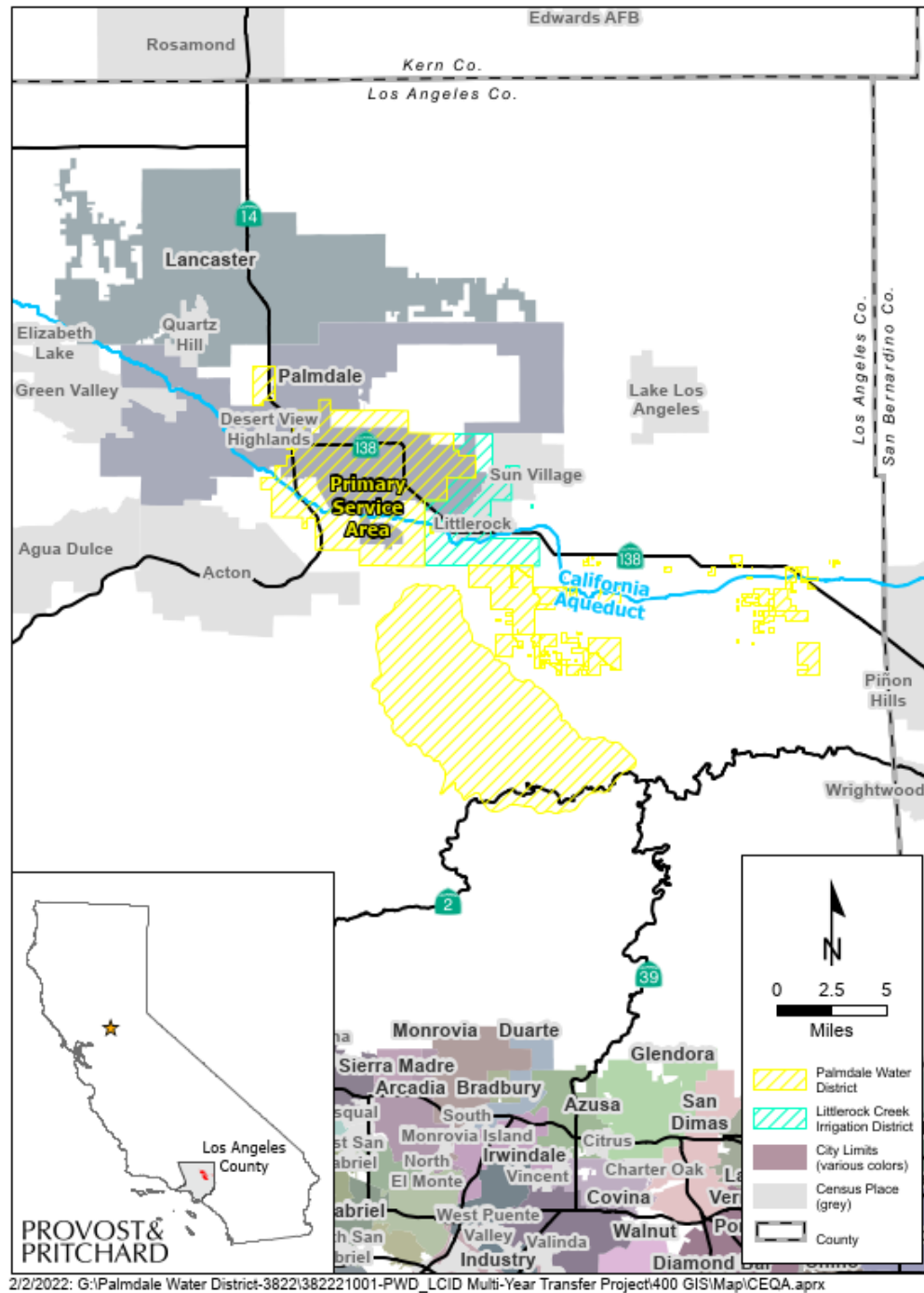


Figure 2-3. Regional Vicinity Map

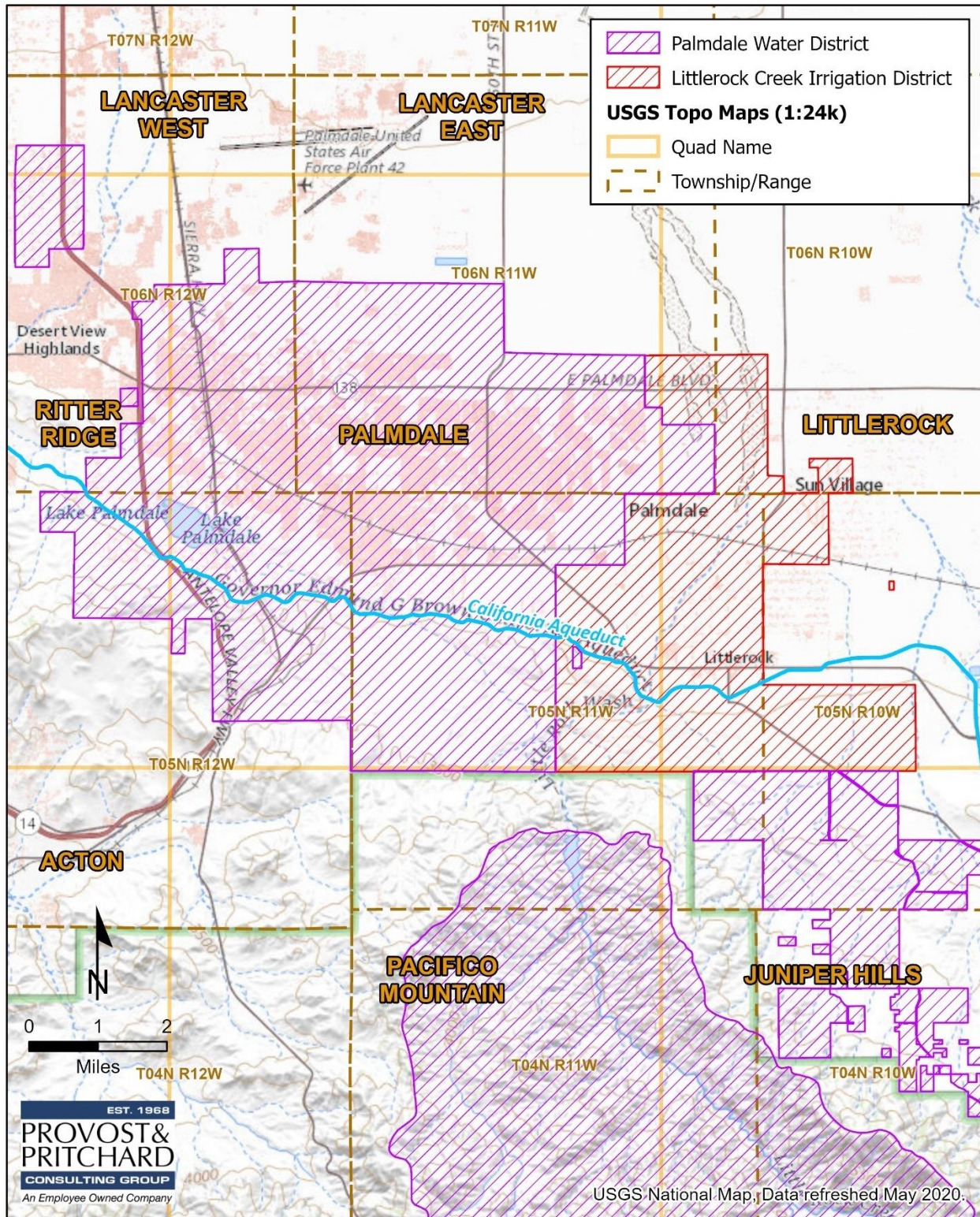


Figure 2-4. Topographical Map

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Chapter 3 Impact Analysis

3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

As indicated by the discussions of existing and baseline conditions and impact analyses that follow in this Chapter, environmental factors not checked below would have no impacts or less than significant impacts resulting from the project. Environmental factors that are checked below would have potentially significant impacts resulting from the project. Mitigation measures are recommended for each of the potentially significant impacts that would reduce the impact to less than significant.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

The analyses of environmental impacts here in **Chapter 3 Impact Analysis** are separated into the following categories:

Potentially Significant Impact. This category is applicable if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant and no feasible mitigation measures can be identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. This category applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce an effect from a “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measure(s), and briefly explain how they would reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).

Less than Significant Impact. This category is identified when the proposed Project would result in impacts below the threshold of significance, and no mitigation measures are required.

No Impact. This category applies when a project would not create an impact in the specific environmental issue area. “No Impact” answers do not require a detailed explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency, which show that the impact does not apply to the specific project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

3.2 Aesthetics

Table 3-1. Aesthetics Impacts

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.2.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The PWD and LCID service areas are located within the Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County. The visual character within the service area is characterized by three distinct landscape types: mountainous areas, open space landforms of the desert slope and rift zone of the San Andreas Fault, and high desert plain, buttes, and alkali sinks. The service areas are also characterized by urbanized development within the City of Palmdale and the unincorporated community of Littlerock. The perimeter of the valley includes low brush covered hills that transition into the Tehachapi Mountains and San Gabriel Mountains to the west and south. The project area has views of the Tehachapi Mountains to the northwest and the San Gabriel Mountains to the south from various public vantage points and roadways⁷.

3.2.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. The Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. All facilities and infrastructure utilized to complete the Project are already built; therefore, the Project would not result in any construction or earthmoving activities, nor would it alter a scenic vista on or near the Project site. The Project would not require any physical change in the environment. No scenic vistas would be altered as a result of the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. The Project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a scenic highway. The Project would transfer water from one

⁷ PWD. 2018. Palmdale Water District Water System Master Plan Draft Program EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2017021042). Prepared by Environmental Science Associates. July 2018.

entity in Los Angeles County to another and would not require any physical change in the environment. In addition, the Project is not on or near a State scenic highway.⁸ Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public view are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

No Impact. The Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings, nor would it conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. The Project would not include the construction or operation of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP facilities or other water supply conveyance or treatment facilities. Therefore, the Project would not be anticipated to result in changes to land uses that could affect the existing visual character or quality and resources, including scenic vistas or scenic highways, or public views. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. The Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The Project would utilize existing water conveyance facilities and would not result in the construction of new buildings or equipment that would introduce new forms of light or glare to the surrounding area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

⁸ Caltrans. Scenic Highways <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>.

3.3 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Table 3-2. Agriculture and Forest Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Error! Bookmark not defined.
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.3.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Los Angeles County produces a variety of agricultural products. According to the 2019 Los Angeles County Crop Report⁹ the County's largest exports are nursery products, vegetable crops, dairy and livestock, and field crops. Crops produced by the County include corn, tomatoes, root vegetables, alfalfa hay, and grain hay.

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP): The FMMP produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts to California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called Prime Farmland. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance.

- The California Department of Conservation's FMMP is a non-regulatory program that produces "Important Farmland" maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. The Important Farmland maps identify eight land use categories, five of which are agriculture

⁹ Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures. Crop Reports. Website: <https://acwm.lacounty.gov/crop-reports/>. Accessed May 2021.

related: prime farmland, farmland of Statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, and grazing land – rated according to soil quality and irrigation status. Each is summarized below:¹⁰

- **PRIME FARMLAND (P):** Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (S):** Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **UNIQUE FARMLAND (U):** Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the State's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE (L):** Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.
- **GRAZING LAND (G):** Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.
- **URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND (D):** Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public administrative purposes, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.
- **OTHER LAND (X):** Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines and borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.
- **WATER (W):** Perennial water bodies with an extent of at least 40 acres.

As demonstrated in **Figure 3-1**, the FMMP designates the project area as mostly Urban and Built-Up Land with a small portion as Grazing Land and Prime Farmland.

¹⁰ California Department of Conservation. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.
<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp>

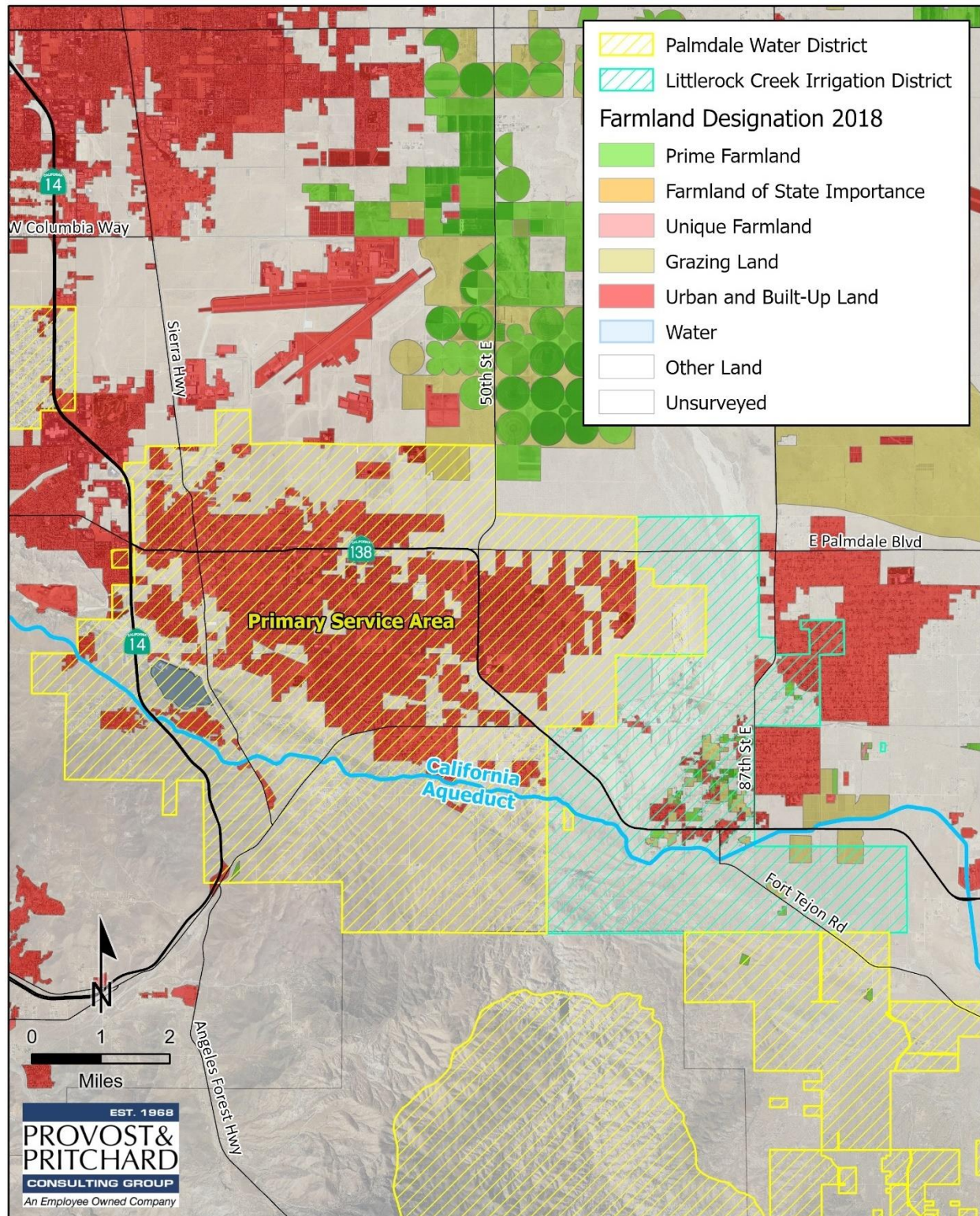


Figure 3-1. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Designations Map, 2018

3.3.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

No Impact. The Project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to a non-agricultural use. No physical change in the environment would result in the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses or a Williamson Act Contract. No physical change in the environment would result in the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No Impact. There are not any forest lands within the PWD and LCID service areas. The Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The Project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The Project would not result in the conversion or change of any land use. No physical change in the environment would result in the implementation utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.4 Air Quality

Table 3-3. Air Quality Impacts

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.4.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin. The Mojave Desert Air Basin is within the jurisdiction of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD). Air quality in the Mojave Desert Air Basin is influenced by a variety of factors, including topography, local, and regional meteorology.

3.4.1.1 Thresholds of Significance

To assist local jurisdictions in the evaluation of air quality impacts, the AVAQMD has published the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Federal Conformity Guidelines*. This guidance document includes recommended thresholds of significance to be used for the evaluation of short-term construction, long-term operational, odor, toxic air contaminant, and cumulative air quality impacts. Accordingly, the AVAQMD-recommended thresholds of significance are used to determine whether implementation of the Project would result in a significant air quality impact. Projects that exceed these recommended thresholds would be considered to have a potentially significant impact to human health and welfare. The thresholds of significance are summarized, as follows:

Table 3-4. AVAQMD Thresholds of Significance.¹¹

Criteria Pollutant	Annual Threshold (tons)	Daily Threshold (pounds)
Greenhouse Gases (CO _{2e})	100,000	548,000
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	100	548
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	25	137
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	25	137
Oxides of Sulfur (SO _x)	25	137
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	15	82
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	12	65
Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S)	10	54
Lead (Pb)	0.6	3

¹¹ Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. Rules & Plans. <https://avaqmd.ca.gov/rules-plans>. Accessed May 2021.
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group • November 2021

3.4.1.2 Regulatory Attainment Designations

Under the CCAA, the CARB is required to designate areas of the State as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified with respect to applicable standards. An “attainment” designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the applicable standard in that area. A “nonattainment” designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the applicable standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as defined in the criteria. Depending on the frequency and severity of pollutants exceeding applicable standards, the nonattainment designation can be further classified as serious nonattainment, severe nonattainment, or extreme nonattainment, with extreme nonattainment being the most severe of the classifications. An “unclassified” designation signifies that the data does not support either an attainment or nonattainment designation. The CCAA divides districts into moderate, serious, and severe air pollution categories, with increasingly stringent control requirements mandated for each category.

The USEPA designates areas for ozone, CO, and NO₂ as “does not meet the primary standards,” “cannot be classified,” or “better than national standards.” For SO₂, areas are designated as “does not meet the primary standards,” “does not meet the secondary standards,” “cannot be classified,” or “better than national standards.” However, the CARB terminology of attainment, nonattainment, and unclassified is more frequently used. The USEPA uses the same sub-categories for nonattainment status: serious, severe, and extreme. In 1991, the USEPA assigned new nonattainment designations to areas that had previously been classified as Group I, II, or III for PM₁₀ based on the likelihood that they would violate national PM₁₀ standards. All other areas are designated “unclassified.”

The State and national attainment status designations pertaining to the Mojave Desert Air Basin are summarized in **Table 3-5**. The Mojave Desert Air Basin is currently designated as a nonattainment area with respect to the State PM₁₀ standard, ozone, 8-hour ozone standards.

Table 3-5. Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards & Attainment Designation¹²

Ambient Air Quality Standard	AVAQMD Attainment Designation
One-hour Ozone (Federal) – standard has been revoked; this is historical information only.	Proposed attainment in 2014; historical classification Severe-17
Eight-hour Ozone (Federal 84 ppb - 1997)	Subpart 2 Nonattainment; classified Severe-15
Eight-hour Ozone (Federal 75 ppb - 2008)	Nonattainment; classified Severe-15
Eight-hour Ozone (Federal 70 ppb - 2015)	Expected nonattainment; classification to be determined
Ozone (State)	Nonattainment; classified Extreme
PM ₁₀ 24-hour (Federal)	Unclassifiable/attainment
PM _{2.5} Annual (Federal)	Unclassified/attainment
PM _{2.5} 24-hour (Federal)	Unclassified/attainment
PM _{2.5} (State)	Unclassified
PM ₁₀ (State)	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide (State and Federal)	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (State and Federal)	Attainment/unclassified
Sulfur Dioxide (State and Federal)	Attainment/unclassified
Lead (State and Federal)	Attainment
Particulate Sulfate (State)	Unclassified
Hydrogen Sulfide (State)	Unclassified
Visibility Reducing Particles (State)	Unclassified

¹²Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. Rules & Plans. <https://avaqmd.ca.gov/rules-plans>. Accessed May 2021.
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group • November 2021

3.4.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AVAQMD air quality plan. No physical change in the environment would result in the implementation of this Project. Water transferred to PWD would not require any excess pumping and would not substantially increase any hazards identified in the air quality plan. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

No Impact. The Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Water transferred to PWD would not require any excess pumping and would not substantially increase any hazards identified in the AVAQMD air quality plan. In addition, the Project would utilize a turnout that has been equipped with a hydrogen generator, limiting any potential emissions caused by the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

No Impact. The Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to a lack of construction and additional emissions such as source odors, naturally occurring asbestos, or fugitive dust, there would be no potential to expose any sensitive receptors to hazardous pollutant concentrations. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. The Project would not result in other emissions adversely affecting a substantial amount of people. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to a lack of construction and additional emissions such as source odors, naturally occurring asbestos, or fugitive dust, there would be no potential to expose any substantial number of people to hazardous emissions. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.5 Biological Resources

Table 3-6. Biological Resources Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.5.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Los Angeles County contains a variety of biological communities and wildlife habitats that include areas along the Pacific Ocean, the San Gabriel and Sierra Pelona Mountain Ranges, and the High Desert in which the Project area is located. The Los Angeles County General Plan designates some lands within the Project area as a part of the Antelope Valley Significant Ecological Area.¹³

¹³ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. Antelope Valley SEA. Website: https://planning.lacounty.gov/view/antelope_valley_sea/. Accessed May 2021.

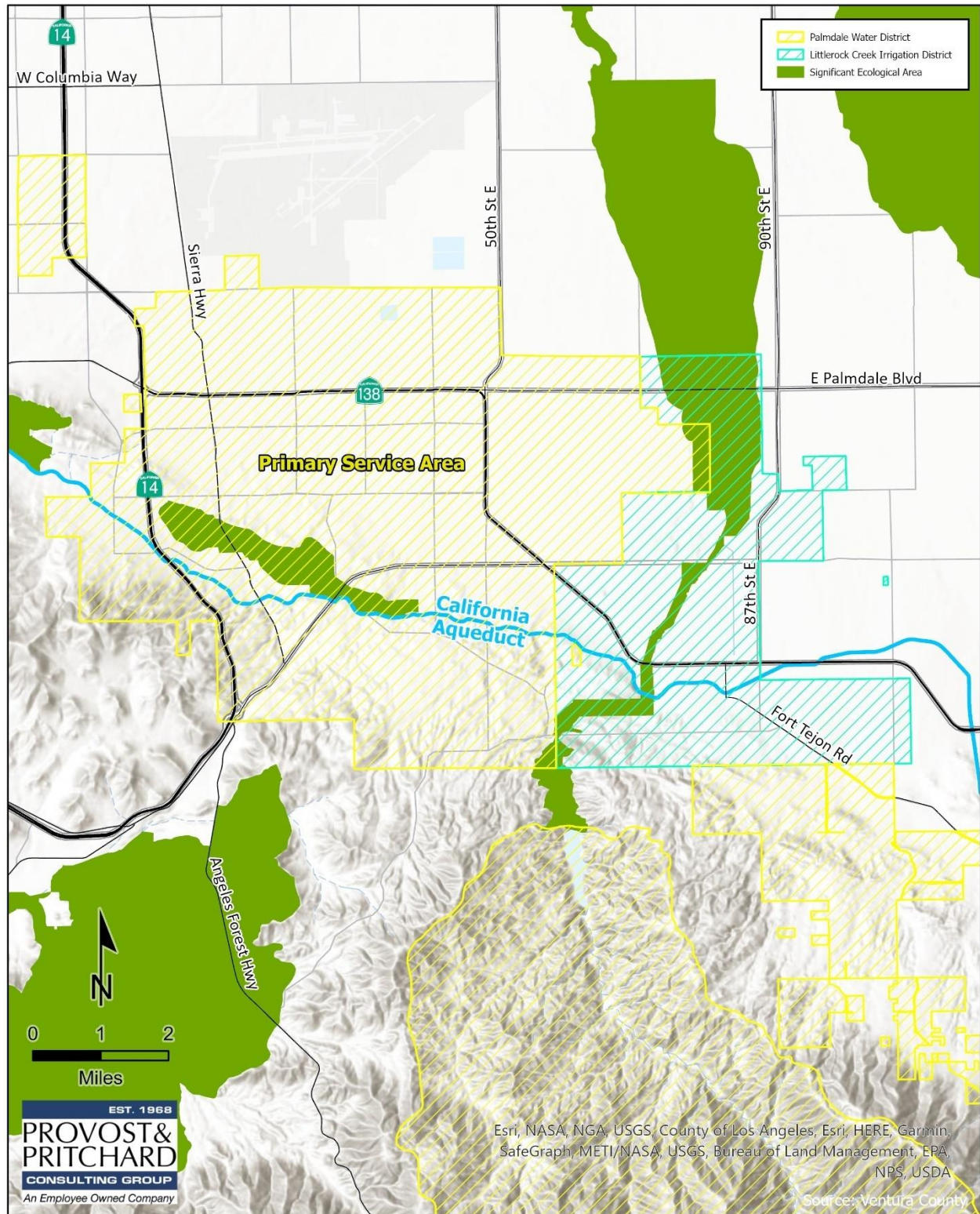


Figure 3-2. Significant Ecological Area Map

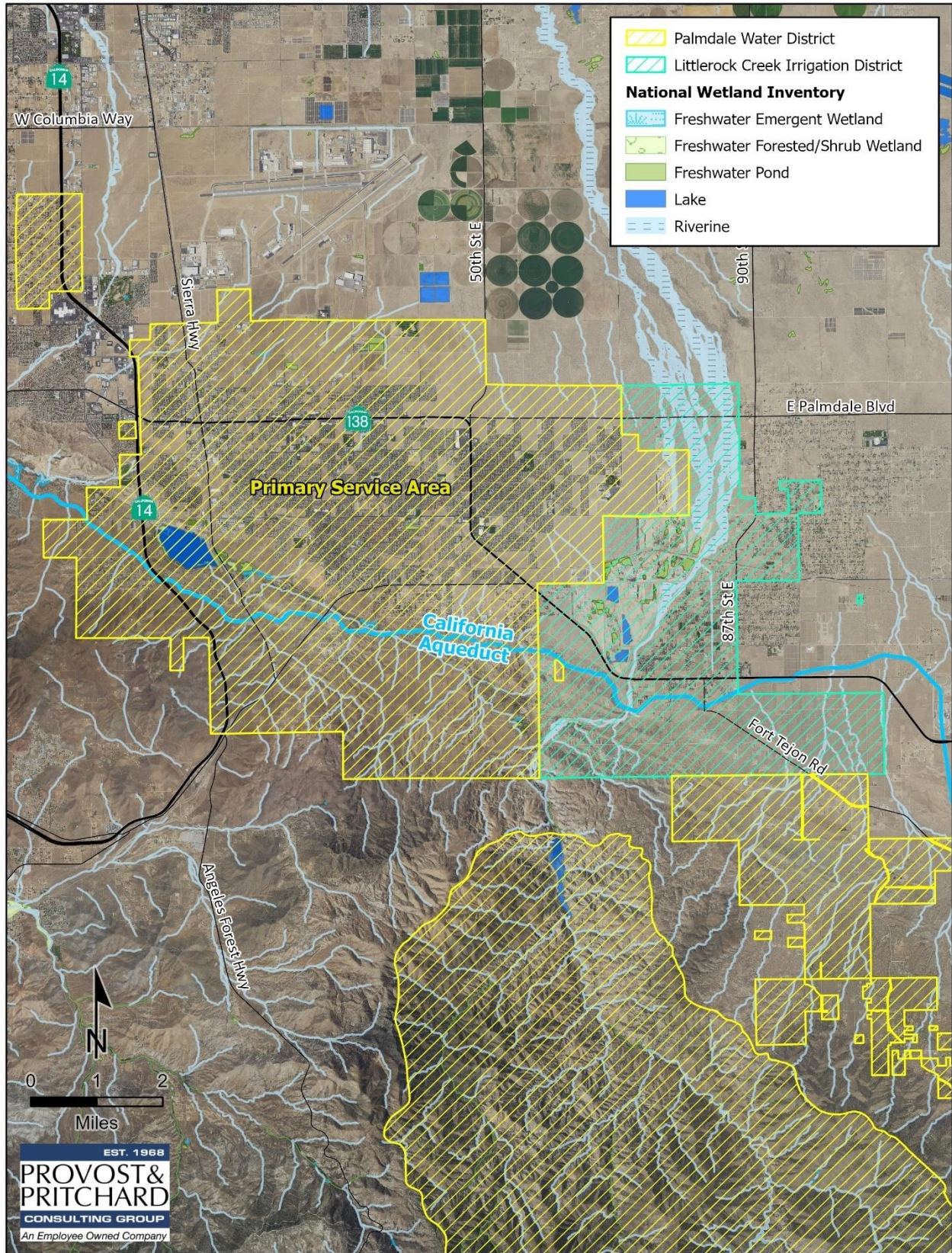


Figure 3-3. Wetlands Map

3.5.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. The Project would not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or United States Fish and Wildlife Services. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to the nature of the Project, no habitat modifications would be made that would result in any conflict with applicable plans for the local area or region. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. The Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Riparian habitats typically occur adjacent to waterways. The PWD and LCID service areas contain numerous waterways; however, there is no new construction or ground disturbance associated with the Project and no proposed change in land uses. As a result, the Project would not be in conflict with any local or regional plans governing habitat conservancy. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. The Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on State or federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact. The Project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to a lack of construction related activities as no new buildings or facilities are proposed under the Project, there would be no interference with the movement of any wildlife species or the use of native wildlife nurseries. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. The Project does not involve tree removal, grading, or expansion of the existing facilities and would not conflict with any existing or proposed preservation policies or ordinances. Therefore, there would be no impact.

f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The Project would transfer water from one entity in Los Angeles County to another while utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.6 Cultural Resources

Table 3-7. Cultural Resources Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.6.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The prehistoric populations of Los Angeles County include the Ventureño, Gabrieleño, and Fernandeño Native American tribes. These three tribes predate the establishment of California Missions. In addition, there are numerous other tribes in the Greater Los Angeles Area. A Sacred Lands review and Cultural Resources Records Search was not performed for this Project, due to the fact that there would be no ground disturbance, construction activities, or removal of buildings or facilities associated with the water transfer.

3.6.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No Impact. The Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Section 15064.5. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No Impact. The Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Section 15064.5. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. As there would be no ground disturbance required by this Project there would be no change to an archaeological resource. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

No Impact. The Project would not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. As there would be no ground disturbance required by this Project there would be no potential to impact any human remains. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.7 Energy

Table 3-8. Energy Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.7.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Gas Company provide natural gas to the Project areas and PG&E and Southern California Edison provide electricity. All energy used during the Project would be utilized by existing infrastructure in order to convey the water transferred between PWD and LCID. Because of increasing power costs to operate PWD's facilities, along with the possibility of power outages, the District developed alternatives for providing their own electrical generation using wind and sun resources. A wind turbine generator was installed at Palmdale Lake to provide a large majority of the power needed to operate the water treatment plant, and a solar array system was installed at the District's shop facilities to offset power costs. The District also works closely with electricity and natural gas providers to ensure energy efficiency and the best possible rates.¹⁴ The turnout being used for the transfer is equipped with a hydrogen generator which limits any emission generation that the Project would produce.

3.7.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

No Impact. The Project would not result in an environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. PWD and LCID currently use energy through operation of automated gates, screens, and various pumps. No new pumps or energy operated equipment would be added as part of this Project. The districts would continue to use energy in the same manner as their normal SWP allocation. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Physical change to the LCID, PWD, and SWP infrastructure and operations would not occur and operations as a result of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

¹⁴ <https://www.palmdalewater.org/about/history-of-pwd/>

3.8 Geology and Soils

Table 3-9. Geology and Soils Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.8.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project site is located in northeastern Los Angeles County. Several fault zones run through Los Angeles County and near the Project area.¹⁵ Most notably, the San Andreas Fault Zone is located to the west-southwest of the Project area. Los Angeles County is made up of a variety of soil types.

¹⁵ California Department of Conservation. Fault Activity Map of California. Website: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/>. Accessed May 2021.

3.8.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

a-i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

No Impact. The Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving a rupture of a known earthquake fault. The transfer of water would not involve any habitable structures that could be damaged during an earthquake. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

a-ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

No Impact. The Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. The transfer of water would not involve any habitable structures that could be damaged during an earthquake. No physical change in the environment would result in the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

a-iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact. The Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. There are no known subsidence-prone soils, oil, or gas production involved with the Project. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

a-iv) Landslides?

No Impact. The Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. No geologic landforms exist on or near the Project site that would result in a landslide event. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No Impact. The Project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

No Impact. The Project would not be located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The Project would transfer water from one entity in Los Angeles County to another while utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No Impact. The Project would not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The Project does not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?

No Impact. The Project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to the lack of any ground disturbance, there would be no potential for the Project to uncover any historical, paleontological, or cultural resources. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Table 3-10. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts

Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.9.1 Environmental Setting

According to the Office of Planning and Research’s June 2015 California Climate Change Research Plan: Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time. California has long been a global leader in addressing climate-related issues through cutting-edge research and innovative climate policies. Governor Brown previously joined more than 500 world-renowned researchers and scientists in releasing a groundbreaking call to action on climate change and other global threats to humanity. The 20-page consensus statement was produced at Governor Brown’s request and has been signed by scientists from over 40 countries. The consensus statement connects key scientific findings from different fields into a clear warning and a call for immediate, substantial, and sustained action to preserve humanity’s life support systems. The science in the consensus statement is confirmed in the October 2013 report of scientific findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC report states that “[h]uman influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes.” The IPCC further concludes that “human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century” (IPCC 2013).

As shown in the report Indicators of Climate Change in California (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 2013),¹⁶ observations over the last several decades reveal clear signals of climate change and its effects in California. The growing body of scientific research shows unequivocally that this change is associated with the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) resulting from burning fossil fuels as well as other human activities. Using sophisticated computer models, climate research projects an unprecedented rate of rise in temperature with shifting patterns of precipitation and more extreme weather events in the future. Climate change and the efforts of the State to confront it will touch nearly every aspect of the State’s planning and investment for the future. Over the next few decades, significant reductions in GHG emissions will be necessary to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. At the same time, California must escalate and accelerate its efforts to safeguard the State from the already-observable climate change as well as the larger changes that will be unavoidable in the future. Scientific research sponsored by the State of California has provided new knowledge that has enabled California to respond with science-based

¹⁶California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. (2013, August 8). *OEHHA 2013 Report: Indicators of Climate Change in California*. <https://oehha.ca.gov/climate-change/report/2013-report-indicators-climate-change-california>. Accessed May 2021.

policies. New, carefully targeted research is necessary to inform future policy development and implementation.¹⁷

GHGs are gases that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere.¹⁸ There are no "attainment" concentration standards established by the federal or State government for GHGs. In fact, GHGs are not generally thought of as traditional air pollutants because GHGs, and their impacts, are global in nature, while air pollutants affect the health of people and other living things at ground level, in the general region of their release to the atmosphere. Some GHGs occur naturally and are emitted into the atmosphere through both natural processes and human activities. Other GHGs are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal GHGs that enter the atmosphere because of human activities are CO₂, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated carbons.¹⁹

3.9.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

No Impact. The Project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, as no physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project and there would be no change in the operations of the PWD or LCID to facilitate the water transfer. In addition, the project would utilize a turnout that is equipped with a hydrogen generator which would limit any emissions caused by the Project's activities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses. The Project would adhere to the goals and policies of set in the Los Angeles County general plan and the AVAQMD. In addition, the Project would follow the guidelines of the DWR Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

¹⁷California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 2013. Accessed May 2021.

¹⁸ San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. (2015, February 19). *Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts*. Retrieved from Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts: <https://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI-2015/FINAL-DRAFT-GAMAQI.PDF>. Accessed May 2021.

¹⁹San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2015. Accessed May 2021.

3.10 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Table 3-11. Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.10.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

There are a number of Federal and State databases that provide information regarding facilities or sites identified as meeting the Cortese List requirements and which list the past and present businesses that have had or are currently experiencing a hazardous material release within the County. These include Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System, GeoTracker (leaking underground storage tank database), EnviroStor, the Toxic Release Inventory, and the List of Active Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders.

Products as diverse as gasoline, paint, solvents, household cleaning products, refrigerants, and radioactive substances are categorized as hazardous materials. What remains of a hazardous material after use, or processing, is considered to be a hazardous waste and must identify the handling, transportation, and disposal of such wastes, as well as proper handling of hazardous materials.

Beginning in the 1970s, governments at the Federal, State, and local levels became increasingly concerned about the effects of hazardous materials management on human health and the environment. Numerous laws and regulations were developed to investigate and mitigate these effects. As a result, the storage, use, generation, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste are highly regulated by federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

A search of the Department of Toxic Substance Control EnviroStor database and the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker determined that there are no known active hazardous waste generators or hazardous material spill sites within the Project area.

3.10.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

No Impact. The Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous waste. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to the nature of the Project, there would be no hazardous materials handled. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

No Impact. The Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to the nature of the Project, there would be no hazardous materials handled that could result in any potential accident or upset condition. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. The Project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing school. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to the nature of the Project, there would be no hazardous materials handled that would present the possibility of emission within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. The Project is not on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. No structures, habitable or otherwise, would be constructed during this Project. As a result, there would be no impacts to people or the environment. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. Although the Project is located in an Airport Influence Area of the Palmdale Regional Airport, it would not result in the construction of any habitable structures that would expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels or other safety hazards. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. No emergency and evacuation routes would be altered or blocked as a result of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. The Project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fire. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. As a result, there would be no potential for the Project to contribute to the exposure of people or structures to wildfire. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.11 Hydrology and Water Quality

Table 3-12. Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.11.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project site is located in northeastern Los Angeles County. This part of the County is home to the Antelope Valley community which experiences a high desert climate. Summers in this climate are hot and dry and temperatures often reach into the 100s, while in winter temperatures drop into the 40s. The area receives between 4 and 9 inches of rain annually. The environment is characterized by drought tolerant foliage and shrubs such as Joshua trees and Sagebrush. The Project site is located within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin.²⁰ According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps identify several locations within and surrounding PWD and LCID service areas as shown in **Figure 3-4**, various portions of the Project site are subject to the 100-year flood.

²⁰ USGS. Map of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. Website: <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/map-antelope-valley-groundwater-basin>. Accessed May 2021.

Variability and uncertainty are the dominant characteristics of California's water resources. Precipitation is the primary source of California's water supply. Precipitation in California varies greatly from year to year, by season, and geographically throughout the State. To cope with this hydrologic variability and also manage floods during wet years, State, federal, and local agencies have constructed a vast interconnected system of surface reservoirs, aqueducts, and water diversion facilities over the last hundred years. These projects have worked together to make water available at the right places and times and to move floodwaters. In the past, this system has allowed California to meet most of its agricultural and urban water management objectives and flood management objectives.²¹ PWD and LCID lay within the South Lahontan Hydrologic Region and within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin # 6-44). Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin underlies an extensive alluvial valley in the western Mojave Desert. The elevation of the valley floor ranges from 2,300 to 3,500 feet above sea level. The basin is bounded on the northwest by the Garlock fault zone at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains and on the southwest by the San Andreas fault zone at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. The total surface area is approximately 1,580 square miles (1,010,000 acres) and the total storage capacity of this basin has been reported at 68,000,000 AF²²

In the Antelope Valley region, the groundwater basin is primarily used for private and public water supply and irrigation. The predominant sources of groundwater are from the recharge of runoff from surrounding mountains, recharge of imported water and water from direct infiltration by irrigation, sewer, and septic systems. The main discharge sources include pumping wells and evapotranspiration areas near dry lakebeds. Groundwater quality is assessed through the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Priority Basin Project (PBP), which consists of analyzing raw groundwater that provides drinking public water supply in the region. PBP sampled a large distribution of wells in the area and analyzed organic constituents as well as chromium, lead, molybdenum, sulfate, and chloride; all were detected at moderate concentrations, and volatile organic compounds were detected at low concentrations.²³

3.11.2 Groundwater Management Plan

In 2014 the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed. SGMA requires the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that must assess conditions in their local groundwater basins and adopt locally based management plans. For those basins DWR has identified as medium to high priority (the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin is a low-priority basin), SGMA requires GSAs to implement plans and achieve long-term groundwater sustainability. LCID and PWD has not adopted a groundwater management plan, and no regional groundwater management plan currently exists for the basin. However, the superior court has issued a final judgment that the Antelope Valley Basin is exempt from the requirements of SGMA.²⁴

²¹ California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2018. California Water Plan Update 2018.

²² California's Groundwater Bulletin 118.

²³ PWD. 2020. Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. Accessed 8/23/2021.

²⁴ DWR. 2018. California Water Plan Update 2018.

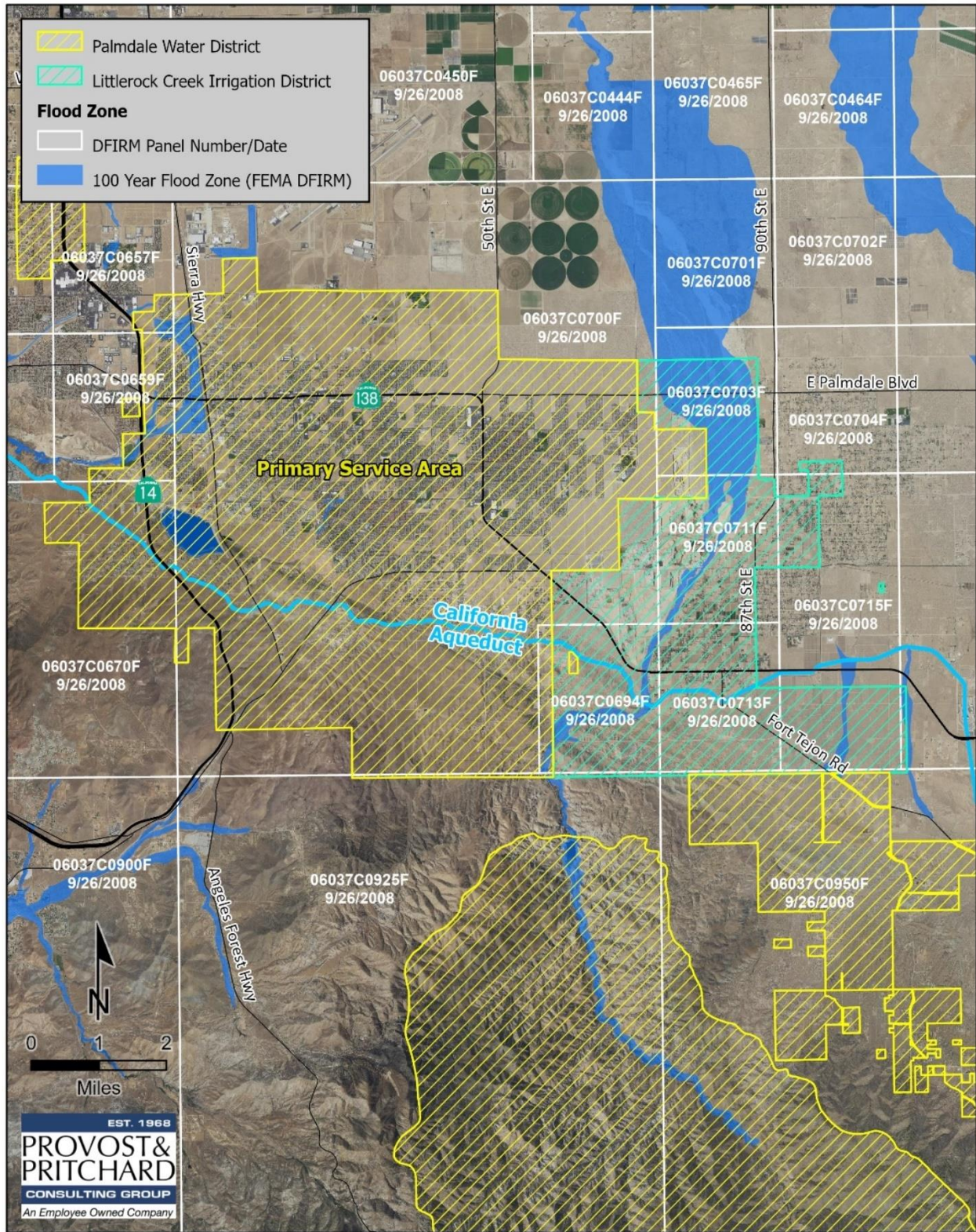


Figure 3-4. FEMA 100-Year Flood Map

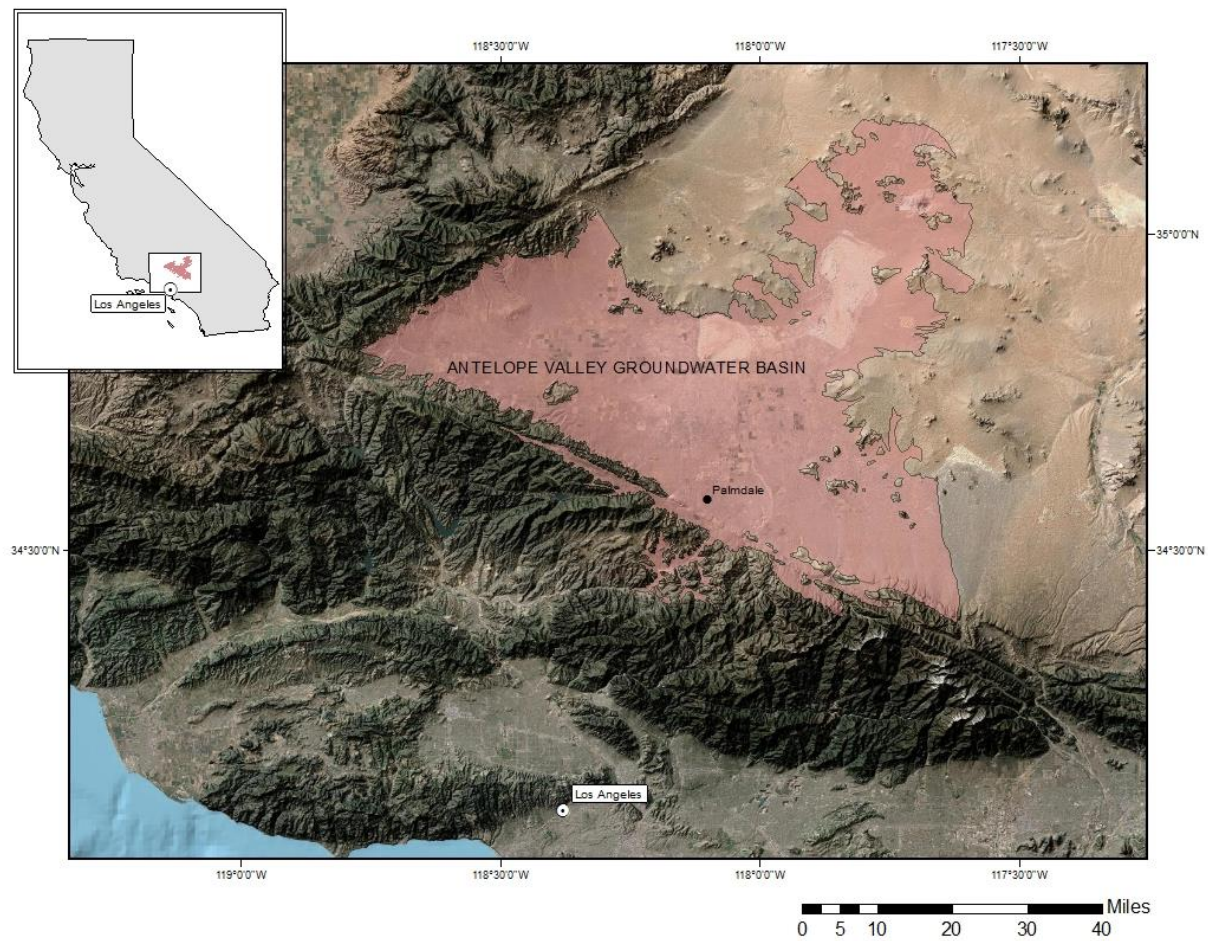


Figure 3-5. USGS Map of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin²⁵

²⁵ <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/map-antelope-valley-groundwater-basin>

3.11.3 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Less than Significant Impact. PWD and LCID are currently using wells to pump groundwater from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin for treatment as a percentage of existing water supply. They both also have multiple water rights to water within the Littlerock Reservoir and Lake Palmdale. Per State and federal regulations each district provides yearly water quality monitoring reports for their customers and the public. The Project would result in the transfer of 75-100% transfer of LCID's annual Table A allocation to PWD in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and current regulations. The Project would move water through existing facilities and would not add to new or existing constituents to the existing water supply. Although water would continue to be pumped from the basin, a portion of the SWP water would be stored for use in years where SWP Table A allocation is low. Water received through this transfer would primarily be used for water production at the PWD treatment plant. Transferring of water would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality. The Project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, LCID, or PWD facilities and treatment and would be used to serve only existing customers and increase reliability of water supplies. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies. Water transferred as a part of this Project would be used at the PWD treatment plant, and a portion of it would be stored for use in low SWP Table A allocation years. As discussed above, physical change to the LCID, PWD, and SWP infrastructure and operations would not occur as a result of this Project. The Project would not transfer water in excess of the Table A water available to LCID nor would it impact groundwater levels for the area or inhibit groundwater recharge. As discussed in further detail above in **Chapter 2: Project Description**, illustrated in **Table 2-2** and **Error! Reference source not found.**, LCID has enough water supply to meet local demands in the event that those demands exceed the amount of water that LCID receives from the Antelope Valley Adjudicated Basin Ramp Down and Federal Reserve supply of water. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

c-i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

c-ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;

c-iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

c-iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. The Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to the nature of the water transfer Project, there would be no introduction of new impervious surfaces. In addition, because of a lack of

construction, there would be no potential for the Project to contribute any runoff, erosion, or siltation that could enter a stream or river. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundations?

No Impact. The Project would not risk release of pollutants due to Project inundations as there will be no physical change in the environment resulting from the implementation of this Project. The Project would result in the transfer of LCIDs annual Table A allocation to the PWD in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulation. No structures, habitable or otherwise, would be constructed as a result of this Project. Existing infrastructure used for the implementation of this Project was designed to limit any potential for exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding. The Project would not expose people, structures, or associated facilities to inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The Project site is located in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin which is exempt from the SGMA requirement regarding the preparation of a groundwater sustainability plan. Recently PWD finalized its 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The 2020 UWMP addresses water quality, sustainability, and groundwater management. The Project would not conflict with the goals and predictions for PWD set within the plan. The plan considers future water usage and factors in water transfers when determining its supply and demand quantities. LCID is not within the boundaries of an adopted groundwater management plan, and like PWD is located within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin which is not subject to any groundwater sustainability plan. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of sustainable groundwater management plans or adjudicated groundwater basins within LCIDs and PWDs service areas and there would be no impact.

3.12 Land Use and Planning

Table 3-13. Land Use and Planning Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.12.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in northeastern Los Angeles County. Los Angeles County is home to 10,039,107 people according to the US Census Bureau.²⁶ The City of Palmdale and the unincorporated community of Littlerock are located within the PWD and LCID service areas. Palmdale,²⁷ where PWD is located, has a population of 155,079. Littlerock,²⁸ where the LCID is located, has a population of 1,377. Land use planning for a majority of the Project area is governed by the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan, with the exception of the City of Palmdale's planning area boundary falling within the jurisdiction of the City's General Plan.

3.12.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Project would not physically divide an established community. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project cause a significant environmental conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The Project would not cause a significant environmental conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The Project would not be in conflict with any of the land use designations for the Project area, as identified in the Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan²⁹ or the City of Palmdale General Plan.³⁰ Therefore, there would be no impact.

²⁶ US Census Bureau. Quickfacts, Los Angeles County. Website:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescountycalifornia,CA/PST045219>. Accessed May 2021.

²⁷ US Census Bureau. Quickfacts, Palmdale city, California. Website:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/palmdalecitycalifornia,losangelescountycalifornia,CA/PST045219>. Accessed May 2021.

²⁸ Suburban Stats. Littlerock, California. Website: <https://suburbanstats.org/population/california/how-many-people-live-in-littlerock>. Accessed May 2021.

²⁹ Los Angeles County. 2035 General Plan. Website: <https://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/generalplan>. Accessed May 2021.

³⁰ City of Palmdale. General Plan Land Use Map. Website: <https://www.cityofpalmdale.org/DocumentCenter/View/574/General-Plan-Land-Use-Map-PDF>. Accessed August 2021.

3.13 Mineral Resources

Table 3-16. Mineral Resources Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.13.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in the northeast section of Los Angeles County. Los Angeles County has various mining activities. Some of the area's valuable mineral resources include sand and gravel, crushed rock, clay, limestone, and dolomite.³¹ The Little Rock Wash MRZ-2, Big Rock Wash MRZ-2, and six active sand and gravel mining sites are located within and outside of the PWD service area.

3.13.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No Impact. The Project would not result in the loss of availability of any mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to a lack of ground disturbance no mineral resources would be affected due to this Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. The Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Due to the nature of the Project and the lack of any ground disturbance, there would be no potential for the Project to result in the loss of any mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, there would be no impact.

³¹ Los Angeles County. 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan. Adopted October 6, 2015.
https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf. Accessed July 8, 2021.

3.14 Noise

Table 3-14. Noise Impacts

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.14.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Ambient noise levels in Los Angeles County vary widely and mainly come from noise generators such as major roads, agricultural equipment, airports, and rail lines. The Palmdale Regional Airport is located within two miles of the Project site and the airport influence area encompasses portions of the Project area.

3.14.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

No Impact. The Project would not result in generation of a temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or any other applicable standards. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Without ground disturbance or construction, there would be no potential for the Project to generate excessive levels of noise. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

No Impact. The Project would not result in generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. Without ground disturbance or construction, there would be no potential for the Project to generate vibration or noise. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. While the Project is located within two miles of the Palmdale Regional Airport with portions of the PWD and LCID services areas within the Airport Influence Area, it would not result in the construction of any

habitable structures that would expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels.³² Therefore, there would be no impact.

³² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, Airport Land Use Commission. Website: https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/aluc_airport-palmdale.pdf. Accessed August 2021.

3.15 Population and Housing

Table 3-15. Population and Housing Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.15.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project site is located in northeastern Los Angeles County. The Project proposes to transfer water from LCID to PWD. Los Angeles County³³ has a population of 10,039,107. Palmdale,³⁴ where PWD is located, has a population of 155,079. Littlerock,³⁵ where the LCID is located, has a population of 1,377.

3.15.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. The Project would not result in any new housing being built and would not result in any influx of population. The Project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, LCID, or PWD facilities and treatment and would be used to serve only existing customers and increase reliability of water supplies. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project and would not result in any housing being destroyed or relocated. No persons would be displaced as a result of the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

³³ US Census Bureau. Quickfacts, Los Angeles County. Website:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescountycalifornia,CA/PST045219>. Accessed May 2021.

³⁴ US Census Bureau. Quickfacts, Palmdale city, California. Website:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/palmdalecitycalifornia,losangelescountycalifornia,CA/PST045219>. Accessed May 2021.

³⁵ Suburban Stats. Littlerock, California. Website: <https://suburbanstats.org/population/california/how-many-people-live-in-littlerock>. Accessed May 2021.

3.16 Public Services

Table 3-16. Public Services Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.16.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Public services are those physical assets and community services that are important to maintaining a community's welfare and livability. Public services include police and fire protection, schools, the provisions of parks and recreation facilities. There are numerous public services within the study area, including federal, State, and local police and fire protection stations and units, public and private schools, and parks.

3.16.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services, including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities:

No Impact. The Project would not result in any new construction that would have an adverse physical impact on existing public service facilities, nor would it result in the need for new facilities for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities as there is no increase in population as a result of the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.17 Recreation

Table 3-17. Recreation Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.17.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Los Angeles County, City of Palmdale, and Littlerock Creek community offers a variety of recreational opportunities through the use of their Parks and Recreation Departments and nearby State and federal lands. There are recreational areas for the public to utilize near the PWD and LCID existing structures such as parks, camping, and hiking trails, but the majority of the Project area is surrounded by agricultural lands and private property.

3.17.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that any physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. No physical change in the environment would result from this Project. The Project would not result in an influx of population or relocation of persons from elsewhere into the Project area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The Project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The Project would not result in an influx of population to the area, which would contribute to the deterioration of existing facilities or require the construction of new ones. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.18 Transportation

Table 3-18. Transportation Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.18.1 Environmental Settings and Baseline Conditions

The study area has a comprehensive transportation system that supports various transportation and circulation conditions and includes state and federal highways, local roads, collector streets, urban arterials, rural highways and streets, railroads, airports, and pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities.

3.18.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with a plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The Project would transfer water from one entity in Los Angeles County to another, while utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. In addition, no growth in population would occur in relation to this Project that would result in a change in transportation issues within the surrounding area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b). No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. No growth in population would occur in relation to this Project that would result in a change to roadway capacity. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The Project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses. No physical change to roadways would result from the implementation of this Project. There are no design features that are associated with this water transfer Project that could result in a change of an existing land use or incompatible uses. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The Project would not result in inadequate emergency access. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The water transfer project would utilize existing water conveyance facilities and no roads would be modified as a result of this Project. The Project would not conflict with any existing emergency access or routes. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.19 Tribal Cultural Resources

Table 3-19. Tribal Cultural Resources Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.19.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Tribal notification letters were prepared and mailed to potentially interested Native American stakeholders on March 21, 2021, for a 30-day consultation request period pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. Tribes notified of the Project included: the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and the Serrano Nation of Mission Indians. During the 30-day consultation request period, the PWD received one (1) response from Mr. Jairo Alvila, M.A., RPA., the Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. On June 15, 2021, a meeting between PWD and the Tribe occurred discussing the Project components and any potential concerns associated with the water transfer. With the understanding that the Project would not have any construction or ground disturbing activities, but is only a water transfer through existing facilities, both parties agreed by there would be no Tribal Resource impacts associated with this Project. However, Mr. Avila requested that PWD continue, in good faith, consulting with the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on any future projects implemented within the PWD boundary.

3.19.2 Impact Assessment

- a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a-i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

No Impact. Considering that there would be no alterations to the existing facilities, the lack of construction or earthwork activities, that no vegetation would be removed, no landmarks or building would be altered, and that the Project would use only existing infrastructure, there would be no impact to tribal cultural resources. Therefore, there would be no impact.

a-ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

No Impact. The Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, during their consultation meeting, expressed concern over the potential disturbance of tribal resources through ground disturbance as a result of the Project. However, as stated above, the lack of construction activities prevents the disturbance of any potential tribal resources as a result of the Project. At the conclusion of the consultation meeting, both parties agreed that the Tribe would continue to be consulted for any future projects, excavations, or repairs of the existing water conveyance facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.20 Utilities and Service Systems

Table 3-20. Utilities and Service Systems Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.20.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

PWD and LCID are both located in northeastern Los Angeles County. PWD is responsible for providing municipal and industrial water supplies to a service area of 187 square miles of land. LCID provides irrigation water for agricultural use to the surrounding areas of Littlerock, a census designated place. Littlerock has a land area of approximately 1.8 square miles.

3.20.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The Project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. No physical change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The Project would transfer water from one entity in Los Angeles County to another while utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

No Impact. As discussed in **Chapter 2: Project Description**, the water transfer would assist with augmenting future water supplies in the area as water becomes available. Water transfers are designed to improve water supply reliability given increasing water demands and uncertainty about the year-by-year availability. Water transfers are a good water management strategy to address temporary needs of water users during drought conditions and to augment existing water supplies to meet future water needs. As part of LCID and PWDs water supplies, a portion of the SWP water would continue to be used to recharge the groundwater basins in the area assisting with the reduction of subsidence and higher groundwater sustainability. New or expanded water entitlements would not be required for the Project. Water utilized as part of the Project would be surplus water from LCID conveyed to PWD for an increase water supply reliability and would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, LCID, or PWD facilities and treatment and would be used to serve only existing customers. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. The water transferred for the Project would primarily be used for water production at the PWD treatment plant. The Project would not result in the generation of new wastewater, nor would it affect the treatment plant's capacity. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

No Impact. The Project would not generate solid waste and as a result there would be no need for an increase in solid waste capacity for the Project. The Project would not impact or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The Project would comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The Project would not produce any solid waste. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.21 Wildfire

Table 3-21. Wildfire Impacts

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrollable spread of wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.21.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in the northeast section of Los Angeles County and would use existing infrastructure. The Project would not result in the increase of population in the area, and it does not involve the construction of structures, habitable or otherwise.

3.21.2 Impact Assessment

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. Although portions of the Project area are located in a State Responsibility Area³⁶ and a very high fire hazard severity zone,³⁷ no physical change in the environment would result from the approval of this Project. The Project would transfer water from one entity in Los Angeles County to another while utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. The Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No Impact. Although portions of the Project area are located in a State Responsibility Area and a very high fire hazard severity zone, no physical ground disturbance or any change in the environment would result from the

³⁶ ArcGIS. State Responsibility Zones. Website:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=5ac1dae3cb2544629a845d9a19e83991>. Accessed 7/9/21.

³⁷ ArcGIS. Is Your Home in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone? Website:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Styler/index.html?appid=5e96315793d445419b6c96f89ce5d153>. Accessed 7/9/21.

implementation of this Project. The Project's implementation would not exacerbate wildfire risks ultimately exposing project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

No Impact. Although portions of the Project area are located in a State Responsibility Area and a very high fire hazard severity zone, no physical ground disturbance or any change in the environment would result from the implementation of this Project. The Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No Impact. No physical change in the environment would result from the approval of this Project. The Project would transfer water from one entity in Los Angeles County to another while utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. As a result, further analysis of the Project's potential impacts regarding wildfire are not warranted. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.22 CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance

Table 3-22. Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts

Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.22.1 Impact Assessment

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

No Impact. Due to the fact that the Project does not propose any change to the physical environment, the Project would not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species. The Project would not be capable to cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

Less than Significant Impact. The assessment of potential cumulative impacts associated with the Project considers reasonably foreseeable future increased water use by water rights holders, the SWP, and system-wide operations. Cumulative impacts also include the projected water use by agencies holding contracts for water supplies from the SWP system. The water transfer is a long-term agreement between districts to provide appropriate future water supplies within their respected district boundaries. As previously discussed in Chapter

2, the districts past beneficial use and determined future water supplies were discussed, providing that the water transfer has mutual benefits. Additionally, the transfer would divert, store, and convey water consistent with DWRs applicable regulations. Water transfers can provide benefits by increasing beneficial use of existing supplies, additional flexibility in drought conditions, reduction of capacity and operation costs, and can better match waters of different quality with different water demands. Water transfers routinely occur throughout the State, utilizing existing water conveyance infrastructure, and without causing any ground disturbing activities. The execution of water transference contracts between water and irrigation districts is common practice throughout California. These districts often enter into multiple water transfer contracts concurrently. PWD engages in other short and long-term transfers, leases, and exchanges of SWP water supplies in an effort buffer against the variability of year-to-year allocations. Examples of these include the Butte County Table A lease and the transfer agreement with the Westside Water Districts via Kern County Water Agency.

The Project would result in the transfer of 75 to 100 percent of LCIDs annual Table A allocation to PWD in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Although groundwater is pumped as part of LCID and PWDs water supplies, a portion of the SWP water would continue to be used to recharge the groundwater basins in the area assisting with the reduction of subsidence. Implementation of the Project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in PWD or LCID service areas, thereby not creating impacts upon surface water, vegetation, and biological resources. The Project would not result in changes the overall operations of the SWP, PWD, or LCID. It is unknown at this time if future transfers would be negotiated, but, if necessary, would require additional and continued regulatory compliance, water availability, and be approved through contract with the participating districts and DWR.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No Impact. The water transfer provides temporary water needs for users to augment existing water supplies and meet future water needs. A portion of the water would have a direct impact to water reliability in the area as it will be used to off-set groundwater reliance. Additionally, by using existing facilities to move the water, there would be no indirect impacts to the environment through construction activities, such as additional turn outs, reservoirs, pumping facilities or other water supply infrastructure that can potentially damage the environment. The Project would not have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

3.23 Determination: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature

02/17/2022

Date

Peter Thompson / Resource and Analytics Director

Printed Name/Position

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District 7 – Office of Regional Planning
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 266-3562
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

March 8, 2022

Mar 18 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dena Giacomini
Provost & Pritchard
1800 30th Street, Suite 280
Bakersfield, CA 93308

RE: Palmdale Water District (PWD) and
Littlerock Creek Irrigation District
(LCID) Multi-Year Water Transfer
Project – Initial Study/Negative
Declaration
SCH # 2022020458
GTS # 07-LA-2022-03871

Dear Dena Giacomini:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced Initial Study/Negative Declaration. The proposed Project states that the Palmdale Water District (PWD) and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) seek to enter a mutually beneficial water transfer. In this Project, LCID would transfer its portion of State Water Project (SWP) annual Table A water to PWD. PWD would receive an amount not less than 75% and not more than 100% of LCID's annual Table A allocation, up to a maximum of 2,300-acre feet. In addition, LCID has an annual option to retain up to 25% of its Table A water. The annual transfer would take place from the date that the agreement is fully executed, until December 31, 2035. The parties may mutually revise the agreement in the years 2025 and/or 2030.

All water transferred from LCID to PWD would use existing conveyance infrastructure and would not require any new construction. The water transferred to PWD would be used to increase the water supply reliability within PWD's service area. Implementation of the Project does not include the construction of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in LCID's or PWD's service areas and will not require modification to the operation of any such facilities. The total amount of SWP water available for allocation in any year would not change. The Palmdale Water District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PWD boundary is located in the City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County and has a service area of 187 square miles. LCID is located in the community of Littlerock in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The California Aqueduct runs through both Palmdale and Littlerock near State Route 14 (SR-14) and State Route 138 (SR-138) respectively. The ND states that the Project does not include the construction of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in LCID's or PWD's service

areas and will not require modification to the operation of any such facilities. Therefore, Caltrans does not expect this project to result in an increase of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) nor does it expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the State Highway System.

However, please note, changes in the Project that would require any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State Highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, including SR-14 and SR-138, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

Finally, any work completed on or near Caltrans' right of way might require an encroachment permit, however, the final determination on this will be made by Caltrans' Office of Permits. For more information on encroachment permits, see: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ronnie Escobar, the project coordinator, at Ronnie.Escobar@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2022-03871.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse



March 14, 2022

Palmdale Water District
Attn: Dena Giacomini
1800 30th Street, Suite 280
Bakersfield, CA 93308

PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND) FOR THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AND LITTLEROCK CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT MULTI-YEAR WATER TRANSFER PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH #2022020458

Dear Ms. Dena Giacomini:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) is responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. A project requires a permit if it includes water system consolidation or changes to a water supply source, storage, or treatment or a waiver or alternative from Waterworks Standards (California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 22, chapter 16 et. seq). The above referenced Project may require an amended water supply permit.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under CEQA, has the following comments on the Palmdale Water District's draft ND.

- A change in water supply source would trigger a drinking water supply permit amendment. To help understand if the Project would create a new source, please provide schematics of the systems to show where water is introduced and combined.
- Will a new source be blended within either system? If so, please further discuss:
 - For the Palmdale Water District
 - Where current water sources are used and how they are circulated through the system, and
 - Where the additional State Water Project (SWP) water will be used and how it will be circulated through the system.
 - For the Littlerock Creek Irrigation District
 - Explain where current water sources are used and how they are circulated through the system, and
 - Where the SWP Palmdale Water District treated groundwater water (1,000 Acre-feet or 10%) will be used and how it will be circulated through the system.
- If a permit amendment will be triggered, please include the State Water Board, DDW on list 2.1.10 of Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required.

If a permit amendment will be triggered, when the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with your permit application to the State Water Board, DDW, Hollywood District Office:

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Copy of the draft and final ND with any comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the ND; and
- Copy of the stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Los Angeles County Clerk's Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Milagros Alora of the State Water Board, DDW, Hollywood District Office, at (818) 551-2026 or Milagros.Alora@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding permitting requirements.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Milagros Alora
Sanitary Engineer
Hollywood District

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, FEBRUARY 16, 2022:

A meeting of the Outreach Committee of the Palmdale Water District was held Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550 and via teleconference. Chair Mac Laren-Gomez called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Committee:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair

Don Wilson, Committee Member

Others Present:

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager

Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager

Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director

Claudia Bolanos, Resource & Analytics Spvsr.

Michelle Trejo, Public Affairs Specialist

Dawn Deans, Executive Assistant

0 members of the public

2) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Committee Member Wilson, seconded by Chair Mac Laren-Gomez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting to adopt the agenda, as written.

3) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

4) Action Items: (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item as Each Item is Considered by the Committee Prior to Action Being Taken.)

4.1) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held January 19, 2022.

It was moved by Committee Member Wilson, seconded by Chair Mac Laren-Gomez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting to approve the minutes of the Outreach Committee meeting held January 19, 2022, as written.

4.2) Discussion of the District's Response to the Drought. (Public Affairs Director Shay/Resource & Analytics Supervisor Bolanos)

Public Affairs Director Shay stated that staff continues social media posts with Water Wise Wednesdays and tips to save water.

Resource & Analytics Supervisor Bolanos then stated that Antelope Valley Water Conservation Roundtable meetings continue with representatives from Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency, Los Angeles County Waterworks, Quartz Hill Water District, and Rosamond Community Services District; that Los Angeles County Waterworks has declined continued participation with the billboard ads; and that additional outreach options will be reviewed if the District moves toward mandatory water conservation measures followed by discussion of the District's previous mandatory water conservation enforcements and current precipitation levels.

4.3) Discussion of 2021 Outreach Activities. (Public Affairs Director Shay)

a) Outreach Report.

Public Affairs Director Shay introduced Michelle Trejo, the District's new Public Affairs Specialist, who provided an overview of her background.

Public Affairs Director Shay then stated that a written Outreach Report of current events through February 9, 2022 was included with the agenda packets if there are any questions and then updated the Report including articles in various print publications, a Café Con Leche radio interview with Resource & Analytics Supervisor Bolanos, attendance at various events, on-going drought messaging radio ads, and social media interactions.

b) Upcoming Events/2022 Plans.

She then stated that upcoming events include the Water Wise Workshop 'Gardening in the Desert and Water Saving Tips' scheduled for March 15, Let's Talk H2O 'Water Supply' near the end of March, the Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County quarterly lunch meeting on March 31, and the upcoming issue of The Pipeline will focus on the drought followed by discussion of the San Gabriel

Mountains Community Collaborative, Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County meetings, and the timeline for filling the Division 1 Board seat.

4.4) Consideration and Possible Action on a Recommendation for the District's Participation in the Antelope Valley Fair's Ag Day and 2022 Events. (Chair Mac Laren-Gomez)

Resource & Analytics Supervisor Bolanos stated that a date has not yet been set for the Antelope Valley Fair's Ag Day, which may be combined with the Poppy Festival in April, followed by discussion of the District's previous choice to not participate in the Poppy Festival.

5) Reports.

5.1) Lobbying Activities. (Assistant General Manager Ly)

Assistant General Manager Ly stated that a summary of bills proposed for 2022 is expected from the District's lobbyist and from the Public Water Agencies Group; that a bill adding 80 hours of COVID-19 leave has been signed and implemented; and that a bill has been proposed regarding continuing teleconference meetings after the state of emergency has been lifted.

5.2) Status Update on 2022 Outreach to the Schools. (Chair Mac Laren-Gomez/Resource & Analytics Supervisor Bolanos)

Resource & Analytics Supervisor Bolanos stated that outreach to large water users continues along with school presentations and contests after which Public Affairs Director Shay stated that a Junior Water Ambassador's Academy is scheduled in April.

6) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

There were no requests for future agenda items.

7) Date of Next Committee Meeting.

It was stated that the next Outreach Committee meeting will be held March 16, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

8) **Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Outreach Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.


Chair

PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2022 **March 28, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.2.a – MARCH 2022 GENERAL MANAGER REPORT***

The following is the March 2022 report to the Board of activities through February 2022. It is organized to follow the District's 2020 Strategic Plan approved in August 2020 and composed of six strategic initiatives. The initiatives follow for reference. It is intended to provide a general update on the month's activities.

PWD 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY



Water Resource Reliability: *Resilience, Development, Partnership*

Support and participate with local agencies in the development of projects and policies that improve water reliability

Expand the recycled water distribution system for both public access and construction water

Continue the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project to maximize state and federal funding opportunities

Support projects and initiatives that increase the resilience of the State Water Project

Expand access to available water supplies to increase drought resiliency, develop water storage projects, and improve the ability to capture groundwater, local surface water, and recycled water

Update the 2010 Strategic Water Resources Plan and Water Supply Fee to ensure funding for needed projects

Strengthen stakeholder relationships and implement Littlerock Dam and Reservoir sediment removal



Organizational Excellence: *Train, Perform, Reward*

Offer competitive compensation and benefits package for employee recruitment and retention

Focus Succession Planning Program on ensuring an overlap of training for key positions

Continue providing transparency to our ratepayers

Promote and support leadership training and professional development programs to enhance the District's customers' experience

Ensure employees are trained on the Strategic Plan and the District's Values of Diversity, Integrity, Teamwork, and Passion

Improve safety for Directors, employees, and customers

Develop career paths at the District for interns and pursue state and federal funding for intern programs

Involve employees in community engagement and professional platforms



Systems Efficiency: *Independence, Technology, Research*

Explore energy independence and evaluate the feasibility of energy options, including wind and solar

Incorporate more energy efficient technologies into the District's infrastructure

Advance new technologies to increase treatment efficiencies, including the use of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)

Research state-of-the-art treatment techniques to help with systems efficiency and flexibility in using recycled water and surface water

Enhance technologies to increase efficiencies

Re-evaluate Lake Palmdale by-pass pipeline and pursue funding options

Improve Palmdale Ditch to reduce water loss



Financial Health and Stability: *Strength, Consistency, Balance*

Pursue grant funding for District projects and operations

Maintain the five-year financial plan adopted as part of the 2019 Water Rate Study, including the five-year Capital Improvement Plan

Build adequate reserve levels and achieve high-level bond rating

Seek potential revenue sources from vacant District properties

Monitor finances, operations, and projects affected by emergencies

Digitize and document departmental workflows



Regional Leadership: *Engage, Lead, Progress*

Increase involvement with water, business, and community partnerships

Provide opportunities for local businesses to contract with the District

Expand the Greater Antelope Valley Water Emergency Coalition by continuing to collaborate with neighboring water agencies and moving to include more agencies outside of the Antelope Valley

Develop working relationships and mutually beneficial projects with other water agencies in the District's state and federal representatives' districts

Develop events or activities with lessees of District properties

Host a 100th anniversary celebration for a fully re-opened Littlerock Dam and Reservoir recreation area in 2024



Customer Care, Advocacy and Outreach: *Promote, Educate, Support*

Enhance customers' experience through communication and feedback

Evaluate, develop, and market additional payment options

Develop the District's Public Outreach Plan and increase public awareness of current programs and services

Develop partnerships with various agencies to distribute information about resources available to the public

Engage elected officials and the public on the importance of local, state, federal, and global water reliability issues

Expand the District's social media platforms and find new avenues to share information and news

Plan and convert to an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to increase customers' knowledge of water use

Continue to promote and expand school water education programs

Overview

This report also includes charts that show the effects of the District's efforts in several areas. They are organized within each strategic initiative and include status of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) former long-term conservation orders (20 x 2020), the District's total per capita water use trends, 2022 actual water production and customer use graph, mainline leaks, and the water loss trends for both 12- and 24-month running averages.



Water Resource Reliability *Resilience, Development, Partnership*

This initiative includes conservation efforts, water supply projects, and water planning.

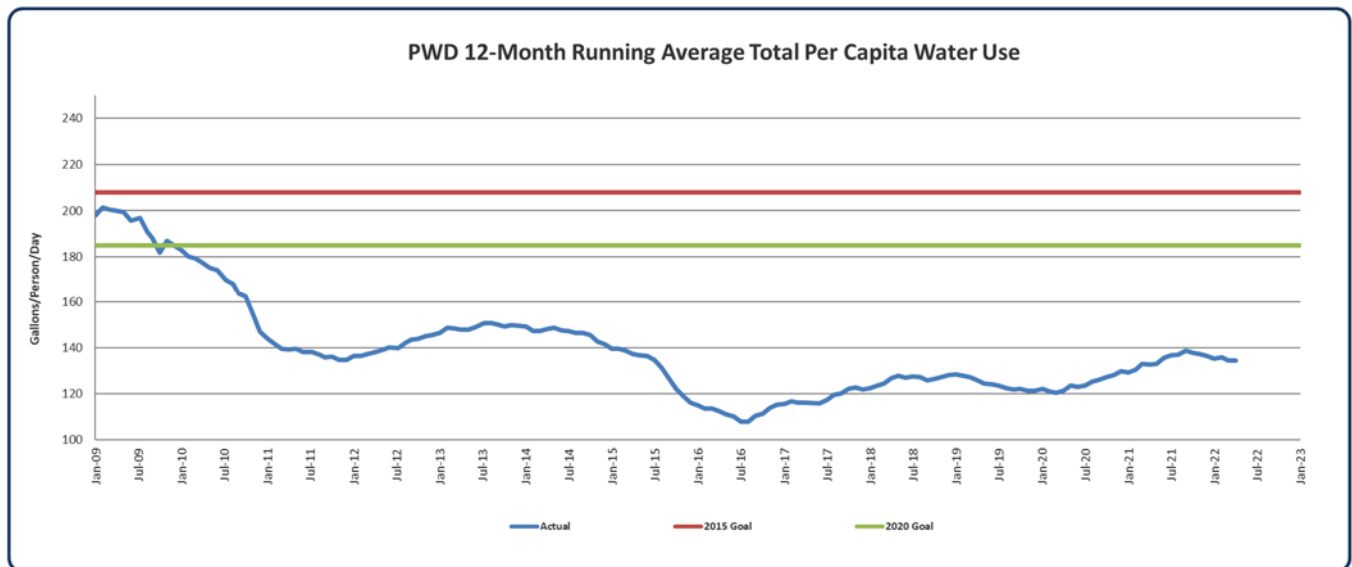
Recent highlights are as follows:

Overall Water Use Goals and Compliance

The 20 x 2020 per capita reduction goals passed by the legislature in 2009 with new long-term water budgeting requirements replaced with new requirements and water agency water budgets. These follow through on the “Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life” plan. The District expects to easily comply with the new requirements as they are based on the same philosophy as the District’s water budget rate structure.

The 2020 Urban Water Management Plan was adopted by the District in June 2021. It does not relate the District’s water use to the upcoming agency water budget. Until these criteria are finalized, the customers’ performance is shown in this report using the 20 x 2020 requirements.

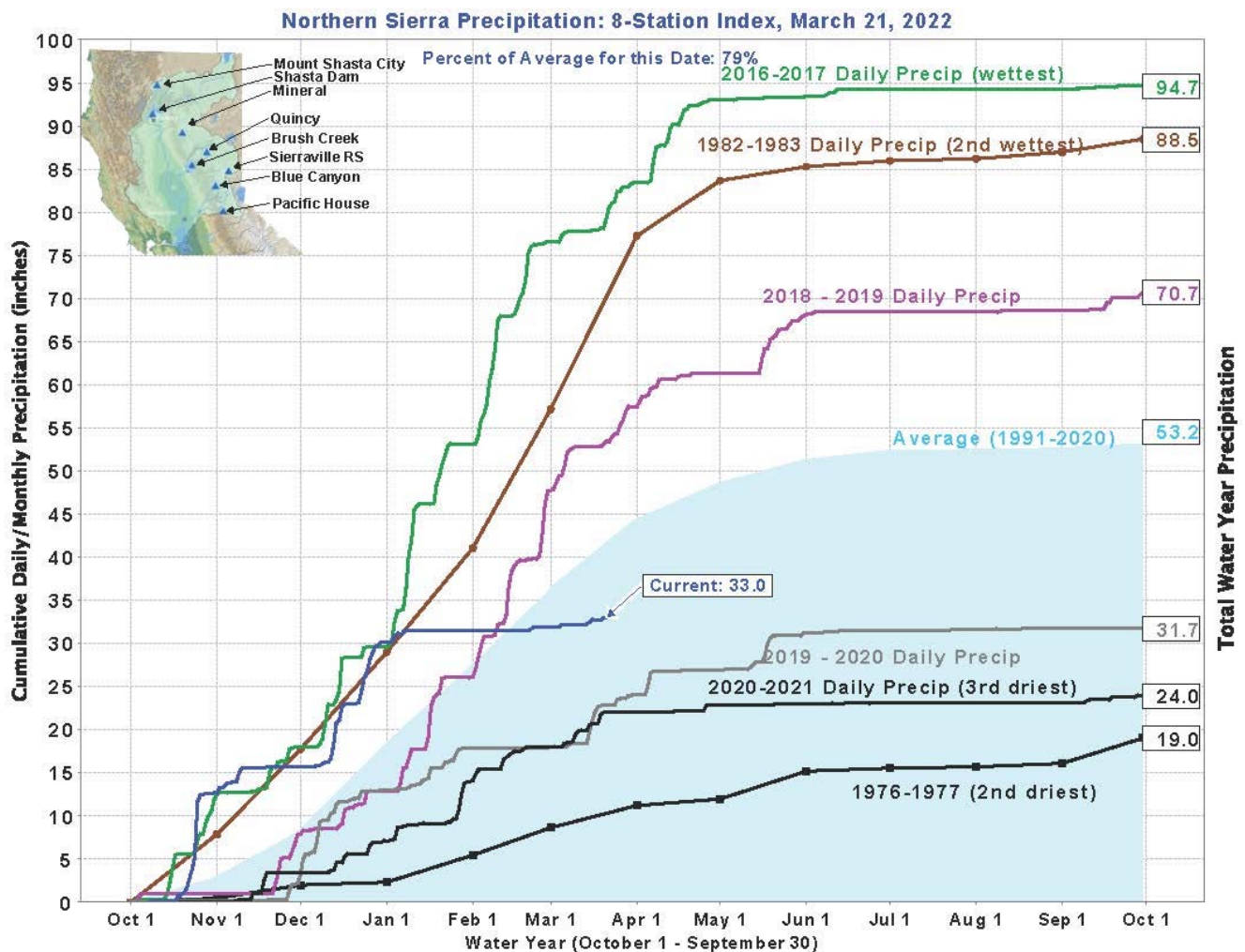
The District’s compliance with the former 20 x 2020 law is evident from the chart titled “PWD 12-Month Running Average Total Per Capita Water Use:”



The District’s customers have cut their water use by **42.0%** from the baseline number of 231 re-established in the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and met the 2020 Goal in early 2010. The current Metered-GPCD is 134 showing our customers’ reduced usage.

2021 Water Supply Information – Extremely Dry Year

- The AV Adjudication is now entering its seventh year, and the reduction to the native safe yield is in its fifth year. The District's native groundwater right is 2,769.63 AF. The District's 2021 groundwater rights totaled 8,359 AF without the prior year's Carryover Rights. The District's 2022 groundwater rights will be approximately 8,000 AF with 9,000 AF of Carryover production rights from prior years for a total of 17,000 AF. This is more than the District's existing wellfield can pump.
- The 2022 water resources plan is not set at this point. Precipitation in the area that contributes to the State Water Project is at 79% of average for the 2021-2022 Water Year (October through September). The SWP allocation is now 15% and may be reduced in March 2022. Littlerock Reservoir filled due to the storms in December 2021, and the District began taking water to Lake Palmdale in February. The District will explore other water sources as needed for 2022 including the SWC Dry Year Program, Yuba Accord Water, third-party water, and exchanges. The current precipitation and state reservoir storage as of Monday, March 21, 2022, are as follows:

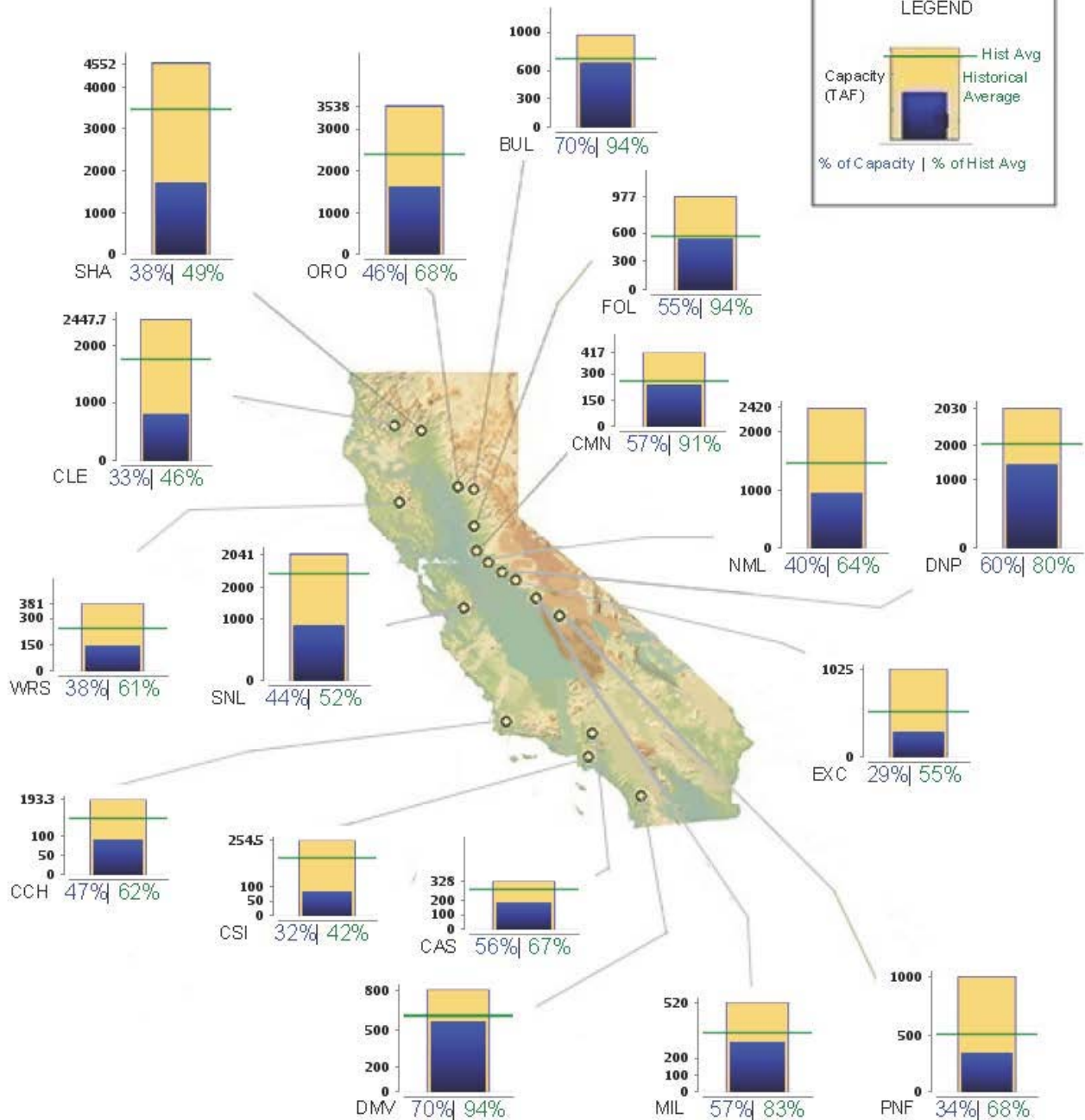




CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

Midnight - March 20, 2022

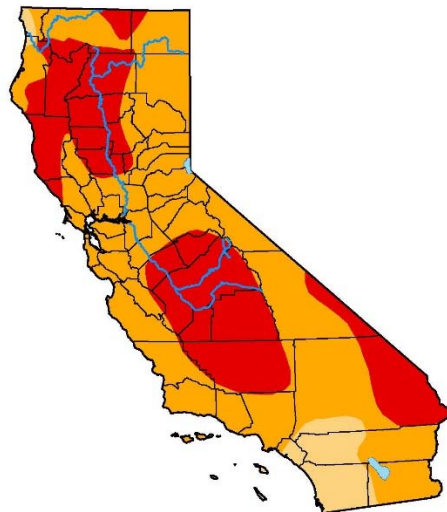
CURRENT CONDITIONS



Updated 03/21/2022 10:48 AM

- The dry conditions last year led to the District's implementation of its Stage 2 of the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) in June. This stage is voluntary and requests our customers to reduce their water use by 15%. The focus is on additional outreach, education, and coordination with the largest water users. The following map of California shows the levels of drought in the state as of March 15 and February 15, 2022. It is easy to see this year's conditions are getting worse. Most of Kern County, Sacramento Valley, and San Joaquin Valley are now in "Extreme Drought." This map is updated on a weekly basis and provides information that can help the District take needed steps to address the drought in the weeks and months ahead.

U.S. Drought Monitor California



March 15, 2022
(Released Thursday, Mar. 17, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.23	35.22	0.00
Last Week 03-08-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	86.98	12.82	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-14-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	92.43	80.28	28.27
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	99.30	67.62	16.60	0.84
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.93	87.88	45.66
One Year Ago 03-16-2021	0.78	99.22	90.62	58.59	29.54	3.75

Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

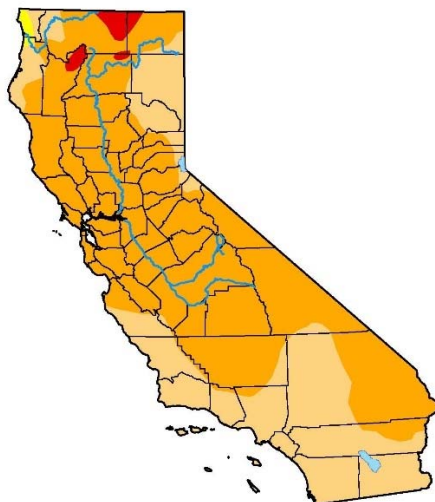
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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U.S. Drought Monitor California



February 15, 2022
(Released Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.57	66.39	1.39	0.00
Last Week 02-08-2022	0.00	100.00	99.25	66.39	1.39	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-16-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	92.43	80.28	37.62
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	99.30	67.62	16.60	0.84
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.93	87.88	45.66
One Year Ago 02-16-2021	0.70	99.30	84.88	57.56	30.99	3.75

Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

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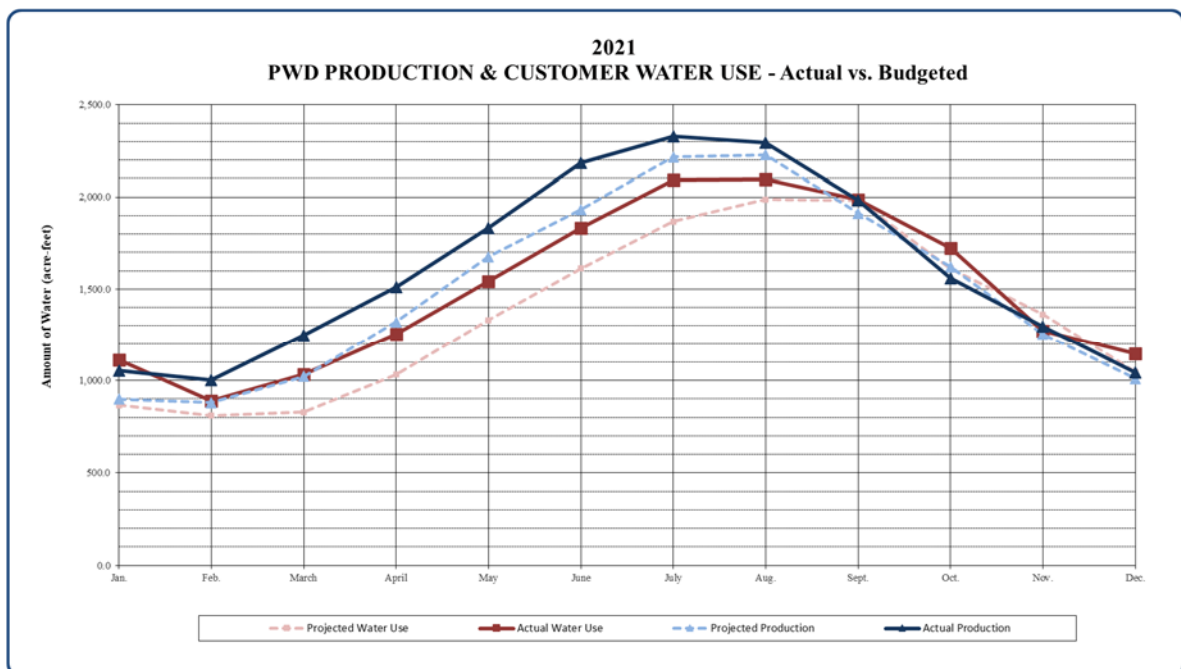
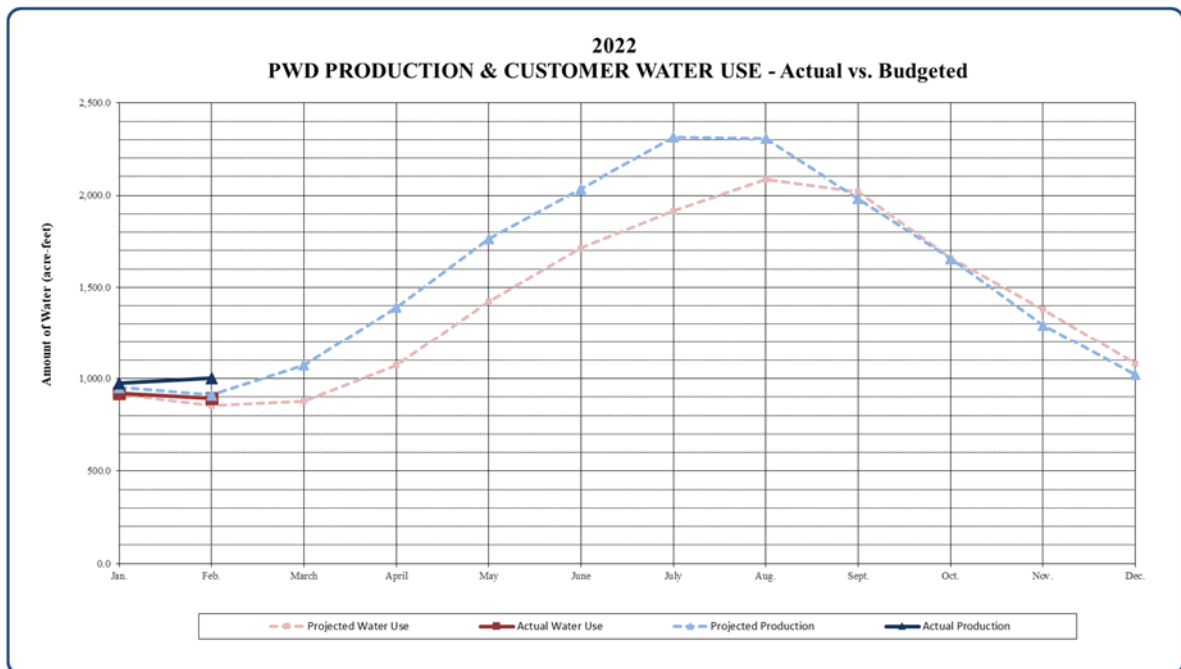
Author:
Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



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- The following graph is the projected monthly water consumption and production for 2022 based on the prior five years of actual monthly information. The projected total consumption is based on the 2022 Budget amount of 17,000 AF, a 5.5% reduction from 2021 actual water use.

Actual amounts are shown through February. The 2021 graph shows the projected and actual water use last year. Customer water use was 17,983.6 AF in 2021. This is the most water used by customers since 18,127 AF in 2014, before the 2015-2017 drought.



Other Items

- The Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project (Project) Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was fully approved in 2017. The Project consists of three phases. The Grade Control Structure is Phase 1 and was completed in January 2020.

Phase II is the removal of 1.2 million cubic yards (CY) of sediment from the reservoir. Last year, the Board approved moving forward with Aspen Environmental for the next five years as the environmental permitting, engineering, and monitoring firm. Staff is working with Aspen Environmental to secure all the necessary permits and plans to complete the first year of sediment removal this year from Labor Day through December.

- The focus of using recycled water for a stable potable water supply has shifted from the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project (PRGRRP) to the Palmdale Regional Water Augmentation Project (PRWAP). It appears to be feasible and a more cost-efficient way of using recycled water. PRWA suspended work on additional purple pipe while advanced treatment is being evaluated.

A request for proposals was issued for a program management firm to assist the District with the Palmdale Regional Water Augmentation Project (PRWAP) late last year. The proposals were received, evaluated by staff, and the Board approved a contract with Stantec in February.

- The Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project construction is complete. The project partners, City of Palmdale, LA County Waterworks, and AVEK, are now finalizing the operation and maintenance agreement.

The City of Palmdale recently notified the project partners about the mitigation requirements and costs. The two stages, 11.28 acres and 38.72 acres, of mitigation are being finalized with the regulatory agencies. The estimated construction costs are \$1,305,472 and \$3,100,000, respectively, and will be built several years apart. The City is also seeking grant funding for these costs.

- Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA): This joint power authority is responsible for the environmental, design, and engineering of the project and works with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the project. The Board is now reorganized with more representation from smaller agencies. This includes adding two seats for the East Branch, Class 8, of the California Aqueduct. The agencies are AVEK, PWD, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID), Mojave Water Agency (MWA), Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), San Geronio Pass Water Agency, Desert Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD).

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is moving to the next step of a Draft EIR/EIS (Draft) for the public's review. The Draft is planned for release this summer.

- A set of amendments to the State Water Project Contract was finalized in 2020. These changes provide for increased flexibility for SWP contractors to develop long-term exchanges of water within the SWP. This is beneficial for all the contractors and will help the District maintain the SWP's current level of reliability for our customers. The District is working with these amendments to finalize a long-term exchange with Littlerock Creek Irrigation District.



Organizational Excellence *Train, Perform, Reward*

This initiative includes efforts to restructure staff duties and activities to more efficiently provide service to our customers. Recent highlights are as follows:

- Nearly 80 percent of the District's staff is required to have certifications or licenses issued by the State of California. Many of these have continuing education requirements which must be met by technical training. The District provides for this in several ways including hosting classes given by the California Rural Water Association, having a training budget for staff to attend conferences, and providing an education tuition allowance for each employee.
- COVID-19 Pandemic Response: District staff initiated a draft Pandemic Response Plan on March 4, 2020 as the State of California and County of Los Angeles issued declarations of emergency. The other options to conduct business with the District, including using the website, calling Customer Care, using the automated phone system, and using remote payment sites, were promoted on social media, the website, and radio spots.
The District also continued to comply with social distancing regulations by updating the Pandemic Response Plan, rotating staff to work from home, staggering work hours, and providing face coverings for staff. The lobby was reopened Monday, July 12, 2021. Customer Care representatives alternate between working from the office and home.
- Despite the pandemic, the District has continued to find ways for internships and training opportunities for college and high school students who are interested in the water industry.
- The update of job descriptions for the District's positions is now complete. The updated job descriptions will be used as the basis of a salary survey with comparable water agencies later this year.

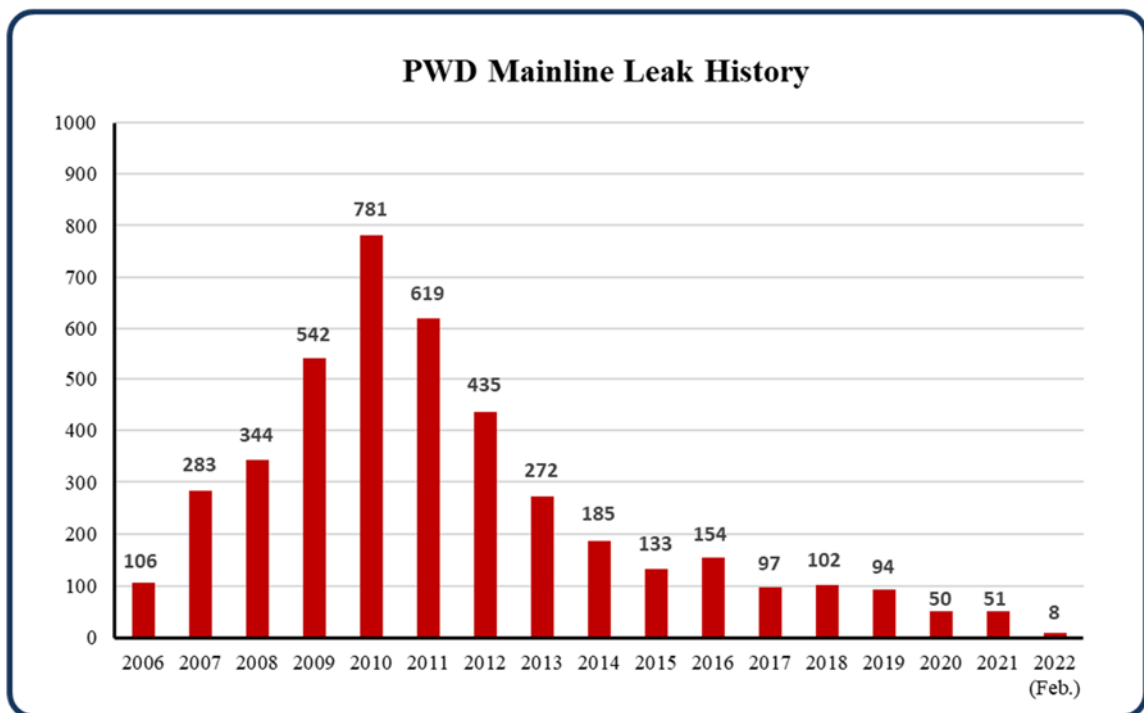
- The Employee Handbook update is being reviewed by the District's general counsel and management. It will then be presented to the Ad-Hoc Committee to review and make a recommendation to the Board on its adoption.



Systems Efficiency *Independence, Technology, Research*

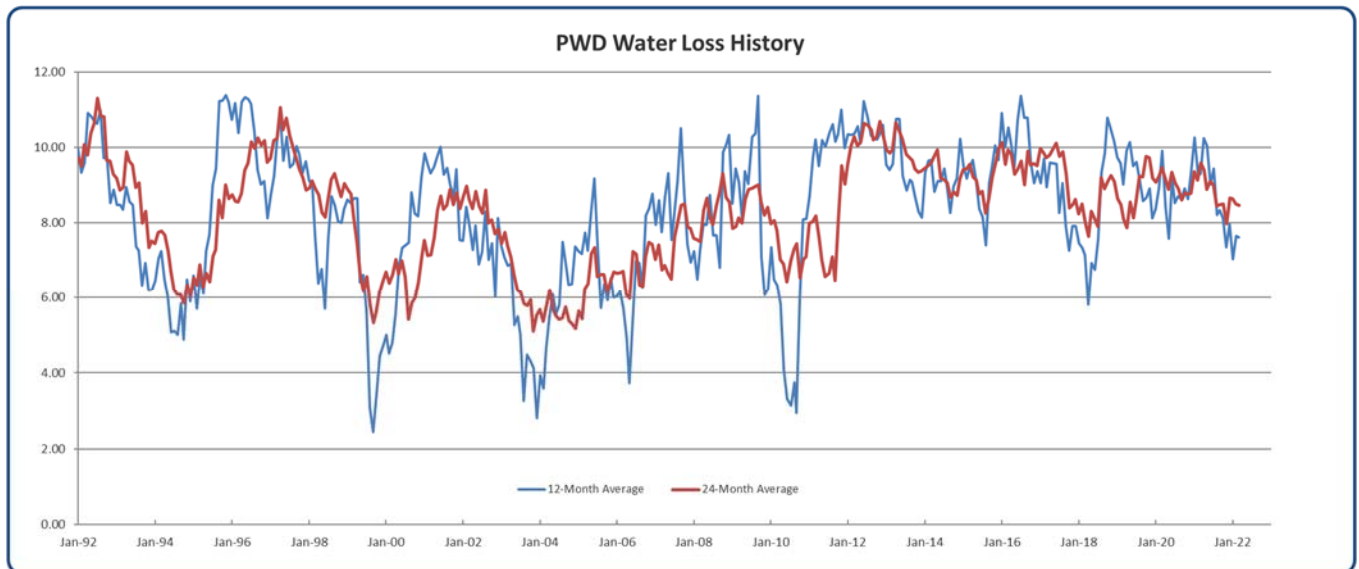
This initiative largely focuses on the state of the District's infrastructure. Recent highlights are as follows:

- The effects of the District's past efforts in replacing failing water mains and meters can be seen in the reduced number of mainline leaks. This is illustrated in the chart titled "Mainline Leak History." The mainline leaks through February 2022 total 8 with 10 service line leaks.



- Additional water main replacement projects are being designed for construction as planned in the 2019 Water Rate Plan. The first project that will be constructed in 2022 is the neighborhood replacement project bounded by Desert Sands Park, Avenue Q, Division Street, and 3rd Street East and in 10th Street East north of Avenue P. Work began in January and is proceeding well.

- The positive effect of both water main and water meter replacement programs is shown on the chart titled “PWD Water Loss History.” The running average for water losses is lowering and running about 8%.



- District staff is working on two energy technologies that will benefit our customers. One is the use of batteries for backup power at four booster facilities. The other is a demonstration project for the generation and storage of hydrogen from wind energy.

These programs are grant funded and managed by the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission, respectfully. The grant funds go directly to the technology providers, Tesla and Dash2Energy. Both projects involve the installation of pre-designed and assembled equipment at District facilities with minimal construction work at the sites. The approved sites are Well 5 Booster, Underground Booster, 45th Street East Booster, and the new 3M Booster Station. The battery systems are completed and active at Well 5 and the Underground Booster and are installed at the other sites.

- The wind turbine has been inoperable for several months due to a bad anemometer and the maintenance firm’s unwillingness to comply with prevailing wage requirements. Staff is working on a couple fronts to resolve this. A maintenance contract has been completed with a new firm and the needed part received. The new firm is working to replace the part. Staff is looking at the longer-term project of replacing the wind turbine. It has been in operation for seventeen years as of August 2021, and parts are difficult to find. The main considerations moving forward are maximizing the generation, the availability of repair parts, and adequate competition for maintenance contracts. The replacement hoist arrived in mid-January, and arrangements are being made for its installation in March.



Financial Health and Stability *Strength, Consistency, Balance*

- PWD and City of Palmdale staffs have worked together to obtain funding for the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) Phase II Project. Last year, PRWA decided to suspend the Phase II purple pipe project while the advanced treatment project is studied.
- The Littlerock Sediment Removal Project was awarded nearly \$900,000 through the AVIRWMP Grant Program in the current round of funding. The approved grant for Phase II, now suspended, will be redistributed to other projects in the Antelope Valley. This will change the Littlerock grant to over \$1M.
- The 2019 Water Rate Study and Proposition 218 was completed when the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 19-15. This set the water rate structure and water rates for 2020-2024 and includes criteria to evaluate the District's financial condition each year. It gives the Board the ability to reduce the water rates if the District's financial position meets four (4) of the criteria in an annual review while preparing the following year's budget.
- Fitch Ratings reviewed the District's bond rating in December 2021. The review affirmed the District's rating with them of "A+" with a stable outlook. This is a good result considering the uncertainty of operating in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The District is seeking State and/or Federal assistance to provide water service to the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park on Sierra Highway. It has poor water quality from its well and several health violations. Maria Kennedy, Kennedy Communications, is experienced with these programs and is contracted with the District to accomplish it.
The first step will be the State issuing a check to fund water hauling until the connection to the District is designed, constructed, and operational.
- The Finance Department is continuing to monitor the effect of the State's moratorium on shutoffs due to nonpayment on cash flow. The effect is fluctuating somewhat but is remaining 5% or less below what is usually expected. Staff is also placing property liens as appropriate to help secure payment of large, outstanding bills.
- The shutoff moratorium is over as of January 2022. Staff has started providing dated notices to delinquent customers. However, the District will only focus on customers who were behind in February 2020 or current amounts over \$1,000. Shutoffs begin in March.



Regional Leadership

Engage, Lead, Progress

This initiative includes efforts to involve the community, be involved in regional activities, and be a resource for other agencies in the area. Recent highlights are as follows:

- Activities of the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA), AV Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association have continued. The District has leadership positions in these organizations.
- The PWRA Board consists of two Palmdale City Councilmembers, two PWD Board members, and a public director Zakeya Anson.
- The District staff continues to share the administration of the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board (AVWB) with AVEK and related meetings.
- District staff is active in the local chambers, AV EDGE, regional human resources, and public information organizations.
- The “PWD Water Ambassador Academy” (WAA) and Junior WAA are now scheduled for April 2022.
- The District and other members of the Public Water Agencies Group (PWAG) share the services of an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. This approach also helped the District successfully comply with the America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 and respond to the current COVID-19 event.
- Staff has taken a lead role in developing and implementing a valley-wide mutual aid agreement for agencies and mutual water companies.
- The District and United Water Conservation District approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work on cooperative projects. These include internships and cooperation with community colleges, combined recreational funding for Piru and Littlerock Reservoir recreational improvements, and advanced treatment of recycled or brackish water for potable use. Meetings between the two staffs are scheduled for March.



Customer Care, Advocacy, and Outreach *Promote, Educate, Support*

This initiative includes efforts to better serve our customers. Recent highlights are as follows:

- The Board approved moving forward with a new supplier, meter brand, and reading system at the first meeting in September 2020. This change has been troublesome. The new equipment is having difficulty reading all the District's existing water meters. Efforts to resolve the problem are continuing.
A grant from the US Bureau of Reclamation has been awarded to assist with implementing the Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) project.
- The ability to make payments at 7-Eleven and Family Dollar Store as well as all electronic forms of payment are continuing to grow due to the COVID-19 event.
- Staff successfully conducted virtual coffee meetings with Directors and their constituents, online "Let's Talk H2O" meetings, issued regular internal and public newsletters, coordinated drive-through giveaways for customers, an in-person customer appreciation day, monitored and maintained the District's social media, and assisted with information for the current drought.
- Staff has finished updating the public website and is working to complete the intranet for staff.