Palmdale Water District

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

Draft Initial Study / Negative Declaration

February 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

EST. 1968
PROVOST& PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP
An Employee Owned Company

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 Czeshinski, 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

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

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 equivelent
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	Littlerock Creek Irrigation District
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
ND	Negative Declaration
NO_2	Nitrogen Dixoide
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 .....(Calfironia) State Water Project

USEPA .....United States Environmental Protection Agency

USGS ..... United States Geological Survey

This page left intentionally blank.

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 will begin receiving a groundwater production right of 2,770 AFY starting in 2023. PWD is also temporarily entitled to a share of a federal groundwater right of up to 1,450 AFY until 2025.[4]

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.

[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 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 x .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 x .75 = 1,035). This example is illustrated in **Table 2-3** 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 x .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)
25% Table A allocation retained	345 (.25 x 1380)
Net Total Supplies	
Total Supply	**345 + 2090 = 2435**

[5] LCID Existing Water Supplies. Email from Peter Thompson (PWD), 1/14/22.

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** and **Table 2-3**, 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.

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

[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.

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 Fernandeño 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 Fernandeño 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 Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on any future projects implemented within the PWD boundaries.

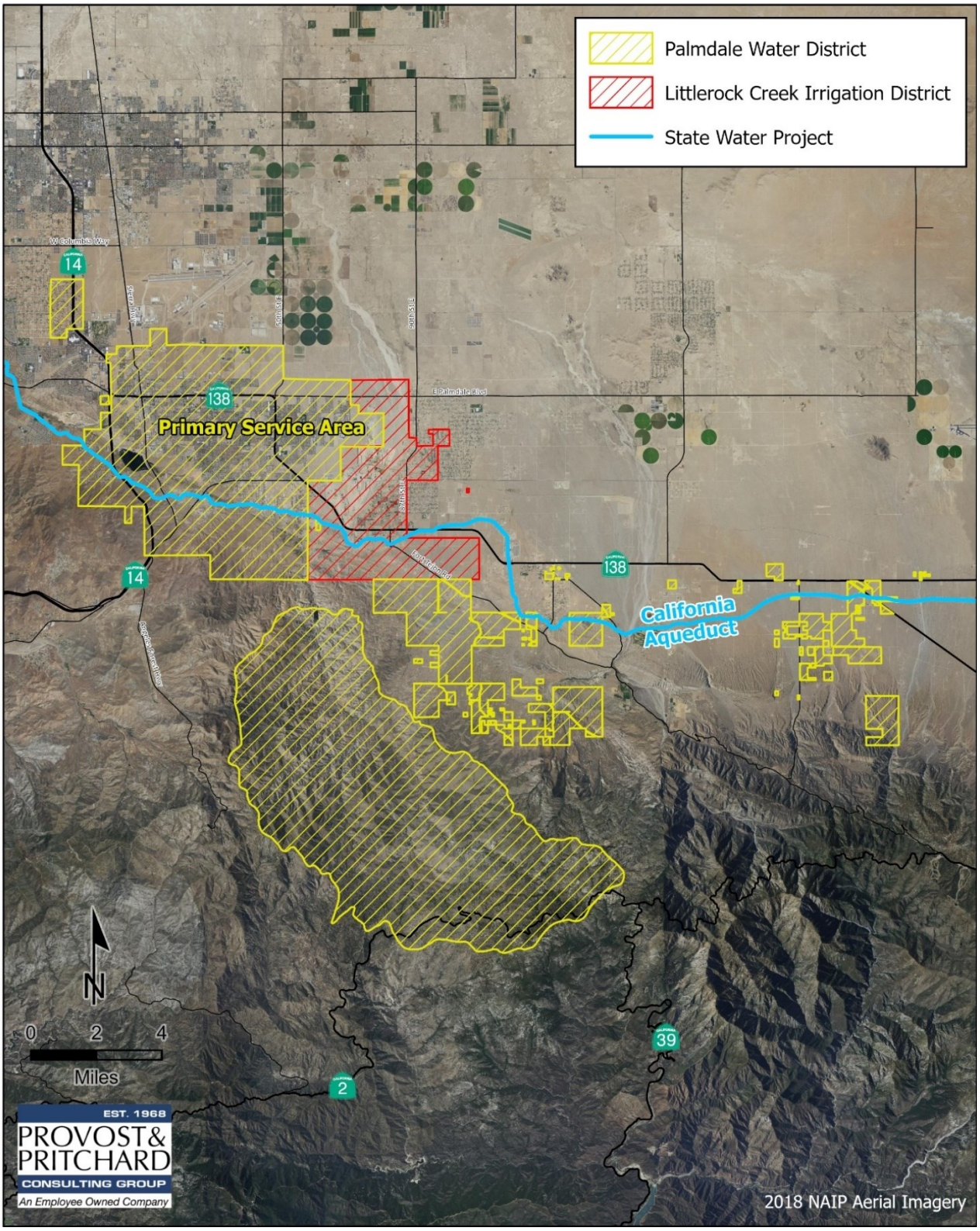

Figure 2-1. PWD and LCID Service Areas Map

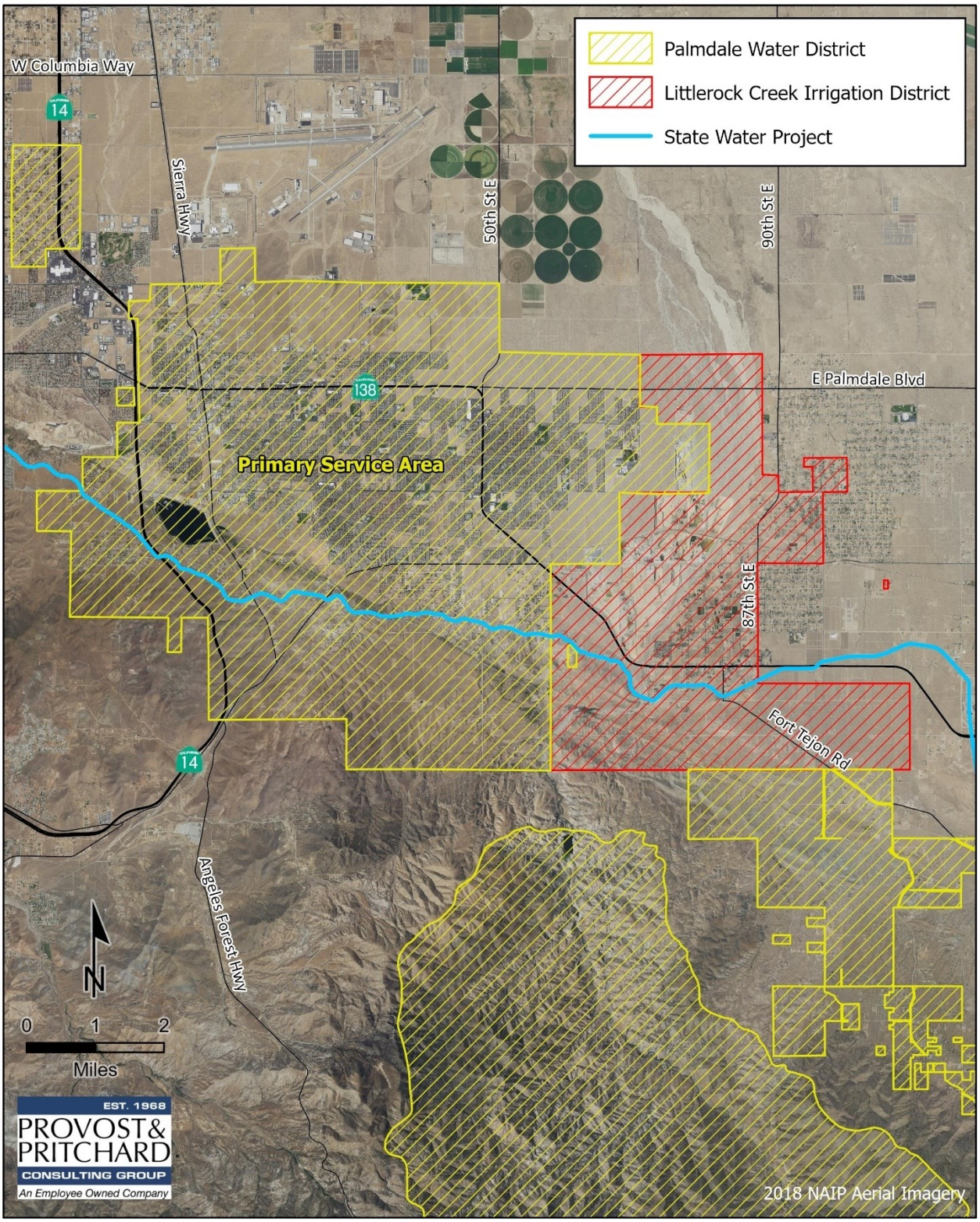

Figure 2-2. PWD and LCID Primary Service Area Map

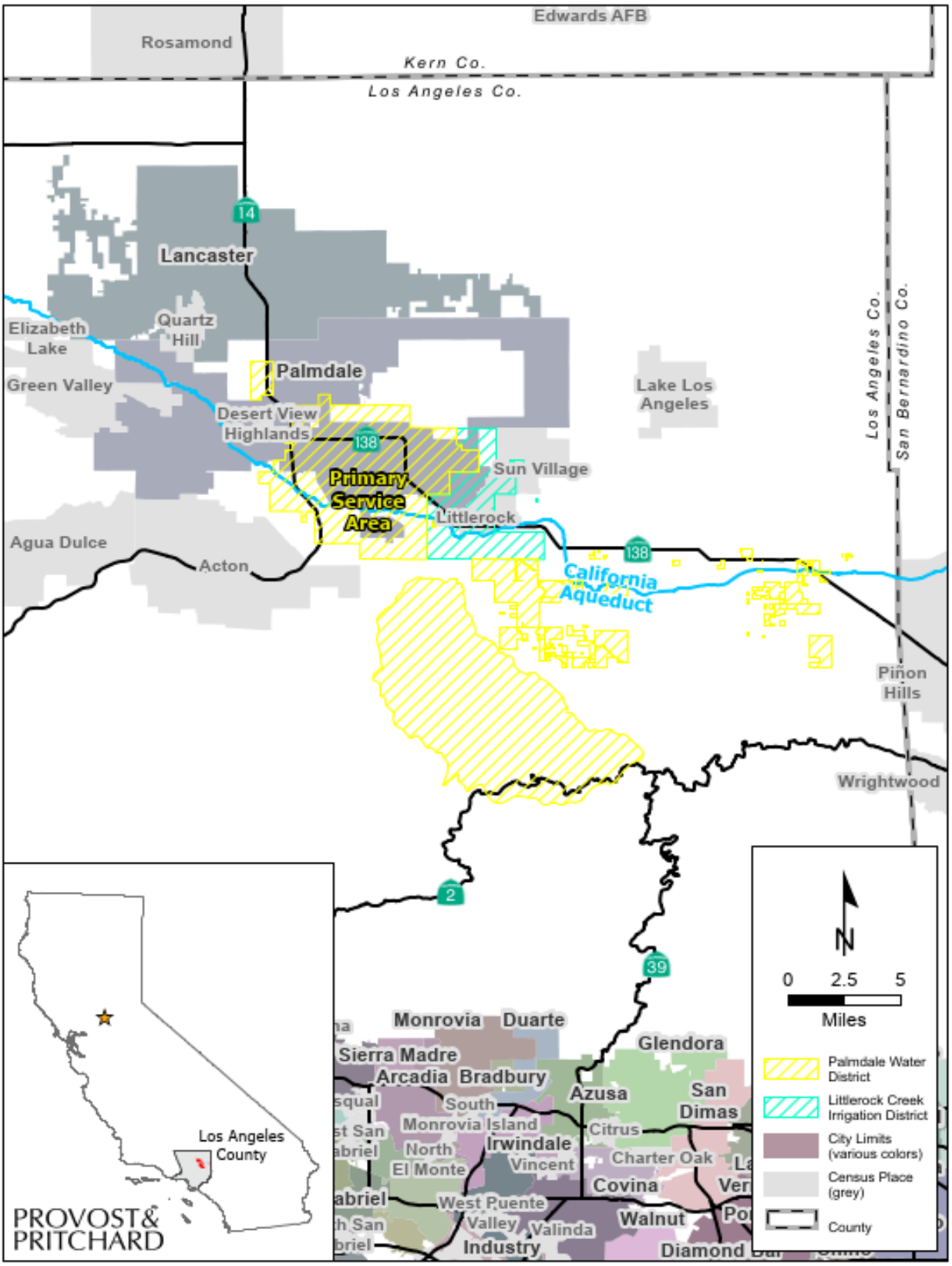

Figure 2-3. Regional Vicinity Map

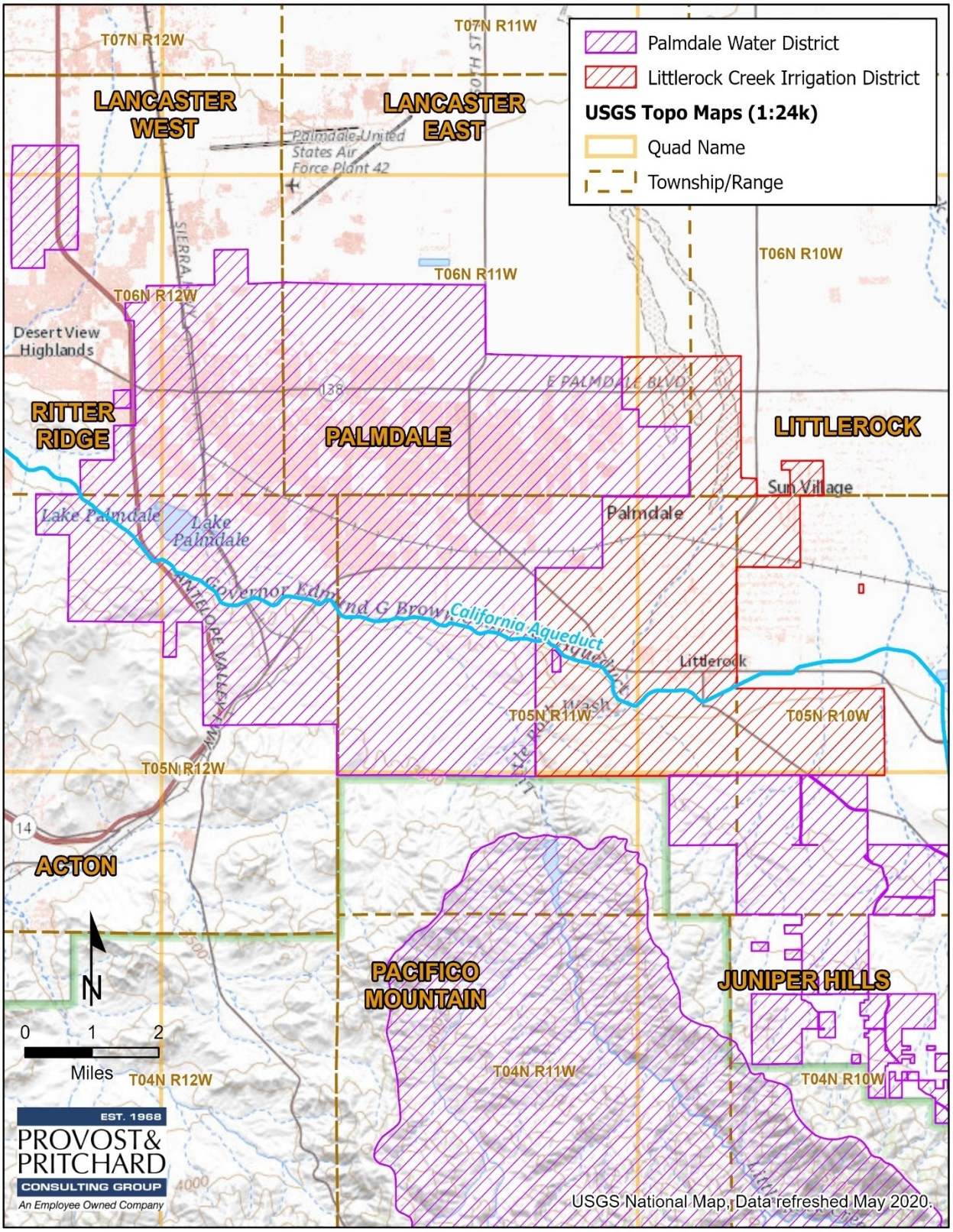

Figure 2-4. Topographical Map

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.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture & Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 roadways[7].

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.3.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline ConditionsLos Angeles County produces a variety of agricultural products. According to the 2019 Los Angeles County Crop Report[9] 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

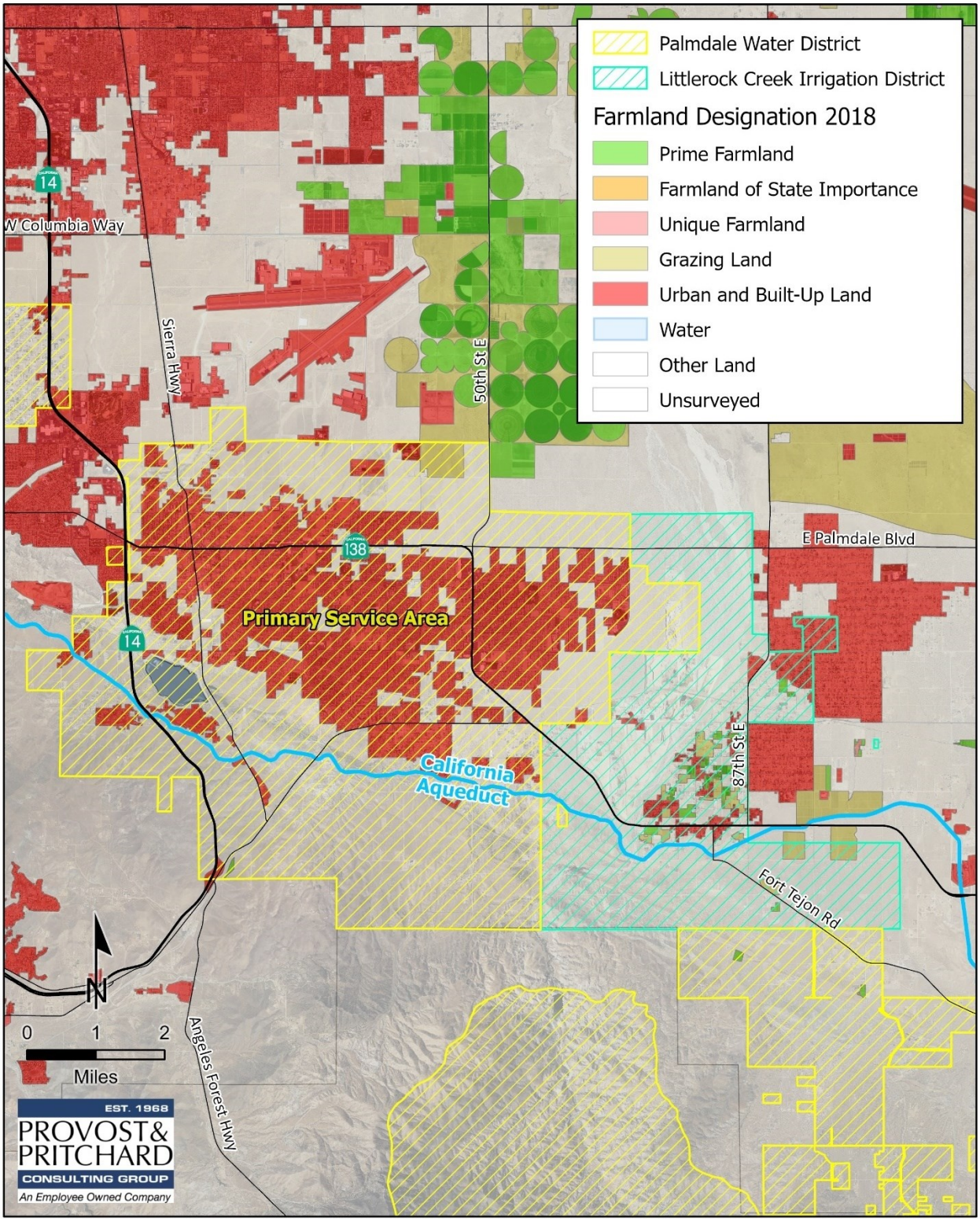

Figure 3-1. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Designations Map, 2018

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 AVAMQD-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_2S)	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.

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 NO_2 as "does not meet the primary standards," "cannot be classified," or "better than national standards." For SO_2, 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 PM_{10} based on the likelihood that they would violate national PM_{10} 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 PM_{10} standard, ozone, 8-hour ozone standards.

Table 3-5. Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards & Attainment Designation[12]

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

[12]Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. Rules & Plans. https://avaqmd.ca.gov/rules-plans. Accessed May 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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.

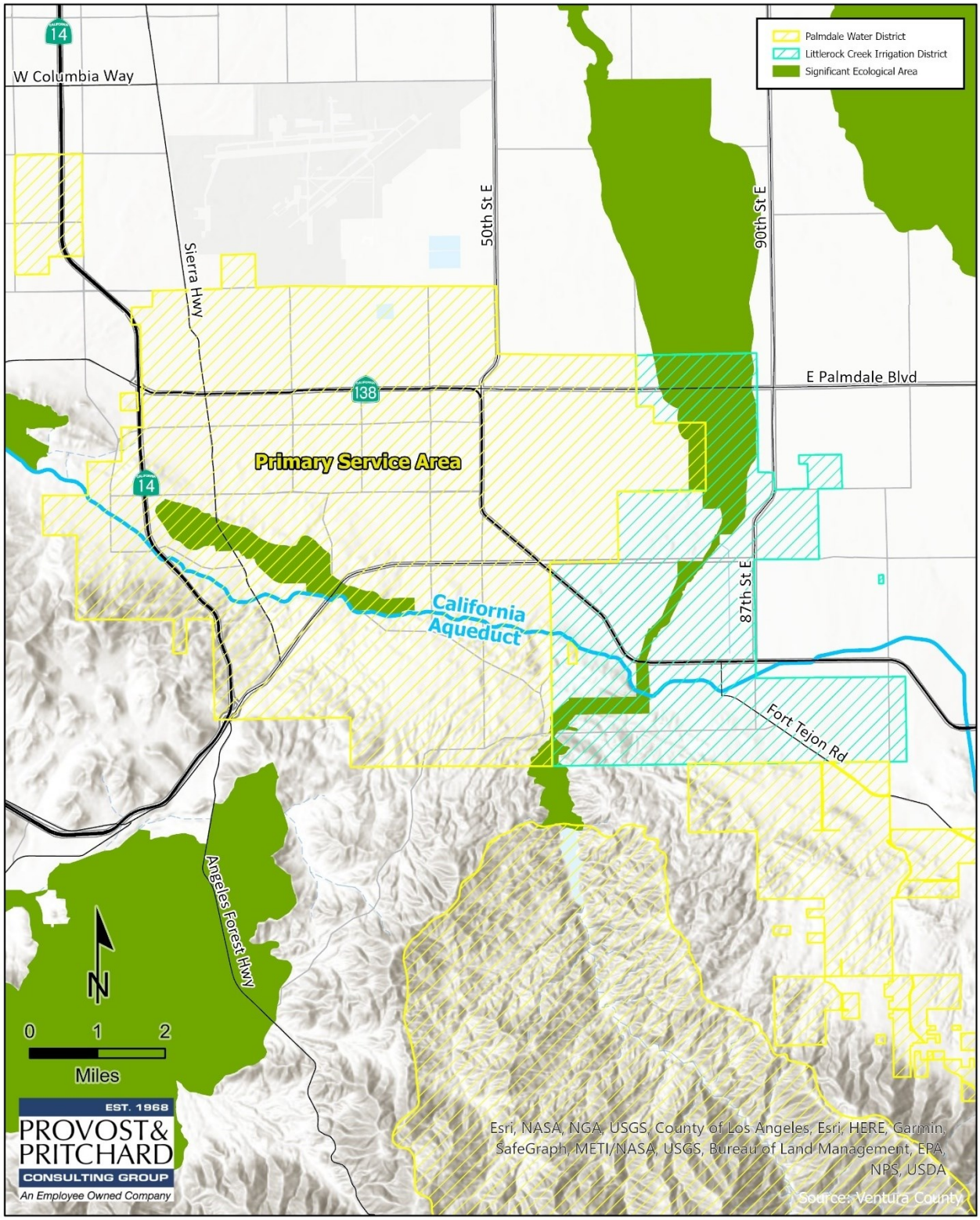

Figure 3-2. Significant Ecological Area Map

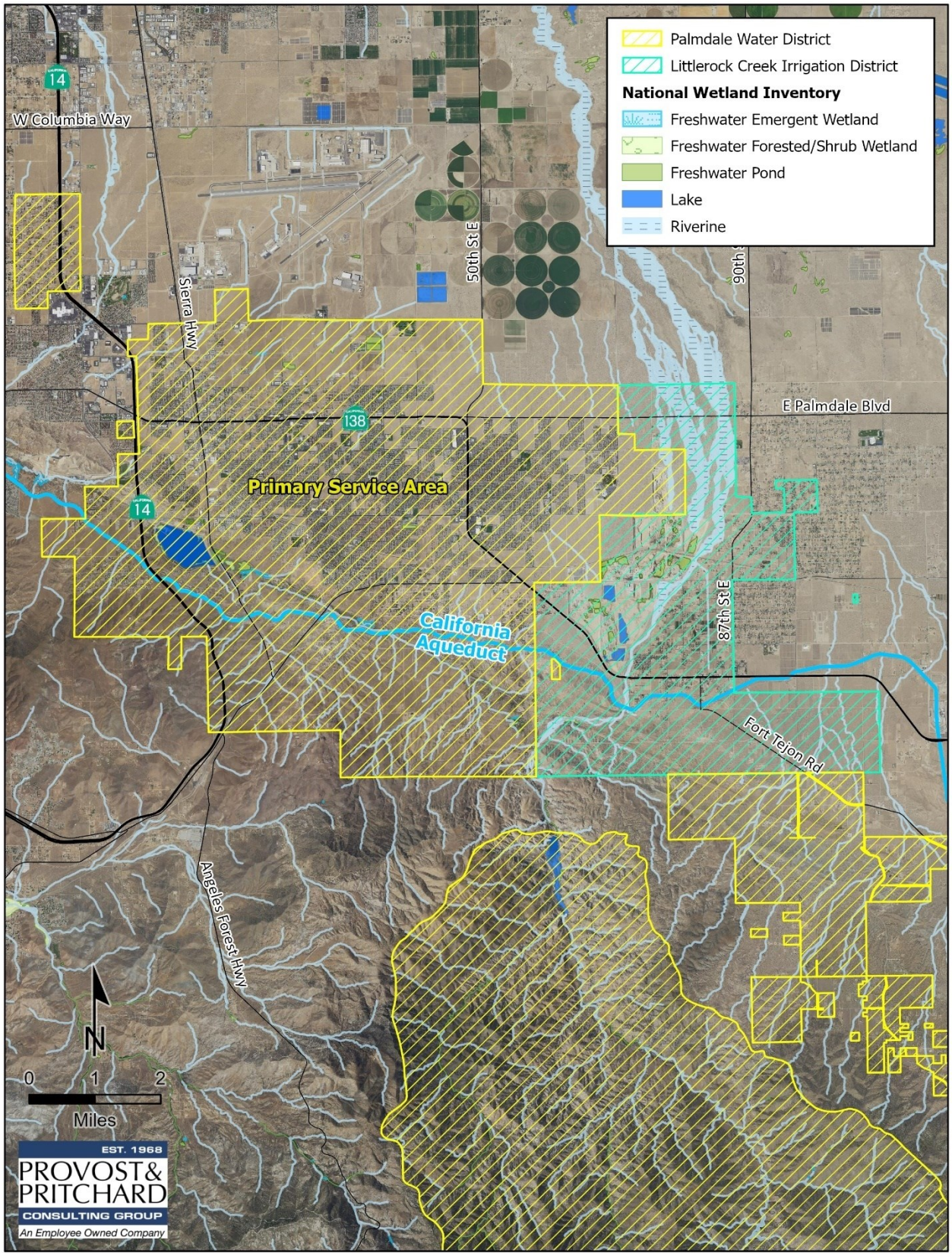

Figure 3-3. Wetlands Map

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 or 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

[16]California 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 CO_2, methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), 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.

[17]California 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.
[19]San 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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;	☐	☐	☐	☒
	ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
	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	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 AF[22]

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.

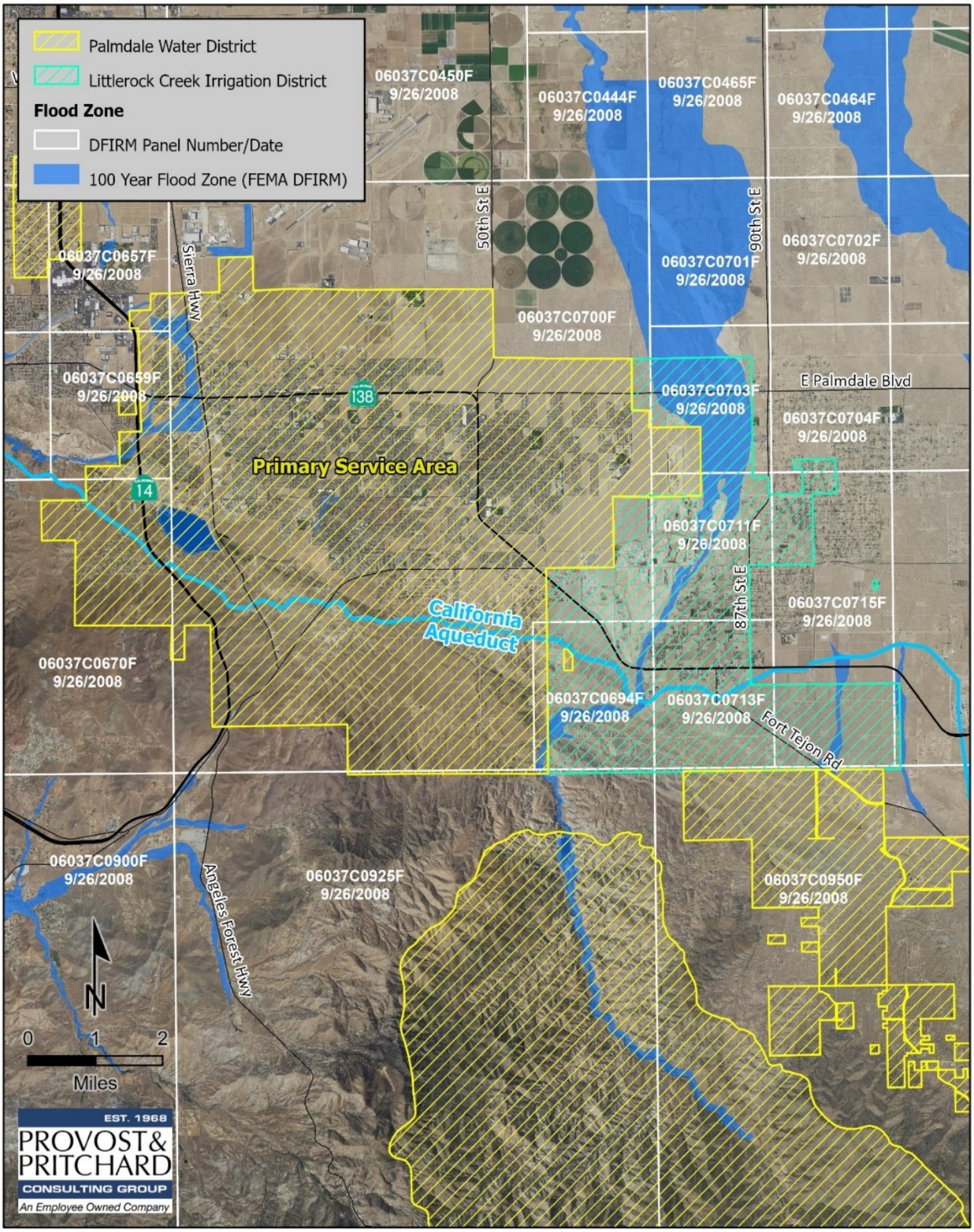

Figure 3-4. FEMA 100-Year Flood Map

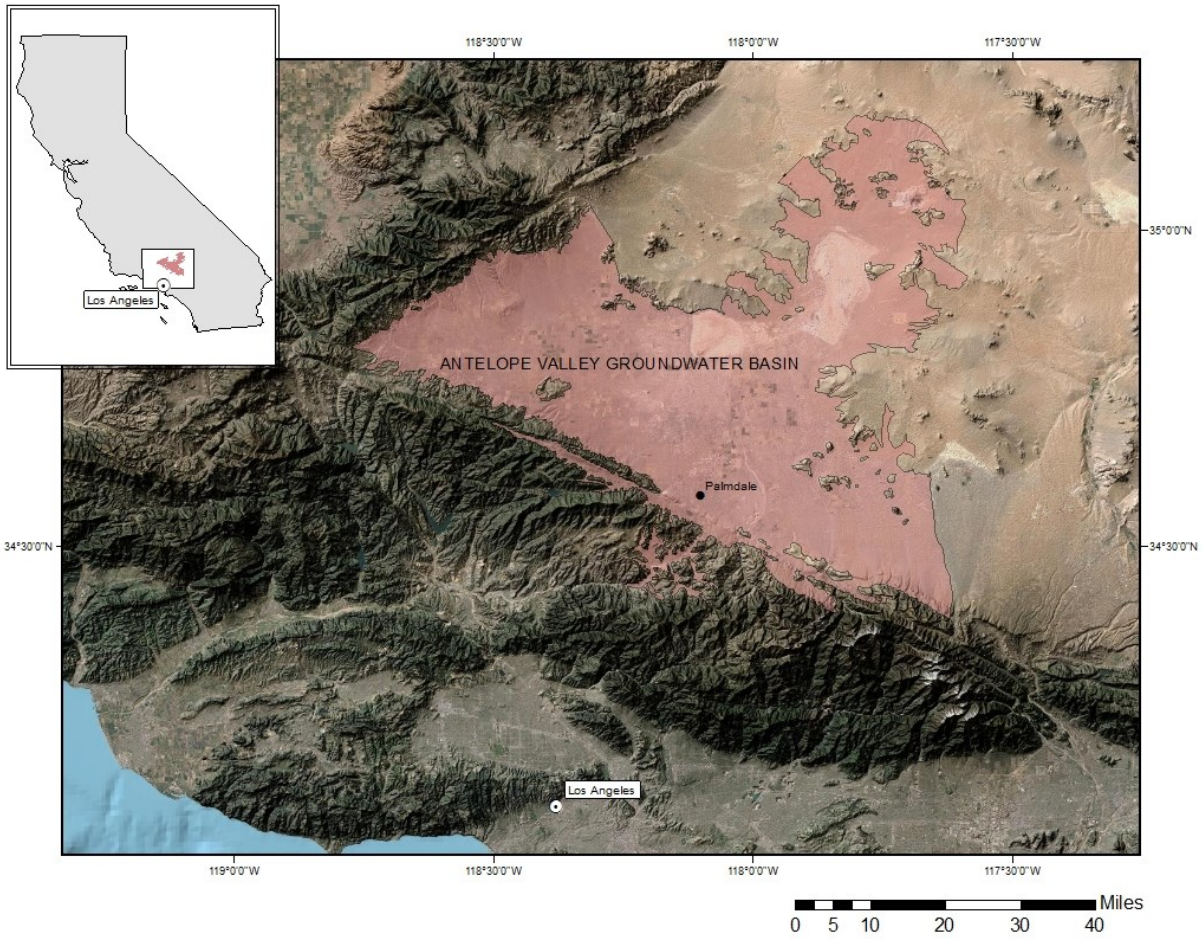

Figure 3-5. USGS Map of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin[25]

[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 **Table 2-3**, 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 it's 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 Plan[29] 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 County[33] 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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, policy 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)??	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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:	☐	☐	☐	☒
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	☐	☐	☐	☒
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.	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 Fernandeño 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 Fernandeño 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 Fernandeño 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 Fernandeño 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 Area[36] 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 includes 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. The Project would result in the transfer of 75 to100 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