



Board of Directors  
Lynn Maulhardt, President  
Catherine Keeling, Vice President  
Gordon Kimball, Secretary/Treasurer  
Keith Ford  
Mohammed Hasan  
Steve Huber  
Rachel Jones

General Manager  
Mauricio Guardado

Legal Counsel  
David D. Boyer

## **AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 12:00 p.m.  
Board Room, UWCD Headquarters  
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030**

### **BOARD MATTERS**

*Normally, Action (Motion) Items will be considered and acted upon separately; Consent Items will be considered and acted upon collectively, although a Consent Item may be considered and acted upon separately; and Information Items will be considered separately without action. The Board of Directors in its discretion may change the order of agenda items.*

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **1. FIRST OPEN SESSION 12:00 P.M.**

Items to be discussed in Executive (Closed) Session will be announced.

##### **1.1 Public Comments**

Members of the public may address the Board on any matter on the Executive (Closed) Session agenda or on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

##### **1.2 Executive (Closed) Session**

The Board will discuss matters outlined in the attached Executive (Closed) Session Agenda (Exhibit A).

#### **2. SECOND OPEN SESSION AND CALL TO ORDER 2:00 P.M.**

##### **2.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

##### **2.2 Public Comment**

Members of the public may address the Board on any item on the Consent Calendar or on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board. No action will be taken by the Board on any non-agenda item. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

##### **2.3 Approval of Agenda Motion**

##### **2.4 Oral Report Regarding Executive (Closed) Session Information Item**

Presented by District Legal Counsel David D. Boyer.

**2.5 Board Members' Activities Report  
Information Item**

Receive and file information regarding meeting participation provided by each of the Board Members through Monthly Activities (aka per diem) Reports.

**2.6 General Manager's Report  
Information Item**

The General Manager will present information on his activities of possible interest to the Board and that may have consequence to the District.

**2.7 Administer Peace Officers Oath of Office for Park Rangers  
Motion**

Administer and accept the Oath of Office for the new Park Rangers Jerrett Howery and Paul Reynoso.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR: All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)**

**3.1 Approval of the February 12, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes  
Motion**

Approve the minutes.

**3.2 Groundwater Basin Status Reports  
Information Item**

Receive and file Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report for the District.

**3.3 Investment Monthly Report (January 2025)  
Information Item**

Review the most current investment report for the month ending January 31, 2025.

**3.4 Approve an Addendum to the Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project  
Motion**

Approve an Addendum to the Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project and direct staff to include the addendum as part of CEQA documentation for the Project in accordance with CEQA guidelines.

**3.5 Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager as the District's Authorized Agent for Purposes of Obtaining Federal Assistance Provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security and Subgranted through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program**

**Motion**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the General Manager as the District's authorized agent for purposes of obtaining federal assistance provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security and Subgranted through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, Grant Subaward Number 2023-9999.

**4. MONTHLY REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT**

**4.1 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report  
Craig Morgan**

**Information Item**

Summary report and presentation on monthly activities of the Operations and Maintenance Department, including but not limited to the District's facilities (Santa Felicia Dam and hydroplant; the Piru Groundwater Recharge facility; the Freeman Diversion; the Saticoy and El Rio Groundwater Recharge facilities; the Pleasant Valley and Pumping Trough Pipeline systems; and the Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline system), encompassing operating plans, the quantity and quality of water diverted and delivered, fish ladder operations, major maintenance problems and repairs, status of Operations and Maintenance projects and safety and training issues.

**4.2 Recreation Department Monthly Report  
Anthony Emmert**

**Information Item**

Summary report and presentation on monthly activities of the Park and Recreation Department, including but not limited to the Lake Piru Recreation Area, encompassing camping and boating policies at the lake; operations and activities; financing and status of facility improvement projects; maintenance activities; security issues; and emergency response activities.

**4.3 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)**

**John Lindquist**  
**Information Item**

Summary report and presentations on the monthly activities of the Water Resources Department, including, but not limited to: updates to the District's groundwater flow models and modeling efforts; reservoir releases; import of State Water Project (SWP) water; support of diversion and recharge operations; evaluation of groundwater conditions; estimates of available Forebay storage; support during development and implementation of water supply and sustainability projects; outreach and education; and engagement with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, Technical Advisory Committees, and other user groups or governmental agencies involved in local and regional water-resource issues.

**4.4 Administrative Services Department Monthly Report**

**Josh Perez and Brian Zahn**  
**Information Item**

Summary report and presentation on the monthly activities of the Administrative Services Department including but not limited to issues associated with budget development, financial performance versus budget plan, financial accounting requirements and procedures, potential debt issuance and related financial services, status of District investments and reserves, updates on its capital improvement programs, human resources and safety, District property and facilities maintenance and administration, District records and reports, groundwater extraction statements administration, risk management and District liability insurance matters, management of District contracts, policy development, governance procedures, and supporting activities of Board and staff.

**4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report**

**Dr. Maryam Bral**  
**Information Item**

Summary report and presentation on the monthly activities of the Engineering Department, including but not limited to water resources, planning efforts and department programs impacting the District, such as project design and construction; dam safety; FERC license compliance; Freeman Diversion; recycled water; pipeline operations and various engineering analysis.

**4.6 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report**  
**Marissa Caringella**  
**Information Item**

Summary report and presentation on the monthly activities of the Environmental Services Department, including but not limited to environmental and regulatory issues of note to the District, monitoring efforts, water releases and increased State Water imports, Freeman Diversion fish ladder and sediment management operations, compliance with the District's FERC license, actions associated with the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, compliance with the California Environmental Quality and National Environmental Policy Acts, and support of local, state, and federal environmental and cultural permitting needs for District projects and operations.

**5. MOTION ITEMS**

**5.1 2025 Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award**  
**Motion**

Consider possible recipients for the Laubacher Award and conduct a vote to determine the 2025 recipient. Staff will present nominees for the award at the Board Meeting.

**5.2 Adopt a Resolution Supporting Scott Quady of Calleguas Municipal Water District to the Association of California Water Agencies-Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee**  
**Motion**

Adopt a Resolution supporting the nomination of Scott Quady of Calleguas Municipal Water District to the Association of California Water Agencies-Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee.

**5.3 Adopt a Resolution in Support of the State Water Project Delta Conveyance Facilities Funding Request to Continue Planning and Design Work**  
**Motion**

Adopt a Resolution directing the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to execute a Contribution or Advance of Money for Delta Conveyance Planning Activities Letter as per the Agreement for the Advance or Contribution of Money to the California Department of Water Resources by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project on behalf of United Water Conservation District.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

UWCD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

March 12, 2025

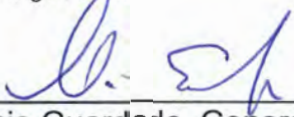
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**7. ADJOURNMENT**

*All testimony given before the Board of Directors is recorded. Materials, which are non-exempt public records and are provided to the Board of Directors to be used in consideration of the above agenda items, including any documents provided subsequent to the publishing of this agenda, are available for inspection at the District's offices at 1701 N. Lombard Street, Suite 200, Oxnard CA 93030 during normal business hours.*

*The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the District Office at (805) 525- 4431. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

This agenda was posted Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the United Water Conservation District Headquarters, Oxnard, CA and [www.unitedwater.org](http://www.unitedwater.org).

  
Tracy J. Oehler, Clerk of the Board

**EXHIBIT A**  
**EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION AGENDA**

**1. LITIGATION**

**1.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) Government Code Sections 54956.9(e)(1)

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(e)(1) (two matters).

**1.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)

- A. Wishtoyo Foundation, et al v. United Water Conservation District, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Case No.2:16-cv-03869 GHK (PLAx).
- B. OPV Coalition v Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, Case No. 56-2021-00555357-CU-PT-VTA; Complaint for Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication of the Oxnard Groundwater Subbasin (No. 4-004.02) and Pleasant Valley Subbasin (No. 4-006) Pursuant to Sections 830, *Et Seq.* of the Code of Civil Procedure; Declaratory Relief; Quiet Title; and Petition for Writs of Mandate.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

**From:** Tracy J. Oehler, Clerk of the Board

**Date:** February 28, 2025 (March 12, 2025 Meeting)

**Agenda Item:** **2.5 Board Members' Activities Reports**  
**Information Item**

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**Staff Recommendation:**

Receive and file information regarding meeting participation provided by each of the Board of Directors through monthly activities reports (per diems).

**Discussion:**

This item is provided on the agenda of each regular meeting in order to allow Directors to report on non-agenda activities such as:

- 1) UWCD Committee participation – Committee Chair to report on Committee's objectives and actions to the Board.
- 2) Meetings, workshops, conferences, and functions attended during the previous month on behalf of the District.
- 3) Possible conflicts the Directors might have with respect to issues on the agenda.

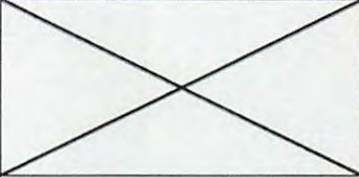
**Attachment(s):**

A – Directors' Monthly Activities Reports

**Board of Directors**  
**Activities and Expenses for Month February Year 2025**

Due on last day of month

Director: Rachel Jones

<b>1. UWCD Board Meetings</b> Regular, special or emergency meetings.			Date	Mileage	✓ ✓
			2/18/2025	5	
			2/3/2025	5	
<b>2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings</b> Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage		
<b>3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)</b>	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage	
<b>4. Conferences/Trainings.</b> Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	
	AWA Water Issues, Waterw	2/18 & 2/20	5		
	CSDA Ethics	2/2/2025			
	CSDA Harassment	2/6/2025			
	SDLA 1-2	2/19 -20			
<b>5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage		
<b>6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM.</b> Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage		
<b>7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage		
<b>8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters</b> Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage		

**Board of Directors**  
**Activities and Expenses for Month** February **Year** 2025

Due on last day of month

Director: Steve Huber

<b>1. UWCD Board Meetings</b> Regular, special or emergency meetings.			<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
			2/12(Reg)	8	✓
			2/3 (Special)	8	✓
<b>2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings</b> Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	<b>Committee Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	Admin and Finance/HQ		2/4	8	✓
<b>3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)</b>	<b>W/ GM or LC</b>	<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	GM	RDP and EBB Discussion/HQ	2/10	8	✓
<b>4. Conferences/Trainings.</b> Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	<b>Event Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	SDLA Training Mod1 Day 1/Zoom		2/19	0	✓
	SDLA Training Mod 1 Day 2/Zoom		2/20	0	✓
<b>5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	RDP/VC Hall of Justice VTA		2/6	10	✓
	AWAVC NOMCOM/Zoom- NA - 2/11				
<b>6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM.</b> Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	Cabrillo Neighborhood mtg - NA - 2/12				
	Navy League Channel Islands/NBVC		2/13	8	✓
	City of Oxnard/5th Street&Rose Overpass		2/21	8	✓
	City of Oxnard/City Hall		2/24	6	✓
<b>7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters</b> Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	

**Board of Directors**  
**Per Diem and Expenses for Month** February **Year** 2025

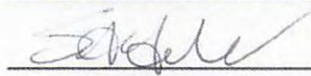
Due on last day of month


9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities.  At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage	

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

\* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	<u>10</u>	x \$260	\$ <u>2600.00</u>
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,600. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	<u>44.80</u>
Total # of miles	<u>64</u>	x \$0.67/mile	\$
Total other expenses			\$
<b>TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ <u>2694.80</u></b>

Director Signature  Date: 2/25/2025

General Manager Signature  Date: 3/4/25

Definitions  
 BoD: Board of Directors  
 BP: Board President  
 GM: General Manager

**Board of Directors**  
 Per Diem and Expenses for Month February Year 2025

Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities.  At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage
		Michael Wolfe and Bert Per	2/24/2025

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

\* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	8	x \$260	\$2080
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,600. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	20	x \$0.67/mile	\$ 14.73
Total other expenses			\$
<b>TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ 2093</b>

Director Signature

Date: 3/2

General Manager Signature

Date: 3/4/25

Definitions  
 BoD: Board of Directors  
 BP: Board President  
 GM: General Manager

Board of Directors  
 Activities and Expenses for Month Jan Year 2025 Due on last day of month

Director: KS Ford

1. UWCD Board Meetings Regular, special or emergency meetings.	X	Date	Mileage
		1-8-25	6.6
2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	Rate Workshop	1-14-25	6.6
3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date
			Mileage
4. Conferences/Trainings. Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage
5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM. Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Board of Directors  
 Per Diem and Expenses for Month Jan Year 2025 Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities.  At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

\* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	<u>2</u>	x \$260	\$ <u>520.</u>
<small>**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,600. per month or 1 meeting per day</small>			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	<u>13.2</u>	x \$0.70/mile	\$ <u>13.90</u>
Total other expenses			\$
<b>TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ <u>583.90</u></b> <sup>40</sup>

Director Signature

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Date: 2-25-25

General Manager Signature

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Date: 3/4/25

Definitions

- BoD: Board of Directors
- BP: Board President
- GM: General Manager

Board of Directors  
 Activities and Expenses for Month Feb Year 2025 Due on last day of month

Director: Ford

1. UWCD Board Meetings Regular, special or emergency meetings.	X	Date	Mileage	
		2-12-25	6.6	✓
		2-4-25	6.6	✓
2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage
4. Conferences/Trainings. Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
	Governance work shop	2-20-25	✓	✓
5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM. Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage	


Board of Directors  
 Per Diem and Expenses for Month Feb Year 2025 Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage
At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.			

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

\* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	<u>3</u>	x \$260	\$ <u>780</u> -
<small>**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,600. per month or 1 meeting per day</small>			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	<u>13.2</u>	x \$0.70/mile	\$ <u>9.24</u>
Total other expenses			\$
<b>TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ <u>839.24</u></b> ✓

Director Signature  Date: 2-3-25

General Manager Signature  Date: 3/4/25

Definitions  
 BoD: Board of Directors  
 BP: Board President  
 GM: General Manager

**Board of Directors**  
**Activities and Expenses for Month** Feb **Year** 2025

Due on last day of month

Director: MAULHARDT

<b>1. UWCD Board Meetings</b> Regular, special or emergency meetings.			<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
			2/12/2025	2.1	✓
<b>2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings</b> Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	<b>Committee Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	ENG/OPS COMMITTEE / UWCD		2/6/25	2.1	✓
	FIN/AUDIT COMMITTEE / UWCD		2/4/2025	2.1	✓
<b>3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)</b>	<b>W/ GM or LC</b>	<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	GM/LC	BOD NORMS MEET	2/3/2025	2.1	✓
<b>4. Conferences/Trainings.</b> Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	<b>Event Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	MAURICIO PRE MEETING		2/20/2025	2.1	✓
	CITY OF CAMARILLO MTEI				
<b>6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM.</b> Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	OXNARD RICE AVE GRD BREAK		2/21/2025	2.4	✓
<b>7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
	AWA WATER COMMITTEE		2/18/2025	2.1	✓
<b>8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters</b> Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	

**Board of Directors**  
**Per Diem and Expenses for Month** FEB **Year** 2025

Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities.  At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

\* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	7	x \$260	\$1820
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,600. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	14.9	x \$0.70/mile	\$ 10.43
Total other expenses			\$
<b>TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>			\$ 1880.43

Director Signature

Date:

2/27/25

General Manager Signature

Date:

2/4/25

Definitions

BoD: Board of Directors

BP: Board President

GM: General Manager



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**From:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

**Date:** February 28, 2025 (March 12, 2025 Meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 2.6 General Manager's Report  
Information Item

---

### **Staff Recommendation:**

The General Manager will present information on his activities of possible interest to the Board and that may have consequences to the District.

### **Discussion:**

The General Manager's primary responsibility is to ensure that the policies and directions of the Board of Directors are adhered to as he oversees and manages the efforts of the department managers and their staff in the day-to-day operation and administration of the District. These efforts are to be consistent with the District's Mission Statement and within the fiscal constraints set by the Board of Directors.

The District's managers provide detailed monthly updates to the Board of Directors which outline projects' statuses, accomplishments, issues of concern, projects planning, etc. The monthly General Manager's report provides an opportunity for the General Manager to discuss issues that may impact the efforts of the separate departments as they pursue their defined goals and objectives. The report also provides the Board with information on the District's efforts and involvement in local, regional and state-wide issues.

Finally, the monthly General Manager's report offers the Board of Directors an overview of how their policies and directions are being administered through discussion of the work plan and efforts of the General Manager.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager  
Bernard Riedel, Senior Park Ranger

**From:** Josh Perez, Chief Human Resources Officer

**Date:** February 24, 2025 (March 12, 2025 Meeting)

**Agenda Item:** **2.7 Administer Peace Officers Oath of Office for Park Rangers**  
**Motion**

---

**Staff Recommendation:**

Administer and accept the Oath of Office for the new Park Rangers Jerrett Howery and Paul Reynoso.

**Discussion:**

Since 2019, staff has been working with Lexipol, LLC, to develop, train and administer the work duties of Lake Piru Park Ranger and Park Ranger Cadet positions in accordance with existing limited Peace Officer legal authority as outlined in the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) minimum requirements to be a peace officer, per state statute. Those requirements and minimum training standards included:

- Successful completion of a psychological evaluation by a POST approved doctor
- Successful completion of state and federal background investigations
- Successful completion federal and state LIVESCAN fingerprinting
- Successful completion of a POST work sample battery test (Physical Agility)
- Successful complete of a 40-hour PC-832 (Arrest & Control) training

Staff members have all successfully completed and passed the above referenced requirements and have been deemed competent to perform the duties of a limited peace officer. As a result, in order to complete this process and grant such authority, staff recommends that the Board swear in the Park Rangers with the California Peace Officers Oath.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This motion has no fiscal impact.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

**From:** Tracy Oehler, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

**Date:** February 28, 2025 (March 12, 2025 meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 3.1 Approval of the February 12, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes  
Motion

---

**Staff Recommendation:**  
Approve the minutes.

**Attachment(s):**  
A – February 12, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

# ATTACHMENT A



Board of Directors  
Lynn Maulhardt, President  
Catherine Keeling, Vice President  
Gordon Kimball, Secretary/Treasurer  
Keith Ford  
Mohammed Hasan  
Steve Huber  
Rachel Jones

General Manager  
Mauricio Guardado

Legal Counsel  
David D. Boyer

## MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 12:00 p.m.  
Board Room, UWCD Headquarters  
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Directors Ford, Hasan, Huber, Jones, Maulhardt, Keeling, and Kimball

**Absent:** None

1. **FIRST OPEN SESSION:** 12:02 p.m.  
Items to be discussed in Executive (Closed) Session will be announced.
  - 1.1 **Public Comments:** None
  - 1.2 **Executive (Closed) Session:** 12:04 p.m.  
The Board will discuss matters outlined in the attached Executive (Closed) Session Agenda (Exhibit A).
2. **SECOND OPEN SESSION AND CALL TO ORDER:** 1:52 p.m.
  - 2.1 **Pledge of Allegiance:** Director Kimball
  - 2.2 **Public Comment**  
**Public Speakers:** None
  - 2.3 **Approval of Agenda**  
**Action:** M/S/C (Hasan/Ford) to approve the agenda.  
**Voice Vote:** All Ayes
  - 2.4 **Oral Report Regarding Executive (Closed) Session**  
District Legal Counsel David D. Boyer stated there was no reportable action.
  - 2.5 **Board Members' Activities Report**  
Received and filed.

**2.6 General Manager's Report**

Received and filed.

**2.7 Standing Committee Assignments and Appointments of Board Representation to Outside Agencies**

Received and filed.

**2.8 District's Accomplishments Presentation**

Presentation given; received and file.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Action:** M/S/C (Kimball/Huber) to approve the consent calendar.

**Vote:** Ayes: Ford, Huber, Hasan, Jones, Keeling, Kimball, and Maulhardt; Noes: None; Absent: None

**3.1 Approval of the January 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 14, 2025 and the February 3, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes**

Approved the minutes.

**3.2 Groundwater Basin Status Reports**

Received and filed.

**3.3 Investment Monthly Report (December 2024)**

Received and filed.

**3.4 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Second Quarter Financial Reports (July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024)**

Received and filed.

**3.5 Request for Payment Plan from Esther Martinez (Boise Herb and Spice)**

Approved the payment plan for Esther Martinez (Boise Herb and Spice) January 2025 Groundwater billing.

**3.6 Approve Resolution Authorizing a Funding Agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Freeman Diversion Fish Passage Rehabilitation Project (CIP 8001)**

Approved Resolution authorizing and designating United Water Conservation District's General Manager to enter into a funding agreement with the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and to accept and expend \$3 million in federal funds under the WaterSMART Environmental Water Resource Projects grant program for the Freeman Diversion Fish Screen and Fish Bypass System Project, a separate component of the Fish Passage Rehabilitation Project to the full Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02**

**4. MONTHLY REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT**

**4.1 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report**

Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan gave an oral presentation; received and filed.

**4.2 Park and Recreation Department Monthly Report**

Assistant General Manager Anthony Emmert gave an oral presentation; received and filed.

**4.3 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)**

Water Resources Supervisors John Lindquist gave an oral presentation; received and filed.

**4.4 Administrative Services Department Monthly Report**

Chief Financial Officer Brian Zahn and Chief Human Resources Officer Josh Perez gave an oral presentation; report received and filed.

**4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report**

Engineering Manager Robert Richardson and gave a presentation; received and filed.

**4.6 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report**

Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella gave a presentation; received and filed.

**5. MOTION ITEMS**

**5.1 Request from the California Department Fish and Wildlife to Waive Interest Charges for Late Payment**

**Action:** M/S/C (Keeling/Jones) to approve a request from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to waive interest charges of \$10,398 for late payment.

**Vote:** Ayes: Ford, Huber, Hasan, Jones, Keeling, Kimball, and Maulhardt; Noes: None; Absent: None

**6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS READING FILE**

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Huber requested a special board meeting to tour the Saticoy facilities including inviting councilmembers from the City of Oxnard, City Port Hueneme, and City of Ventura.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Board of Directors meeting of February 12, 2025.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Kimball, Board Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy J. Oehler, Clerk of the Board

**EXHIBIT A  
EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION AGENDA**

**1. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957  
Consultation with Tony Huynh, Risk & Safety Manager

**2. LITIGATION**

**2.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

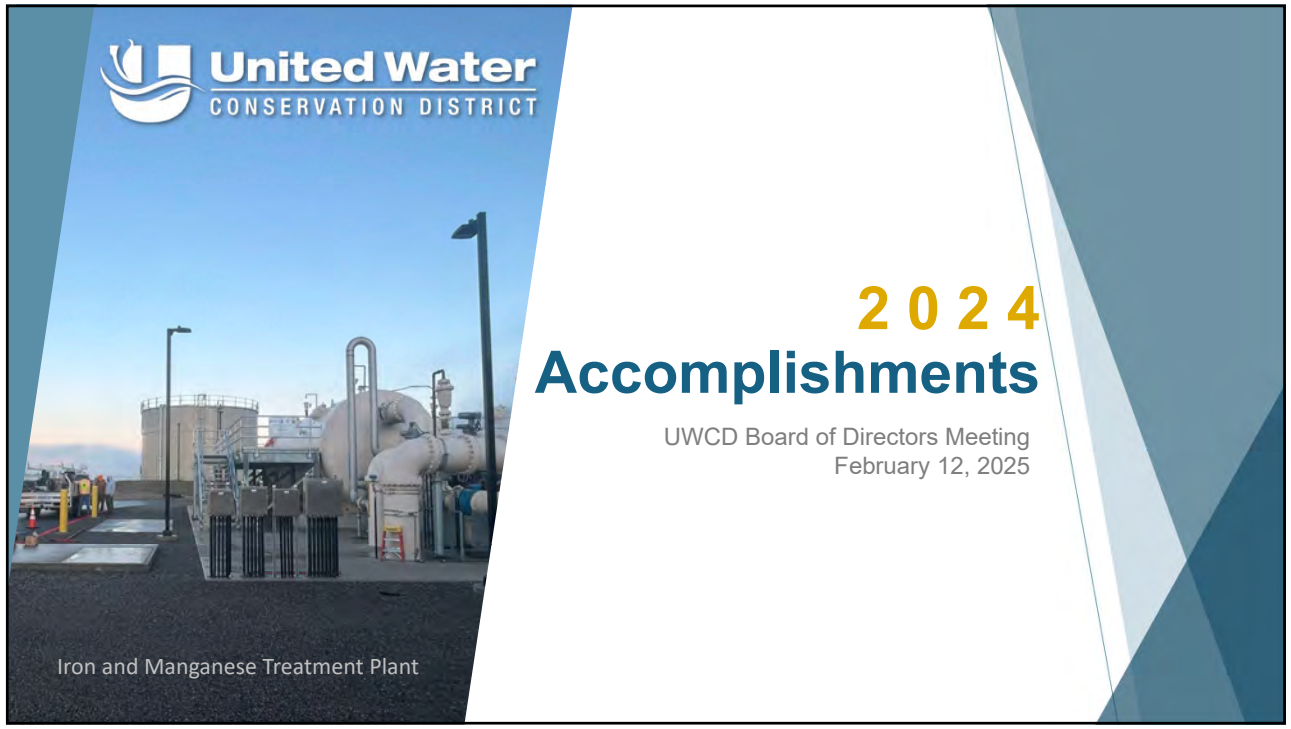
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) Government Code Sections 54956.9(e)(1)

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(e)(1) (two matters).

**2.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

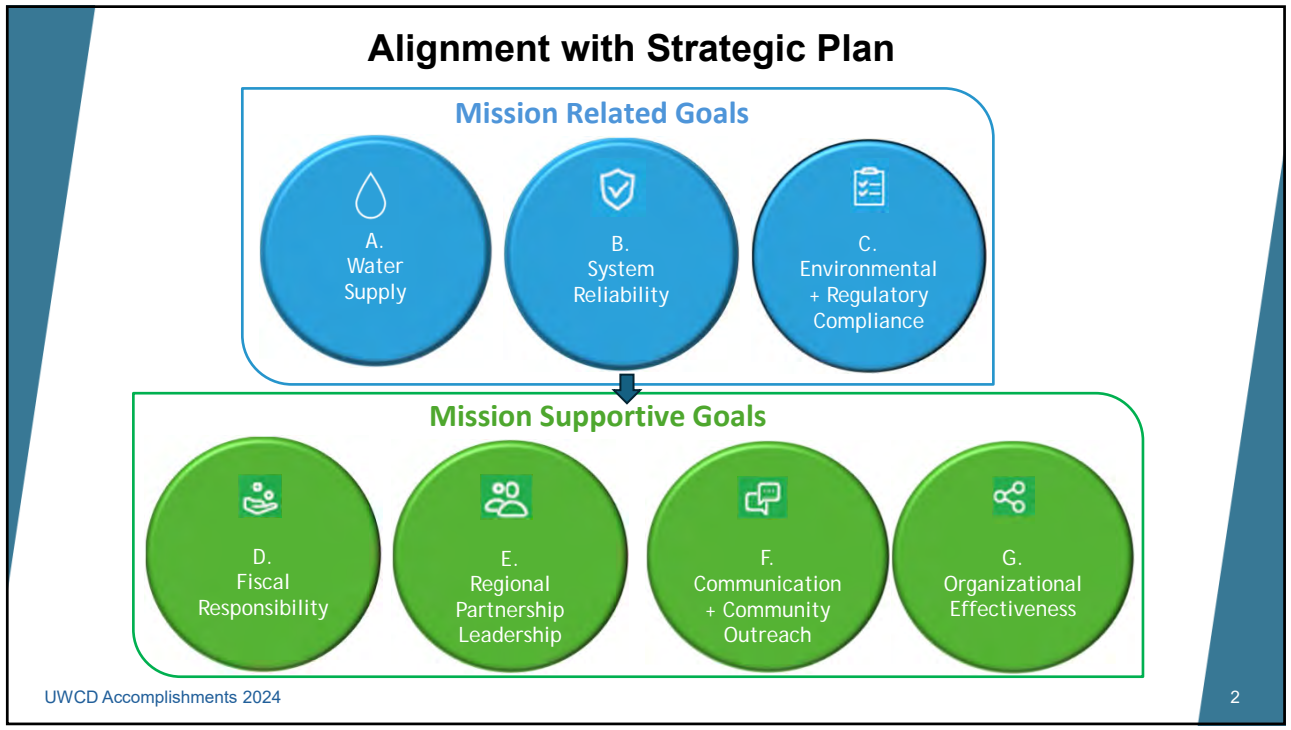
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)

- A. Wishtoyo Foundation, et al v. United Water Conservation District, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Case No.2:16-cv-03869 GHK (PLAx).
- B. OPV Coalition v Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, Case No. 56-2021-00555357-CU-PT-VTA; Complaint for Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication of the Oxnard Groundwater Subbasin (No. 4-004.02) and Pleasant Valley Subbasin (No. 4-006) Pursuant to Sections 830, *Et Seq.* of the Code of Civil Procedure; Declaratory Relief; Quiet Title; and Petition for Writs of Mandate.



The slide features the United Water Conservation District logo in the top left corner. The background is a photograph of an industrial water treatment facility with large tanks and pipes. The text '2024 Accomplishments' is prominently displayed in the center-right, with '2024' in yellow and 'Accomplishments' in blue. Below this, it reads 'UWCD Board of Directors Meeting February 12, 2025'. At the bottom left, the text 'Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant' is visible.

1



UWCD Accomplishments 2024

2

2



# Water Resources

3

## WY 2023 Statewide Recharge Champion Oxnard Basin - Ranked #1 for highest managed recharge rate of 1.92 AF per acre

**Table 4:** WY 2023 **Groundwater Recharge per Area** by Basin. Top 10 basins as volume and normalized by basin area. Recharge values based on data reported through 2023 GSP/Alternative annual reports.

Basin Name (Top 10 ranked by groundwater recharge per area)	Basin Number	Groundwater Recharge per Area (AF/Acre)*	Groundwater Recharge (AF)	Basin Area (Acres)
Santa Clara River Valley - Oxnard	4-004.02	<b>1.92</b>	111,254	57,888
San Joaquin Valley - Tule	5-022.13	<b>1.46</b>	698,330	477,590
San Joaquin Valley - Kern County	5-022.14	<b>1.02</b>	1,824,171	1,782,318
San Joaquin Valley - Kaweah	5-022.11	<b>0.72</b>	316,800	441,048
San Joaquin Valley - Kings	5-022.08	<b>0.66</b>	651,277	981,323
Santa Clara Valley - Santa Clara	2-009.02	<b>0.49</b>	93,600	189,581

**Table 8:** WY 2023 **Change in Storage per Area** by Basin. Top 10 basins based on volume and normalized by basin area. Change in storage values based on data reported through 2023 GSP/Alternative annual reports.

Basin (Top 10 ranked by change in storage per area)	Basin Number	Change in Storage per Area (AF/Acre)	Change in Storage (AF)	Basin Area (Acres)
Santa Clara River Valley - Piru	4-004.06	<b>4.65</b>	50,703	10,897
San Joaquin Valley - Kaweah	5-022.11	<b>2.26</b>	996,000	441,048
Ventura River Valley - Upper Ventura River	4-003.01	<b>2.25</b>	11,898	5,278
Salinas Valley - Forebay Aquifer	3-004.04	<b>1.74</b>	163,500	94,052
Carpinteria	3-018	<b>1.51</b>	12,071	7,978
Santa Clara River Valley - Fillmore	4-004.05	<b>1.51</b>	34,149	22,586

UWCD Accomplishments 2024


4

4

**A. Water Supply**

## Advancement of Water Supply Projects

United and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency staff touring NBVC Point Mugu during construction of 21 new monitoring wells for the EBB Water Treatment project.



UWCD Accomplishments 2024

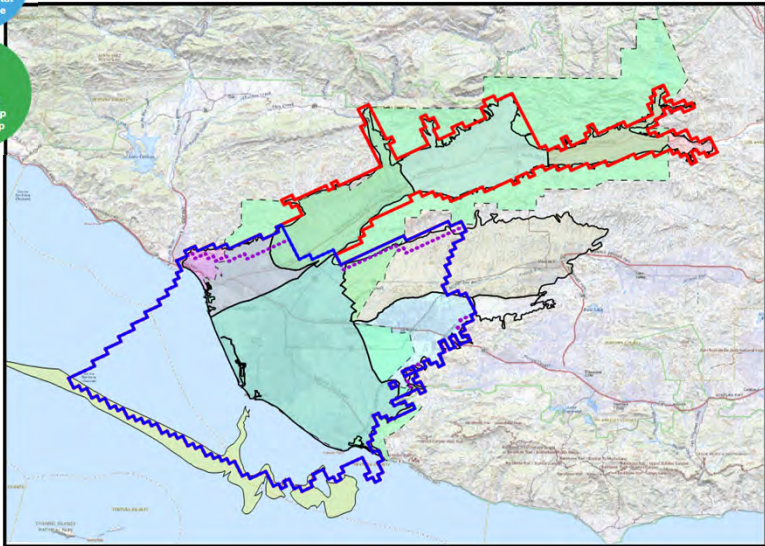
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**C. Regulatory + Environmental Compliance**

**E. Regional Partnership Leadership**

## Modeling and Staff Technical Expertise Utilized to Advance Sustainability Goals of GSAs and Cities



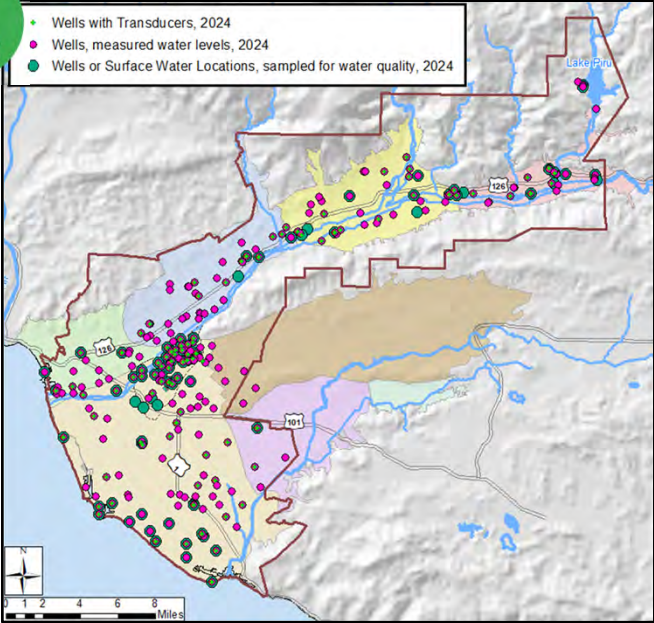
- Fox Canyon GMA
- City of Oxnard
- City of Ventura
- Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
- Mound Basin GSA
- Santa Paula Basin TAC

UWCD Accomplishments 2024

6

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**E. Regional Partnership Leadership**



• Wells with Transducers, 2024  
• Wells, measured water levels, 2024  
• Wells or Surface Water Locations, sampled for water quality, 2024

### Scientific and Technical Leadership on Water Issues

#### Data Gathering and Analysis

- Groundwater Elevation Measurement:
  - 330 Wells Monitored
  - 3,116 Measurements Taken
- Water Quality Sampling:
  - 183 Sites Monitored
  - 519 Samples Collected and Analyzed

UWCD Accomplishments 2024

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**E. Regional Partnership Leadership**

**F. Communications + Community Outreach**

### Communication and Community Outreach



- Over 12 Facility Tours
- Technical presentations at GRAC, USSD, CalDesal, and ACWA
- 2024 Water Sustainability Summit

UWCD Accomplishments 2024

8

8



(continued)

Water Resources and Environmental Services Department staff hosting an information booth at National Night Out, NBVC Port Hueneme



### Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project



- 100% Design of the SFD Outlet Works Improvement Project

Board of  
Consultants Meeting  
No. 9

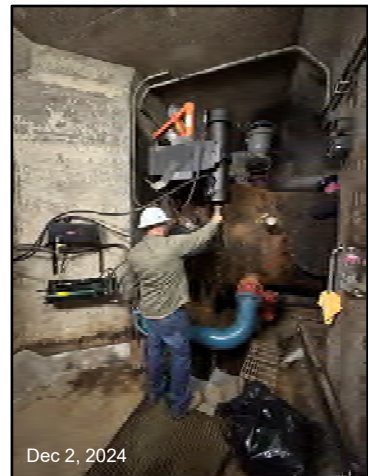


11

(continued)



- Interim Risk Reduction Measure (72" BFV Redundant Control)



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### Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade

Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Funding Utilized



UWCD Accomplishments 2024


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- A. Water Supply
- B. System Reliability
- D. Fiscal Responsibility

13

(continued)

Construction of Inverted Siphon Replacement Project



Aug 14, 2024

UWCD Accomplishments 2024

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- A. Water Supply
- B. System Reliability
- D. Fiscal Responsibility

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### Iron and Manganese Treatment Project

Completed Startup, Testing, Operations, and Water Deliveries

**Award Winning**



UWCD Accomplishments 2024

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### Laguna Road Recycled Water Pipeline Project

\$2.6M in SGMA and \$347K in NRCS Funding

Secured Additional ~\$2M in SGMA Grant Funding




UWCD Accomplishments 2024




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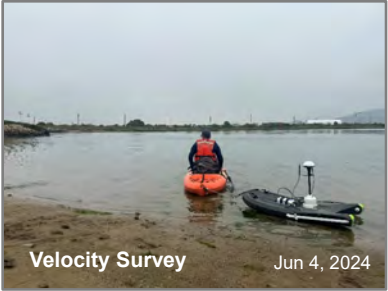
16

## Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project




Completed Preliminary Design and Advanced 30% Design








**Velocity Survey**  
Jun 4, 2024



**Geotechnical Exploration**  
Apr 24, 2024



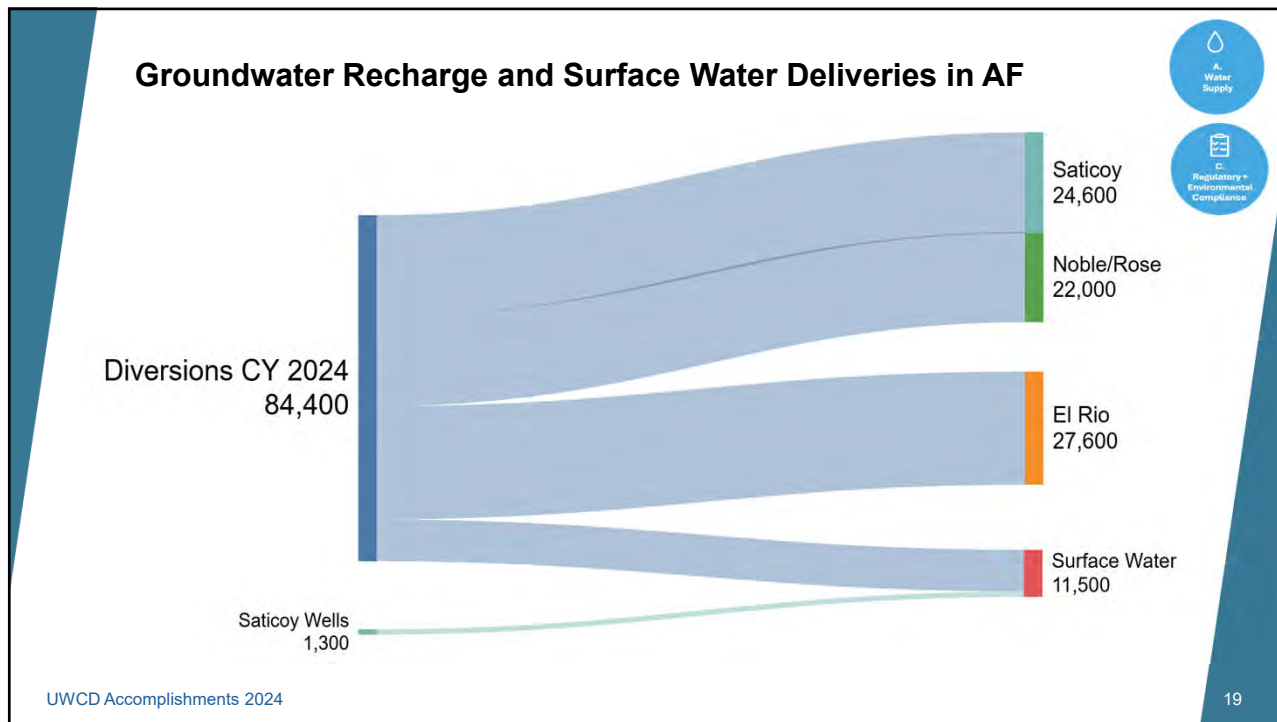
**Topographic Survey**  
Apr 5, 2024

UWCD Accomplishments 2024 17

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
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**Lake Piru - Felicia Fire** 



UWCD Accomplishments 2024 21

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**Desilting Basin – Mountain Fire** 



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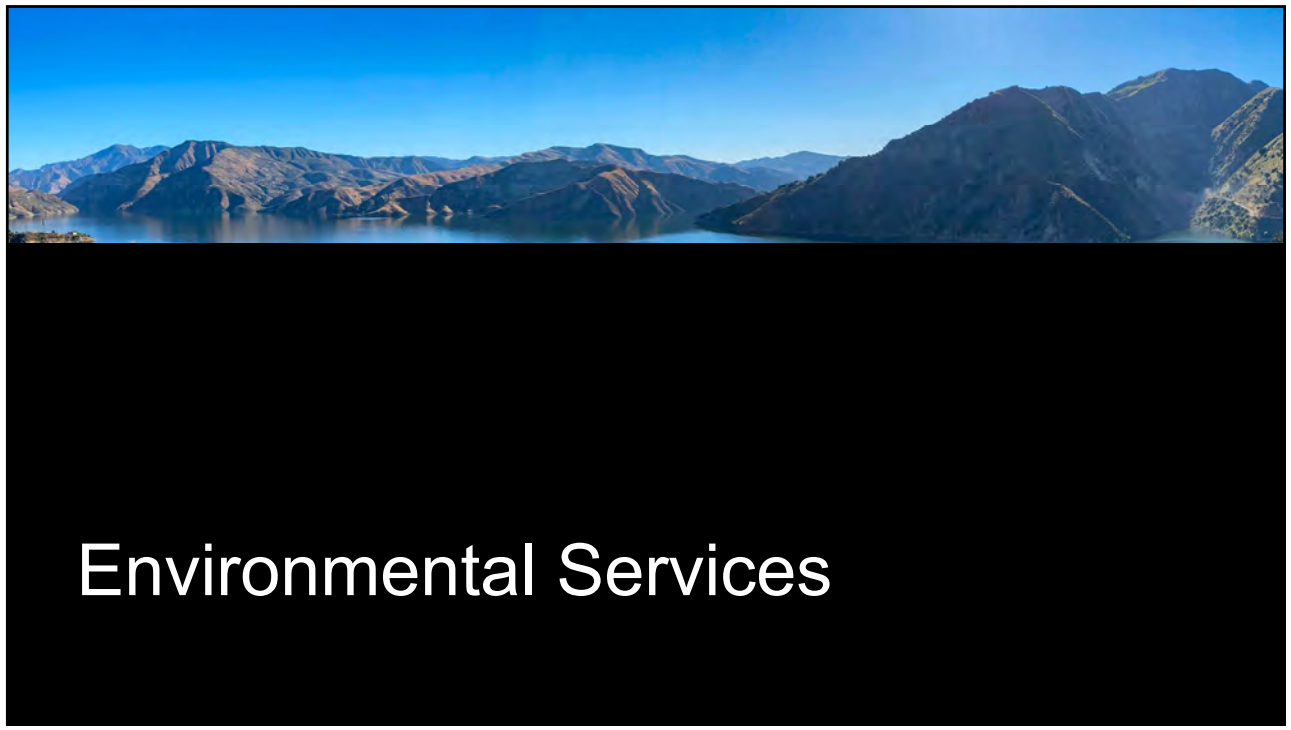
- A. Water Supply
- B. System Reliability
- F. Communications + Community Outreach
- G. Organizational Effectiveness

## Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline Shutdown

- Nine Locations
- Multiple Organizations
  - City of Oxnard
  - Mutual Water Companies
  - Cal American Water
  - Filippin Engineering
  - Travis Ag Construction

UWCD Accomplishments 2024

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# Environmental Services

24

## Supporting Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement



Submitted two extensive environmental consultation packages to FERC





A.  
Water  
Supply



B.  
System  
Reliability




C.  
Regulatory +  
Environmental  
Compliance


UWCD Accomplishments 202425

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## Optimized Diversions and Fish Passage at the Freeman




Submitted Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Permitting Package




Selected for two USBR grants totaling \$23 million for the project






A.  
Water  
Supply



C.  
Regulatory +  
Environmental  
Compliance



D.  
Fiscal  
Responsibility

UWCD Accomplishments 202426

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## Advancing Best Science for Effective Species Management

 Submission of comments and new science to Fish and Game Commission

 Publication of new steelhead lifecycle model

 Continued collection of fish population data



Southern California Steelhead Lifecycle Model  
Draft technical memo on the lifecycle model developed by Cramer Fish Sciences for Association of California Water Agencies




 C. Regulatory + Environmental Compliance

 E. Regional Partnership Leadership


UWCD Accomplishments 2024 27


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## Legislative Efforts to Ensure a Sustainable Water Future



**MR. GUARDADO**  
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

 Testimony to House Committee on Natural Resources




**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

884 PUBLIC LAW 93-205-DEC. 28, 1973 [87 Stat.]  
Public Law 93-205  
December 28, 1973 [58, 1942] AN ACT  
To provide for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants, and for other purposes.

*Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That this Act may be cited as the "Endangered Species Act of 1973".*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Sec. 2. Findings, purposes, and policy.  
Sec. 3. Definitions.  
Sec. 4. Identification of endangered species and threatened species.  
Sec. 5. Land acquisition.  
Sec. 6. Cooperation with the States.  
Sec. 7. Interagency cooperation.  
Sec. 8. International cooperation.  
Sec. 9. Prohibited acts.  
Sec. 10. Exceptions.  
Sec. 11. Penalties and enforcement.  
Sec. 12. Endangered plants.  
Sec. 13. Conforming amendments.  
Sec. 14. Inspector.  
Sec. 15. Authorization of appropriations.  
Sec. 16. Effective date.  
Sec. 17. Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

 C. Regulatory + Environmental Compliance

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**D. Fiscal Responsibility**

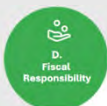

**Clean Financial Auditors Report**

FY 2022-23 Financial audit completed with no findings

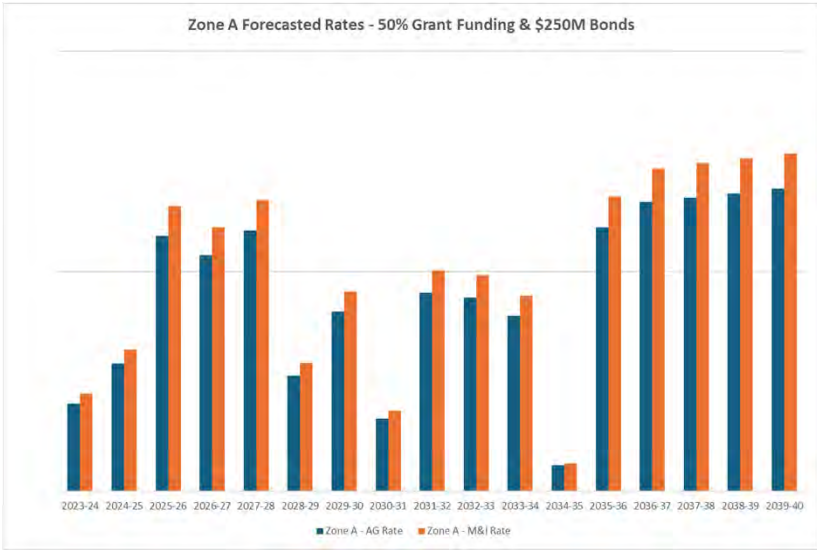
UWCD Accomplishments 2024

125,058	154,568	95,054
125,487	56,845	97,511
124,000	110,000	99,011
	150,000	99,216
	35,000	101,096
		101,096


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## Newly Developed Strategic Rates Forecast




Zone A Forecasted Rates - 50% Grant Funding & \$250M Bonds




Presented 15-year Strategic Rates Forecast at the Water Sustainability Summit and to the Board

UWCD Accomplishments 2024 31

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## Grant Funding



Grant Taskforce was able to secure \$29 million in additional grants totaling \$49.5 million since 2016

AWARDED - IN PROJECT COMPLETION PHASE		
Award Name	Project	Amount
FY24 USBR DOI WaterSMART: Environmental Water Resource Projects - Round 1	Freeman Diversion Fish Screen and Fish Bypass System Project	\$3,000,000
FY 2024 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program for Local & Tribal Governments	Firewall & Network Switch Equipment Upgrades, Endpoint & Network Monitoring Installation, and Cybersecurity Vulnerability Review for the	\$247,500
FY24 FEMA High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program	Santa Felicia: 100% Design and Bid Document Preparation for the Santa Felicia Dam Spillway Improvement Project	\$626,066
FY23 USBR DOI WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects	Freeman Diversion Fish Passage Rehabilitation Project	\$20,000,000
DWR Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Round 2 -	Groundwater Recharge Capacity Expansion Project (Ferro-Rose Recharge)	\$1,000,000
SWRCB Prop 1 Groundwater Grant Program Round 3 - Implementation	Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project Phase 1B	\$8,449,062
FY22 FEMA High Hazard Potential Dams Grant	Santa Felicia Dam Spillway Improvement Project - 60% Design	\$113,750
DWR SWRCB Sustainable Groundwater Grant Program Round 1 - Implementation	Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade - Freeman to Ferro Recharge Basin	\$1,010,300
DWR SWRCB Sustainable Groundwater Grant Program Round 1 - Implementation	PTP Recycled Water Connection - Laguna Road Pipeline	\$4,615,856
DWR SWRCB Sustainable Groundwater Grant Program	Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project Monitoring Well Construction and Data Collection	\$1,317,900
DOD Defense Community Infrastructure Program	El Rio Iron and Manganese Treatment Project	\$4,230,133
DWR Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Round 1 -	El Rio Iron and Manganese Treatment Project	\$2,500,000
NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant	Recycled Water PTP-PV Interconnection	\$343,422
DWR Prop 1 Water Use Efficiency Grant	Installation of SCADA Integrated Metering System at Turnouts of the PTP Sys	\$635,059
<b>Total Grants Awarded (2016-Current)</b>		\$49,453,294

Last Updated 01/07/2025

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**Revenue Milestone for Lake Piru Recreation Area**

**D. Fiscal Responsibility**

**G. Organizational Effectiveness**


 Lake Piru Recreation Area revenue exceeded \$1.0M for the first time since the District took over operations of the lake



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# Human Resources



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**6. Organizational Effectiveness**

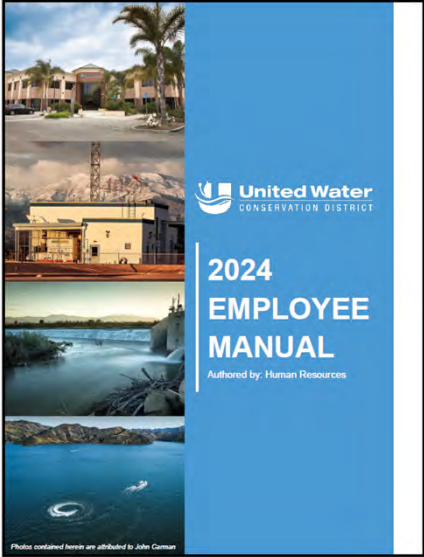
## Workplace Violence Prevention Plan




UWCD Accomplishments 2024 35

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**6. Organizational Effectiveness**



## Updated Employee Manual and all Professional Management Contracts

UWCD Accomplishments 2024 36

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## Employee Training






**DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY**  
Presented by Zachary Plummer



**United Water Conservation District  
Annual Benefits Presentation**  
For 2025 Plan Year (Effective January 1, 2025)



**FINANCING YOUR FUTURE**  
JOHN PEREZ, EMBA  
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER  
OCTOBER 23, 2024



**Budget Development**  
Presented by Brian Zahra and Sara Gorman November 20th 2024

Six informational Brown Bag sessions held


- Employee Benefits
- Budget Development
- Financing Your Future
- Deferred Compensation Plan (457)
- Balancing Work and Fitness (Wellhub)
- District Technology



UWCD Accomplishments 2024

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## Talent Acquisition and Development



- Hired nine full-time staff members, promoted 13 staff members, and 19 part time staff members for a total of 41 total hires. In addition, the District onboarded three new Board members.
- Updated staffing structure that includes short and long-term succession planning.
- Recruited staff to fill the Senior Control Systems Technician, Engineering Assistant, Associate Engineer, Associate Environmental Scientist, and Accountant roles.
- In 2024, the District promoted staff to following positions: Assistant General Manager, Chief Operations Officer, Control Systems Supervisor, Finance Supervisor, Engineering Manager, Senior Control Systems Technician, Principal Hydrologist, Water Treatment Operator filling key roles in management as well as department staff through internal development of staff.

UWCD Accomplishments 2024

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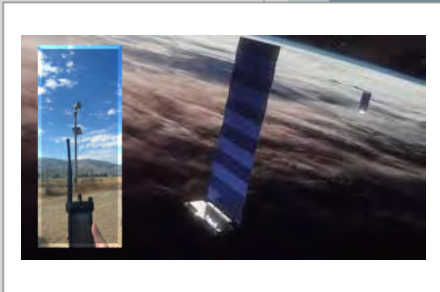
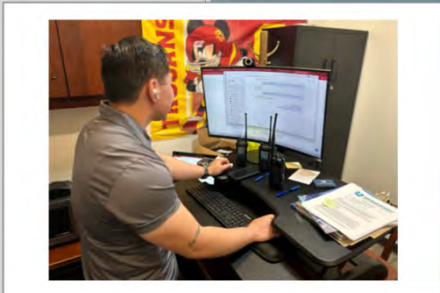
## Risk Management and Technology Systems

### State of the Art Communications Systems

Enhanced team capabilities and response time in emergency situations that arose during the calendar year

### Backup Systems

Ensure uptime in remote locations to keep our teams continuously in peak operational mode



PROTECT – CONSERVE – COLLABORATE



**STAFF REPORT**

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager  
Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager  
John Lindquist, Water Resources Supervisor

**From:** Kathleen Kuepper, Hydrogeologist  
Bram Sercu, Principal Hydrologist

**Date:** February 26, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** **3.2 Groundwater Basin Status Report**  
**Informational Item**

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Board will receive and file the Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report for the District for the month of January 2025.

**Summary:**

Diversions, Recharge and Ag Pipeline Deliveries for Month of January 2025\*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount (acre-feet)</b>
Total Diversions at Freeman Diversion	4,272
Lloyd-Butler Mutual Water Company surface water use	41
Recharge to Saticoy basins (metered + unmetered)	314
Recharge to Noble and Rose basins	71
Recharge to El Rio basins	2,566
Total Ag Pipeline Deliveries of water diverted at Freeman	1,281
Total Ag Pipeline Deliveries of water pumped from Saticoy Well Field	0
Recharge to Piru spreading grounds	0

\*Provisional data. Final data are made available in the September Hydrologic Conditions Report of each water year.

Groundwater Basin Available Storage at End of Month of January 2025

<b>Basin</b>	<b>Available Storage (acre-feet)</b>
Oxnard Forebay	13,800

Precipitation for Month of January 2025

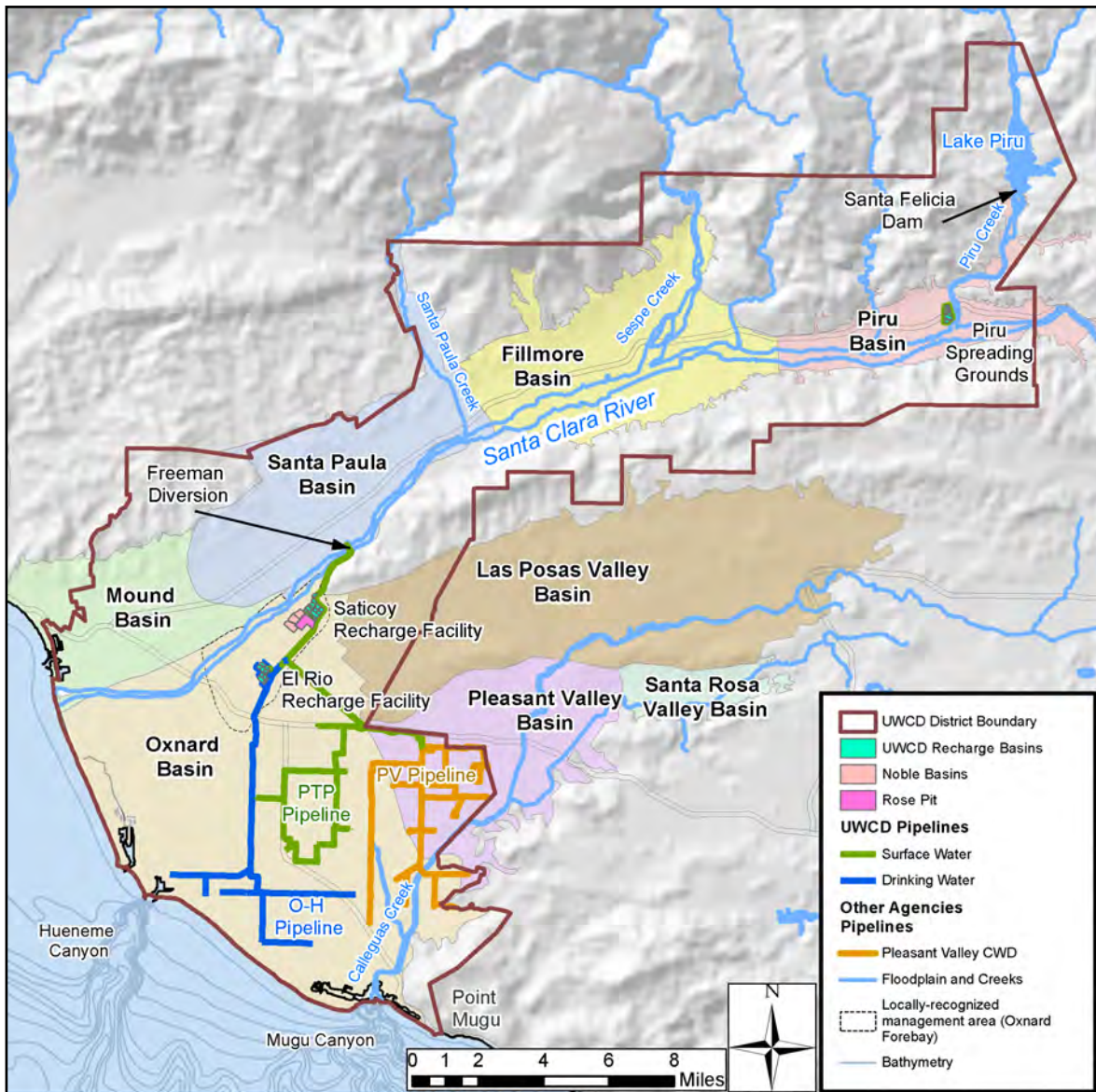
<b>Location</b>	<b>Precipitation (inches)</b>
Lake Piru	1.06
Santa Paula	0.48
El Rio	0.53



# United Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

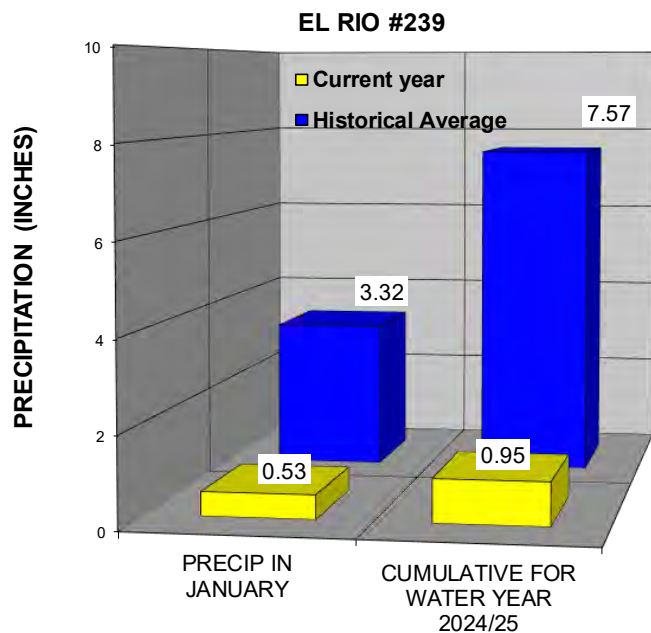
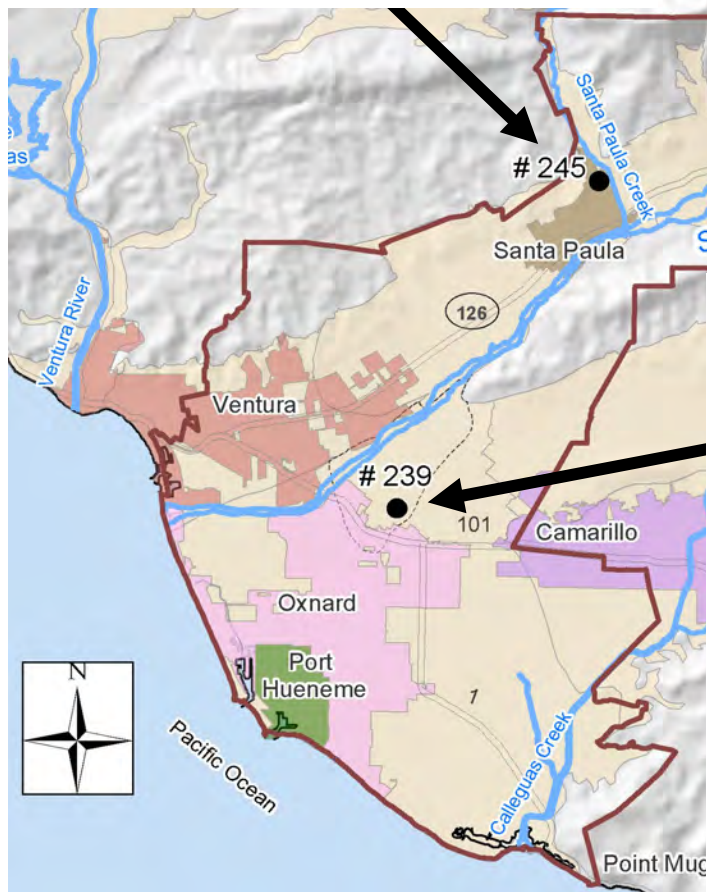
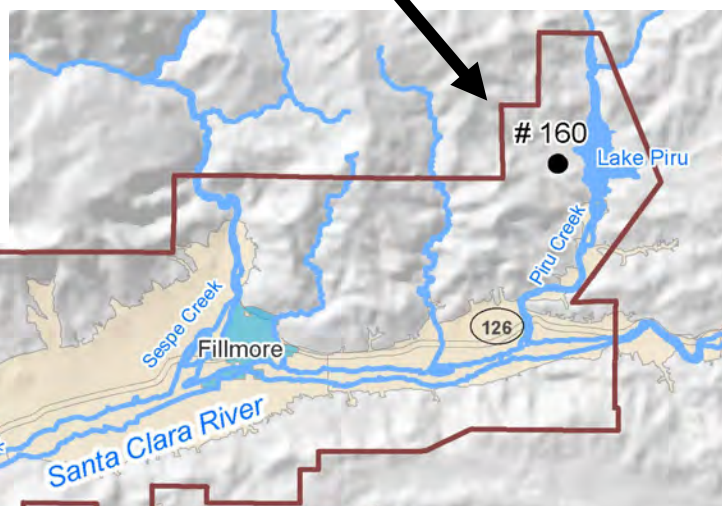
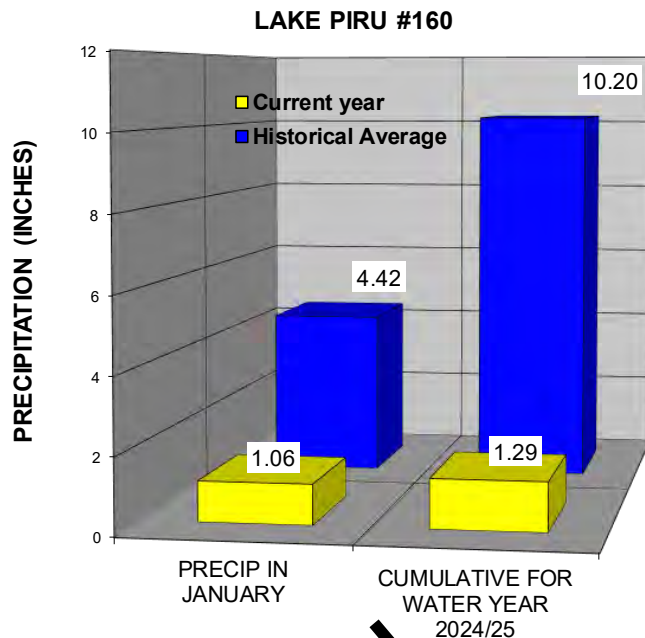
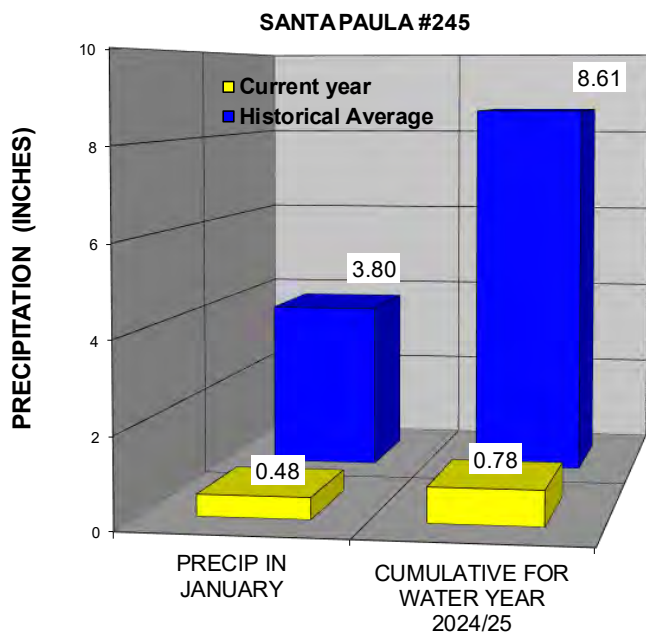
## January 2025 Hydrologic Conditions Report 2024/25 Water Year

February 26, 2025



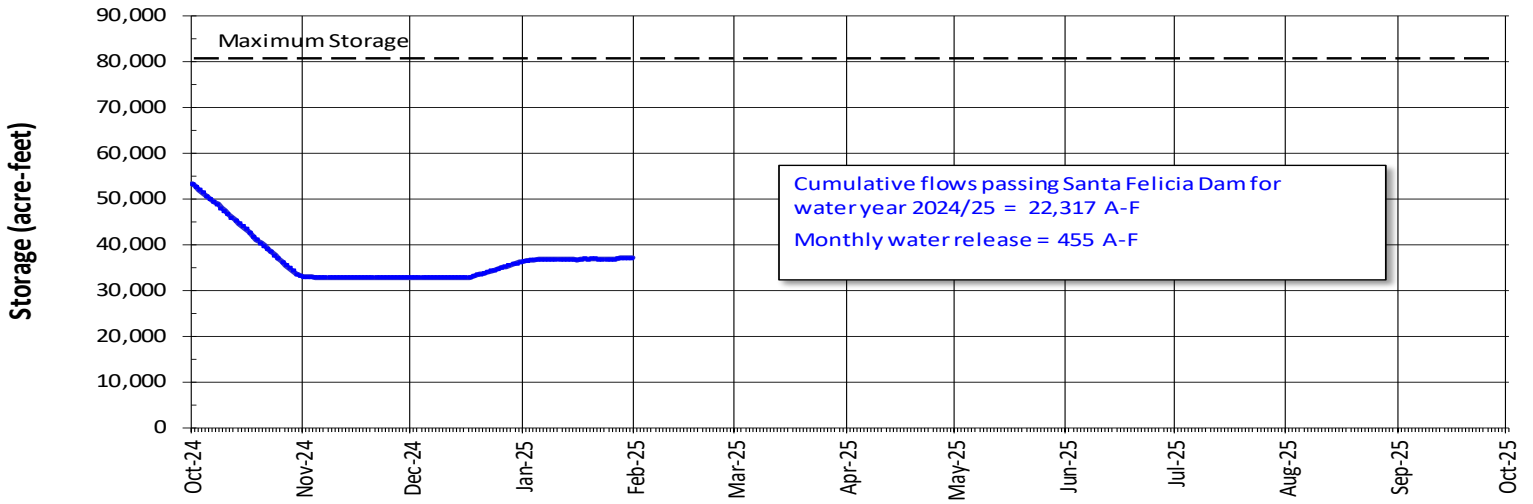
*Note: This report may contain provisional data until final review at the end of the water year.*

# Precipitation



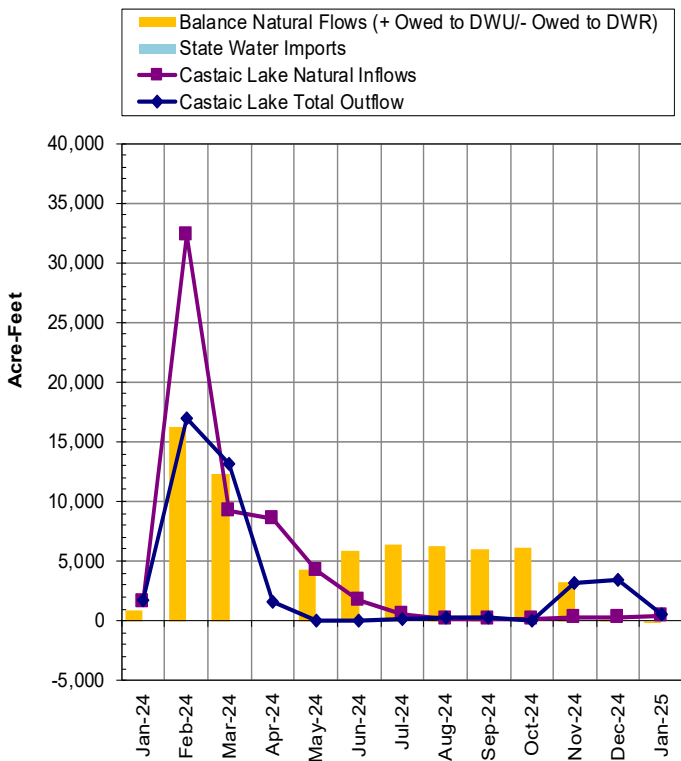
District-wide percent of normal precipitation = 11%

## Lake Piru Storage and Outflow

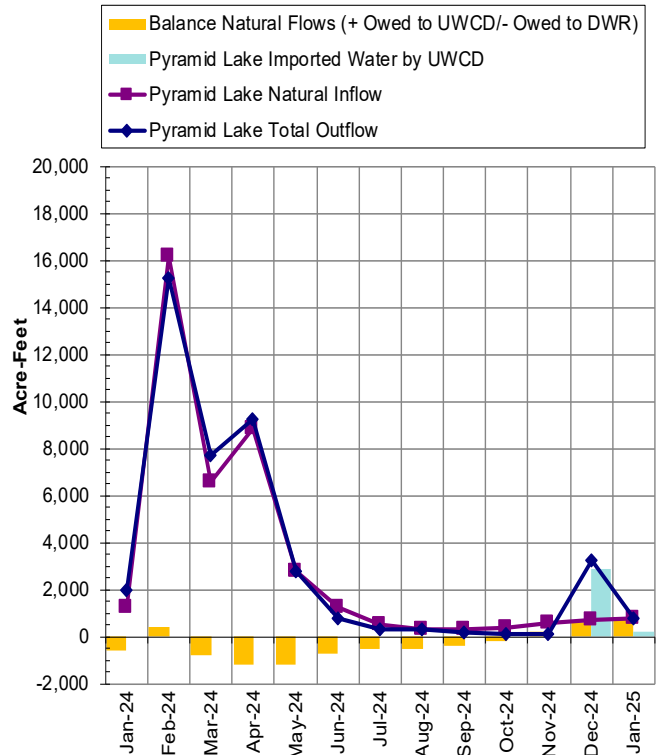


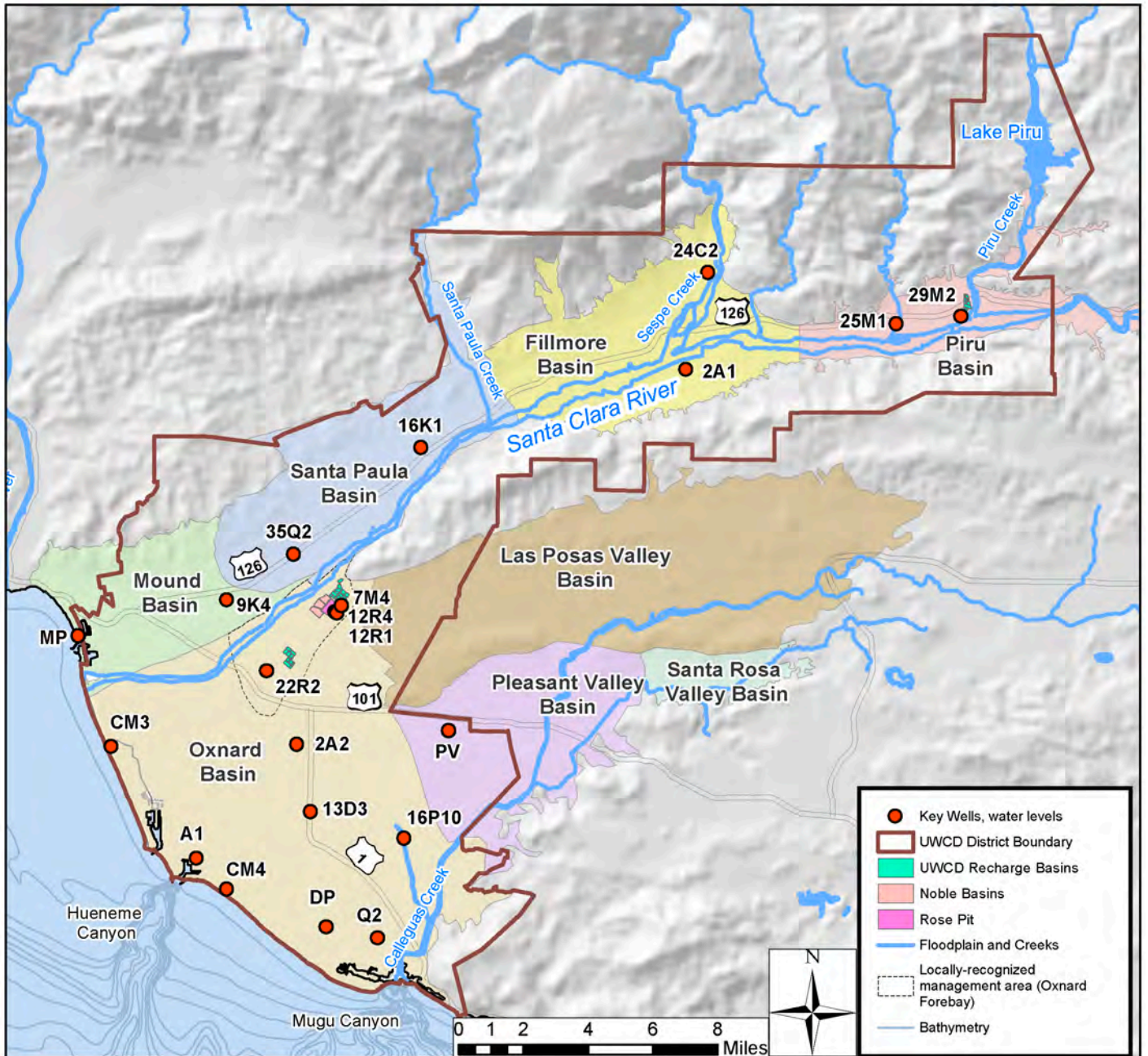
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Hydro Plant Outflow (Acre-Feet)	0	0	0	0								
Cumulative Hydro Plant Outflow (A-F)	0	0	0	0								

### Castaic Lake releases to downstream water users (DWU)



### Pyramid Lake releases to UWCD

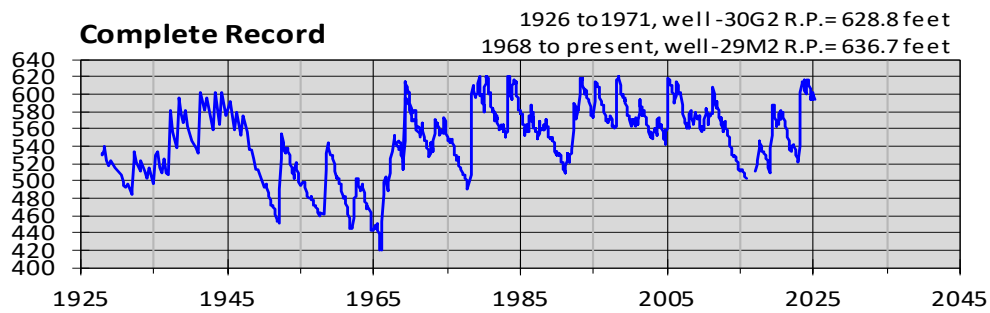
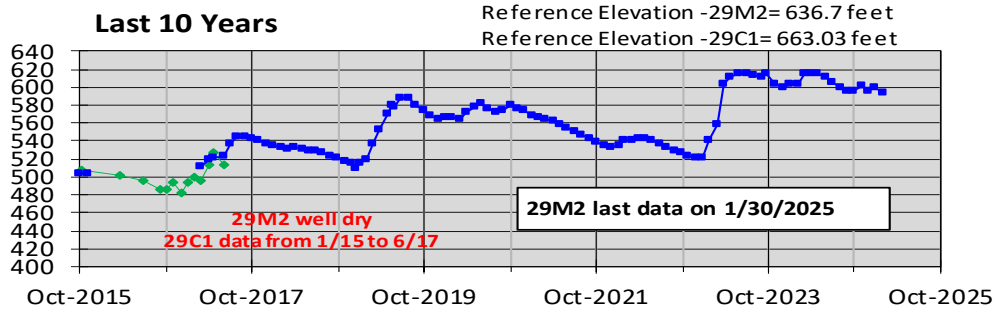




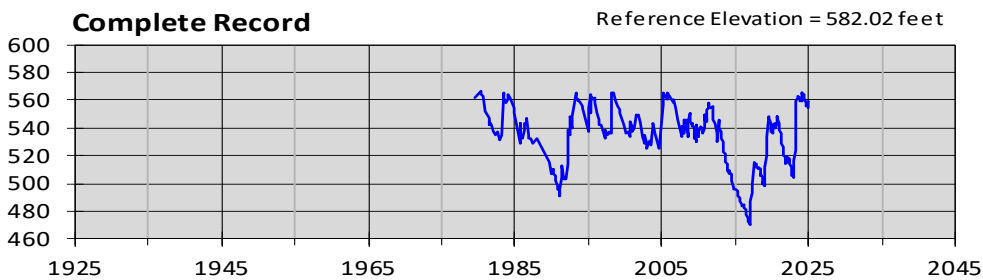
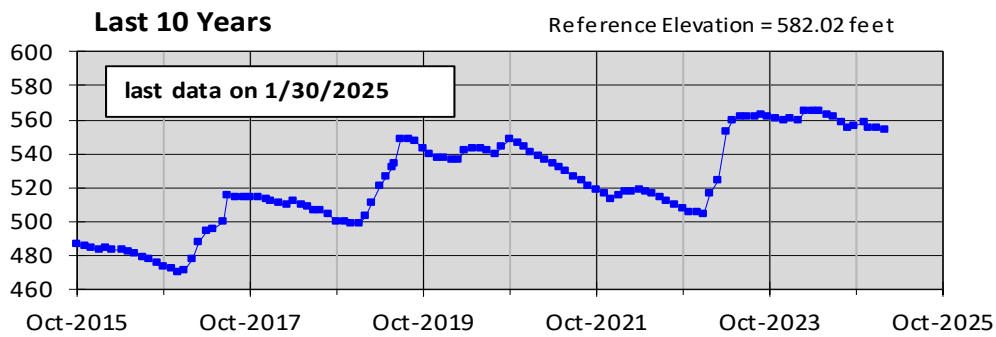
## Locations of Key Wells, Monthly Groundwater Elevation Monitoring

# Groundwater Elevation Records – Piru Basin

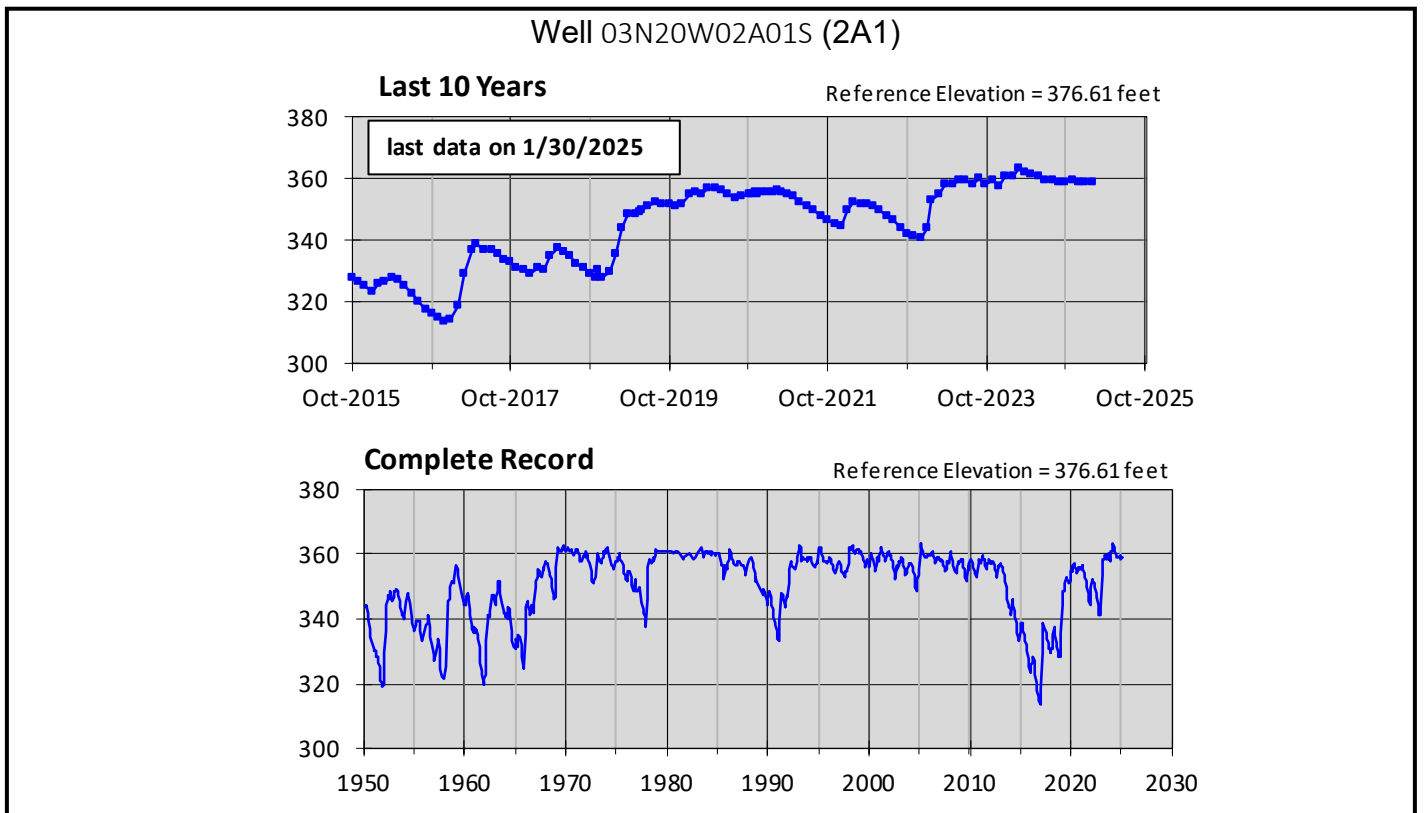
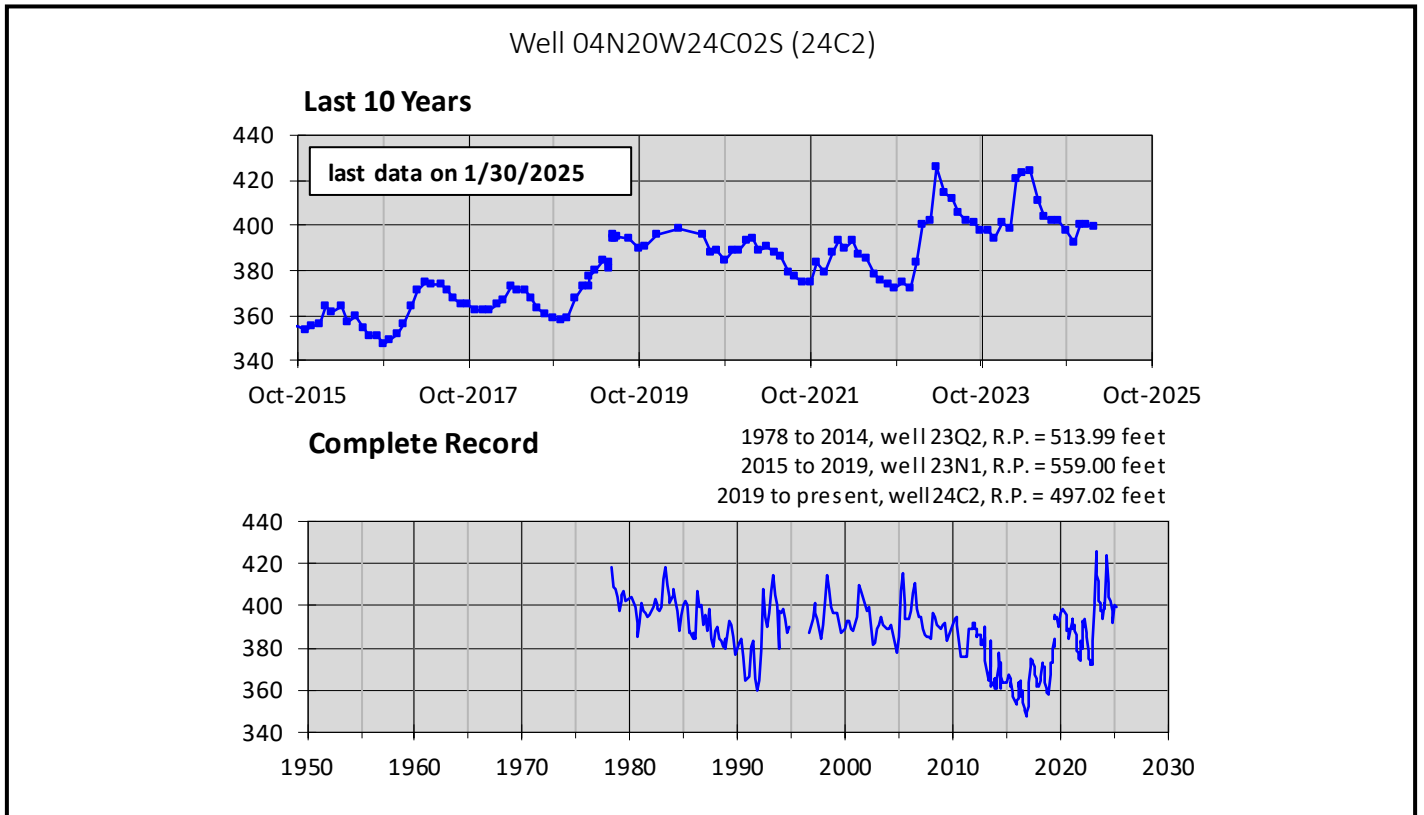
Well 04N18W29M02S (29M2)



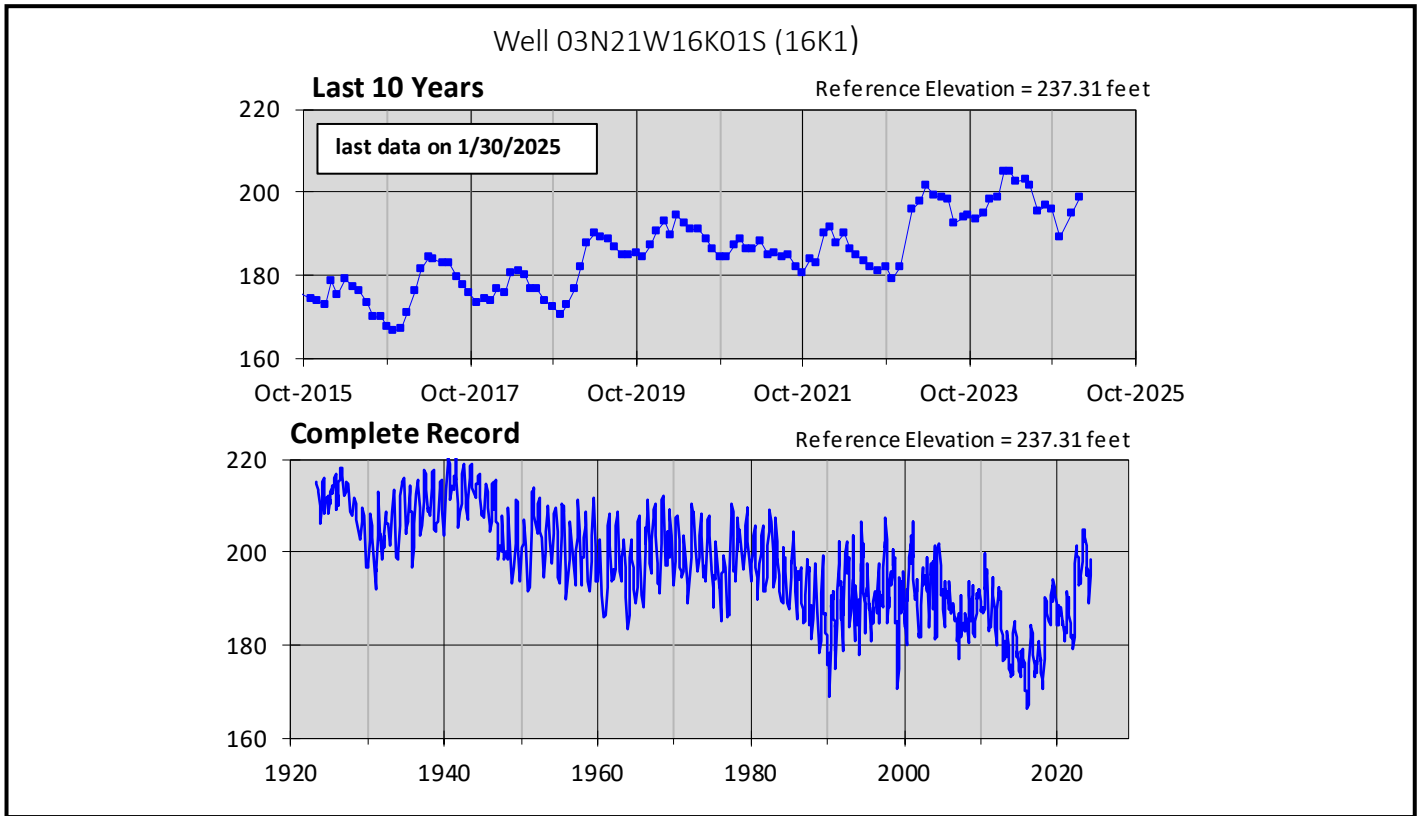
Well 04N19W25M01S (25M1)



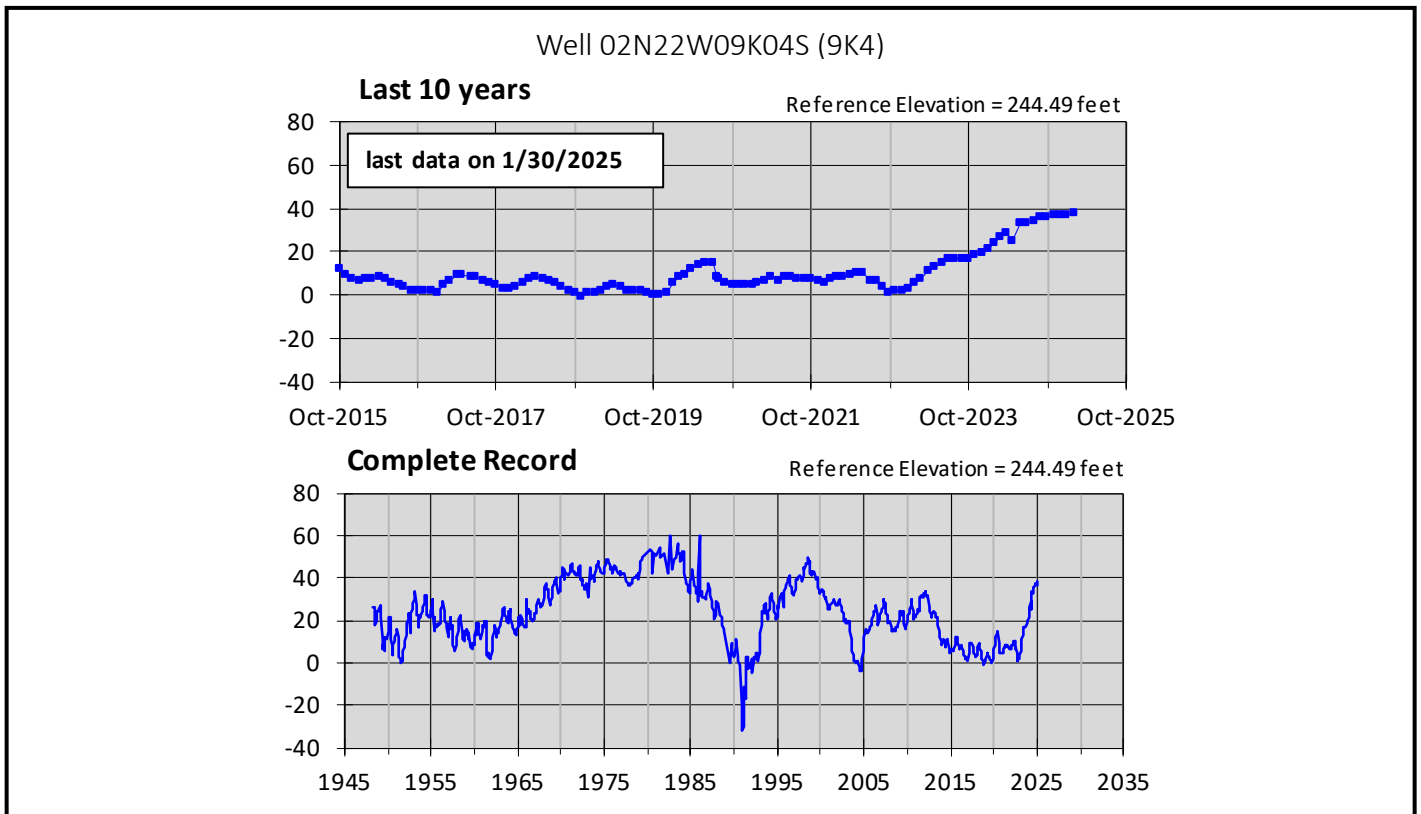
# Groundwater Elevation Records – Fillmore Basin



# Groundwater Elevation Records – Santa Paula Basin



# Groundwater Elevation Records – Mound Basin

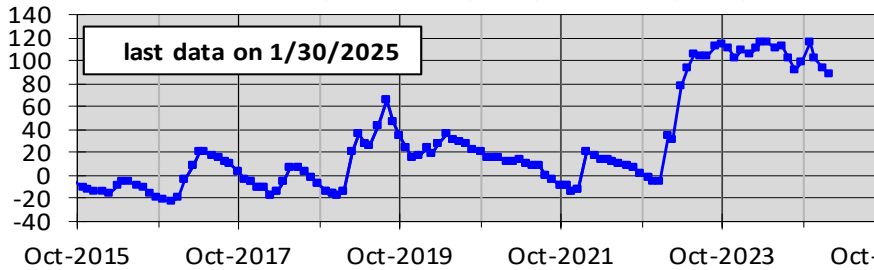


# Groundwater Elevation Records – Oxnard Basin, Forebay

Wells 02N22W12R01S (12R1), 02N22W12R04S (12R4), and 02N21W07M04S (7M4)

## Last 10 Years

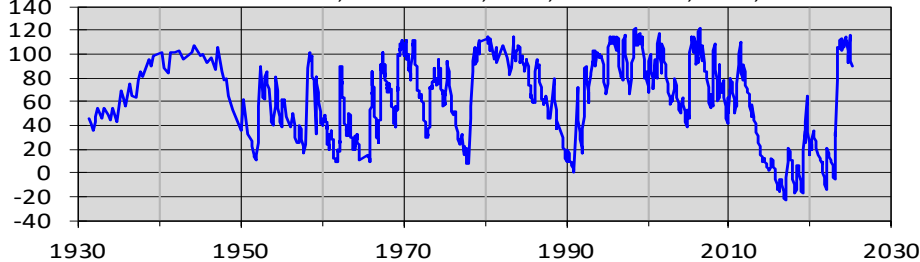
-12R1; RP = 134.19 ft; -7M4; RP = 142.84 ft; -12R4; RP = 137.11 ft



Note: Well 12R1 was destroyed in 2014 and replaced with well 12R4. When well 12R4 goes dry at approximately 9 ft msl, well 7M4 is used to measure groundwater level.

## Complete Record

-12R1; RP = 134.19 ft; -7M4; RP = 142.84 ft; -12R4; RP = 137.11 ft

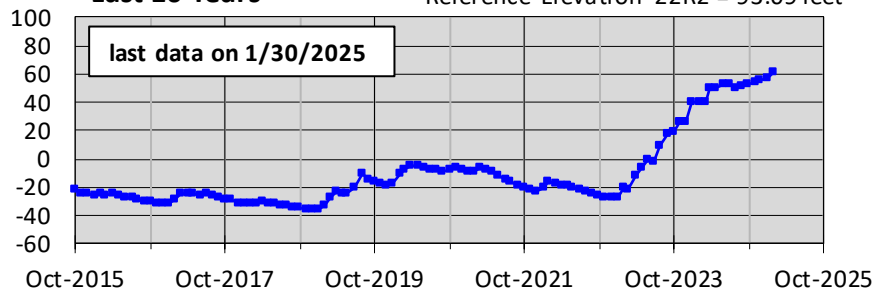


Note: Well 12R1 was destroyed in 2014 and replaced with well 12R4. When well 12R4 goes dry at approximately 9 ft msl, well 7M4 is used to measure groundwater level.

Well 02N22W22R02S (22R2)

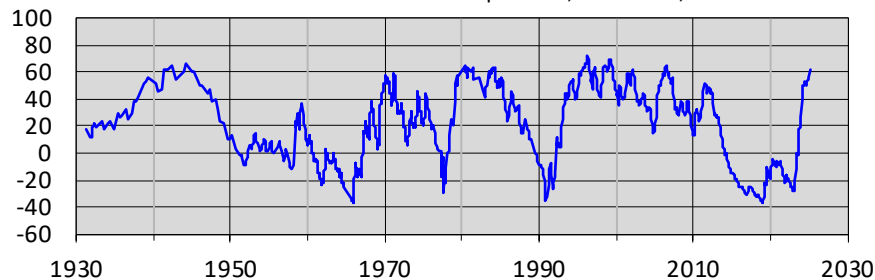
## Last 10 Years

Reference Elevation -22R2 = 93.09 feet

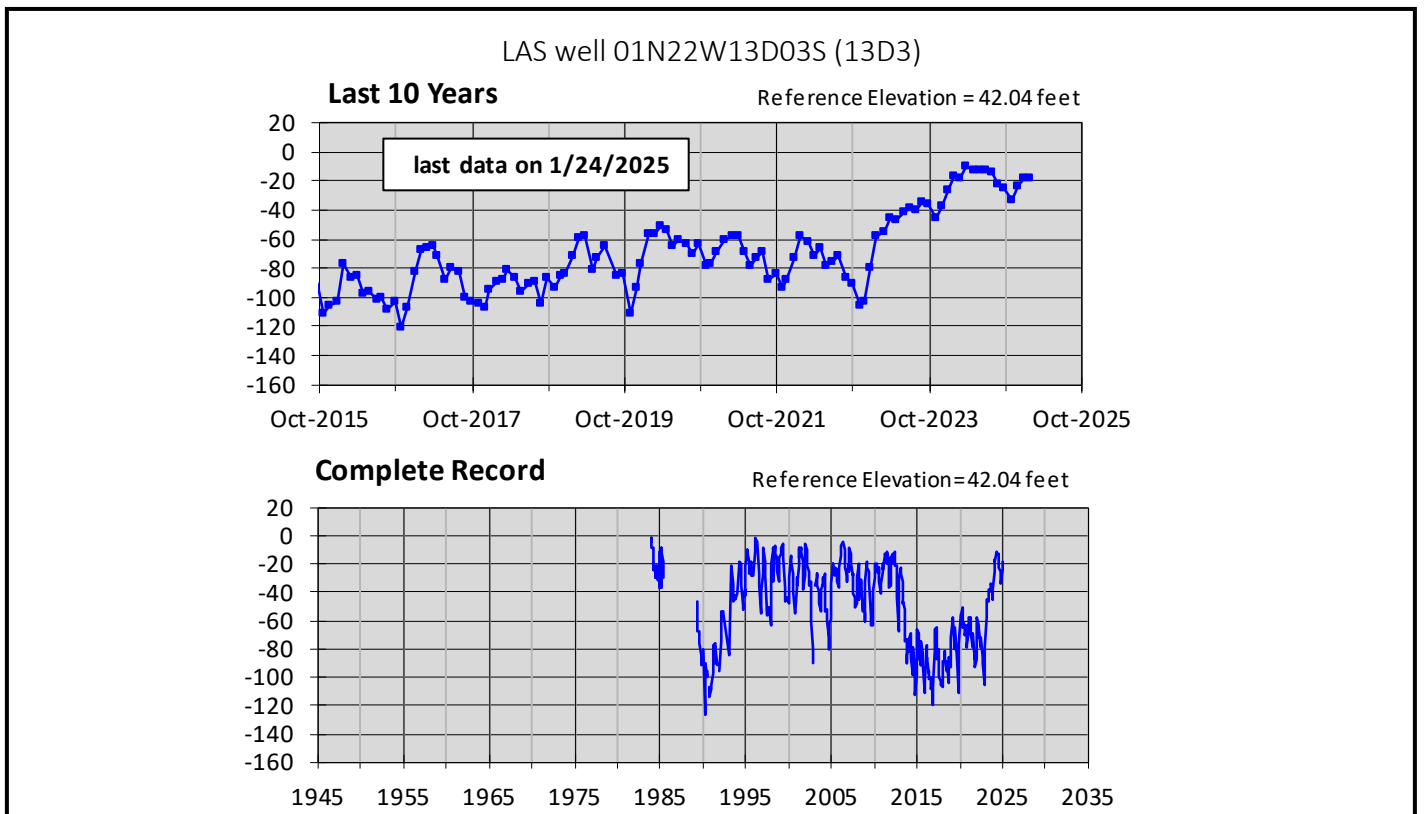
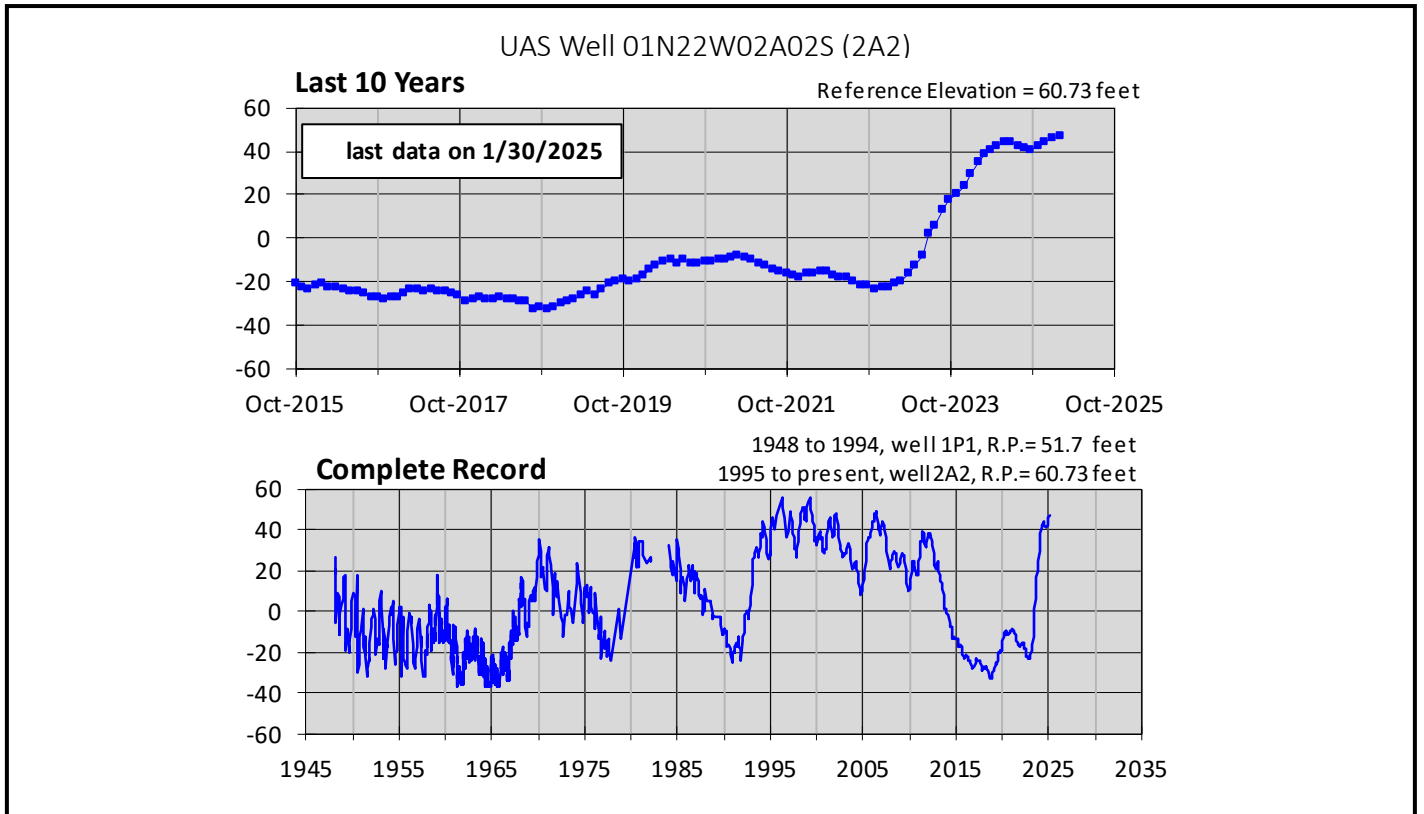


## Complete Record

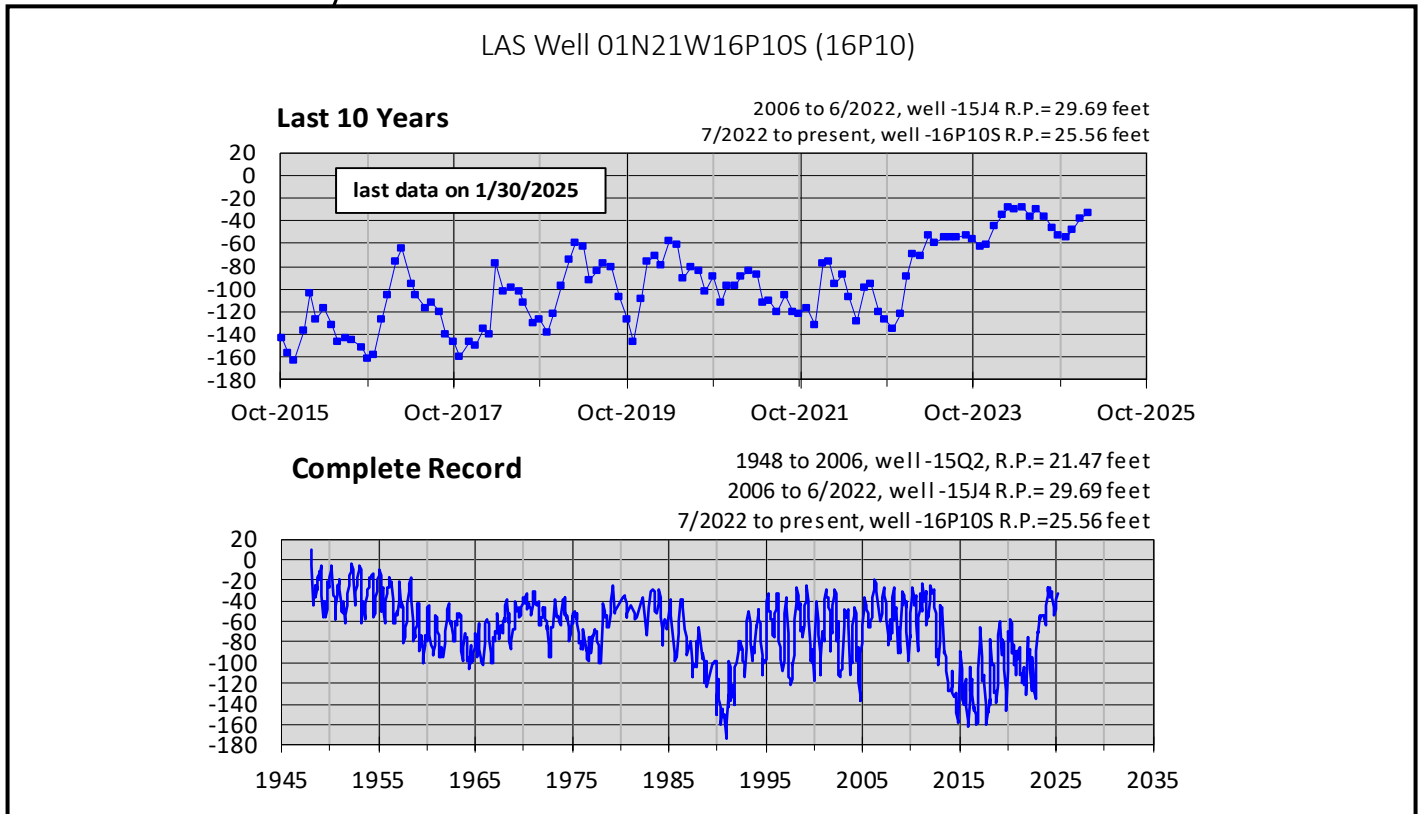
1931 to 2004, well -22R1, RP = 93.6 feet  
2004 to present, well -22R2, RP = 93.09 feet



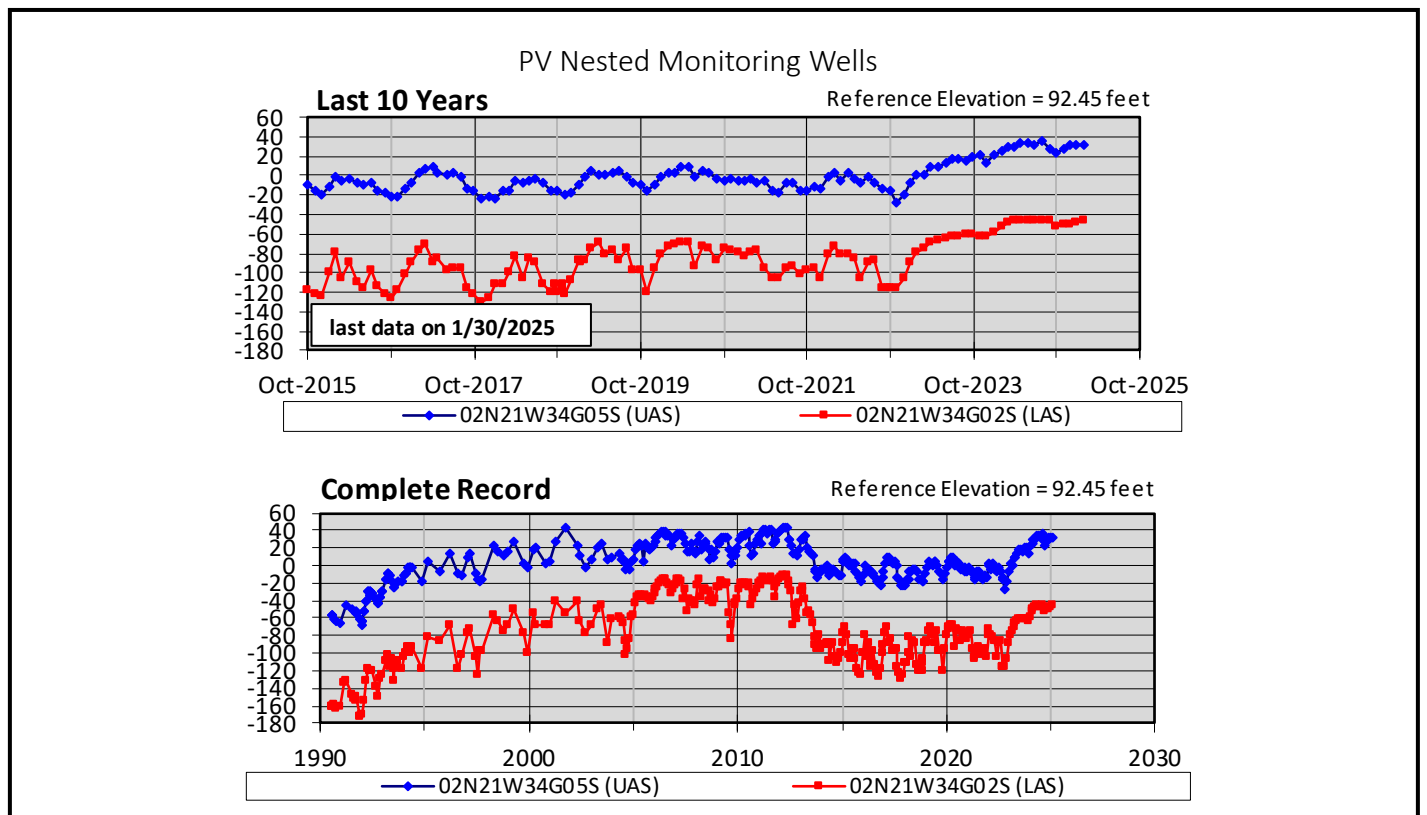
# Groundwater Elevation Records – Oxnard Basin



# Groundwater Elevation Records – eastern Oxnard/Pleasant Valley Basin Boundary Area

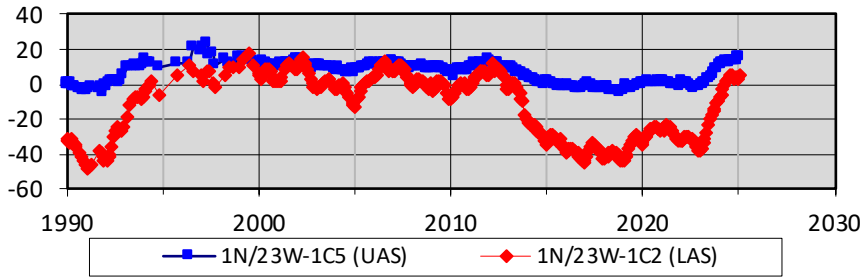


# Groundwater Elevation Records – Pleasant Valley Basin

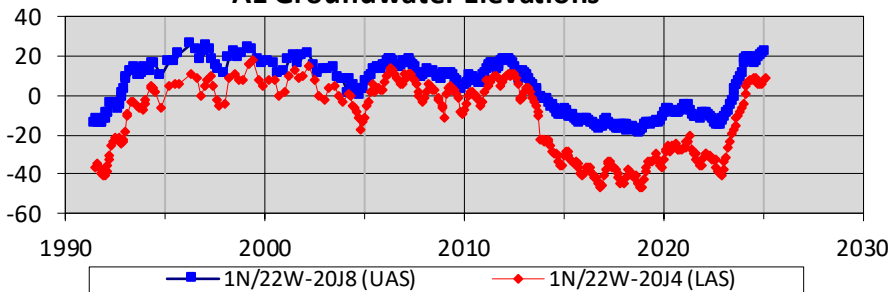


# Groundwater Elevation Records – Coastal Nested Monitoring Wells

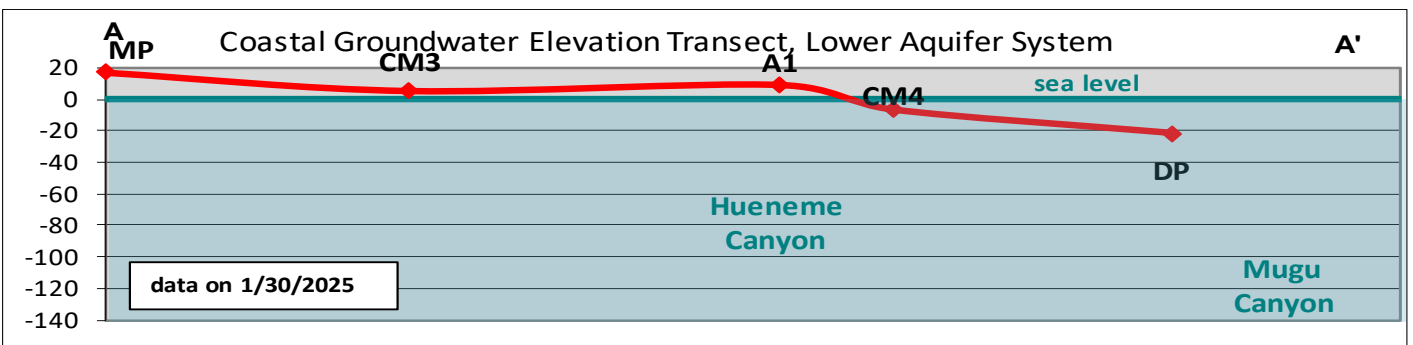
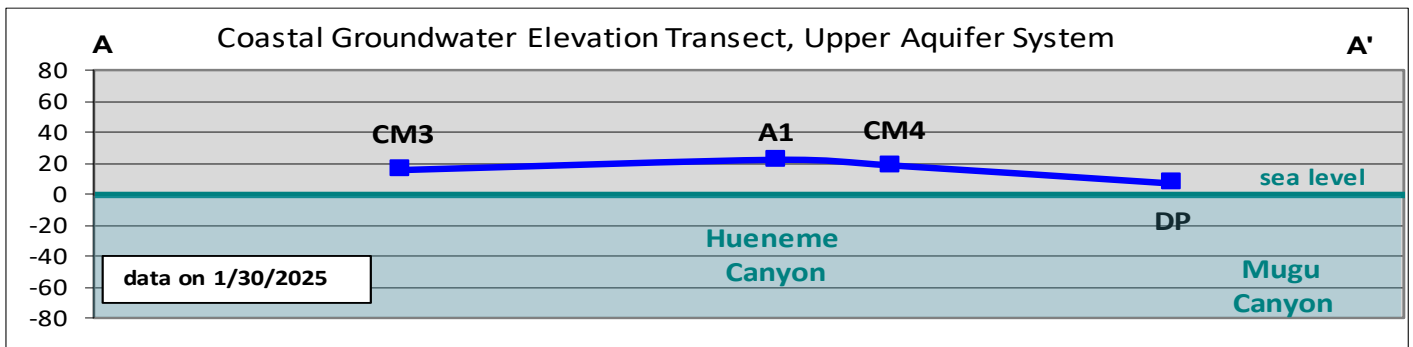
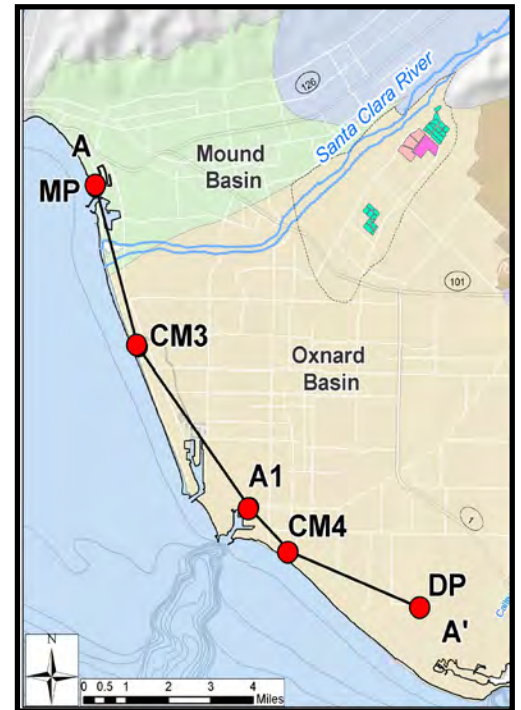
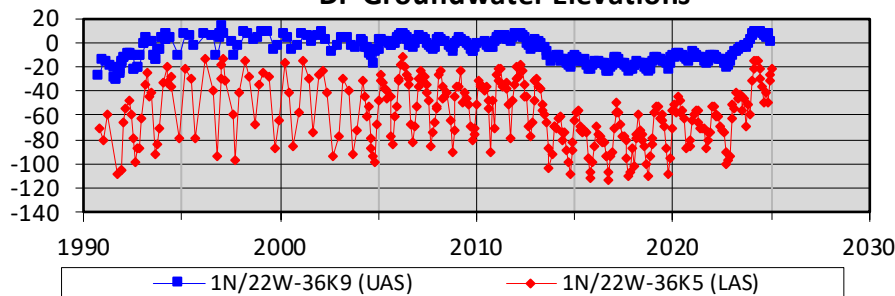
**CM3 Groundwater Elevations**



**A1 Groundwater Elevations**



**DP Groundwater Elevations**



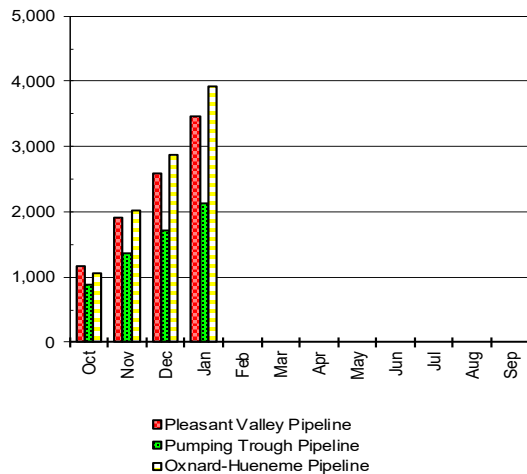
## Monthly Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2024/25)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PV Pipeline (surface water)	1,177.5	734.3	679.6	876.1								
PV Pipeline (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
<b>Total to Pleasant Valley Pipeline</b>	<b>1,177.5</b>	<b>734.3</b>	<b>679.6</b>	<b>876.1</b>								
PTP (surface water)	772.4	414.7	335.7	404.6								
PTP (PTP 1-5)	115.2	65.2	12.7	19.8								
PTP (OH-12/13)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
PTP (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
<b>Total PTP</b>	<b>887.6</b>	<b>479.9</b>	<b>348.4</b>	<b>424.4</b>								
C-customers (surface water)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
Saticoy Well Field (groundwater)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
O-H Pipeline (groundwater)	1,051.5	976.6	853.0	1,033.7								
<b>Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP, PV, c-cust)</b>	<b>1,949.9</b>	<b>1,149.0</b>	<b>1,015.3</b>	<b>1,280.7</b>								
<b>Total Groundwater Delivery (PTP, OH, Sat)</b>	<b>1,166.7</b>	<b>1,041.8</b>	<b>865.7</b>	<b>1,053.5</b>								
<b>Total Delivery (surface water, groundwater)</b>	<b>3,116.6</b>	<b>2,190.8</b>	<b>1,881.0</b>	<b>2,334.2</b>								

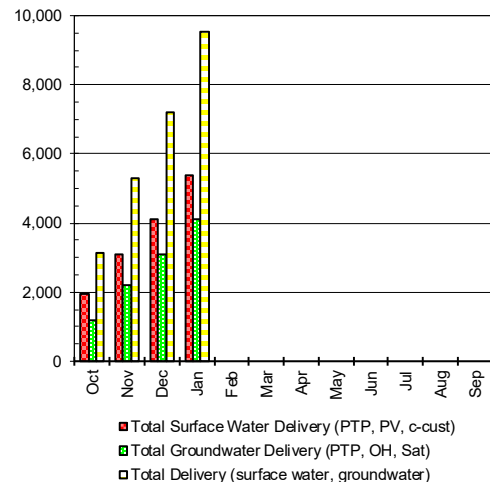
## Cumulative Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2024/25)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PV Pipeline (surface water)	1,177.5	1,911.8	2,591.4	3,467.5								
PV Pipeline (saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
<b>Total to Pleasant Valley Pipeline</b>	<b>1,177.5</b>	<b>1,911.8</b>	<b>2,591.4</b>	<b>3,467.5</b>								
PTP (surface water)	772.4	1,187.1	1,522.8	1,927.4								
PTP (PTP 1-5)	115.2	180.4	193.1	212.9								
PTP (OH-12/13)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
PTP (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
<b>Total PTP</b>	<b>887.6</b>	<b>1,367.5</b>	<b>1,715.9</b>	<b>2,140.3</b>								
C-customers (surface water)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
Saticoy Well Field (groundwater)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0								
O-H Pipeline (groundwater)	1,051.5	2,028.1	2,881.1	3,914.8								
<b>Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP, PV, c-cust)</b>	<b>1,949.9</b>	<b>3,098.9</b>	<b>4,114.2</b>	<b>5,394.9</b>								
<b>Total Groundwater Delivery (PTP, OH, Sat)</b>	<b>1,166.7</b>	<b>2,208.5</b>	<b>3,074.2</b>	<b>4,127.7</b>								
<b>Total Delivery (surface water, groundwater)</b>	<b>3,116.6</b>	<b>5,307.4</b>	<b>7,188.4</b>	<b>9,522.6</b>								

**Cumulative deliveries by system**



**Cumulative deliveries by source/type**



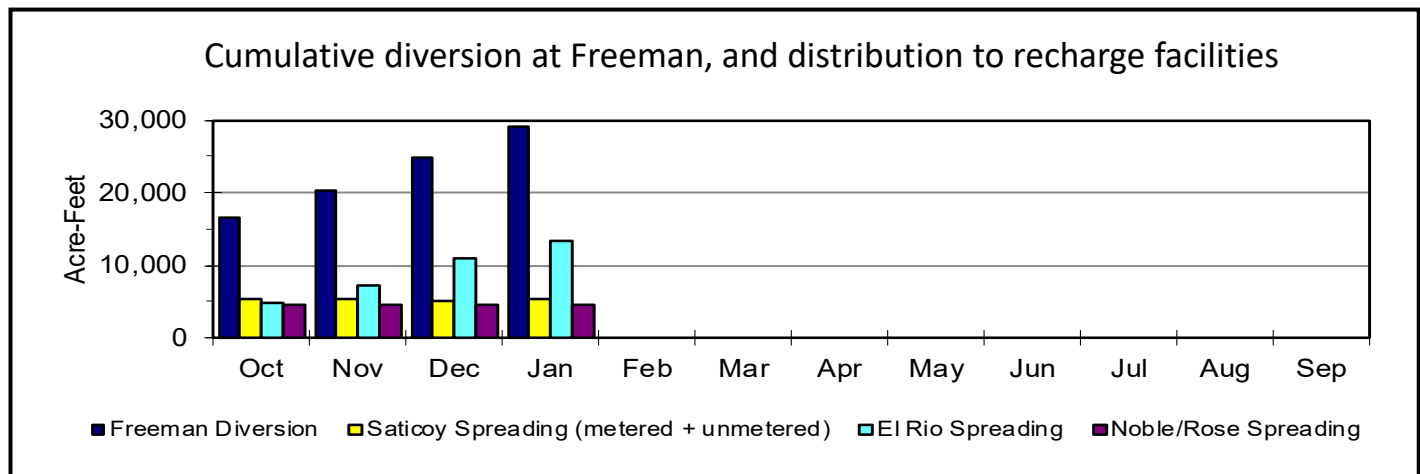
### Monthly diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2024/25, in acre-feet

Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading (metered + unmetered)	El Rio Spreading	Noble/Rose Spreading	LBMWC Water Use
Oct	0	16,587	5,368	4,700	4,545	25
Nov	0	3,774	-111 *	2,636	70	31
Dec	0	4,438	-139 *	3,534	0	27
Jan	0	4,272	314	2,566	71	41
Feb	0					
Mar	0					
Apr	0					
May	0					
Jun	0					
Jul	0					
Aug	0					
Sep	0					

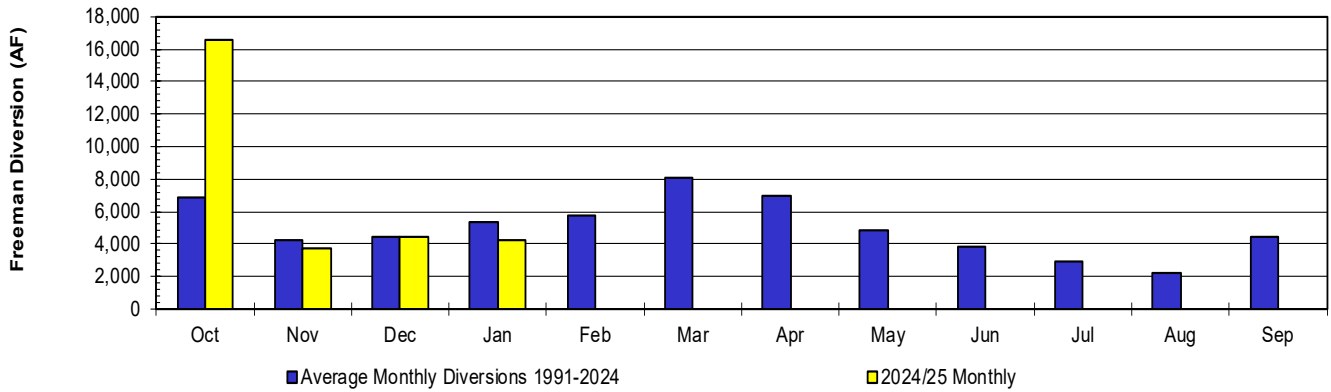
\*Metered recharge at Saticoy is zero. Negative values are due to minor measurement inconsistencies where the sum of metered deliveries (surface water and recharge to El Rio) exceed metered diversions.

### Cumulative diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2024/25, in acre-feet

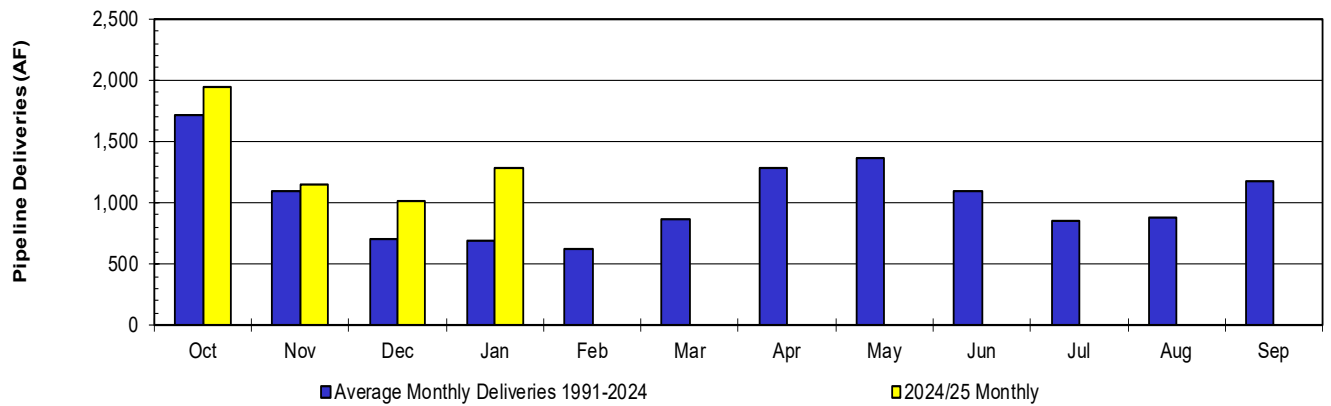
Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading (metered + unmetered)	El Rio Spreading	Noble/Rose Spreading	LBMWC Water Use
Oct	0	16,587	5,368	4,700	4,545	25
Nov	0	20,361	5,256	7,335	4,615	56
Dec	0	24,799	5,118	10,869	4,615	84
Jan	0	29,071	5,431	13,436	4,685	125
Feb	0					
Mar	0					
Apr	0					
May	0					
Jun	0					
Jul	0					
Aug	0					
Sep	0					



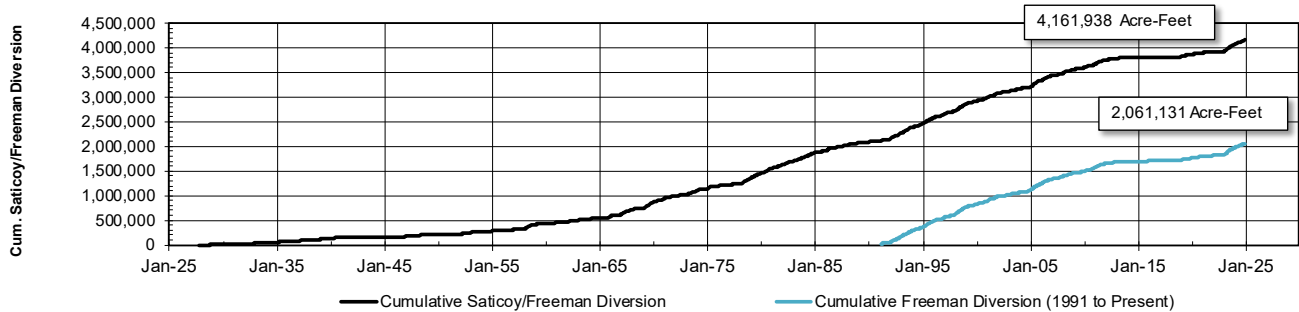
### Monthly 2024/25 diversion at Freeman, compared to average monthly diversions (1991-2024)



### Monthly 2024/25 pipeline deliveries (surface water deliveries), compared to average monthly pipeline deliveries (1991-2024)

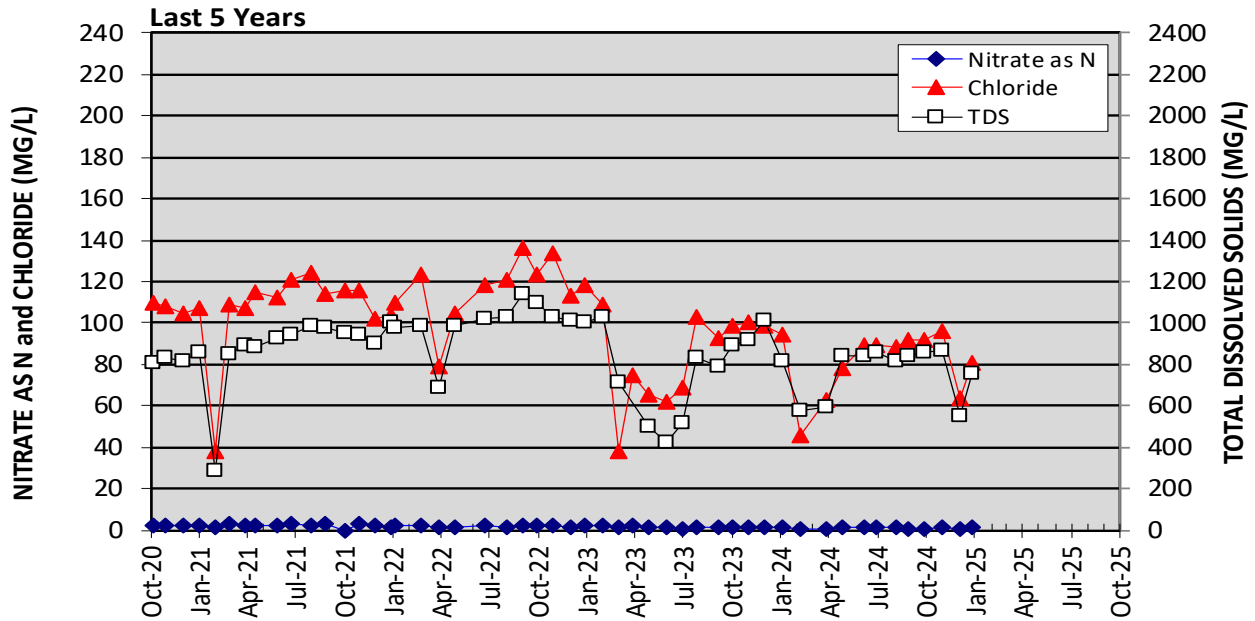


### Cumulative diversion at Saticoy and Freeman Diversion, in acre-feet

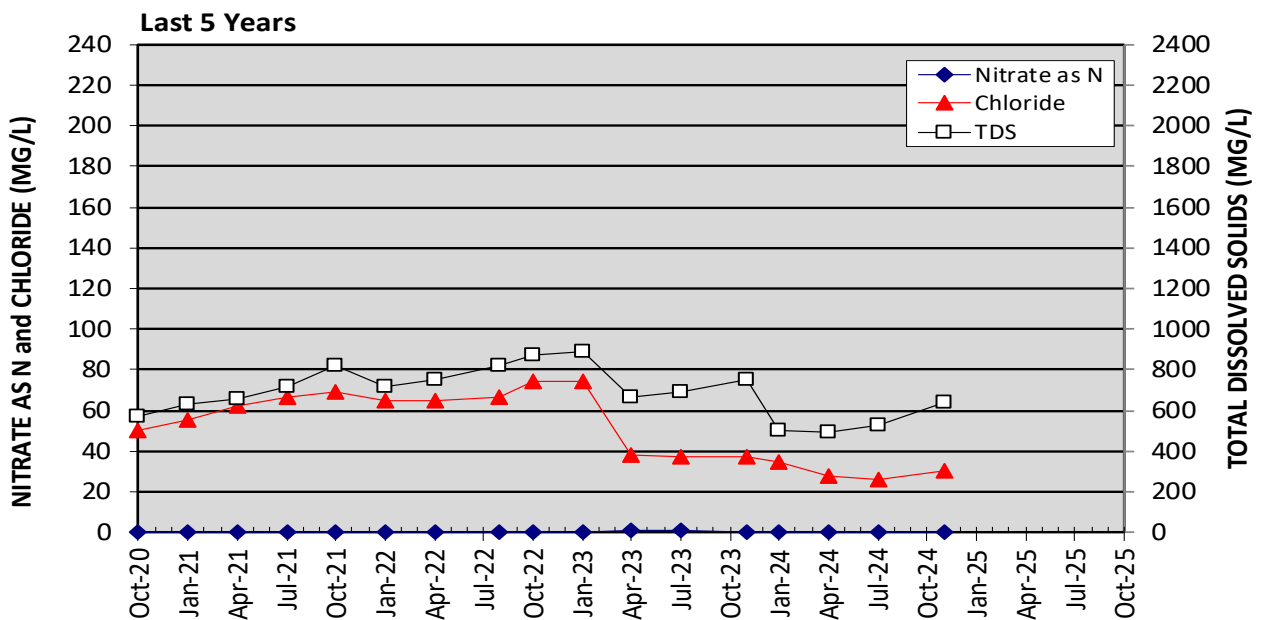


# Water Quality

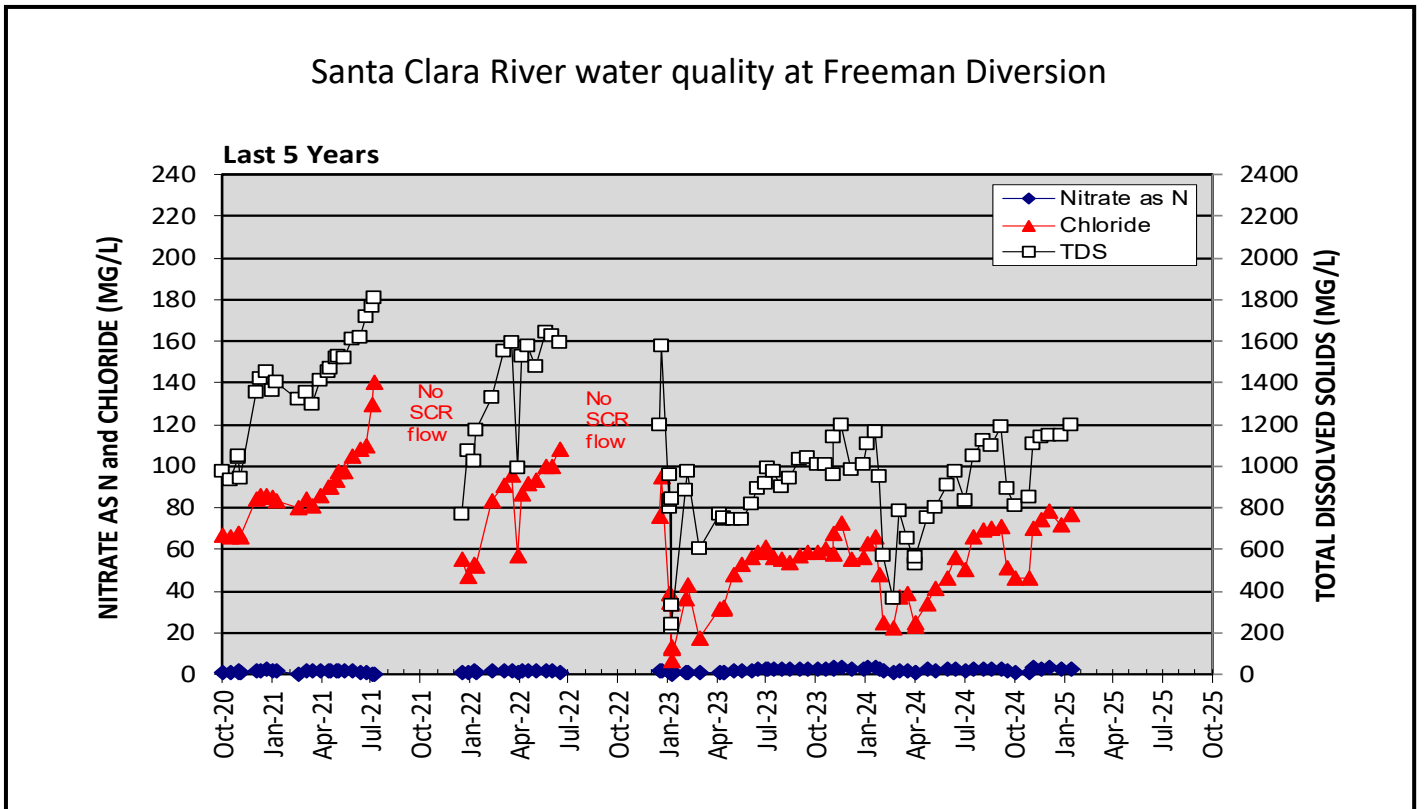
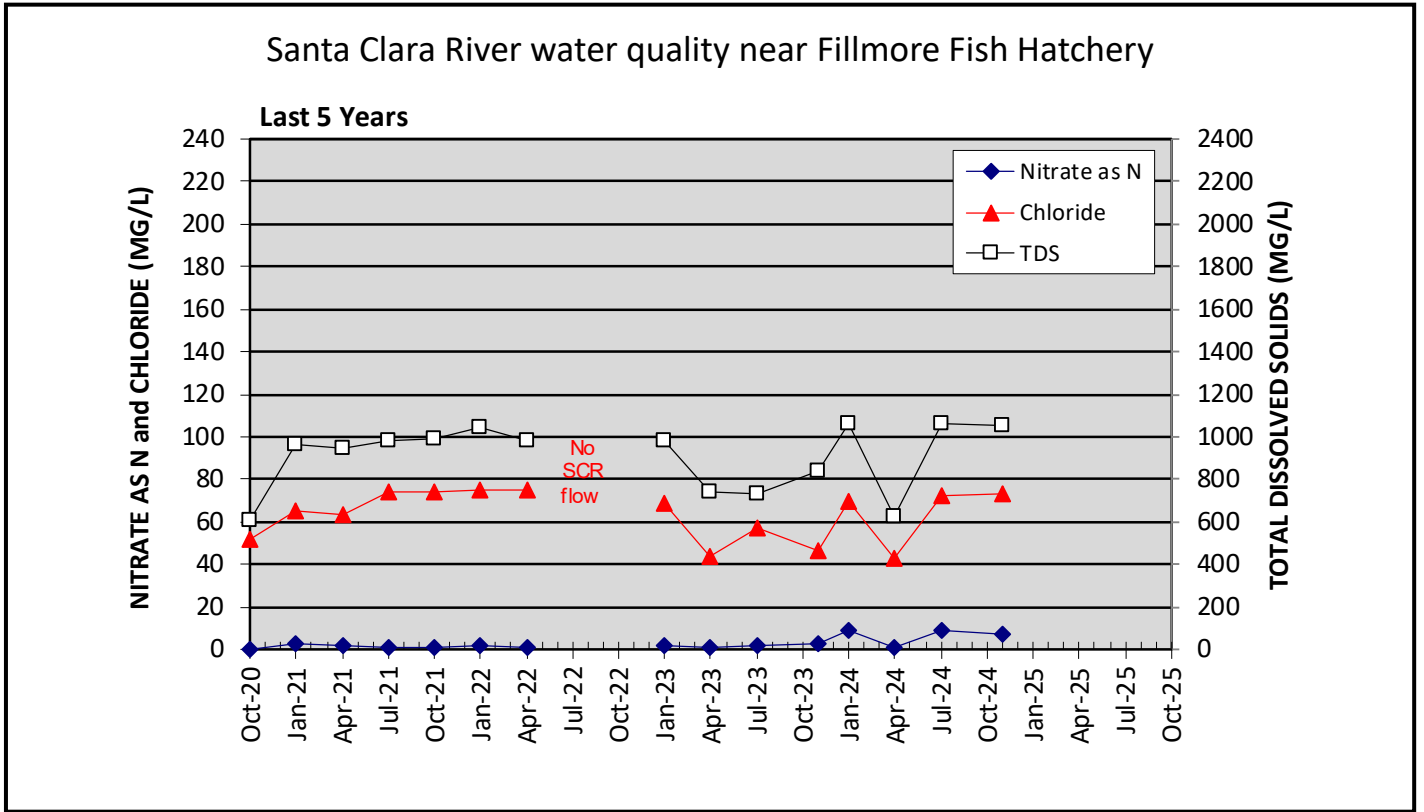
Santa Clara River water quality near Los Angeles/Ventura County line



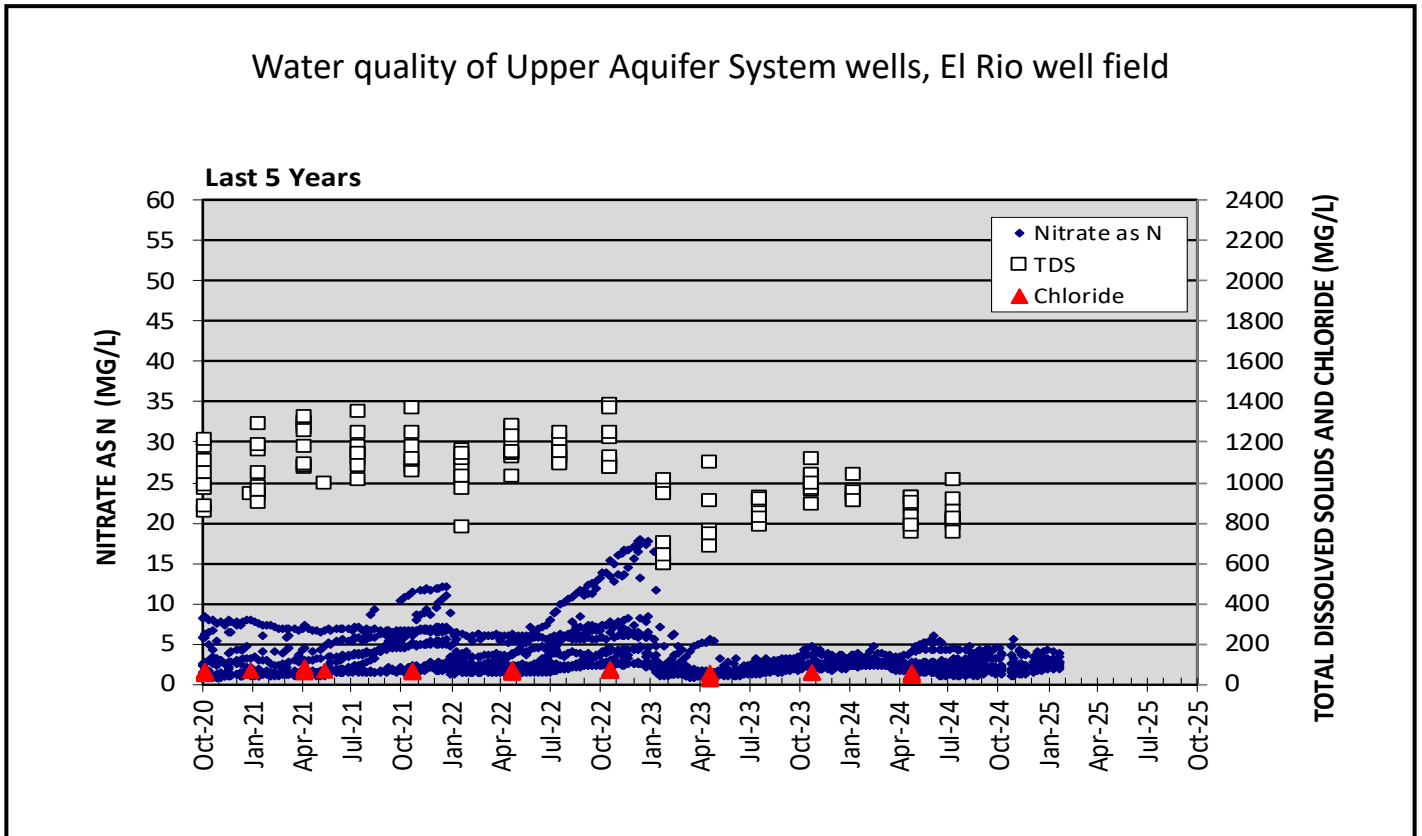
Piru Creek water quality below Santa Felicia Dam

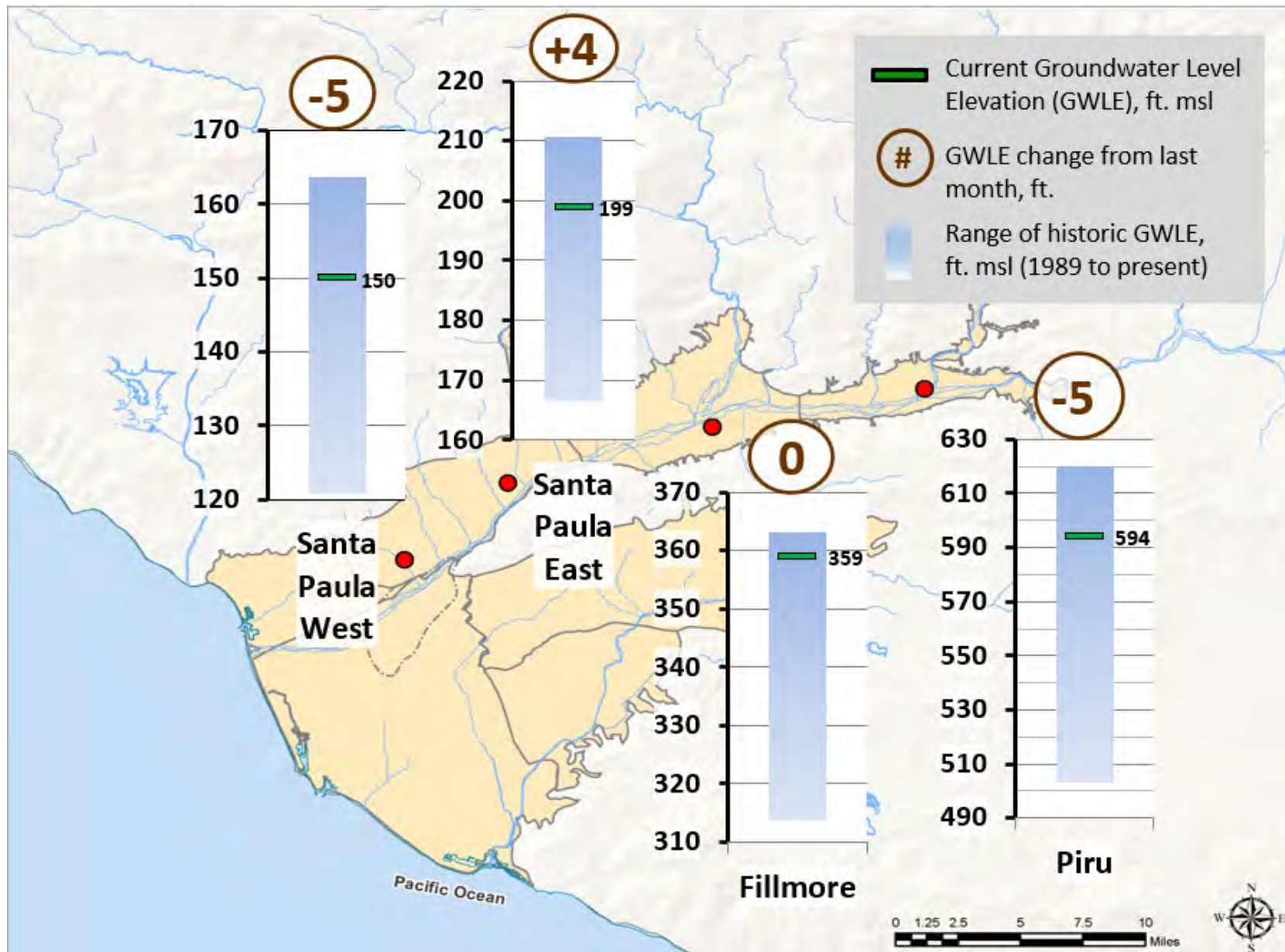


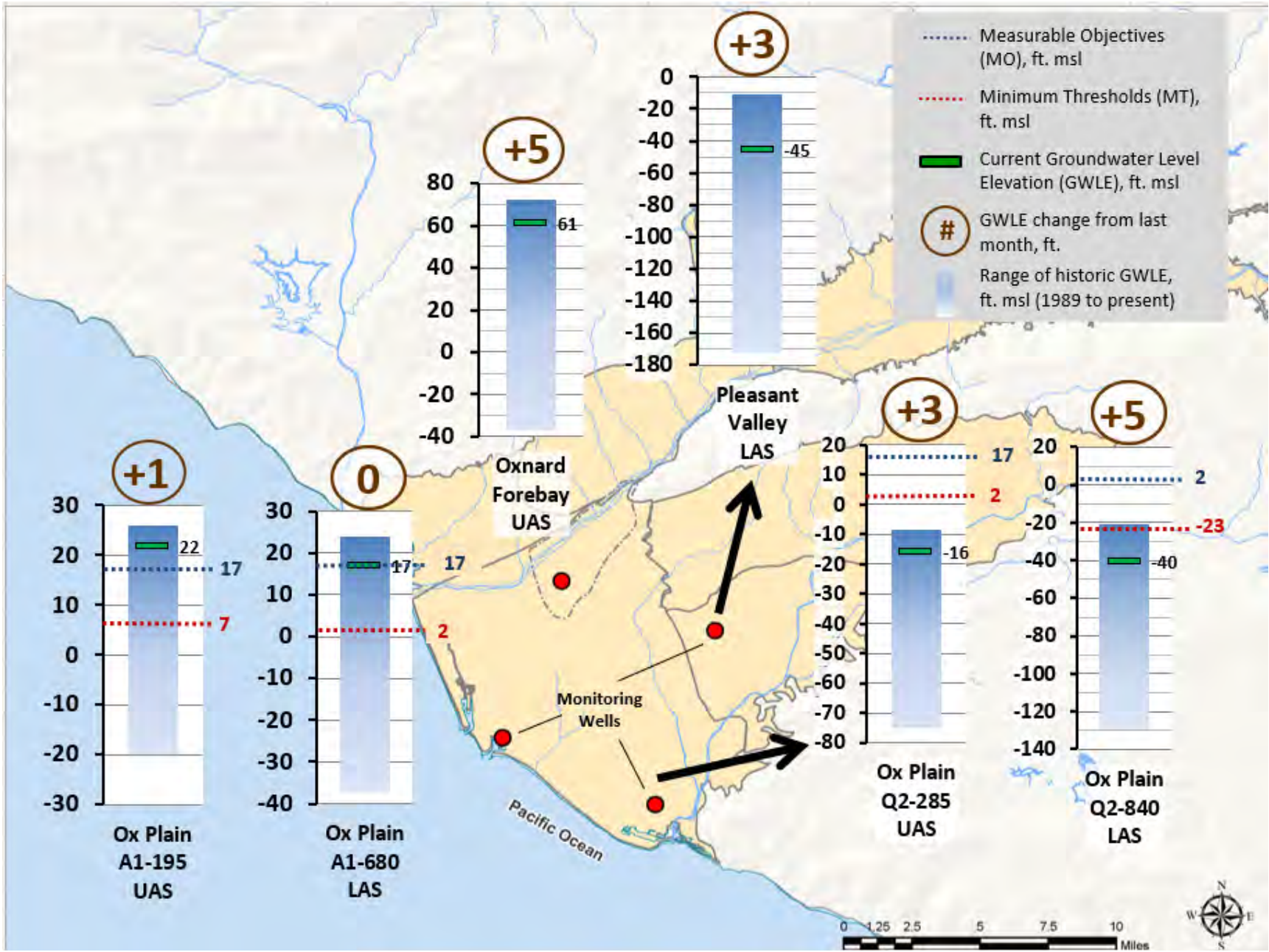
# Water Quality



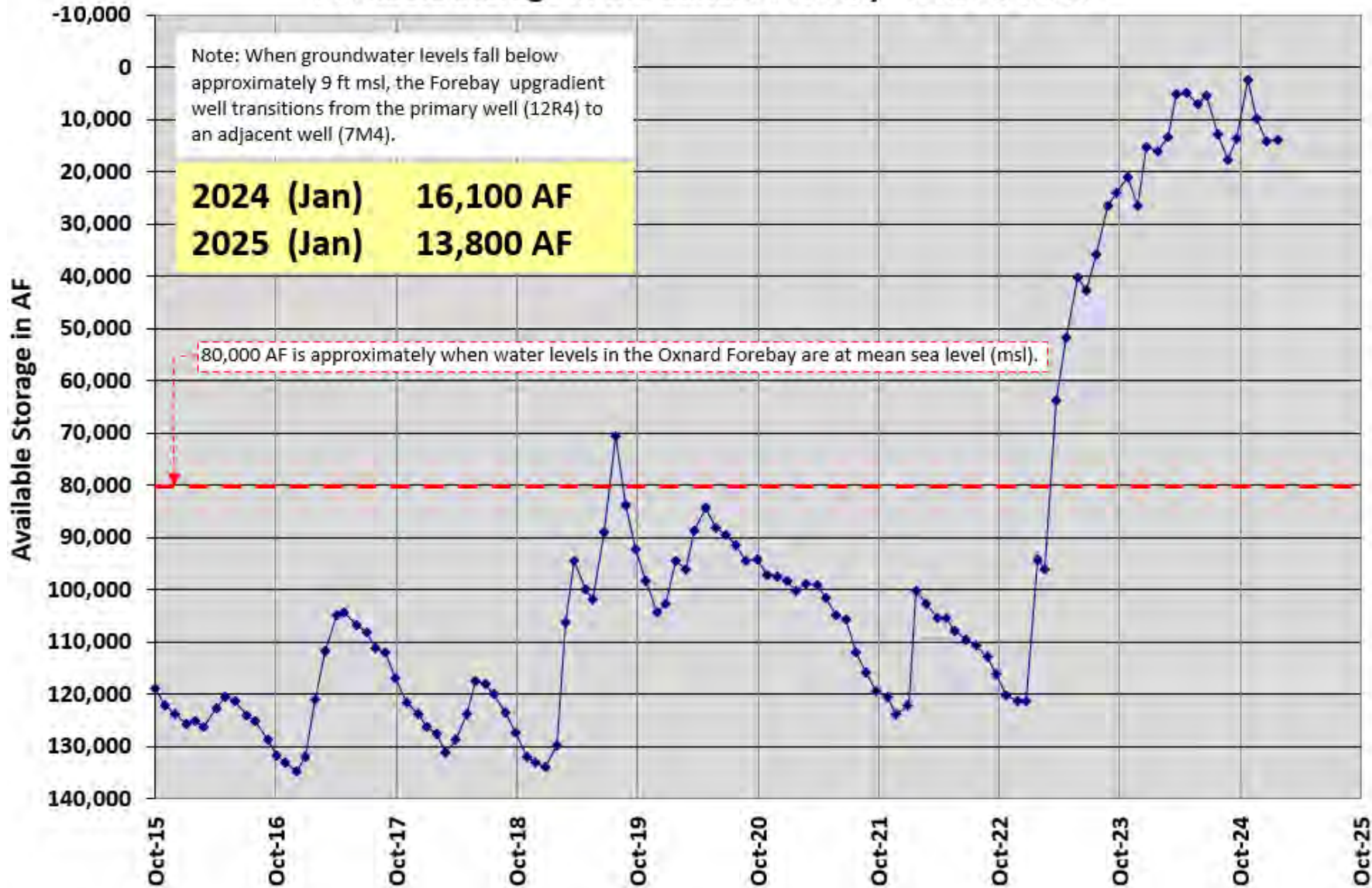
# Water Quality

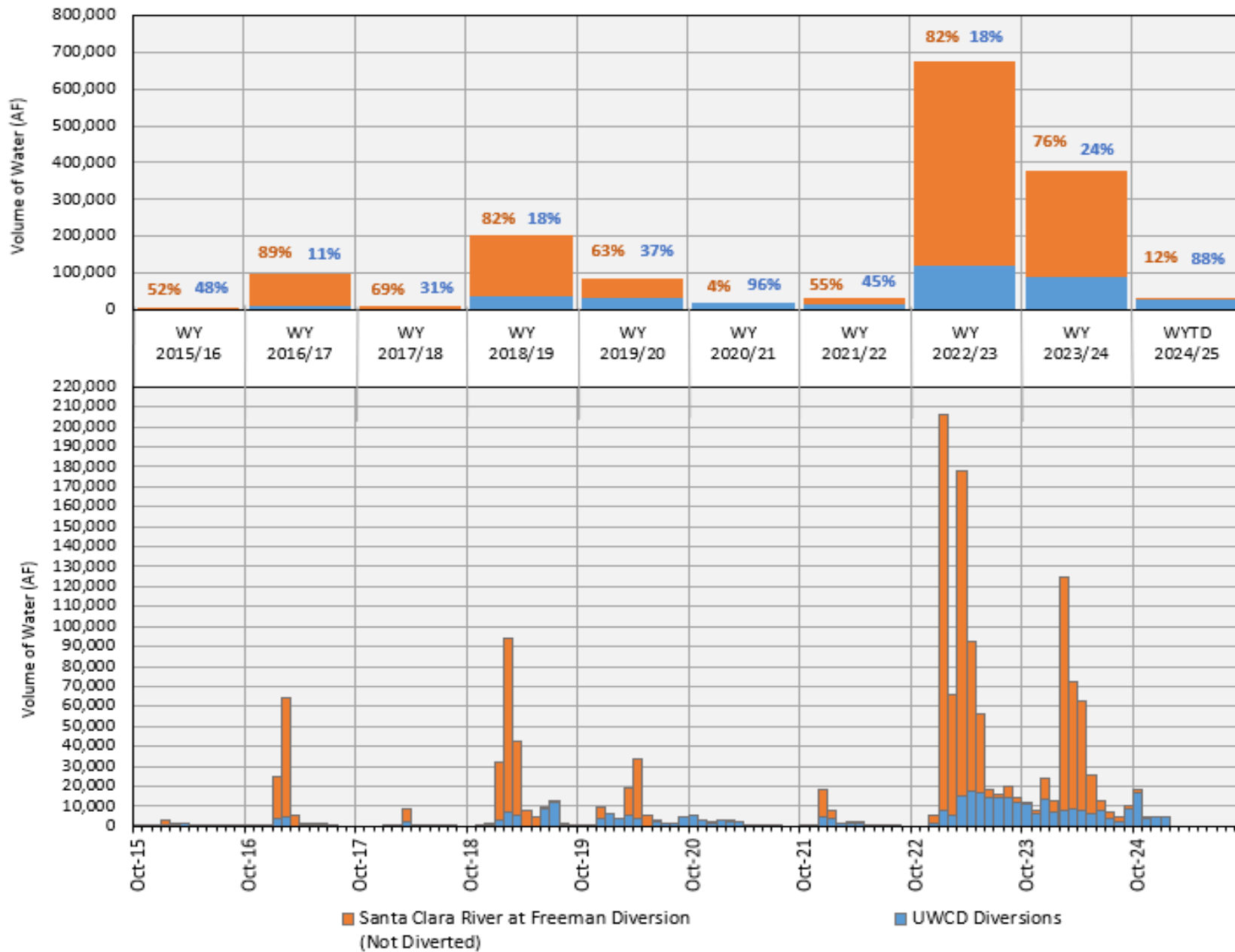






### Available Storage in the Oxnard Forebay - Last 10 Years





Water Year (WY) = October 1 to September 30; WYTD = Water Year To Date



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer  
Sara Guzman, Finance Supervisor

**Date:** February 25, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 3.3 Investment Monthly Report (January 2025)  
Information Item

---

**Staff Recommendation:**

Review the most current investment report for the month ending January 31, 2025.

**Discussion:**

None. Informational only.

**Fiscal Impact:**

As shown.

**Attachment:**



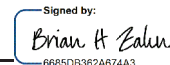
Combined Investment Monthly Report

**United Water Conservation District  
Monthly Investment Report  
January 31, 2025**

<b>Investment Recap</b>	<b>G/L Balance</b>	<b>Weighted Avg Days to Maturity</b>	<b>Diversification Percentage of Total</b>
Citizens Business Bank	10,538,295	1	26.24%
Petty Cash	5,400	1	0.01%
County Treasury	3,217	1	0.01%
LAIF Investments	29,612,033	1	73.73%
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Securities</b>	<b>40,158,945</b>		<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Investment Portfolio w/o Trustee Held Funds</b>	<b>40,158,945</b>		
<b>Trustee Held Funds</b>	-		
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>40,158,945</b>		

<b>Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Deposits (Disbursements)</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
	24,612,033	5,000,000	29,612,033
	<b>Interest Earned YTD</b>	<b>Interest Received YTD</b>	<b>Qtrly Yield</b>
	352,888	698,097	4.71%

ll District investments are shown above and conform to the District's Investment Policy. All investment transactions during this period are included in this repor  
Based on budgeted cash flows the District appears to have the ability to meet its expenditure requirements for the next six months.

 <small>DocuSigned by: 70D59ECF0D8D46E...</small> <b>Mauricio Guardado, General Manager</b>	On behalf of Mauricio Guardado	2/25/2025 <b>Date Certified</b>
 <small>DocuSigned by: 70D59ECF0D8D46E...</small> <b>Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager</b>		2/25/2025 <b>Date Certified</b>
 <small>Signed by: 0685D8362A874A3...</small> <b>Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer</b>		2/25/2025 <b>Date Certified</b>

<b>United Water Conservation District</b>			
<b>Cash Position</b>			
<b>January 31, 2025</b>			
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Composition</b>	<b>Restrictions/Designations</b>
<b>General/Water Conservation Fund:</b>			<b>Revenue collected for district operations</b>
General/Water Conservation	10,927,431	(1,417,847)	Includes General, Rec & Ranger, Water Conservation
		4,962,000	Reserved for legal expenditures
		1,249,683	Designated for replacement, capital improvements, and environmental projects
		6,133,594	Supplemental Water Purchase Fund
General CIP Funds	11,138,572	11,138,572	Appropriated for capital projects
	5,133,911	5,133,911	Reserved for CIP Projects
<b>Special Revenue Funds:</b>			<b>Revenue collected for a special purpose</b>
State Water Project Funds	6,268,352	6,268,352	Procurement of water/rights from state water project
<b>Enterprise Funds:</b>			<b>Restricted to fund usage</b>
Freeman Fund	(4,950,657)	(4,950,657)	Operations, Debt Service and Capital Projects
		-	Designated for replacement and capital improvements
		-	Reserved for legal expenditures
Freeman CIP Fund	4,479,086	4,479,086	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Fund	1,388,871	1,388,871	Delivery of water to OH customers
OH CIP Fund	1,267,560	1,267,560	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Well Replacement Fund	(40,815)	(40,815)	Well replacement fund
PV Pipeline Fund	1,086,740	1,086,740	Delivery of water to PV customers
PV CIP Fund	254,128	254,128	Appropriated for capital projects
PT Pipeline Fund	1,390,704	1,390,704	Delivery of water to PTP customers
PT CIP Fund	1,815,063	1,815,063	Appropriated for capital projects
<b>Total District Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>40,158,945</b>	<b>40,158,945</b>	



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager  
Tony Emmert, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager  
Haven Whipple, Associate Environmental Scientist

**Date:** February 26, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** **3.4 Approve an Addendum to the Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project**  
**Motion**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Approve an Addendum to the Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project and direct staff to include the addendum as part of CEQA documentation for the Project in accordance with CEQA guidelines.

### **Background:**

United Water Conservation District (United) operates the Santa Felicia Dam on lower Piru Creek. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a license to United for the Santa Felicia Project on September 12, 2008. On April 1, 2016, United filed the Santa Felicia Recreation Trail Plan with FERC in compliance with Article 411 of the license. On January 6, 2017, FERC issued an order approving the Trail Plan.

On July 11, 2018, the United's Board adopted Resolution 2018-09 approving and adopting the Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project (Project). United filed the Santa Felicia Recreation Trail Plan Update with FERC on August 15, 2018. The Trail Plan Update outlined the Project which provides public access and enhances local recreational opportunities to the United States Forest Service Pothole Trailhead. On May 15, 2019, FERC approved the Trail Plan Update. Construction of the Project was completed on December 31, 2020.

### **Discussion:**

The existing Pothole Trailhead is approximately a quarter mile from the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area and is difficult for recreational users to locate. Trail users must backtrack from the parking area to Piru Canyon Road and follow the road north across Lisk Creek before arriving at a marked trailhead. The proposed realignment work is a modification to

### **3.4 Addendum to the Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project Motion**

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the Project that will bring the trailhead directly to the parking area and provide clear signage, in alignment with the recreational and public access goals of the Trail Plan. Additionally, the proposed realignment work will reduce steep grades of 20-40 percent down to a more accessible grade of 8-10 percent, which also reduces erosion and the need for frequent trail maintenance to keep the trail in usable condition. The proposed Project modification will have no new significant impacts.

The Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) has received grant funding for the proposed Pothole trail and trailhead realignment work. LPFA will fund and construct the proposed Project modification, but United is the lead agency for the Project under CEQA. As the proposed Project modifications will have no new significant impacts or mitigation measures, an addendum to the previously Board approved final IS-MND for the Project is appropriate to document the modifications to the trail and trailhead. If the Board approves this addendum, it will be added to the CEQA documentation for the project, in accordance with CEQA guidelines.

#### **Mission Goal:**

Meets Goal C: Regulatory and Environmental Compliance (compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations) and Mission Goal F: Communications and Community Outreach (promote recreational use of the Lake Piru Recreation Area and highlight its community value).

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact for this motion.

#### **Attachment:**

Addendum to the Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project

**ADDENDUM TO THE  
FINAL INITIAL STUDY – MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE  
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
POTHOLE TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA PROJECT  
MARCH 2025**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This environmental document is an Addendum to the final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) adopted by the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project (SCH # 2018041063). The draft IS-MND was circulated for public and agency review on April 26, 2018, and the 30-day review period ended May 25, 2018. The final IS-MND (Final IS-MND) and the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project were approved and adopted by UWCD’s Board of Directors (Board) on July 11, 2018.

The intention of this Addendum is to update the existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation to include project activities related to modifications of the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project, which include a proposed trail realignment (the “Modified Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project”). An Addendum is the appropriate CEQA document as no new significant impacts or mitigation measures are expected from this updated analysis for the Modified Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project.

**B. ADDENDUM REQUIREMENTS**

This Addendum addresses the implementation of the Modified Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project, which is an extension of the information provided in the Final IS-MND, the previous environmental review prepared for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project. Section 15164(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines states:

*An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred*

Section 15162(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that no environmental impact report shall be prepared for a project unless the lead agency determines, based on substantial evidence considering the whole record, one or more of the following:

- 1) *Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant*

- 2) *environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;*
- 3) *Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or*
- 4) *New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:*
  - a. *The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;*
  - b. *Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;*
  - c. *Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or*
  - d. *Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.*

Circulation of this Addendum to the public will not be required because no significant new information that would change the impacts and mitigation measures outlined in the final IS-MND will be provided. The modification of the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project will improve environmental concerns outlined in the final IS-MND, further benefiting the public and natural resources.

This Addendum includes an introduction of the proposed actions as it relates to the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project. A description of the proposed actions and potential impacts are included in the form of a technical memorandum attached as Appendix A. The Final IS-MND is attached as Appendix C. UWCD will consider this Addendum with the final IS-MND as part of the approval process for the Modified Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project.

### **C. PREVIOUS CEQA DOCUMENTATION**

A draft IS-MND was prepared for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project and circulated for public and agency review in 2018. The Final IS-MND was submitted to the County of Ventura Resource Management Agency on April 26, 2018.

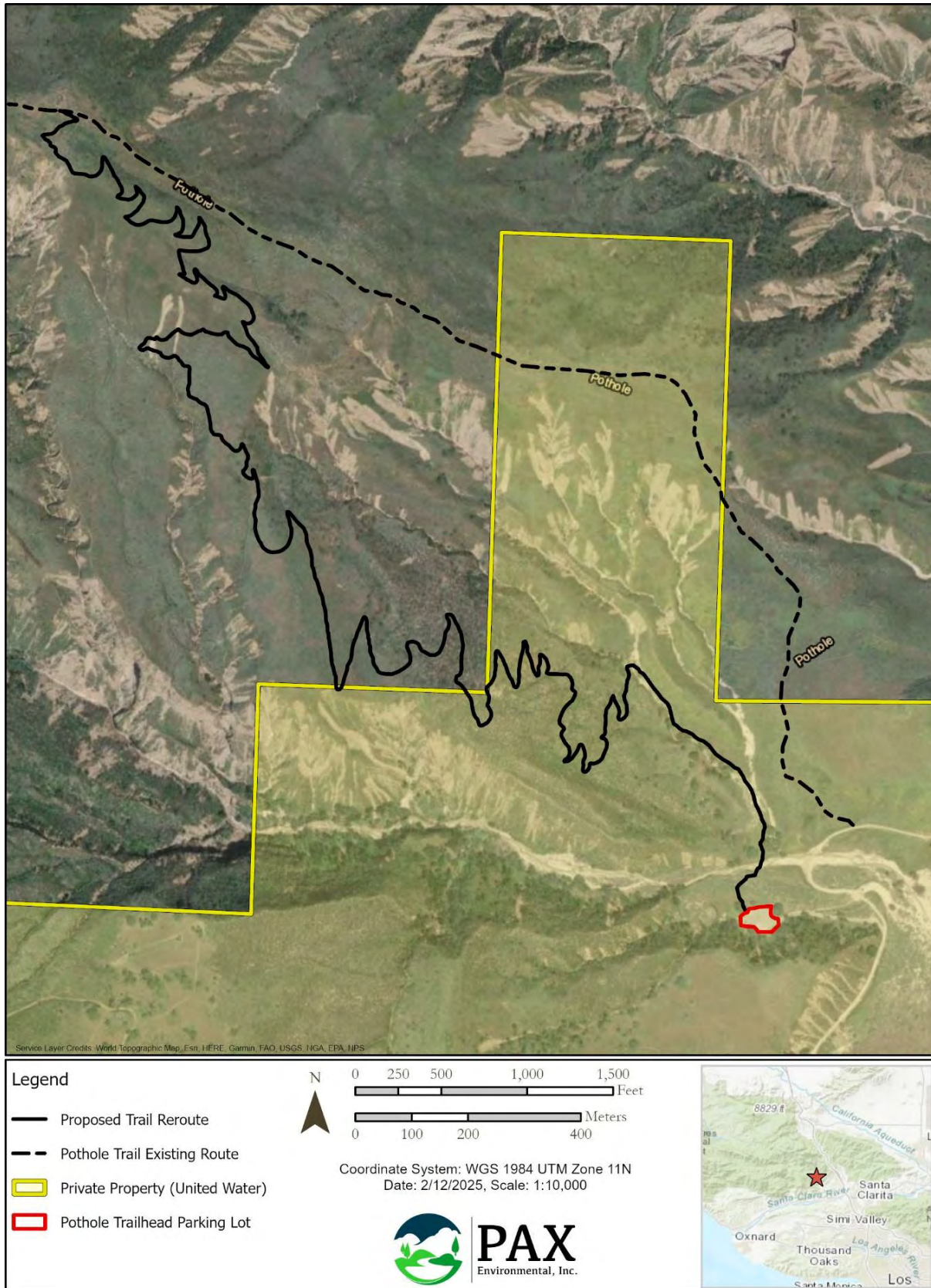
#### **D. REASONS WHY ADDENDUM IS APPROPRIATE**

The intention of the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project was to construct a trailhead parking area to improve public access to the existing U.S. Forest Service Pothole Trail (No. 18W04). UWCD is required to provide trail improvements as part of its Santa Felicia Project Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license (No. 2153-012, Article 411). The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project is a modification of the approved and implemented Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project. This Addendum includes an updated project description and design, incorporating the final location of the trailhead and the trail realignment. The updated analysis does not change the findings and conclusions of the final IS-MND for purposes of the Modified Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project. No significant new impacts will result from the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project modifications, and there will not be a substantial increase in severity of impacts previously identified in the final IS-MND.

#### **E. MODIFIED PROJECT ELEMENTS**

Both the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project and the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project are part of an effort by the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA), in collaboration with the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) and UWCD, to realign the lower 1.8 miles of the Pothole Trail (18W04) (Figure 1). The Pothole Trail is largely used by backpackers, hikers, and equestrians seeking recreational opportunities within the Sespe Wilderness and the Agua Blanca drainage. While the Pothole Trail had not seen much use over the past couple of decades due to access issues, the construction of the approved trailhead parking lot at the base of the Pothole Trail, complete with a bathroom, parking, and other facilities in 2020 by UWCD, has increased its popularity and accessibility.

The final IS-MND outlined sensitive biological and cultural resources in the area and the selection criteria used prior to finalizing the site for the parking area facility. Mitigation measures were implemented during construction to protect cultural resources and sensitive species. This Addendum will incorporate the mitigation measures used in the Final IS-MND to protect cultural and environmental resources within the updated Study Area. An additional records search, combined with reconnaissance-level biological and cultural surveys, were conducted along the entirety of the proposed realignment to assess project related impacts to sensitive resources. Construction of the Modified Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project is expected to take between four to six months.



**Figure 1. Modified Project overview map**

## F. UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This section addresses updates to the impact analysis in the final IS-MND incorporating the project additions described above. Checklist topic 4, *Biological Resources*, has been updated to incorporate the results from the biological survey conducted on October 30, 2024. The results of the biological survey report can be found in Appendix A and include a list of sensitive species within 10 miles of the updated Study Area identified in a records search. Also included in the biological survey report are vegetation communities, an impact analysis, and recommended avoidance and minimization measures for protected species within the updated Study Area. Checklist topic 5, *Cultural Resources*, has been updated to include the results from the cultural resource survey conducted within the updated Study Area. The results of the cultural resources survey are included as a letter memorandum in Appendix B.

### Biological Resources (Checklist topic 4)

As described in the final IS-MND, the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project was determined to have the following impacts to biological resources:

- a. Have an 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
■ **Potentially significant impact unless mitigation is incorporated.**
- b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
■ **Less than significant impact.**
- c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.  
■ **No impact.**
- 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.  
■ **Less than significant impact.**
- e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.  
■ **Less than significant impact.**

- 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.
  - **No impact.**

Since the adoption of the final IS-MND and implementation of the Pothole Trail Parking Area Project, the updated Study Area, inclusive of the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project, has been surveyed to evaluate impacts associated with the biological resources identified in the original document. The full biological memorandum can be found in Appendix A.

### ***Setting***

The Pothole Trail is located on the northwest edge of Lake Piru, in Ventura County, California. The updated Study Area is comprised of two areas; the north trail section for realignment, located within the Ojai Ranger District of Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, California, and the south trail section, extending from the parking lot expansion located within United Water Conservation District property, Ventura County, California.

### ***Methods***

The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project involves cutting through a 'p-line' that has been approved by stakeholders and consultants as the best route for the updated Pothole Trail. The p-line begins at the new trailhead parking lot and follows a more gradual incline, which would be less susceptible to erosion and overgrowth by annual grasses.

The realignment involves the use of trail specific machinery, such as a mini excavator, brush saws, chainsaws, and a variety of hand tools to cut the tread along the p-line. The objective of this Modified Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project is to create a more sustainable and pleasant experience for the public, connect the trailhead to the parking lot, and reduce the trail length through arroyo toad critical habitat.

Pax Environmental, Inc. conducted a biological survey covering the updated Study Area along the p-line. Data collected during the surveys focused on existing habitat and site conditions, hydrological features, and special-status species habitat to determine their potential to occur. Included in the biological resource assessment are the findings of the survey, maps showing vegetation communities and other biological resources, an analysis of special-status species and their potential to occur, an inventory of observed plants and wildlife, and representative photos.

### ***Results***

The updated Study Area for the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project is comprised of approximately 51.81 total acres, 33.42 acres of which are within the LPNF. Vegetation communities identified include California sagebrush - (purple sage) scrub, Holly leaf cherry – toyon – greenbark ceanothus chaparral, Chamise chaparral, California buckwheat scrub, Coyote bush scrub, California sycamore - coast live oak riparian woodlands, Deer grass beds, Upland mustards or star-thistle fields, California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, and one land use;

Developed. There is no critical habitat for federally listed plants within or surrounding the updated Study Area. A full potential to occur analysis for special-status plant species is included in Appendix A.

The updated Study Area provides suitable nesting bird habitat, as well as habitat for common wildlife that frequent urban and agricultural areas. While no special-status wildlife species were observed onsite during the survey, critical habitat for the federally-listed arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), southwestern willow-flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) is within or surrounding the updated Study Area. Below is a summary of their potential to be impacted by project activities, as well as mitigation measures that would further reduce impacts:

- **Arroyo toad:** Arroyo toad (ARTO) observations have never been recorded in Lisk Creek. However, ARTO have been observed in middle Piru Creek less than one mile from the updated Study Area. There were no ARTO observed during the preconstruction survey; however, due to the designation of critical habitat and the presence of potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent aquatic habitats of the creek channels leading to Piru lake, the ARTO has a low potential to occur within the updated Study Area. The adjacent areas of Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable aquatic habitat for ARTO. There is also suitable upland habitat for the species. ARTO are most active during their breeding season (March – July) and nighttime, which is when impacts have the greatest potential to occur. The placement of BMPs near the Lisk Creek crossing, to control erosion and sedimentation into the adjacent waterways, would be implemented. Construction activities will not occur within the Lisk Creek channel. Implementation of final IS-MND mitigation measure BIO-1 requiring pre-construction surveys for special-status wildlife would reduce the potential for project impacts to ARTO to be less than significant. In addition, signage will be installed near the crossing of Lisk Creek to inform the public of arroyo toad critical habitat.
- **California red-legged frog:** There are no recorded observations of California red-legged frog (CRLF) within ten (10) miles of the updated Study Area. No CRLF were observed during the preconstruction surveys. The proposed reroute meets the existing trail at the northern end of the updated Study Area, near California red-legged frog (CRLF) critical habitat; however, the updated Study Area lacks suitable aquatic habitat. There is potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent aquatic habitats of the Piru Creek and Lisk Creek. CRLF are most active during their breeding season (March – July) and nighttime, which is when impacts have the greatest potential to occur. The placement and use of BMPs near the Lisk Creek crossing, to control erosion and sedimentation into the adjacent waterways, would be implemented. Implementation of final IS-MND mitigation measure BIO-1, requiring pre-construction surveys for special-status wildlife, would reduce the potential for project impacts to California red-legged frog to be less than significant.

- **Southwestern willow flycatcher:** There are no recorded observances of southwestern willow flycatcher within ten (10) miles of the project site. No southwestern willow flycatcher were observed during the preconstruction survey. The adjacent Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable riparian habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher; however, no suitable habitat occurs within the project footprint. Potential indirect impacts on southwestern willow flycatcher may but are unlikely to occur during construction if those activities take place during the breeding season when the birds may be present in the area. No riparian habitat will be removed as part of the project, and all activities in these areas will be temporary. With the implementation of final IS-MND mitigation measure BIO-1, a nesting bird survey will be conducted within 500 feet from the updated Study Area if activities are conducted during the nesting bird season. With the implementation of these measures, potential impacts to the southwestern willow flycatcher will be less than significant.
- **California condor:** The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species, but species are not likely to occur. The Sespe Condor Sanctuary in the Los Padres National Forest and the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge lies four miles west/northwest of the southern boundary of the updated Study Area; however, the area lacks suitable nesting habitat. Open terrain is present and provides potential for foraging and the species is known to flyover the area, but chances of landing within the updated Study Area are very low with lack of suitable habitat for a bird of this size to be able to take flight after landing. The California Condor has a low potential to occur within the updated Study Area, and with the implementation of final IS-MND mitigation measure BIO-1, potential impacts to California Condor will be less than significant.

There is no other critical habitat for any federally listed wildlife within or surrounding the updated Study Area.

### ***Analysis***

The significance of impacts to biological resources depends upon the proximity and quality of vegetation communities and wildlife habitats existing on site and in the immediate vicinity, the presence or absence of special-status species, and the effectiveness of measures implemented to protect these resources from project-related impacts. Below is an updated analysis of impacts to biological resources within the updated Study Area. As defined by CEQA, the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project would be considered to have a significant adverse impact on biological resources if the following conditions are met:

- 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 USFWS or CDFW?*

**Potentially significant impact unless mitigation is incorporated.** Because the updated Study

Area is surrounded by Los Padres National Forest with riparian habitats within Piru Creek and Lisk Creek, there is low to moderate potential for special-status species to occur. Special-status wildlife species with a moderate potential to occur include burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), California legless lizard (*Anniella spp.*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) and two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondi*). Twenty-one wildlife species and ten special-status plant species have a low potential to occur in the area. A full list of plant and wildlife species with their potential to occur are listed and discussed in the Special-Status Species with the Potential to Occur table in Appendix A. While no special-status species or nests were observed during the survey, the updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for several special-status species. The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project could have direct and indirect impacts on special-status species that occur or nest within or adjacent to the updated Study Area. Implementation of the recommended avoidance and final IS-MND mitigation measure BIO-1, outlined in Appendix A and Appendix C, would reduce impacts to special-status species and nests to a level of less than significant.

*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 United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) or CDFW?*

**Less than significant impact.** Implementation of the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife species, nor with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, nor impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

*C. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means*

**No impact.** No federally protected wetlands occur within the updated Study Area, and no direct impacts are anticipated. No indirect impacts to offsite downstream waters and wetlands would occur with adherence to existing stormwater regulations.

*D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species; with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.*

**Less than significant impact.** The updated Study Area contains suitable nesting habitat for various bird species. No nests or nesting activity was observed in the updated Study Area during the pre-construction field survey; however, the survey was conducted outside of the nesting bird season (February 1 to August 15). The project could have direct and indirect impacts on nesting birds through the removal of nesting habitat or disturbance of birds attending active nests. Suitable nesting habitat on site includes the ground, shrubs, and existing structures. Implementation of the recommended avoidance and Final IS-MND mitigation measure BIO-1 would reduce impact to active nests to a level of less than significant.

- E. Conflict with any county or municipal policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.*

**Less than significant impact.** There are numerous trees throughout the updated Study Area; therefore, the proposed project would fall within the Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance and Tree Protection Guidelines. No oak or heritage trees are proposed for removal; therefore, impacts to oak trees will be less than significant. Machinery used to build trail realignment will stay out of the oak tree drip line whenever feasible. The biological resources policies contained within the Ventura County General Plan, including Piru Area Plan Goal 1.5.1.2, which requires protection of the Piru Creek wildlife corridor, would apply to the project. There are no other local policies or ordinances that apply to the project. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

- F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved governmental habitat conservation plan.*

**No impact.** The updated Study Area does not occur in any adopted HCP area, NCCP area, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan. No impact would occur.

#### **Cultural Resources (Checklist topic 5)**

As described in the final IS-MND, the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project was determined to have the following impacts to cultural resources:

- a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5.  
■ **No impact.**
- b. Cause substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource as defined in 15064.5.  
■ **Potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.**
- c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature.  
■ **Potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.**
- d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.  
■ **Potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.**

Since the adoption of the Final IS-MND and implementation of the Pothole Trail Parking Area Project, the updated Study Area, inclusive of the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project, has been surveyed to evaluate impacts associated with the cultural resources identified in the original document. A full summary of findings and considerations can be found in Appendix B.

### ***Setting***

The Pothole Trail is located on the northwest edge of Lake Piru, in Ventura County, California. The updated Study Area is comprised of two areas; the north trail section for realignment, located within the Ojai Ranger District of Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, California, and the south trail section, extending from the parking lot expansion located within UWCD property, Ventura County, California.

The Pothole Trail is situated in an area with rich historical and archaeological significance. Indigenous groups, including the Chumash, utilized the region for seasonal migration, hunting, and gathering, with evidence of their presence found in lithic scatters, grinding stones, and other cultural materials. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, settler activities such as ranching, homesteading, and potential mining left behind remnants like stone foundations and abandoned structures. Potential archaeological resources within the trail's footprint were assessed for this Addendum, which spans both the Ojai Ranger District of LPNF and the UWCD property.

### ***Methods***

Pax Environmental, Inc. conducted a cultural resources survey on December 5, 2024, of the modified trail footprint using methods that are consistent with those used for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project (Appendix C). Data collected during the survey focused on the presence of any surface-exposed artifacts, prehistoric artifacts, historical artifacts, and sediment discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural site.

### ***Results***

The cultural resources survey conducted as part of the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project found no archaeological resources, with no evidence of prehistoric or historic artifacts, features, or structures directly associated with the trail alignment. A previous survey identified a potential cultural site within an old section of the trail, which led to a realignment of the trail to avoid the area. The current survey confirms that the Pothole Trail modified footprint does not intersect with any cultural resources. Given these findings, no further archaeological investigations or oversight are deemed necessary.

### ***Analysis***

Based on the findings, no archaeological resources were identified within the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project footprint; therefore, no further archaeological investigations are recommended for the existing trail. However, if modifications or expansions to the trail are proposed in the future, additional review and consultation with cultural resource agencies may be required. In the event of accidental discovery of archaeological materials during future work, all activities should be halted, and a qualified archaeologist should be consulted. Future projects in the area should follow “best practices” in cultural resource management and comply with regulations such as CEQA and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Below is an updated analysis of impacts on archaeological resources within the updated Study Area. As defined by CEQA, the project would be considered to have a significant adverse impact on archaeological resources if:

- A. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?*

**No impact.** The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project follows a p-line within an undeveloped area that extends from the newly developed Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project. The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project encompassing both the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area and the trail realignment are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program (NRHP 2016; VCCHP 2016). There are no existing structures or notable sites on the property, and as such, no historic resources are present according to the CEQA Guidelines §15064.5. Consequently, the implementation of the proposed project would have no impact on historic resources.

- B. *Would the project cause substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource as defined in 15064.5?*

**Potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.** Once inhabited by the Tataviam Tribe, the Lake Piru area, inclusive of the updated Study Area, has a rich cultural history with potential archaeological materials that could provide valuable historical insights. However, no recorded prehistoric or historic sites are located on or near the site, so the project would not impact known cultural resources. While the area has been disturbed by past ranching and grazing activities, there is a minimal risk of damaging undiscovered archaeological resources due to the project's limited ground disturbance. Mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize any potential impacts to unknown subsurface cultural resources. The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project will adhere to the mitigation measures set forth in the final IS-MND, specifically CR-1a Procedures for Discovery of Intact Cultural Resources and CR-1b Procedures for Discovery of Human Remains.

- C. *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?*

**Potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.** The updated Study Area is underlain by Holocene-aged alluvial sediments and possibly the Miocene Monterey Shale. While Holocene alluvium generally has low paleontological sensitivity, deeper middle and early Holocene units are considered to have high sensitivity. The Monterey Shale, known for its rich fossil record, is highly sensitive due to the abundance and scientific importance of its fossils. Ground disturbance during construction may impact these units, potentially damaging fossils or losing their geological context, which would be considered a significant impact without mitigation. The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project will implement the mitigation

measures set forth in the final IS-MND, including CR-2(a) Paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program and CR-2(b) Paleontological Mitigation and Monitoring Program.

*D. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?*

**Potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.** Human burials, often found in prehistoric archaeological contexts, may be present throughout the updated Study Area, which is largely undeveloped. The Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project involves minimal ground disturbance, but human burials are subject to specific protections under California law, including the California Public Resources Code and Health and Safety Code. These regulations prevent interference, disturbance, or destruction of human remains, and the Native American Heritage Commission addresses Native American burials. Adhering to these regulations and mitigation measure CR-1b in the final IS-MND will ensure that potential impacts from disturbance of human remains are less than significant with mitigation.

## **G. DETERMINATION**

Based on the information provided above, the documentation of modifications in the project description and updated Study Area since the final IS-MND was originally adopted, would not result in a measurable increase in environmental impacts beyond what was previously analyzed and the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project will not require major revisions of the final IS-MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. No significant new impacts have been identified, nor is the severity of potential new impacts greater than the impact conclusions identified in the final IS-MND. Mitigation measures identified for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project would be sufficient in addressing the requirements for the Modified Pothole Trail Parking Area Project. There are no new impacts beyond what was addressed in the final IS-MND. Lastly, there are no changed circumstances or new information that meet the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162.

**APPENDIX A:  
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT FOR THE MODIFIED POTHOLE TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA  
PROJECT**

**APPENDIX A:**  
**BIOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**  
**FOR THE**  
**MODIFIED POTHOLE TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA PROJECT**  
**MARCH 2025**

## **Introduction**

This report summarizes the results of a biological survey performed by Pax Environmental, Inc. (Pax) to support an Addendum to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project in Ventura County, CA (Project). Data collected during the surveys focused on existing habitat and site conditions, hydrological features, and special-status species habitat to determine their potential to occur. This report includes the findings of the surveys, maps showing vegetation communities and other biological resources (Appendix A1. Maps1); an analysis of special-status species and their potential to occur (Appendix A2); an inventory of observed plants and wildlife (Appendix A3); and representative photos (Appendix A4).

## **Project Description**

As part of the Piru Fire Watershed Restoration Program, the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) is proposing to work with the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) and United Water Conservation District (UWCD) to realign the lower 1.8 miles of the Pothole Trail (18W04), as a modification to the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project. The Pothole Trail is located on the northwest edge of Lake Piru, in Ventura County, California (Figure 1).

The trail is largely used by backpackers, hikers, and equestrians seeking recreational opportunities within the Sespe Wilderness and the Agua Blanca drainage. The Pothole Trail is also the southern terminus of the Condor Trail, which is a 417-mile proposed National Scenic Trail that spans the Los Padres National Forest from Lake Piru to Botcher's Gap in Monterey County. While the Pothole Trail has not seen much use over the past couple of decades due to access issues, that changed in 2020 with implementation of the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project complete with a bathroom, parking, and other facilities. An Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared by the United Water Conservation District before proceeding with the project, which outlined sensitive biological and cultural resources in the area, as well as selection criteria used prior to finalizing the site for the parking area facility. Mitigation measures were implemented during construction to protect cultural resources and sensitive species.

As part of the project improvements, the trailhead needs to be relocated to connect to the parking area, and the lower part of the trail is in dire need of realignment largely due to erosion from cattle grazing and storm events. The trail was constructed along a fall-line with minimal

grade reversals or erosion control features resulting in sedimentation along the downstream watershed and leading trail-users off-trail in search of flat ground. In addition, the trail follows a route frequently used by dozers during wildfire events, further eroding the trail.

The proposed project modifications have been reviewed and approved by the UWCD and the Los Padres Forest Association. The objective of this trail realignment is to create a more sustainable and pleasant experience for the public, connect the trailhead to the parking lot, and reduce the trail length through arroyo toad critical habitat. The realignment will also benefit natural resources in the area as the expected outcome is that trail goers will be more inclined to stay on the trail as opposed to seeking flatter off-trail alternatives.

## **Methods**

### ***Literature and Desktop Review***

The initial task will entail reviewing proposed site plans, site natural history, special-status species records for the vicinity, cultural resource records, and details of proposed construction to address project impacts. The review will also include preliminary analysis of potential for special-status species to occur. Lastly, this task includes correspondence with the client, preparation of contracts for project management, invoicing, and setting up data collection for the field survey. This task includes time to respond to any agency comments regarding the biological cultural assessment on resource impacts, as well as the CEQA and U.S. Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion analysis.

Prior to performing the field survey, Pax performed a review of proposed site plans, site natural history records search for special-status plants, special-status wildlife, sensitive natural communities, critical habitat, and other sensitive resources species potentially occurring in the updated Study Area. Sources utilized during the records search included the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (CDFW 2024), the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2024), USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Active Critical Habitat Report (USFWS 2024), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps (USGS 2024), and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soils information (NRCS 2024). The records search was performed using a 10-mile radius around the updated Study Area in all eight cardinal directions.

### ***Field Surveys***

Reconnaissance-level surveys were conducted on October 30, 2024, by Pax senior biologist, Andy Fredell and Pax associate biologist, Patrice Ringelstein. Table 1 summarizes the environmental conditions of the updated Study Area at the time of the field surveys. The entire updated Study Area was surveyed on foot to document all identifiable plant species during the survey visit. Due to the timing of the surveys, most plant species (including most special-status plant species) are out of bloom and senescent. Identifiable plant species were noted and recorded upon detection, while voucher photographs of polytypic species were collected for subsequent identification. In

addition, project-specific botanical field surveys performed by qualified botanists for the trail alignment and a 25-meter buffer on June 11, 2024, were used to aid in this assessment. The site was fully accessible, and a visual search for plants and wildlife, or evidence of their presence (e.g. scat, tracks, burrows, nests, etc.) was performed with 100% visual coverage of the updated Study Area, including a 25-meter buffer (Figure 2). No protocol-level surveys were conducted for this assessment.

**Table 1. Survey conditions**

Date	Start/ End Time	Temperature (°Fahrenheit)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed (miles/hour)	Surveyors
10/30/2024	8:00 a.m. / 2:00 p.m.	41°F / 65°F	50%	<1 mph	Andy Fredell / Patrice Ringlestein

All vegetation alliances were mapped in the updated Study Area and digitized on an aerial plane using ArcGIS. In addition, the site was examined for wetland and riverine boundaries, including the presence or absence of bed and bank, cracked surface soils, and wetland indicator plants.

Scientific nomenclature for plants follows the Jepson Flora Project (eFlora, 2025). All vegetation alliances follow the descriptions found in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (CNPS, 2025). The vertebrate taxonomy followed in this report is according to Stebbins and McGinnis (2012) for amphibians and reptiles, Chesser et al. (2025) for birds, and Jameson and Peters (2004) for mammals.

## Results

### **General Site Conditions**

The updated Study Area is comprised of two areas; the north trail section for realignment, located within the Ojai Ranger District of Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, California, and the south trail section, extending from the parking lot expansion located within United Water Conservation District, Ventura County (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The updated Study Area includes approximately 51.81 total acres, with 33.42 acres within the LPNF and is depicted on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle within the San Bernardino Principal Meridian Sections 9, 15, 16, 21 and 22, Township 5 North, Range 18 West. The topography is mountains, with elevations averaging approximately 1,120 – 2,630 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The Parking lot and lower section of the trail is 18.39 acres within UWCD, Ventura County and depicted on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle within the San Bernardino Principal Meridian Sections 15, Township 5 North, Range 18 West The topography is mountains, terraces and alluvial fans within the lower updated Study Area, with an elevation of approximately 1120 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Representative photos depicting conditions at the site are included in Appendix A4. Soils in the updated Study Area are comprised of one type: Lodo-Botella families rock outcrop association (Figure 3). Water features are present adjacent to the project area to the east, west, north and south (Figure 5).

### ***Vegetation Communities and Land Uses***

The updated Study Area has twelve (12) vegetation communities; California sagebrush - (purple sage) scrub, Holly leaf cherry – toyon – greenbark ceanothus chaparral, Chamise chaparral, California buckwheat scrub, Coyote bush scrub, California sycamore - coast live oak riparian woodlands, Deer grass beds, Upland mustards or star-thistle fields, California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, and one land use; Developed. Plant species observed were typical of the communities and/or land uses depicted in Figure 4, **Error! Reference source not found.**, and described below. No special-status plant species were observed in the updated Study Area during the survey. There is no critical habitat for any federally-listed plants within or surrounding the updated Study Area. A potential to occur analysis for special-status plant species is in Appendix A2. A list of observed plant species is included in Appendix A3.

**Table 2. Vegetation communities and land uses in the updated Study Area.**

<b>Vegetation Community and Land Uses</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>% Coverage of updated Study Area</b>
California sagebrush - (purple sage) scrub	17.39305	33.57%
Holly leaf cherry - toyon - greenbark ceanothus chaparral	16.11534	31.11%
Chamise chaparral	8.584687	16.57%
California buckwheat scrub	2.661751	5.14%
Coyote brush scrub	2.119639	4.09%
California sycamore - coast live oak riparian woodlands	1.779204	3.43%
Deer grass beds	1.20908	2.33%
Upland mustards or star-thistle fields	0.851503	1.64%
California walnut groves	0.311108	0.60%
Coast live oak woodland and forest	0.296335	0.57%
Sandbar willow thickets	0.276662	0.54%
Developed	0.211255	0.41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.80961</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### **California sagebrush - (purple sage) scrub (*Artemisia californica* - (*Salvia leucophylla*) Shrubland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is dominant throughout the updated Study Area, consisting of 33.57% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Artemisia californica* and/or *Salvia leucophylla* as either dominant or co-dominant in the shrub canopy with *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, *Baccharis pilularis*, *Cleome isomeris*, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, *Encelia californica*, *Encelia farinosa*, *Ephedra californica*, *Ericameria linearifolia*, *Eriogonum cinereum*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, *Isocoma menziesii*, *Keckiella cordifolia*, *Lonicera subspicata*, *Lotus scoparius*, *Malosma laurina*, *Opuntia littoralis*, *Rhamnus ilicifolia*, *Rhus integrifolia*, *Rhus ovata*, *Salvia apiana*, *Salvia mellifera* and *Toxicodendron diversilobum*. Emergent trees or tall shrubs may be present at low cover, including *Juglans californica*, *Quercus agrifolia* or *Sambucus nigra*. The vegetation layers consist of shrubs less than

2 meters in two tiers with a second at less than five meters tall, and an intermittent to continuous canopy with a variable both seasonally and annually herbaceous layer.

**Holly leaf cherry - toyon - greenbark ceanothus chaparral (*Prunus ilicifolia* - *Heteromeles arbutifolia* - *Ceanothus spinosus* Shrubland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is dominant in areas along the north section of the trail, consisting of 31.10% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Ceanothus spinosus*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia* and/or *Prunus ilicifolia* is dominant or co-dominant in the shrub canopy with *Artemisia californica*, *Ceanothus megacarpus*, *Cercocarpus montanus*, *Clematis lasiantha*, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Fraxinus dipetala*, *Keckiella antirrhinoides*, *Keckiella cordifolia*, *Quercus berberidifolia*, *Rhamnus ilicifolia*, *Rhus ovata* and *Salvia mellifera*. Emergent trees may be present at low cover, including *Juglans californica* or *Quercus agrifolia*. The vegetation layer is comprised of shrubs less than 15 meters (49.21 feet). The canopy in this community is open to continuous with an herbaceous layer that is sparse to continuous (CNPS 2025).

**Chamise chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is present on the north end of the north section, consisting of 16.57% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Adenostoma fasciculatum* as the dominant species in the shrub canopy with *Adenostoma sparsifolium*, *Arctostaphylos glandulosa*, *Arctostaphylos manzanita*, *Arctostaphylos viscida*, *Ceanothus spp.*, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, *Eriodictyon californicum*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, *Quercus berberidifolia*, *Quercus wislizeni*, *Salvia apiana*, *Salvia leucophylla*, *Salvia mellifera* and *Toxicodendron diversilobum*. Emergent trees may be present at low cover with a vegetation layer consisting of shrubs less than four meters (13-feet) that have an intermittent to continuous canopy.

**California buckwheat scrub (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is present on the north end of the north section, consisting of 5.14% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Eriogonum fasciculatum* or *Hesperoyucca whipplei* as either dominant or co-dominant in the shrub canopy in cismontane stands with *Artemisia californica*, *Baccharis pilularis*, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, *Encelia californica*, *Encelia farinosa*, *Isocoma menziesii*, *Lotus scoparius*, *Malacothamnus fasciculatus*, *Salvia apiana* or *Salvia mellifera*. Emergent trees may be present at low cover including *Juniperus californica*. In the vegetation layer, shrubs are less than two meters (6.5 feet) with a continuous or intermittent canopy and an herbaceous layer that is variable and may be grassy.

**Coyote brush scrub (*Baccharis pilularis* Shrubland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is present on the trail leaving the parking lot, consisting of 4.09% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Baccharis pilularis*, *Frangula californica* and/or *Garrya elliptica* as dominant to co-dominant species in the shrub canopy with

*Artemisia californica*, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, *Corylus cornuta*, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Eriophyllum staechadifolium*, *Gaultheria shallon*, *Holodiscus discolor*, *Lotus scoparius*, *Lupinus arboreus*, *Morella californica*, *Rubus ursinus*, *Salvia apiana*, *Salvia leucophylla* and *Toxicodendron diversilobum*. Emergent trees may be present at low cover including *Pinus muricata*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Quercus agrifolia* or *Umbellularia californica*. Shrubs appear in the vegetation layer less than three meters (8.7 feet) tall with a canopy and herbaceous layer that are both variable.

**California sycamore - coast live oak riparian woodlands (*Platanus racemosa* - *Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is present in the creek channel, consisting of 3.43% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Platanus racemosa* and/or *Quercus agrifolia* as dominant or co-dominant in the tree canopy in riparian habitats with *Alnus rhombifolia*, *Juglans californica*, *Populus fremontii*, *Quercus lobata*, *Salix exigua*, *Salix gooddingii*, *Salix laevigata*, *Salix lasiolepis*, *Salix lutea*, *Schinus molle* and *Umbellularia californica*. Trees are less than 35 meters (115 feet) tall with a canopy that is open to intermittent. The shrub layer is open to intermittent with an herbaceous layer that is sparse or grassy.

**Deer grass beds (*Muhlenbergia rigens* Herbaceous Alliance)**

This vegetation community is found near the parking lot and a few scattered areas near the center of the trail, consisting of 2.33% coverage of the updated Study Area, and is characterized by the dominance of a *Muhlenbergia rigens*, as dominant or co-dominant in the herbaceous layer with *Aira caryophyllea*, *Artemisia dracunculus*, *Bromus diandrus*, *Bromus hordeaceus*, *Bromus rubens*, *Carex* spp., *Centaurium muehlenbergii*, *Galium parisiense*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Hypochaeris glabra*, *Juncus* spp., *Leymus triticoides*, *Logfia gallica*, *Lolium perenne*, *Lotus purshianus*, *Petrorhagia dubia*, *Solidago californica*, *Trifolium dubium* and *Trifolium hirtum*. Emergent shrubs may be present at low cover, including *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Rubus armeniacus*, *Senecio flaccidus* or *Toxicodendron diversilobum* with a vegetation layer that is comprised of herbs less than two meters (6.5 feet) with cover that is intermittent to continuous.

**Upland mustards or star-thistle field (*Brassica nigra* - *Centaurea (solstitialis, melitensis)* Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance)**

This vegetation community is prevalent along the edges of the entire trail and the parking lot, consisting of 1.64% coverage of the updated Study Area, and is characterized by the dominance of a *Brassica* spp. (including *B. nigra*) or *Hirschfeldia incana* and are dominant or co-dominant in the herbaceous layer, often occurring with *Amsinckia menziesii*, *Erodium cicutarium*, *Schismus* sp., and others. Emergent *Artemisia californica* may be present at sparse cover. In the state of California, *B. nigra* and other mustards are dominant in the herbaceous layer, and emergent shrubs and trees may be present at low cover. Cover is open and continuous and stands occur in fallow fields, grasslands, disturbed scrublands, riparian areas, waste places, roadsides, and on levee slopes.

### **California walnut groves (*Juglans californica* Forest & Woodland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is along the lower section of trail, consisting of 0.60% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Juglans californica* as dominant or co-dominant in the tree canopy with *Alnus rhombifolia*, *Fraxinus dipetala*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, *Quercus agrifolia*, *Quercus lobata*, *Salix laevigata*, *Salix lasiolepis*, *Sambucus nigra* and *Umbellularia californica*. Trees will be less than 15 meters tall with an open to continuous canopy. The shrub layer is sparse to intermittent with a sparse or grassy herbaceous layer.

### **Coast live oak woodland and forest (*Quercus agrifolia* Forest & Woodland Alliance)**

This vegetation community can be found in two areas of the lower section of the trail, consisting of 0.57% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Quercus agrifolia* as dominant or co-dominant in the upland tree canopy with *Acer macrophyllum*, *Arbutus menziesii*, *Juglans californica*, *Quercus douglasii*, *Quercus engelmannii*, *Quercus kelloggii*, *Quercus lobata* and *Umbellularia californica*. Trees are less than 30 meters tall and either open (greater than 10%) to continuous canopy, or savanna-like (less than 10%, but evenly distributed). The shrub layer is sparse to intermittent with a sparse or grassy herbaceous layer.

### **Sandbar willow thickets (*Salix exigua* Shrubland Alliance)**

This vegetation community is present in the Lisk creek channel, consisting of 0.53% coverage of the updated Study Area and is characterized by *Salix exigua* as dominant or co-dominant in the shrub canopy with *Baccharis* spp., *Brickellia californica*, *Rosa californica*, *Rubus armeniacus*, *Rubus ursinus*, *Salix lasiolepis* and *Salix melanopsis*. Trees of many different species may be present at low coverage. The vegetation layer is comprised of shrubs less than seven meters with an intermittent to continuous canopy and a variable herbaceous layer.

### **Developed**

This land use category primarily consists of buildings, roadways, and pavement, consisting of 0.41% coverage within the updated Study Area. Vegetation in these areas is generally sparse or absent except for ornamental plants and primarily non-native ruderal vegetation. This land use category is not described in the *CNPS Manual of California Vegetation* (CNPS 2025).

### **Wildlife**

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. Bird species protected under the provisions of the MBTA are identified by the List of Migratory Birds (50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.13). Any impact on an active migratory bird nest would be considered a violation of the MBTA. There is suitable nesting bird habitat within the updated Study Area.

Suitable habitat is present for common wildlife species that frequent urban and agricultural areas. Small mammal burrows were present within the updated Study Area likely created by California ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) (Appendix A4). No special-status wildlife

species were observed onsite during pre-construction survey. There is critical habitat for federally-listed wildlife within or surrounding the updated Study Area.

**Arroyo Toad.** The updated Study Area is located within mapped Arroyo toad (ARTO) critical habitat (50 Code of Federal regulations [CFR] Part 17; Federal Register Vol. 66, No. 26, pages 9414-9474, February 7, 2001). The majority of the updated Study Area lacks suitable aquatic habitat, and ARTO observations have never been recorded in Lisk Creek. However, ARTO have been observed in middle Piru Creek less than one mile from the project site. There were no ARTO observed during the preconstruction surveys; however, due to the designation of critical habitat and the presence of potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent aquatic habitats of the creek channels leading to Piru lake, the ARTO has a low potential to occur within the updated Study Area. The adjacent areas of Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable aquatic habitat for ARTO. Ruderal habitat comprises most of the updated Study Area; however, suitable upland habitat for ARTO is present within and adjacent to the updated Study Area (e.g., coastal sage scrub, grassland, oak woodland). Potential impacts to ARTO may occur when toads are most active during their breeding season (March to July) and nighttime hours. These impacts have the greatest potential to occur along the road crossing at Lisk Creek. The placement of BMPs near the Lisk Creek crossing to control erosion and sedimentation into the adjacent waterways would be implemented. Construction activities will not occur within the Lisk Creek channel. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, requiring pre-construction surveys for special-status wildlife, would reduce the potential for project impacts to Arroyo toad to be less than significant.

**California Red-Legged Frog.** The updated Study Area is located adjacent to mapped California red-legged frog (CRLF) critical habitat. The proposed reroute meets the existing trail at the northern end of the project area near California red-legged frog (CRLF) critical habitat; however, the updated Study Area lacks suitable aquatic habitat and there are no recorded observations within ten (10) miles of the updated Study Area. There were no CRLF observed during the preconstruction surveys; however, due to the designation of critical habitat and the presence of potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent aquatic habitats of the Piru creek and Lisk creek, the CRLF has a low potential to occur with the updated Study Area. The updated Study Area is mainly comprised of ruderal habitat; however, suitable upland habitat exists in the grasslands and Lisk Creek channel. Potential impacts would occur during breeding season (late November to April) and during nighttime hours. These impacts have the greatest potential to occur along the crossing at Lisk Creek, located past the proposed trailhead parking area facility. The placement and use of BMPs near the Lisk Creek crossing, to control erosion and sedimentation into the adjacent waterways would be implemented. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, requiring pre-construction surveys for special-status wildlife, would reduce the potential for project impacts to California red-legged frog to be less than significant.

**Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.** The updated Study Area is located adjacent to mapped southwestern willow flycatcher critical habitat, within the Santa Clara Management Unit, which

includes Piru Creek (50 CFR Part 17; Federal Register Vol. 786, No. 2, pages 344-534, January 3, 2013). No recorded observances of southwestern willow flycatcher have been documented within ten (10) miles of the updated Study Area. The updated Study Area lacks suitable riparian and aquatic habitat; however, the adjacent Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable riparian habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher. Due to the presence of critical habitat and potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent creek channels, the southwestern willow flycatcher has a low potential to occur within the project area; however, no suitable habitat occurs within the project footprint. Potential indirect impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher may, but are not likely to, occur during construction activities if construction activities take place during breeding season when the birds have potential to occur in the area. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, a nesting bird survey will be conducted within 500 feet of the updated Study Area if activities are conducted during the nesting bird season. Identification of nests will prompt construction activities to be mitigated or avoided until birds have fledged, as appropriate. No riparian habitat will be removed as part of project activities and project activities will be temporary. Therefore, with the implementation of these measures, potential impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher will be less than significant.

**California Condor.** The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species, but species are not likely to occur. The Sespe Condor Sanctuary in the Los Padres National Forest and the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge lies four miles west/northwest of the southern boundary of the updated Study Area; however, the area lacks suitable nesting habitat. Open terrain is present and provides potential for foraging and the species is known to fly over the area, but chances of landing within the updated Study Area are very low with lack of suitable habitat for a bird of this size to be able to take flight after landing. The California Condor has a low potential to occur within the updated Study Area and with the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, potential impacts to California condor will be less than significant.

There is no other critical habitat for any federally listed wildlife within or surrounding the updated Study Area. A potential to occur analysis for special-status wildlife is located in Appendix A2, and a complete list of wildlife species observed during the survey is located in Appendix A3.

### ***Hydrology***

The updated Study Area begins approximately 115 feet above Lake Piru reservoir and is adjacent to areas that contain streams, wetlands, and other waters under jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), RWQCB, or DCFW. No formal jurisdictional delineation was conducted for this assessment; however, Lisk Creek crosses the updated Study Area and is a potential jurisdictional wetland based on stream morphology and riparian vegetation. Common facultative wetland species including mulefat and arroyo willow were present within the creek channel of the updated Study Area in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and NHD databases (Figure 5).

## Impact Analysis

The significance of impacts to biological resources depends upon the proximity and quality of vegetation communities and wildlife habitats existing on site and in the immediate vicinity, the presence or absence of special-status species, and the effectiveness of measures implemented to protect these resources from Project-related impacts. As defined by CEQA, the Project would be considered to have a significant adverse impact on biological resources if it would:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by USFWS or CDFW.
- 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 United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) or CDFW.
- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (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; with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- e) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved governmental habitat conservation plan.

### Potential Direct / Indirect Adverse Effects Upon Special-status Species

- a. *Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by USFWS or CDFW?*

Because the updated Study Area is surrounded by Los Padres National Forest, with riparian habitats within Piru Creek and Lisk Creek, there is low to moderate potential for special-status species to occur. Ten special-status plant species have a low potential to occur in the area. Five wildlife species have a moderate potential to occur in the area; burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), California legless lizard (*Anniella spp.*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) and two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) are discussed below. Nineteen (19) wildlife species have a low potential to occur in the area. These species are listed and discussed in the Special-Status Species with the Potential to Occur table in Appendix A2.

The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the California legless lizard (*Anniella spp.*). No California legless lizard or sign of the species were observed during the survey; however, suitable habitat is present within the sandy creek beds and leaf litter under trees and bushes, with known occurrences within ten miles of the updated Study Area. Implementation of the

recommended avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce impacts to California legless lizard to a level of less than significant.

The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*). No coastal whiptail or sign of the species were observed during the survey; however, suitable habitat is present within the woodland and riparian areas with sparse vegetation, with known occurrences within ten miles of the updated Study Area. Implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce impact to coastal whiptail to a level of less than significant.

The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*). No coast horned lizard or sign of the species were observed during the survey; however, suitable habitat is present within the sandy substrate of scattered low bushes, with known occurrences within ten miles of the updated Study Area. Implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce impact to coast horned lizard to a level of less than significant.

The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondi*). No two-striped gartersnake or sign of the species were observed during the survey; however, suitable habitat is present within the riparian areas, with known occurrences within one mile of the updated Study Area. Implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce impact to two-striped gartersnake to a level of less than significant.

The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*). No western mastiff bat or sign of the species were observed during the survey and no known occurrences have been recently documented; however, suitable habitat is present within the rocky cliff faces for roosting and semi-arid coastal scrub, chaparral and grasslands are present for foraging. Implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce impact to western mastiff bat to a level of less than significant.

The Project could have direct and indirect impacts on special-status species that occur or nest within or adjacent to the updated Study Area. No special-status species or nests were observed within the updated Study Area; however, in the event of the occurrence of a special-status species during construction activities, implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce impact to special-status species nests to a level of less than significant.

***Potential Direct / Indirect Adverse Effects Upon Special-status Habitats or Natural Communities or Corridors***

- 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 United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) or CDFW?*

Implementation of the Project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife species, nor with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, nor impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

***Potential Direct / Indirect Adverse Effects Upon Federally Protected Wetlands***

- c) Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

During the Project construction activities there will be no grading occurring that will alter the course of any stream or river and construction activities will not be performed in the channel for Lisk Creek. As a result, the possible effects of waste discharge regulations and water quality standards would not be substantial and potential impacts associated with erosion or sedimentation on- or off-site would be less than significant.

***Potential Direct / Indirect Adverse Effects on Nesting Birds or Native Migratory Wildlife Species***

- d) Would the Project Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species; with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

The updated Study Area contains suitable nesting habitat for various bird species. No nests or nesting activity was observed in the updated Study Area during the pre-construction field survey; however, the survey was conducted outside of the nesting bird season (February 1 to August 15). The Project could have direct and indirect impacts on nesting birds through the removal of nesting habitat or disturbance of birds with active nests. Suitable nesting habitat on site includes the ground, shrubs, and existing structures. Implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce impact to active nests to a level of less than significant.

***Potential Direct / Indirect Adverse Effects with the Provisions of Approved Governmental Habitat Conservation Plans***

- e) Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved governmental habitat conservation plan?*

The updated Study Area does not occur in any adopted HCP area, NCCP area, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan. No impact would occur.

## **Recommended Avoidance and Minimization Measures**

### **BIO-1. Special-Status Wildlife and Nesting Bird Preconstruction Clearance Surveys.**

No more than one week prior to initiation of construction activities (e.g. mobilization, staging and work activities), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for special-status wildlife species.

Any potential bat roosting areas shall be inspected and if roosting bats are present the roosts will be avoided. In addition, during any construction activities involving vegetation clearing, or initial modification of natural habitat, United Water Conservation District shall contract with a biological monitor.

If any special-status species wildlife is present, the biological monitor shall have the authority to stop any project activities to relocate an animal outside of project limits to a pre-designated relocation area with suitable habitat conditions essential for the animal's survival. The biological monitor's qualifications shall include experience handling a variety of wildlife, and shall be permitted with the appropriate regulatory agencies, as necessary. The monitor shall document all wildlife observed during project activities, all wildlife relocated out of the project impact area, and pre-designated relocation areas.

In the event initial vegetation clearing and grading must occur during the avian nesting season (February 1 to August 15), a nesting bird survey shall be conducted concurrent with the pre-construction wildlife survey. The nesting bird survey shall cover the development footprint and 500 feet from the development footprint, as practicable. If occupied (i.e., active) nests are found, land clearing activities within a setback area surrounding the nest shall be postponed or halted; the setback area shall be determined by a qualified biologist. The standard setback is 300 feet for most birds and 500 feet for raptors, as recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This setback can be increased or decreased based on the recommendation of the qualified biologist, with provisions such as equipment restriction, disturbance duration, and nest monitoring.

Land clearing activities may commence within the setback area when the nest is no longer active (i.e., juveniles have fledged), as determined by the qualified biologist. Land clearing activities may also occur outside of the setback areas, but encroachment into the buffer shall be conducted at the discretion of United Water Conservation District, under the advisement of a qualified biologist with provisions such as disturbance duration, equipment restrictions and nest monitoring.

Monitoring reports summarizing nest avoidance measures, including buffers, fledge dates, and documentation of the avoidance of fully protected species, if applicable, shall be submitted to the lead agency(s) monthly while nest buffers are in place or while activities are occurring within the specified buffer of an inactive nest of a fully protected species.

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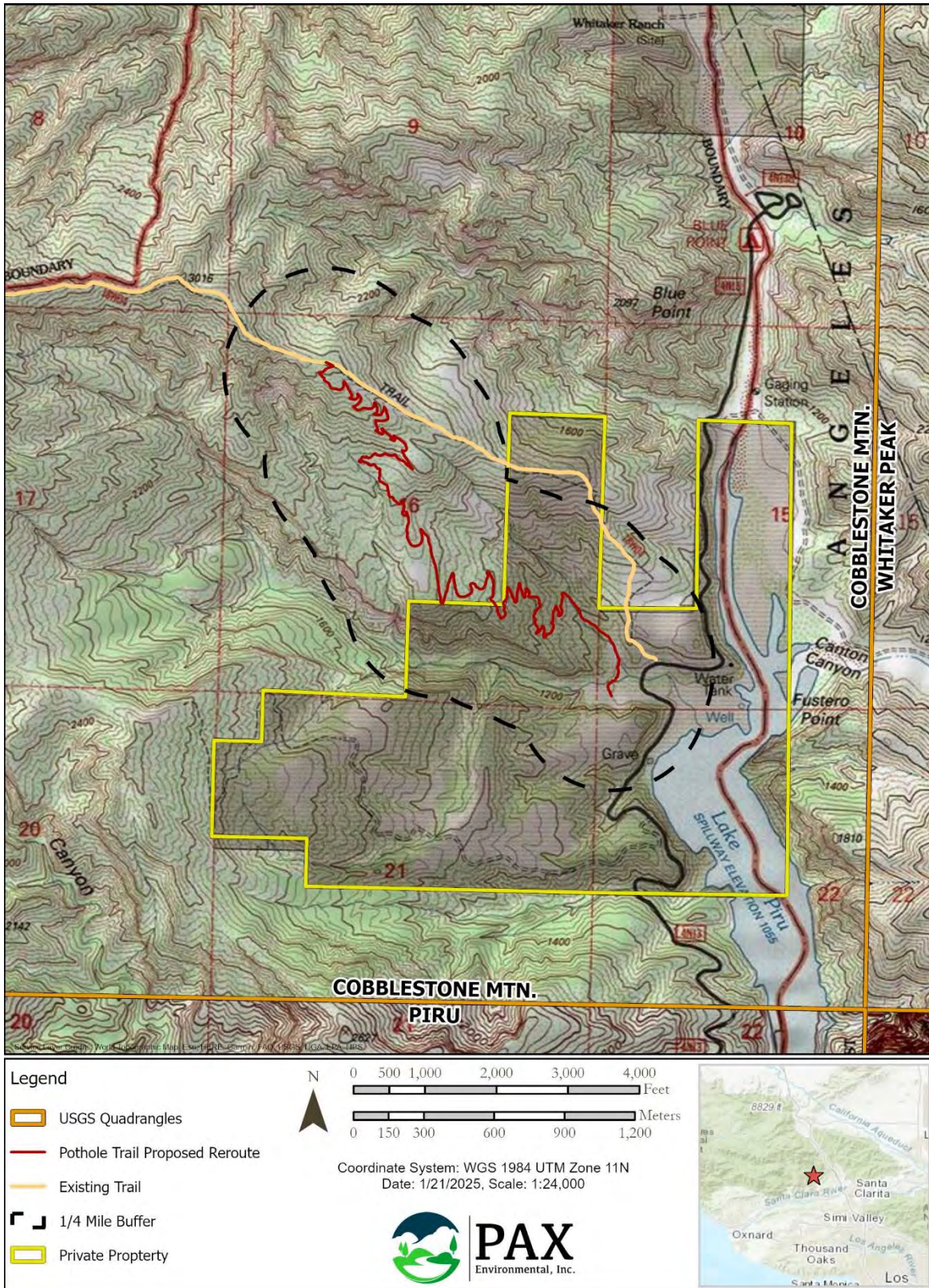
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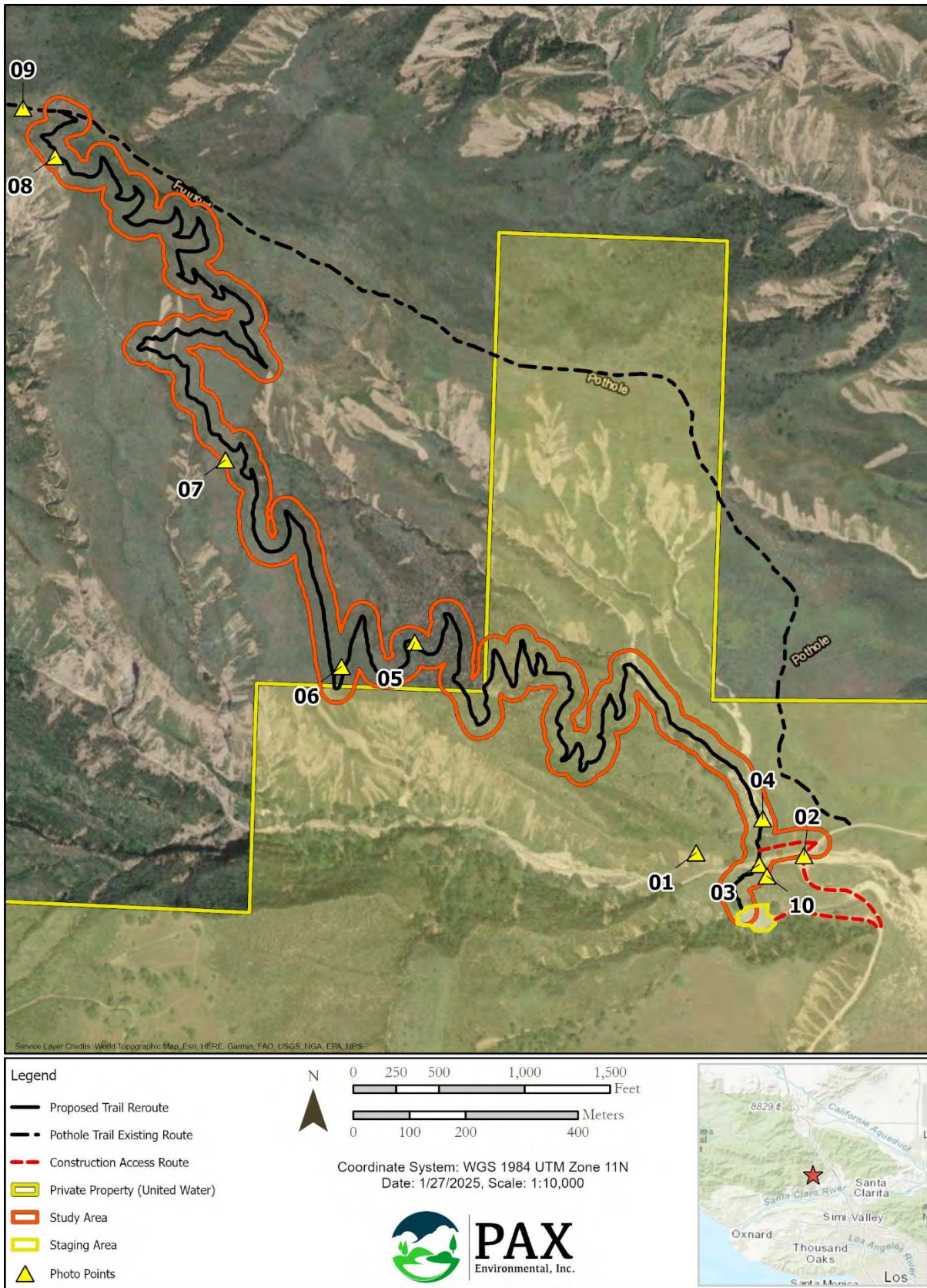
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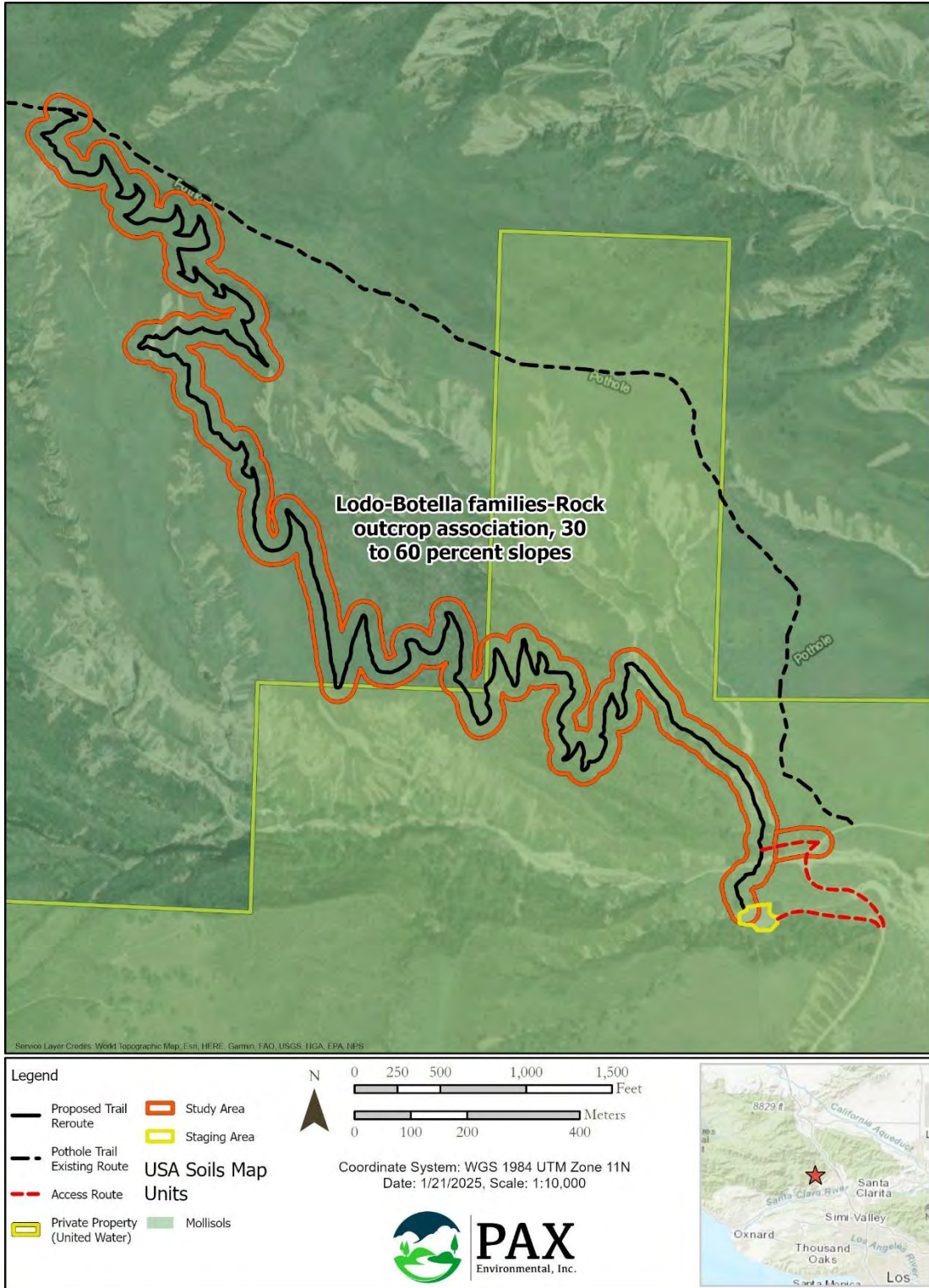
**Appendix A1. Maps**



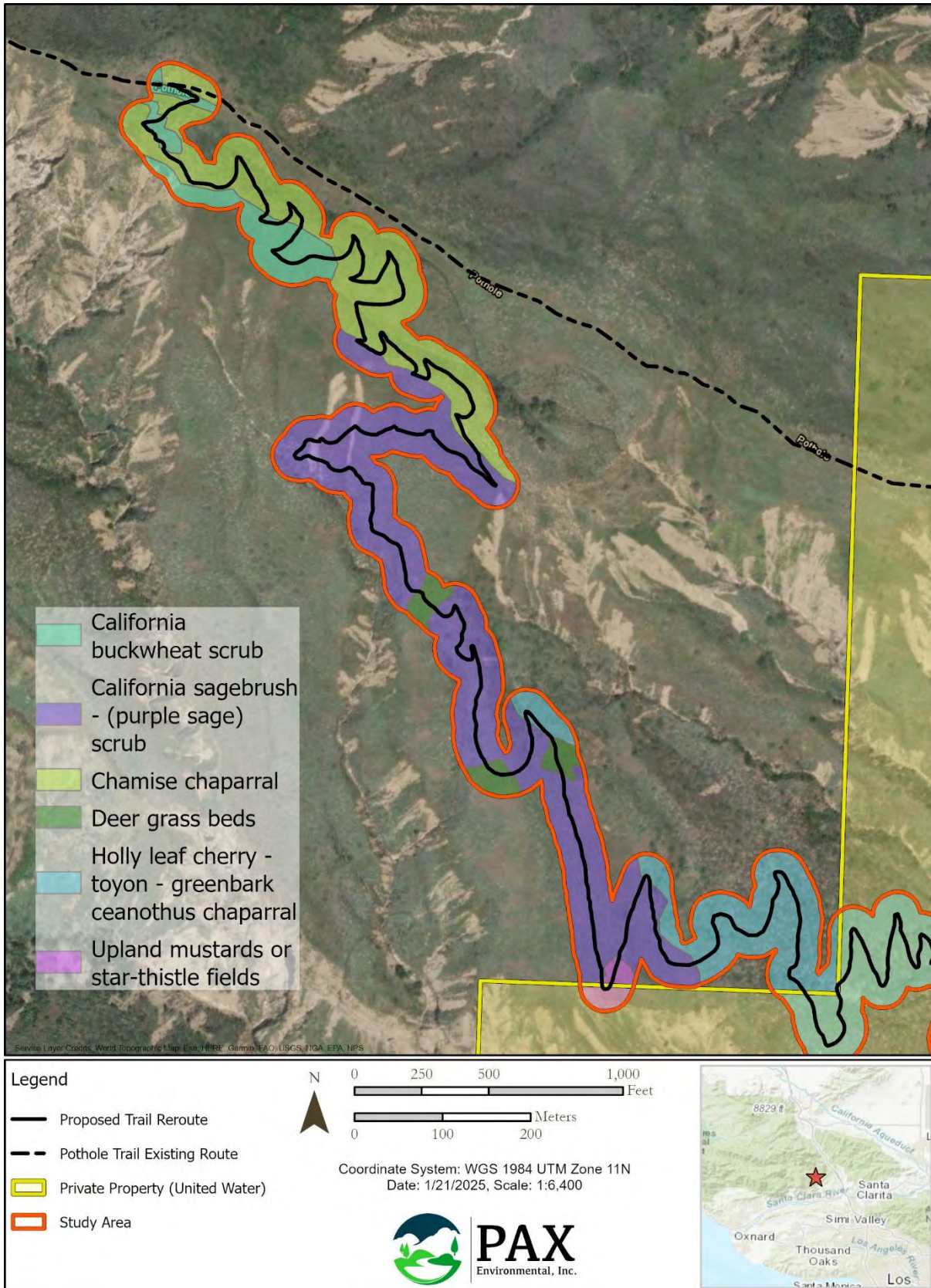
**Figure 1. Vicinity map**



**Figure 2. Modified Project overview map with the updated Study Area and Project Components**



**Figure 3. USDA soils in the updated Study Area**



**Figure 4. Vegetation communities and land use types in the updated Study Area**



**Figure 5. Hydrology within the vicinity of the Modified Project**

## Appendix A2. Special Status Species with the Potential to Occur

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<b>Plants</b>				
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	slender mariposa-lily	1B.2	Foothill woodlands, chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland between 1,050 - 3,280 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Mar. - June.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and although no species were observed, suitable habitat is present and species have occurred adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i>	late-flowered mariposa-lily	1B.3	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland in dry, open coastal woodland, chaparral; on serpentine less than 3,000 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Jun. - Aug.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets requirements for the species and although, suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Calystegia peirsonii</i>	Peirson's morning-glory	4.2	Usually on rocky slopes in coastal sage scrub, shadscale scrub, yellow pine forest, foothill woodland, and chaparral communities between 3,280 - 4,925 ft. elevation. Bloom period: May - Jun.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets requirements for the species and although, suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	San Fernando Valley spineflower	1B.1	Coastal sage scrub between 200 - 1,700 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Apr. - Jul.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and although suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's spineflower	1B.1	Chaparral scrub plant communities between 855 - 7,515 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Apr. - Jun.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and although suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Lepechinia rossii</i>	Ross' pitcher sage	1B.2	Chaparral between 1,500 - 4,000 ft. elevation. Bloom period: May - Sep.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets requirements for the species and although suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<i>Lupinus paynei</i>	Payne's bush lupine	1B.1	Coastal sage scrub and chaparral less than 4,900 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Apr. - Jun.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and although suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i>	Ojai navarretia	1B.1	Drying alkaline flats in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub between 900 - 9,202 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Jan. - Apr.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and although suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i>	white rabbit-tobacco	2B.2	Sandy or gravelly benches, dry stream bottoms, canyon bottoms less than 1,540 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Aug. - Nov.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and although suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<i>Symphotrichum greatae</i>	Greata's aster	1B.3	Damp places in canyons of chaparral communities between 984 - 6,562 ft. elevation. Bloom period: Aug. - Oct.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and although suitable habitat is present, no species have occurred within or adjacent to the updated Study Area.
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch's bumble bee	SCE	Crotch's bumblebee is found in coastal California east towards the Sierra-Cascade Crest and, less commonly, in western Nevada. It prefers open grasslands and scrub and nests underground. This species' food plants include <i>Asclepias</i> , <i>Chaenactis</i> , <i>Lupinus</i> , <i>Medicago</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , and <i>Salvia</i> .	<b>Low:</b> Suitable habitat for the species is present within the updated Study Area and food source plant species were present at the time of the survey; however, there is no documented occurrence of this species within the past 20 years.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<b>Fishes</b>				
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	Santa Ana sucker	FT, SSC	Endemic to southern California and is native to only the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, Santa Ana, and Santa Clara River systems. Within the Los Padres National Forest, the Santa Ana Sucker is found within Piru Creek and Sespe Creek, both of which are tributaries to the Santa Clara River. Found in a variety of freshwater habitats, including streams, rivers, and creeks, particularly in areas with rocky or gravelly bottoms. They prefer clear, cool, and well-oxygenated water with moderate current. They are often found in shallow riffles or pools with some vegetation or cover, such as submerged logs or overhanging vegetation.	<b>No:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements of aquatic resources for the species.
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	unarmored threespine stickleback	FE, SE, F	Inhabits weedy pools, backwaters and emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small southern California streams.	<b>No:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements of aquatic resources for the species.
<i>Gila orcutti</i>	arroyo chub	SSC	Native streams from Malibu Creek to San Luis Rey River. Introduced into streams in Santa Clara, Ventura, Santa Ynez, Mojave and San Diego River basins.	<b>No:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements of aquatic resources for the species.
<b>Amphibians</b>				
<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	arroyo toad	FE, SSC	Semi-arid habitats near washes or intermittent streams with low-flow pools, alluvial benches or upland habitats that include friable soils for burrowing.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area occurs within mapped arroyo toad critical habitat, however, the habitat in the area is marginally suitable habitat may be present in adjacent aquatic resources.
<i>Rana boylei pop. 6</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog - south coast DPS	SSC	Partly shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements for the species; this species is likely extirpated from the area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<i>Spea hammondi</i>	western spadefoot	FPT, SSC	Grasslands and woodlands with vernal pools.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements for the species. This species has not been documented within or near the updated Study Area.
<b>Reptiles</b>				
<i>Actinemys pallida</i>	southwestern pond turtle	FP	Found in rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, ephemeral creeks, reservoirs, agricultural ditches, estuaries, and brackish waters. Prefer areas that provide cover from predators, such as vegetation and algae, as well as basking sites for thermoregulation and sandy banks or grassy open fields in upland habitats for egg-laying.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements for the species; however, suitable habitat and conditions for occurrence may be present in adjacent aquatic resources.
<i>Anniella spp.</i>	California legless lizard	SSC	Moist warm loose soil with plant cover. Moisture is essential, sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather. Sometimes found in suburban gardens in southern California.	<b>Moderate:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species and, although the species has not been documented within the updated Study Area, suitable conditions of chaparral and desert scrub habitats are present within the updated Study Area.
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	California glossy snake	SSC	Scrub or grassland with loose or sandy soils.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets requirements for the species. and, although, no occurrence has been documented in the area within 20 years, suitable conditions for occurrence are present within adjacent grassland habitats.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	coastal whiptail	SSC	Desert and semi-arid scrub, woodland and riparian areas with sparse vegetation.	<b>Moderate:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species. This species has not been documented within the updated Study Area; however, suitable conditions for occurrence are present.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	coast horned lizard	SSC	Sandy substrate with scattered low bushes and abundant native ants and other insects.	<b>Moderate:</b> Suitable habitat of sandy substrate and scattered low bushes is present and meets the requirements for the species. No recent documentation of this species is recorded within the updated Study Area; however, suitable conditions for occurrence are present.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>	coast patch-nosed snake	SSC	Brushy or shrubby vegetation west of the south coast, peninsular and transverse mountain range peaks.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species. No occurrences of the species have been documented within the updated Study Area; however, shrubby vegetation and location within transverse mountain range peaks provide suitable conditions for occurrence.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	two-striped gartersnake	SSC	Riparian areas in coastal California from Salinas south to northwest Baja California less than 7,000 ft. elevation.	<b>Moderate:</b> Suitable habitat is present within the riparian areas of the Lisk Creek channel that meets the requirements for the species. There have been recent occurrences documented within the updated Study Area; however, no species were observed during the survey.
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis pop. 1</i>	south coast gartersnake	SSC	Southern California coastal plain from Ventura County to San Diego County less than 2,800 ft. elevation.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species. No occurrences of the species have been documented within the updated Study Area; however, suitable conditions for occurrence are present.

**Birds**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	SSC, BCC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands and scrublands with low-growing vegetation.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species. Species are documented and suitable conditions for occurrence are present in adjacent habitats within the scrub brush community.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	WL	Dry, open hillsides covered with grasses, rocks, and scattered shrubs, including coastal sagebrush, open chaparral, scrub oaks, pinyon pine, and other woody plants. Dense woody growth is unsuitable. They occur on transverse and coastal ranges from sea level up to about 10,000 feet elevation.	<b>No:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets requirements for the species; this species is likely extirpated from the area.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT, SE	Riparian forests, often mixed willow/cottonwood, along large river systems with an understory of blackberry, nettle, and/or grape.	<b>No:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements of a riparian forest for the species and there are no occurrences documented in the updated Study Area.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE, SE, SSC	Nests in dense riparian forests interspersed with small openings for open water, or shorter/sparser vegetation, creating a mosaic that is not uniformly dense. Breeding sites occur near slow-moving or still surface water and/or saturated soil.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements for the species; however, critical habitat occurs within one mile of the updated Study Area. There is no recent documentation of occurrence for the species within the past 20 years. This species is not likely to be found on site.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	prairie falcon	WL	Dry open terrain and cliffs for nesting.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements of dry open terrain and cliffs for the species; however, there is no recent documentation of occurrence for the species. Grasslands and open terrain provide suitable foraging habitat, and nearby cliffs provide nesting habitat.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	California condor	FE, SE, FP	Vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude for foraging; and deep canyons with clefts in vertical walls for nesting. Cliffs and ledges on exposed rock formations for breeding. Open country, coastal chaparral, forested mountaintops for roosting (seasonally) and possibly redwoods.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area meets some habitat requirements for the species, but species are not likely to occur. The Sespe Condor Sanctuary in the Los Padres National Forest and the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge lies four miles west/northwest of the southern boundary of the updated Study Area; however, the area lacks suitable nesting habitat. Open terrain is present and provides potential of occurrence for foraging, but chances of landing within the updated Study Area are very low.
<i>Icteria virens</i>	yellow-breasted chat	SSC	Low wet places near streams, pond edges, or swamps; thickets with few tall trees; early successional stages of forest regeneration; commonly in sites close to human habitation. Nests in bushes, briar tangles, vines, and low trees, generally in dense vegetation less than 2 m above ground.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements' streams or ponds with thickets for the species. Species has not been documented within 20 years; however, suitable nesting and foraging conditions are present in adjacent aquatic habitats.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike	SSC	Open country with short vegetation: pastures with fence rows, old orchards, mowed roadsides, cemeteries, golf courses, agricultural fields, riparian areas, and open woodlands.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets requirements for the species in the lower section of the trail. Recent documentation of species has occurred in adjacent areas, and roadsides and open areas provide suitable nesting and foraging conditions.
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT, SSC	Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes below 2,500 ft elevation.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area has suitable habitat that meets requirements for the species and there have been recent occurrences documented of the species; however they have all been near Castaic Lake.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler	SSC	Riparian vegetation among cottonwood, sycamore, ash, or alder near water or montane scrub of Cascade and Sierra Nevada ranges.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements for the species and no occurrence for the species has been documented within 20 years; however, suitable nesting and foraging conditions are present in adjacent aquatic habitats.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo	FE, SE	Willow, <i>Baccharis</i> , mesquite in low riparian in vicinity of water or dry river bottoms below 2,000 ft. elevation.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area does not meet the habitat requirements for the species and no occurrence for the species has been documented within 20 years; however, suitable nesting and foraging conditions are present in adjacent aquatic habitats.
<b>Mammals</b>				
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	SSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.	<b>Low:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets the requirements for the species and no occurrence for the species has been documented within 20 years; however, suitable nesting and foraging conditions are present in adjacent rocky habitats.
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	spotted bat	SSC	Desert to montane coniferous stands, including open ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper woodland, canyon bottoms, riparian and river corridors, meadows, open pasture, and hayfields. Active foraging may be mostly in open terrain, including forest clearings, meadows, and open wetlands, sometimes in open areas near buildings or even golf courses. Roosts, including maternity roosts, generally are in cracks and crevices in cliffs, sometimes in caves or in buildings near cliffs.	<b>Low:</b> There is marginally suitable habitat that meets the requirements for the species and no occurrence has been documented within 100 years. This species is not likely to occur in the updated Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat Type	Potential to Occur on or near Site
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	SSC	Roosts in cliff face crevices, high buildings, trees and tunnels among open semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral.	<b>Moderate:</b> The updated Study Area meets the habitat requirements for the species. and no occurrence has been documented within 20 years; however, suitable nesting and foraging conditions are present in the chaparral, scrub and rocky habitats of nearby cliffs.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	SSC	Drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.	<b>No:</b> The updated Study Area has marginal habitat that meets the requirements for the species and no occurrence for the species has been documented within 20 years; however, suitable conditions may be present in adjacent herbaceous habitats.

<b>STATUS DEFINITIONS</b>	
<b>USFWS</b>	
FE: Species designated as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. Endangered = "any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range."	FT: Species designated as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act = "species likely to become an Endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range."
FPE: Proposed for federal listing as Endangered.	FPT: Proposed for federal listing as Threatened.
FC: Candidate for federal listing as Threatened or Endangered.	BCC: Bird of Conservation Concern
<b>CDFW</b>	
SE: Endangered = "a species is Endangered when its prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes" and is officially listed as such under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).	ST: Threatened = "a species that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an Endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required by this Act" (CESA).
SR: State-listed as Rare = "taxa that are biologically rare, very restricted in distribution, or declining throughout their range but not currently threatened with extirpation" (Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List.	SCE: State candidate for listing as threatened or endangered
SSC: Species of Special Concern	WL: Watch List
<b>CRPR – CALIFORNIA RARE PLANT RANKING</b>	
1A Plants presumed extinct in California	1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
2A Plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere	2B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
.1 Seriously threatened in California	.2 Fairly threatened in California
.3 Not very threatened in California	.4 Watch list for plants that are of limited distribution
<b>POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN THE UPDATED STUDY AREA</b>	
No: Species not observed. The updated Study Area does not meet the species habitat requirements.	High: Species not observed, suitable habitat is present, and the species could occur there frequently.
Low: Species not observed, marginal habitat is present and/or the species could occur temporarily.	Present: Species were observed or are known to occur with recent records in the area.
Moderate: Species not observed, suitable habitat is present, and the species is common in the area or could occur time to time.	

### Appendix A3. Plant and Wildlife Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<b>Plants</b>			
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	Deerweed	Fabaceae	native
<i>Acourtia microcephala</i>	Sacapellote	Fabaceae	native
<i>Adiantum jordanii</i>	California maidenhair fern	Polypodiaceae	native
<i>Adneostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise	Rosaceae	native
<i>Amsinckia</i> sp.	Fiddleneck	Boraginaceae	native
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	Asteraceae	native
<i>Asclepias eriocarpa</i>	Broad-leaved milkweed	Plantaginaceae	native
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Narrow-leaved milkweed	Asteraceae	native
<i>Astragalus</i> sp.	Locoweed	Fabaceae	native
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Slender wild oat	Poaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oat	Poaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> var. <i>consanguinea</i>	Coyote bush	Asteraceae	native
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mulefat	Asteraceae	native
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	Brassicaceae	invasive introduce
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome	Poaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	Red brome	Poaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Calochortus calvatus</i> var. <i>pallidus</i>	Yellow mariposa lily	Liliaceae	native
<i>Calochortus venustus</i>	Butterfly mariposa	Liliaceae	native
<i>Calystegia purpurata</i>	Western morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	native
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Indian thistle	Asteraceae	invasive introduced
<i>Castilleja affinis</i>	Indian paintbrush	Scrophulariaceae	native
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Tocalote	Asteraceae	invasive introduced
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow star-thistle	Asteraceae	invasive introduced
<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	Elegant clarkia	Onagraceae	native
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle	Asteraceae	invasive introduced
<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	Chaparral clematis	Ranunculaceae	native
<i>Conya canadensis</i>	Horseweed	Asteraceae	native
<i>Cucurbita palmata</i>	Coyote melon	Cucurbitaceae	native
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	jimsonweed	Solanaceae	native
<i>Diplacus longiflorus</i>	Southern bush monkeyflower	Scrophulariaceae	native
<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>	Climbing penstemon	Scrophulariaceae	native
<i>Elymus condensatus</i>	giant wild rye	Poaceae	native
<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>	Doveweed	Euphorbiaceae	native
<i>Eriodictyon crassifolium</i>	Thickleaf Yerba santa	Hydrophyllaceae	native
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Polygonaceae	native
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Golden yarrow	Asteraceae	native
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Redstem filaree	Geraniaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i>	Whitemargin sandmat	Euphorbiaceae	native
<i>Festuca myuros</i>	Rattail fescue	Poaceae	invasive introduced

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	Alkali heliotrope	Boraginaceae	native
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	Rosaceae	native
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Hordeum murinum	Poaceae	invasive introduce
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth cat's ear	Asteraceae	invasive introduced
<i>Juglans californica</i>	Southern California black walnut	Juglandaceae	native
<i>Logfia filaginoides</i>	California filago	Asteraceae	native
<i>Malacothhamnus fasciculatus</i>	Chaparral mallow	Malvaceae	native
<i>Malosma luarina</i>	Laurel sumac	Anacardiaceae	native
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	cheesewood	Malvaceae	native
<i>Marah fabaceus</i>	California manroot	Cucurbitaceae	native
<i>Marrubiun vulgare</i>	White horehound	Lamiaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	California Bur Clover	Fabaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Yellow clover	Fabaceae	native
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree Tobacco	Solanaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Paeonia californica</i>	California peony	Paeoniaceae	native
<i>Pellaea andromedifolia</i>	Coffee fern	Polypodiaceae	native
<i>Pellaea mucronate</i>	bird's foot fern	Polypodiaceae	native
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English plantain	Plantaginaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Platanus racemose</i>	Western sycamore	Platanaceae	native
<i>Poa secunda</i>	one-sided blue grass	Poaceae	native
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont's cottonwood	Salicaceae	native
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual beardgrass	Poaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>	California everlasting	Asteraceae	native
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	Fagaceae	native
<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	Annual bastardcabbage	Brassicaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	Hollyleaf redberry	Rapistrum rugosum	native
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	basket bush	Anacardiaceae	native
<i>Salix exigua</i>	Sandbar willow	Salicaceae	native
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow	Salicaceae	native
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Sandbar willow	Salicaceae	native
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Common russianthistle	Chenopodiaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White sage	Lamiaceae	native
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple sage	Lamiaceae	native
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black sage	Lamiaceae	native
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderberry	Adoxaceae	native
<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i>	Eastern rocket	Boraginaceae	native
<i>Stipa miliacea var. miliacea</i>	Smilo grass	Poaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	Purple needlegrass	Poaceae	native
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Tamarix, Saltcedar	Tamaricaceae	invasive introduced
<i>Toxiendron diversilobum</i>	Posion oak	Anacardiaceae	native
<i>Trichostemma lanceolatum</i>	Vinegarweed	Lamiaceae	native
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	Southern cattail	Typhaceae	native

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i> var. <i>lasiostachys</i>	Western vervain	Valerianaceae	native
<b>Birds</b>			
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	California scrub-jay	<i>Corvidae</i>	Native
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	great horned owl	<i>Strigidae</i>	Native
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk	<i>Accipitridae</i>	Native
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird	<i>Trochilidae</i>	Native
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture	<i>Cathartidae</i>	Native
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	wrentit	<i>Sylviidae</i>	Native
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow	<i>Corvidae</i>	Native
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven	<i>Corvidae</i>	Native
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch	<i>Fringillidae</i>	Native
<i>Hirundo rustica erythrogaster</i>	barn swallow	<i>Hirundinidae</i>	Native
<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	acorn woodpecker	<i>Picidae</i>	Native
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	song sparrow	<i>Passerellidae</i>	Native
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee	<i>Passerellidae</i>	Native
<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	mountain quail	<i>Odontophoridae</i>	Native
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	spotted towhee	<i>Passerellidae</i>	Native
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	bushtit	<i>Aegithalidae</i>	Native
<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	western bluebird	<i>Turdidae</i>	Native
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Parulidae</i>	Native
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch	<i>Fringillidae</i>	Native
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren	<i>Troglodytidae</i>	Native
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California thrasher	<i>Mimidae</i>	Native
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American robin	<i>Turdidae</i>	Native
<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	mourning dove	<i>Columbidae</i>	Native
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	white-crowned sparrow	<i>Passerellidae</i>	Native
<b>Reptiles</b>			
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard	<i>Phrynosomatidae</i>	Native
<b>Mammals</b>			
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel	<i>Sciuridae</i>	Native

#### Appendix A4. Updated Study Area photos



**Photo 1. A California black walnut outside of the disturbance area, but within the 25-meter buffer along the reroute.**



**Photo 2. View of sandbar willow thickets in Lisk Creek crossing along the proposed reroute that passes through the western edge of Arroyo toad critical habitat.**



**Photo 3. View of the parking lot where the proposed trailhead will be located.**



**Photo 4. View of the access route for heavy machinery along Piru Canyon Road during the construction phase.**



**Photo 5. California sagebrush (purple sage) scrub vegetation along the eastern hillside of the lower portion of the proposed reroute**



**Photo 6. View of holly leaf cherry – toyon – greenbark ceanothus chaparral vegetation that occupies much of the lower section of the p-line reroute.**



**Photo 7. Overview of the parking lot and coast live oak woodland and forest at the lower section of the p-line reroute with coyote brush scrub present in the forefront.**



**Photo 8. View of holly leaf cherry – toyon – greenbark ceanothus chaparral vegetation that occupies much of the lower section of the p-line reroute.**



**Photo 9. Overview looking south over Lake Piru.**



**Photo 10. Deer grass beds along the p-line reroute.**



**Photo 11. View of California buckwheat scrub and chamise chaparral vegetation near the end of the proposed reroute.**



**Photo 12. View of the northern end of the proposed reroute where it connects with the Agua Blanca trail looking south.**

**APPENDIX B:  
CULTURAL SURVEY REPORT FOR THE MODIFIED POTHOLE TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA  
PROJECT**

**APPENDIX B:**  
**CULTURAL SURVEY REPORT**  
**FOR THE**  
**MODIFIED POTHOLE TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA PROJECT**  
**MARCH 2025**

**Introduction**

This letter supplements the existing archaeological assessment for the final IS-MND for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project, located within Ventura County, California. Based on recent intensive pedestrian reconnaissance surveys, the following findings and considerations are provided to ensure compliance with state and federal preservation guidelines.

**Background and Scope of Study**

The Pothole Trail, a remote and rugged hiking trail, is situated within a region known for its diverse geological formations and historical significance. The purpose of this study was to assess any potential archaeological resources within the modified trail footprint.

**Findings and Updates**

After conducting a thorough intensive pedestrian survey, no archaeological resources were encountered within the trail reroute footprint. There was no evidence of prehistoric or historic artifacts, features, or structures directly associated with the trail alignment. A previous survey revealed a potential cultural site within an old footprint of the Pothole Trail reroute, leading to the mitigation measure to slightly move the footprint of this trail. With this modification, the Pothole Trail reroute does not intersect with any cultural resources.

**Environmental and Preservation Considerations**

The area surrounding the Pothole trail in the Los Padres National Forest is situated within a historically significant region known for its diverse geological formations and past human activity. Although a recent archaeological assessment found no archaeological resources within the Pothole Trail reroute footprint, the broader area has a history of indigenous and settler occupation.

Historically, indigenous groups, including the Chumash, utilized this area for seasonal migration, hunting, and gathering. Previous research has documented lithic scatters, grinding stones, and other cultural materials in the surrounding region, indicating a long-standing indigenous presence.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, settler activity in the area included ranching, homesteading, and potential mining operations. Historical records suggest that remnants of

these activities, such as stone foundations and abandoned structures, may exist outside the current trail alignment.

While the study did not identify any artifacts or features directly within the trail footprint, environmental factors like erosion and dense vegetation could obscure potential buried resources. Therefore, any future development or modifications in adjacent areas should consider archaeological monitoring and consultation with cultural resource experts to ensure proper preservation and compliance with regulations such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

### **Recommendations**

**No Further Archaeological Work Required:** Given that no archaeological resources were identified, no further archaeological investigations are recommended for the existing trail footprint.

**Future Considerations:** If any modifications or expansions to the trail reroute are proposed, additional review and consultation with relevant cultural resource agencies may be required.

**Accidental Discovery Protocol:** Should any archaeological materials be encountered during future work, all activities should be halted, and a qualified archaeologist should be consulted.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of this report, no cultural resources were identified within the Pothole Trail reroute footprint. Therefore, no additional archaeological oversight is deemed necessary. Any future projects in the vicinity should adhere to best practices in cultural resource management and comply with relevant regulations such as CEQA and NHPA.

**APPENDIX C:  
POTHOLE TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA INITIAL STUDY – MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**



## Pothole Trailhead Parking Area

### Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration

*prepared by*

**United Water Conservation District**  
106 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Paula, California 93060

*prepared with the assistance of*

**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**  
180 North Ashwood Avenue  
Ventura, California 93003

**April 2018**

# Pothole Trailhead Parking Area

## Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration

*prepared by*

**United Water Conservation District**  
106 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Paula, California 93060

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180 North Ashwood Avenue  
Ventura, California 93003

**April 2018**

*This report prepared on 50% recycled paper with 50% post-consumer content.*

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## Appendices

Appendix A	CalEEMod Results
Appendix B	Cultural Resources Records Search Results
Appendix C	NAHC Response

# Initial Study

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## 1 Project Title

Pothole Trailhead Parking Area

## 2 Lead Agency Name and Address

United Water Conservation District  
106 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Paula, California 93060

## 3 Contact Person and Phone Number

James D. Grisham, Engineering Manager  
805-525-4431

## 4 Project Location

The project site is in eastern Ventura County, approximately 11 miles northeast of the unincorporated town of Piru, California. The site is located on the northwest side of Lake Piru off of Piru Canyon Road (Forest Service Road 4N13). The site is situated on United Water Conservation District's Lisk Ranch property within a 320-acre designated open space parcel (APN 0160180025). The site is situated just north of the private Rickenbacker Ranch Road, adjacent to Piru Canyon Road between Lisk Creek and a north-facing hill. Figure 1 shows the regional location of the project site, and Figure 2 shows the location of the project site.

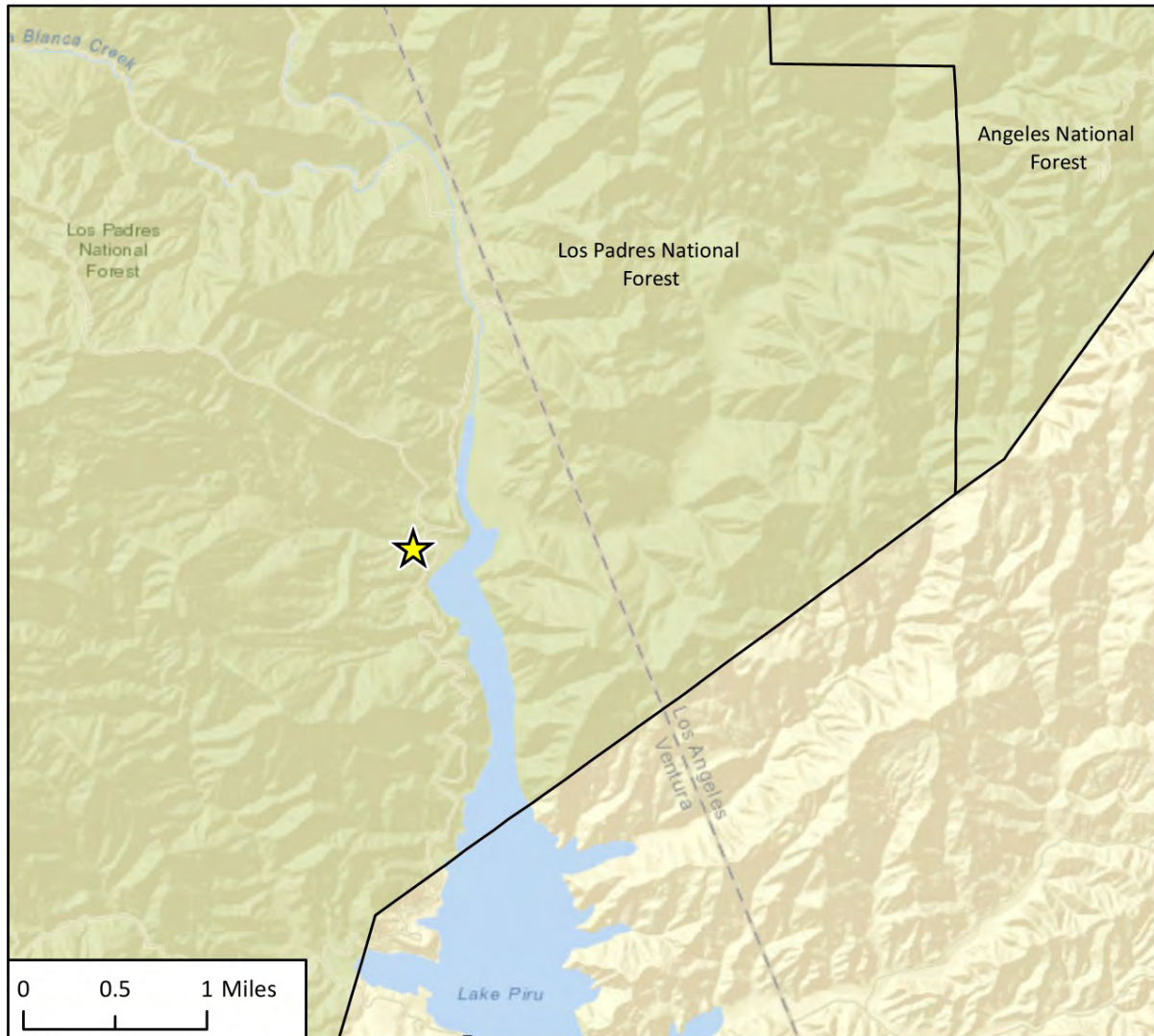
## 5 Project Sponsor's Name and Address

United Water Conservation District  
106 N. 8th Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

## 6 Existing Setting

The proposed Pothole Trailhead Parking Area facility ("proposed project") site is currently covered by native grasses and mature trees, including native oaks. Although undeveloped, the entire site is previously disturbed by human activities primarily associated with the original Lisk Ranch homestead, which is owned by United (as mentioned above [APN 0160180025]). The existing access road and parking area at this site have previously been graded and vegetation cleared (United 2016b). The site is not currently used for parking or access to the trail system. The western part of

Figure 1 Regional Location



Imagery provided by ESRI and its licensors © 2017.  
Additional data provided by US Forest Service, 2014.

★ Project Location



Fig 1 Regional Location

Figure 2 Project Location



Imagery provided by Google and its licensors © 2017.

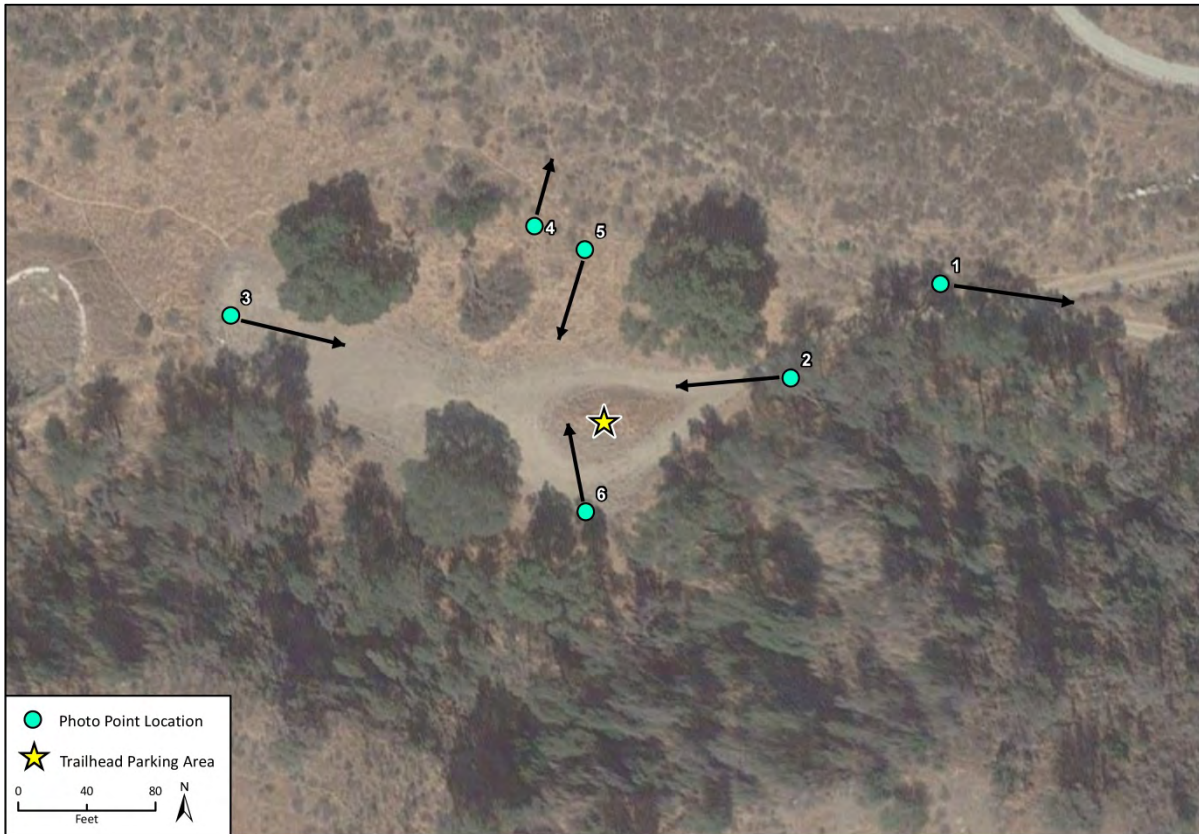
Fig. 2 Project Site Map

the project site is presently used for apiary activities<sup>1</sup> by a third-party, under lease to United, which would be terminated with implementation of the project. Historically, the project site was occupied by the Lisk Ranch homestead. There is a remnant concrete watering hole/irrigation pond to the west of the proposed trailhead parking area. The pond was from the original Lisk Ranch homestead and has deteriorated to such an extent that ponding no longer occurs. Figure 3 provides site photos showing existing conditions.

The site is in the general vicinity of the existing trailhead for the Forest Service Pothole Trail (No. 18W04), maintained by the United States Forest Service (“Forest Service”), which is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The existing trail enters the Sespe Wilderness Area in the southern part of the Los Padres National Forest. The site is located near the former Forest Service Blue Point Campground.

Additional discussion is provided below in Section 9, under “Existing Conditions”.

**Figure 3 Site Photos**



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<sup>1</sup> “Apiary activities” refer to beekeeping, and include the operation and maintenance of beehives.



**Photo 1:** View to the east down the spur road to the left and the main road to the right.



**Photo 2:** View to the west from the end of the access road over the proposed trailhead parking area.

United Water Conservation District  
Pothole Trailhead Parking Area



**Photo 3:** View to the east from the western border of the project site, near the site of the proposed restroom facilities.



**Photo 4:** View to the north from the edge of the project site, towards the existing Pothole Trail.



**Photo 5:** View to the north across project site, from the south edge of the site.



**Photo 6:** View to the south across the project site, near the entrance to the proposed spur connector trail.

## 7 General Plan Designation

Open Space

## 8 Zoning

Open Space (O-S); Scenic Resource Protection (SRP)

## 9 Background

United Water Conservation District (“UWCD” or “United”) proposes to construct a trailhead parking area facility on United’s Lisk Ranch property, to improve public access to the existing Forest Service Pothole Trail (No. 18W04).

United is required to provide trail access improvements as part of its Santa Felicia Trail Project Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license (No. 2153-012, Article 411). Therefore, United prepared the Santa Felicia Project Recreation Trail Plan (“Trail Plan”), originally dated November 5, 2013. The original Trail Plan determined that development of trail improvements on the east side of Lake Piru would not be feasible because there are no Forest Service trails or roadways in the Angeles National Forest property on the east side of the lake, and other existing roadways on the east side of the lake are not accessible to the public.

Through consultation with FERC regarding the original Trail Plan, United was directed to consult with the Forest Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), and other interested parties to explore alternative hiking opportunities and provide a modified plan, or provide justification that no alternative hiking opportunities were feasible. Public comments received on the Trail Plan focused on enhanced trail access on the northwest end of Lake Piru, in the Los Padres National Forest (United 2016a).

United continued consultation with the Forest Service, CDPR, and hiking-related stakeholders regarding alternative hiking opportunities, with a focus on improving access opportunities on the northwest end of Lake Piru in the Los Padres National Forest. That consultation led to a project concept that provides vehicular access to the Pothole Trail through the following measures:

- 1 United to provide access through the existing gate on Piru Canyon Road at Reasoner Canyon, either by opening or removing the gate;
- 2 United to relocate the gate at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp facility to just beyond the turn-out to the proposed project and immediately before the crossing over Lisk Creek; and
- 3 United to identify a preferred location and construct a trailhead parking area facility on United’s Lisk Ranch property that will serve the trailhead for the Forest Service’s Pothole Trail (No. 18W04).

At the time of preparation of this analysis, the gate at Reasoner Canyon and the gate at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp facility are in place and opened manually as needed to facilitate access as needed; however, these gates would be locked open in place/removed by United as part of the proposed project to facilitate public access to the proposed project. Relocating the gate from the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp facility to just prior to the crossing of Lisk Creek would allow public vehicles on Piru Canyon Road to turn around in the proposed project and prevent public vehicular

access beyond that point. The relocation of this gate as part of the proposed project would occur in consultation with the Forest Service. The new gate would be located on United's property.

Alternate locations for the trailhead parking area facility were considered prior to selection of the project site assessed in this Initial Study. Selection criteria for the trailhead parking area facility included the following: size, grade, terrain, existing vegetation, proximity to Piru Canyon Road, potential for flood inundation, and proximity to the existing Pothole Trail. Of the sites considered, two were identified as meeting the selection criteria: one at the entrance to the private Rickenbacker Ranch road, and one near the former Lisk Ranch homestead site. Both locations are located adjacent to Piru Canyon Road. The Lisk Ranch homestead site was determined to be favorable due to size, access, existing drainage patterns, and distance from private residences. Therefore, this is the site identified as the trailhead parking area facility and assessed in this Initial Study.

As a separate action from this proposed project, the Forest Service is currently performing an assessment to determine whether the existing Pothole Trailhead should be relocated, as discussed in United's Trail Plan Update (November 1, 2017). If the trailhead is relocated by the Forest Service, it will be provided on Forest Service lands along Piru Canyon Road, near the existing trailhead; as such, United's proposed project to provide an improved trailhead parking area facility is not dependent upon the location of the actual trailhead.

## 10 Existing Conditions

Figure 3 provides site photos showing existing conditions at the project site. The trailhead parking area facility (i.e., the Lisk Ranch homestead site), is located in T5N, R18W, Sec 15, approximately 600 feet west of Piru Canyon Road. The site is located at the base of a small canyon that is oriented west to east and drains into Lisk Creek. The existing parking area is out-sloped<sup>2</sup> which directs natural drainage to Lisk Creek, adjacent to the north of the parking area. The site is of an approximately level grade. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has not delineated the 100-year floodplain for this area.

Following is a description of the project area provided in a design analysis for the proposed project (Trails Unlimited 2017). This characterization of the project site and area were visually confirmed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. during site visits conducted in June 2016.

"Soils in this area are easily eroded and susceptible to debris flows, especially when severe wildfire events are followed by storms. Approximately 25 percent of the watershed area consists of rock outcrop. Soils are shallow to moderately shallow. Average annual precipitation is 19 inches, and runoff potential for the watershed is high, due to the soil characteristics.

Adjacent to the northern boundary of the proposed parking area, the stream channel is deeply incised, by approximately 12 to 15 feet. The depth of streambed incision may increase further upstream as the gradient increases and geomorphology changes. The streambed has been previously disturbed by the Forest Service, using bulldozers after the last El Niño event; those activities created various berms ranging in size, with the nearest one to the project [site] approximately 20 feet by 100 feet. The substrate of the incised channel is unsorted with a high percentage of rubble that is too large for bedload, and was therefore likely deposited as a debris

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<sup>2</sup> "Out-sloping" is a design feature that shapes the ground surface to direct surface stormwater flows and prevent the concentration of flows that could produce rilling, gullying, and rutting.

flow in response to a substantial storm event. There is a lack of cobble in the eroded stream channel, likely having been deposited downstream during a large storm event. The streambanks are unstable and provide a source of sediment that is carried downstream.

A large plume of sediment was deposited in the floodplain above and below the existing Piru Canyon Road during a large storm event that followed a wildfire in the upper canyon. In response to this damage, the Forest Service built two concrete fords on the roadway, one at the primary stream crossing, and one on a secondary flow path. The roadway and fords are collecting sediment that is repeatedly cleared and deposited along the roadway and in the floodplain. These fords are set at levels that are inhibiting channel aggradation.”

The proposed project site is currently used by a private party to maintain a bee apiary, under a special use permit with United. The site is tiered at two levels by about four feet in elevation and is generally sloped toward the valley bottom. Up-canyon from the bee hives (to the west) is a concrete-lined watering hole/ irrigation pond, approximately 100 feet by 65 feet in size. The pond was from the original Lisk Ranch homestead and has deteriorated over time such that ponding no longer occurs. Therefore, although remnants of the pond are still present, primarily in the form of broken pieces of concrete from the original pond lining, it does not retain water on-site and is no longer functional.

## 11 Site Access

Under current conditions, access to the Pothole Trail (No. 18W04) is provided via the Forest Service’s Piru Canyon Road, from United’s Lake Piru Recreation Area. Little to no maintenance has occurred on Piru Canyon Road since 2003, when repairs were made following the 2003 Piru Fire.

There are currently two United gates across Piru Canyon Road, prior to the trail access points assessed under this proposed project:

- One intermittently locked gate at Reasoner Canyon.
- One locked gate adjacent to Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility, at the northern boundary of the Lake Piru Recreation Area.

The locations of these gates are identified on Figure 4. The Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility gate has been closed to public access since 2000 as a resource protection measure for the endangered arroyo toad. This gate prevents vehicle access except by individuals authorized by the Forest Service, including private landowners, state, federal, and local agencies, and consultants thereof. The gate at Reasoner Canyon and the gate at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility are currently in place but will be removed or locked open by United as part of the proposed project.

There is also a gatehouse at the entrance to the Lake Piru Recreation Area (4780 Piru Canyon Road, Piru), where a gatehouse attendant greets visitors and collects day-use fees for the recreation area. After entering the Lake Piru Recreation Area at the gatehouse, recreationists desiring to use the Pothole Trail (No. 18W04) must pass through United’s gate on Piru Canyon Road at Reasoner Canyon, then park at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility just before the locked gate. From the parking area at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility, recreationists currently proceed on foot past the locked gate. It is then approximately three miles along the Forest Service-owned portion of Piru Canyon Road (across Forest Service property, United property, and a portion of the Rancho Temescal property) to the existing Pothole Trail trailhead. As noted above, this portion of Piru

Canyon Road has been unmaintained since 2003; any future maintenance or modification of the road would be the responsibility of the Forest Service.

**Figure 4 Site Access**



From Piru Canyon Road, two spur roads currently provide access to the proposed trailhead parking area facility (shown on Photo 1 in Figure 3). Both roads are currently damaged by rutting, resulting from surface flows during storm events. The lower (northern) road provides a secondary flow path for the site-adjacent stream by intercepting stream flow during storm events; this flow diversion also increases the velocity of flow and contributes a source of sediment to the flow. This existing spur road will be abandoned in-place, such that the only access to the project site will be provided via the upper (southern) road. This road is outside of the stream’s flow path but is also deeply rutted in some places where previous storms have resulted in surface flows along the roadway. The road will be repaired during project implementation.

## 12 Proposed Project

The proposed project includes improvements to the trailhead parking area facility, near the former Lisk Ranch homestead. These improvements include resurfacing of the existing site to provide parking for vehicles and horse trailers, improvements to an existing spur road providing access to the site from Piru Canyon Road (referred to as “main road” shown on Photo #1), decommissioning of a secondary spur road providing current access to the site from Piru Canyon Road, and

repositioning/removal of existing gates on Piru Canyon Road to facilitate access. All improvements included under the project are described below.

1. **Road Improvements and Access.** Road improvements and access features that would be implemented under the proposed project include the following:
  - Upgrade approximately 600 feet of the southern spur road which provides access to the trailhead parking area, including improved drainage consisting of at-grade crossings at Lisk Creek, and widening of the road to 16 feet. No culvert crossings would occur as part of the project. Additional improvements that would be implemented on this spur road as part of the project include:
    - Construction of a swale on the northern side of the road,
    - Out-sloping of the road, and
    - Raising of the road bed to provide for adequate drainage.

These improvements will facilitate natural drainage patterns and reduce the risk of head-cuts and water diversion.

- Close the northern spur road, which currently diverts stream flows, and rehabilitate the roadway through rip/scatter activities of native vegetation. The ground surface will be scarified perpendicular to contours, with sub-soiling and soil scarification used to reduce compaction and increase filtration. Natural drainage patterns of the area will be maintained wherever practicable.

A protective cover consisting of native vegetation consistent with United's Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan (United, 2010) will be placed on disturbed areas to prevent accelerated erosion during construction or before the next growing season.

Vehicular access to areas outside of the trailhead parking area facility will be blocked using fencing or the strategic placement of boulders. Access to areas outside of the trailhead parking area facility will also be discouraged using signage with clearly posted information about access roads and trails.

2. **Parking Area Features.** The proposed project would improve approximately one acre of the existing trailhead parking area to create 14 parking spaces and up to four pull-through spaces for vehicles with trailers. Building materials would be obtained from local sources. Improvements would include:

- Clear existing trailhead parking area to facilitate parking
- Install packed gravel on the parking area surface, using material obtained from local source(s)<sup>3</sup>
- Install hitching posts for equestrian use
- Install wildlife-deterrent trash receptacles
- Install informational signage in the trailhead parking area including but not limited to:
  - Maps of the recreation area,
  - Warnings of potential hazards including wildlife (e.g. snakes and large predators), and
  - Guidance for recycling and trash disposal.

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<sup>3</sup> The County CUP identifies this as an existing unpaved parking area. The Recreation Master Plan states that the parking at the Lisk Ranch site (location of the proposed project) will not be paved. Discussion of why paving of the site is not proposed as part of the project is discussed in this analysis; please see Section 9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*.

- Install signage on Piru Canyon Road to warn motorists of narrow and uneven road conditions, to ensure public safety for motorists traveling along Piru Canyon Road between Reasoner Canyon and the proposed project site
  - Install split-rail fence to protect one mature oak tree in the parking area, and along the western portion of the parking area (where the apiary activities are currently present) to prevent vehicular access
  - Place barriers in the form of split-rail fence or corral-style fencing to define the parking area and drainage features; some large boulders may also be used to define the project site perimeter (likely obtained from Ojai or Camarillo sources)
3. **Restroom Facilities.** The project includes installation and maintenance of restroom facilities in the trailhead parking area. Toilets would be a vault design, concrete pre-cast, with the outside of the restroom facility painted in a neutral color scheme consistent with similar facilities in the recreation area. The restrooms would be located at the far end of the trailhead parking area, where the bee apiary activities are currently conducted under a lease agreement with United; with implementation of the proposed project, the apiary will be relocated to a more appropriate location and may continue to occur under a lease agreement with United. Fencing along the western portion of the parking area will be removed to accommodate placement of the restroom facilities, which will provide the same effect as the fence, of preventing vehicular access outside of the parking area.
4. **Drainage Improvements.** Drainage improvements will be implemented under the proposed project, to maintain natural patterns of surface runoff to the maximum extent practicable, and to prevent the persistence of existing drainage-related damage such as rutting in the roadway. As such, the project would place perimeter fencing (split-rail or corral-style) along the northern and western sides of the trailhead parking area. In addition, a surface flow dissipater would be placed just beyond the perimeter fencing, to reduce the velocity of stormwater flows leaving the site. A drainage structure (flow dissipater) will be placed every 50 feet around the site perimeter. Slope of the parking area will be approximately two percent.
5. **Access Improvements.** As part of the project United will remove (or lock open) the existing access gate at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility, and will concurrently install a new access gate just beyond the existing Pothole Trail trailhead, before the Lisk Creek crossing which leads to Blue Point Campground. Installing a gate at this location will control public vehicle access into areas where sensitive toad/frog species have the greatest potential for crossing roads, in order to protect habitat suitability and individual occurrences. The existing gate at Reasoner Canyon will also be removed (or locked open) as part of the proposed project.

## 13 Project Design Features

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are included as design features of the proposed project, to avoid or minimize potential impacts. These include standard construction BMPs implemented by United's engineering department. BMPs that would be implemented during project construction and/or operation (as applicable) are provided below.

## Construction BMPs

- Develop and implement an erosion control and sediment plan (such as a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan [SWPPP] or equivalent) that covers all disturbed areas including borrow, stockpile, fueling, and staging areas used during project construction.
- Establish and maintain construction area limits to the minimum area necessary for completing the project and confine disturbance to within the area.
- Install sediment and stormwater controls before initiating ground-disturbing activities.
- Slow, disperse, and divert stormwater runoff away from impermeable surfaces (including the parking area surface – as described above, the parking area surface will be covered with packed gravel or base material).
- Implement seasonal shutdown of project operations or when severe or successive storms are expected.
- Allow temporary refueling and servicing only at designated locations, situated away from surface water or riparian areas.
- Develop or use existing fuel and chemical management plans (for example, spill prevention control and countermeasures [SPCC], spill response plan, emergency response plan) when developing the management prescription for refueling and servicing sites.
- Schedule construction activities to avoid direct soil and water disturbance during periods of the year when heavy precipitation and runoff are likely to occur.

## Operation and Maintenance BMPs

- Post and maintain clear signage in the trailhead parking area which states the hours of operation for public use, as applicable (gate to the parking area will be closed during or in anticipation of severe storm events). Signs will be posted at each end of the spur road providing access to the parking area, to ensure that recreationists are aware of any planned gate closures.
- Close access to the trailhead parking area during or in anticipation of severe storm events.

## 14 Construction

Construction of the proposed project is expected to occur over a period of approximately one month. To the extent feasible, construction will be scheduled to avoid months when sensitive species are more active such as during breeding season; individual species and associated mitigation measures are discussed below in the Biological Resources section of this Initial Study.

During construction activities for the proposed project, vehicles and equipment will be staged in the trailhead parking area, on the side of the road (positioned to not impede traffic on Piru Canyon Road), and/or at the boat launch parking area. Activities within active drainage channels will be avoided. Ground-disturbing activities during storm events or when storm events are anticipated will also be avoided. Water will be applied to the ground surface during ground-disturbing activities for dust suppression.

Implementation of the project features described under “Proposed Project” will require the use of a variety of vehicles and equipment, for transport of materials to and from the site, as well as for on-site activities at the trailhead parking area. Table 1, below, identifies the types of equipment anticipated to be required during project construction, and the approximate duration of use for each.

**Table 1 Construction Equipment and Use**

Equipment Type	Duration of Use	Location	Engine Type
Drill Rig	One day, 8 hrs/day	Job Site	Diesel
Backhoe	One day, 8 hrs/day	Job Site	Diesel
Dozer JD 450	2 weeks, 8 hrs/day	Job Site	Diesel
Excavator JD 365	3 weeks, 4 hrs/day	Job Site	Diesel
Roller Compactor 5 ton	3 weeks, 3 hrs/day	Job Site	Diesel
Water Truck 3000 gallon	4 weeks, 8 hrs/day	Job Site	Diesel
4 Transport Trucks - Base	2 days, 1.5 hrs /trip, 4 trips/day	Delivery Only	Diesel
2 Transport Trucks - Rock	3 days, 1.5 hrs /trip, 2 trips/day	Delivery Only	Diesel
¾ ton Pick-up Truck	4 weeks – 1 hrs. per day	Daily	Diesel

No live trees will be removed during project construction. One dead oak tree (fallen) currently located on-site will be repositioned along the border of the parking area, to maintain habitat currently provided by the fallen tree. No work would occur in the stream.

## 15 Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of the proposed project will include regular trash removal, cleaning of the restroom facility, and general activities such as repairing damaged fences or signage as needed. Trash from the trailhead parking area facility will be trucked to and disposed of at a local solid waste disposal facility. All project features, including the packed gravel surface, boundary fencing, and drainage features, will be inspected during regular maintenance visits, and repaired as needed.

Operation and maintenance of the project would not involve work in the stream. Signage would be posted to direct recreationists to not cross the stream, to protect its integrity and avoid potential issues such as erosion and sedimentation. From the parking area, recreationists may walk along Piru Canyon Road to the existing trailhead (or to the relocated trailhead, should the Forest Service reposition it under separate action from this proposed project). As discussed previously, United would remove (or secure in an open position) the access gate at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility and install a new access gate on Piru Canyon Road past the proposed trailhead parking area facility, near the Lisk Creek crossing, in coordination with the Forest Service. This would restrict public vehicular access farther along Piru Canyon Road and protect sensitive frog/toad habitat on Forest Service property. Potential impacts associated with biological resources, including sensitive habitats and species occurrences are addressed in this Initial Study under “Biological Resources”.

Access gate modifications implemented by United are intended to increase legal access to public facilities and trails. Access to private property in-holdings along Piru Canyon Road is restricted from public use by private property rights and trespassing laws. Similarly, laws exist to discourage illegal activities associated with poaching or illegal hunting.

Maintenance of the restroom facilities within the proposed parking area facility would include regular access by large vehicles to pump out waste from the vault toilets and transport to an approved disposal facility. These trucks would access the site via Piru Canyon Road. Piru Canyon

Road is currently in disrepair and has not been maintained by the Forest Service since 2003; therefore, signage would be posted along the roadway to caution of potentially hazardous road conditions such as rutting and sharp turns. As previously described, maintenance of Piru Canyon Road between the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility and the proposed parking area facility is the responsibility of the Forest Service.

The proposed parking area would not be locked at night, in the interest of public safety. Signage would be placed in the trailhead parking area and on the spur road to clearly indicate public access and parking areas, and to discourage trespassing. United personnel will conduct regular and frequent patrols of the project area, and will report signs of unauthorized access, trespassing, poaching, and/or vandalism to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

## 16 Required Approvals

The proposed project would require an order approving the CEQA findings by FERC. The proposed project may also require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Modification by the County of Ventura. Review and approval is also required from FERC, the USDA Forest Service, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). Approval from other public agencies is not anticipated to be required. The restroom construction will require United to obtain a zone clearance and building permit from the County of Ventura.

## 17 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

Surrounding land uses include open space, private land (individual parcels with residential cabins and hunting uses), and United's Lake Piru Recreation Area. The project is located in eastern unincorporated Ventura County near the unincorporated community of Piru.

## Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This project would potentially affect the environmental factors checked below, involving at least one impact that is “Potentially Significant” or “Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

## Determination

Based on 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 to 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.

United Water Conservation District  
**Pothole Trailhead Parking Area**

- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potential 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.

James D. Grisham

Signature

April 25, 2018

Date

James D. Grisham

Printed Name

Engineering Manager

Title

United Water Conservation District  
**Pothole Trailhead Parking Area**

- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potential 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.

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Signature

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Date

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Printed Name

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Title

# Environmental Checklist

## 1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantial damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings along a state scenic highway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The proposed project is designed to be aesthetically comparable to exiting conditions. The project is located within the viewshed of Lake Piru, which is designated as a scenic viewshed by the County of Ventura. However, the project is not located on a scenic vista and would not introduce any new structures with potential to obstruct a scenic vista. The project would install a restroom facility located at the western border of the site; this structure would be painted in a neutral color and is not located in an area where it would obstruct existing views in the area. The project is not located on a ridge line and would not impede existing views of Lake Piru or mountains in the Sespe Wilderness. Therefore, no impact to a scenic vista would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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

There are no historic buildings or state scenic highways in the project area. Mature trees would be protected in-place, and one dead (fallen) tree would be repositioned on-site for safety of vehicles and to protect existing habitat provided by the fallen tree. There are no rock outcroppings on or within view of the project site. The project is designed to minimize impact to the existing visual character of the site, including using packed gravel and a color scheme on the restroom facility that

will be aesthetically consistent with the area. Therefore, the project would not damage scenic resources and no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- c. *Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

During construction activities, the presence of construction vehicles and equipment would be visible from trails in the project area; such effects would be temporary and limited to the construction period.

As discussed above, under criteria (a) and (b), the project is designed to be aesthetically consistent with existing conditions. The visual character of the site would be altered by the presence of packed gravel, fencing to protect mature oak trees, drainage features consisting of dissipation areas on the site boundary, informational signage, and a restroom facility located on the western project boundary. The project may result in increased usage of the trailhead parking area as well as the Pothole Trailhead (existing or relocated, at the discretion of the Forest Service), due to better access and the availability of a parking area; the presence of vehicles would temporarily alter visual character at the trailhead parking area. However, visual receptors are mobile recreationists who would otherwise have to hike into the project area past parking lots and other parked cars. Furthermore, recent use as an apiary and past use as a parking area for the Pothole Trail prior to the road closure in 2000 had impacts on the visual quality of the site and mobile recreational visitors. Therefore, the project would not substantially alter or degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT 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?*

The project site is currently not lit and does not include reflective surfaces. Implementation of the project would not include the installation of nighttime lighting or reflective services. During construction, vehicles and equipment that could produce glare will be present on the site, and intermittent glare from the temporary glare from these vehicles and equipment may be visible from trails in the project area. Additionally, the project may result in increased usage of the trailhead parking area as well as the Pothole Trailhead, due to better access and availability of parking areas; the increased presence of vehicles may also create an intermittent source of glare from trails in the area. Due to the intermittent and site-specific nature of such effects, potential impacts associated with glare would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## 2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning of forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)); timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526); or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, 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?*

The project is not located on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Important. The project would not convert or otherwise affect existing Farmland. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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

The project site is not zoned for agricultural use or designated under a Williamson Act contract. The project would not convert or otherwise conflict with agricultural uses. No impact would occur.

**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))?*

The project site is previously disturbed and not zoned as forest land or timber land. The project would not convert or otherwise conflict with forest land or timber land. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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

As noted above for criterion (c), the project would not affect forest lands. No impact would occur.

**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?*

As noted under the preceding criteria, the project would have no impact on Farmland or agricultural uses. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

### 3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The project site is in the South Central Coast Air Basin (the SCCAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD). As the local air quality management agency, VCAPCD is required to monitor air pollutant levels to ensure that applicable air quality standards are met and, if they are not met, to develop strategies to meet the standards.

Depending on whether the standards are met or exceeded, the SCCAB is classified as being in “attainment” or “nonattainment.” The part of the SCCAB where the project site is located is in nonattainment for both the federal and State standards for ozone, and State standards for particulate matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>). Therefore, the SCCAB currently exceeds several State and federal ambient air quality standards and is required to implement strategies that would reduce pollutant levels to recognized acceptable standards. In 2017, VCAPCD adopted an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) that provides a strategy for the attainment of State and federal air quality standards.

The most recent VCAPCD comprehensive publication regarding air quality assessment is the *Ventura County Air Quality Assessment Guidelines* (Guidelines, 2003). The Guidelines recommend significance thresholds for projects proposed in Ventura County, which state that air quality impacts are considered significant if a proposed project would meet one of the following:

- Generate daily emissions exceeding 25 pounds of reactive organic compounds (ROG) or nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>);

- Be inconsistent with goals and policies of the Ventura County AQMP;
- Create a human health hazard by exposing sensitive receptors to toxic air emissions;
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.
- Cause an exceedance or making a substantial contribution to an exceedance of an ambient air quality standard<sup>4</sup>; or
- Directly or indirectly cause the existing population to exceed the population forecasts in the most recently adopted AQMP.

The Guidelines consider projects that generate more than 25 pounds per day of ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> to jeopardize attainment of the federal and State ozone standard and thus have a significant impact on air quality. The 25 pounds per day threshold for ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> are not intended to be applied to construction emissions because they are temporary.

The VCAPCD has not established quantitative thresholds for particulate matter either for operation or construction. However, a project that may generate fugitive dust emissions in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons, or which may endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person, or which may cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property is considered to have a significant air quality impact by the VCAPCD. This threshold is particularly applicable to the generation of fugitive dust during construction grading operations.

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

The VCAPCD Guidelines state that project consistency with the AQMP can be determined by comparing the actual population growth in the county with the projected growth rates used in the AQMP. However, if there are more recent population forecasts that have been adopted by the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) where the total county population is lower than that included in the most recently adopted AQMP population forecasts, lead agencies may use the more recent VCOG forecasts for determining AQMP consistency.

Activities under the proposed project that would generate air quality emissions include the use of equipment, machinery, and vehicles during the project construction period, and the potential for increased visitation to the site by vehicles during the operational period. However, the project is intended to improve public trail access and would not lead to any growth in population. Therefore, the project would not contribute to an exceedance of the VCOG projected population growth forecast and would comply with the AQMP. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

*b. Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

The area of the SCCAB where the project is located is currently a nonattainment area for both the federal and State standards for ozone and the State standards for PM<sub>10</sub>. When population growth exceeds the forecasts upon which the AQMP is based, emission inventories could be surpassed,

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<sup>4</sup>“Substantial” is defined as making an existing exceedance measurably worse. Since the VCAPCD does not provide a numerical value for “substantial contribution”, changes in carbon monoxide concentrations were determined to be significant and substantial for this analysis if concentrations including project traffic caused an exceedance of the California one-hour standard of 20 parts per million (ppm) carbon monoxide or the federal and State eight-hour standard of 9.0 (ppm) is exceeded. This latter standard follows the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) definition of significance for CO impacts (SCAQMD 2015).

which could affect attainment of standards. Nonattainment may result from past and ongoing urban and rural development that causes emissions to exceed the air basin’s capacity for dispersal and removal of the air pollutants. However, as indicated above in the discussion for criterion a), the proposed project would not cause population forecasts to be exceeded. Therefore, the project would not result in delayed attainment of air quality standards nor would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- c. *Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*

The potential for the project to result in a net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is in nonattainment is discussed below for construction and operation, respectively.

**Construction Emissions**

Development of the proposed project would result in temporary air quality effects due to the use of heavy construction equipment, construction truck trips, and the associated generation of fugitive dust. Site preparation and grading typically generate the greatest amount of emissions due to the use of grading equipment. The proposed project’s construction-related impacts were calculated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod, Version 2016.3.2) software program. Emissions were based on parameters such as the duration of construction activity, area of disturbance, and anticipated equipment used during construction, using information provided by United. Additionally, the approximate percentage of paved and unpaved road was input into the model in order to account for vehicles traveling along Piru Canyon Road to and from the proposed parking area. It was also assumed that the speed in which construction vehicles and equipment would travel on the unpaved portion of the road would not exceed 10 miles per hour. The modeling results are included in Appendix A and are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2 Construction Emissions (pounds/day)**

Pollutant	Maximum Daily Emissions	Significance Threshold	Significant Impact?
ROG	2.2	25	No
NO <sub>x</sub>	23.4	25	No
CO	11.3	n/a	No
SO <sub>x</sub>	<0.1	n/a	No
PM <sub>10</sub>	62.9	n/a	No
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	6.8	n/a	No

The VCAPCD’s 25 pounds per day thresholds for ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> are not intended to be applied to construction emissions because such emissions are temporary. For construction impacts, the VCAPCD recommends minimizing fugitive dust through dust control measures. The project would be required to adhere to VCAPCD Rule 55, which restricts fugitive dust generated from disturbed soil

areas. Construction-related impacts are considered less than significant because of their temporary nature.

### Operational Emissions

Operational emissions were also estimated using CalEEMod based on the proposed land uses. Maintenance of the trailhead parking area during operation would require vehicle trips for the following: regular trash removal; periodic opening/closing the access gate as needed during flood or fire events and other incidents involving public safety; and regular maintenance of the restroom facility (up to two truck trips per year to pump the vault toilet). Emissions associated with passenger vehicles traveling to the project site were not projected in CalEEMod, based on the reasonable assumption that in the absence of the proposed project, passenger vehicles would travel to other resources in the project area and would therefore not affect regional operational emission projections.

In CalEEMod, land uses for the project were assumed to be an unpaved parking lot for the trailhead parking area facility and a city park with an approximately 100 square foot building for the construction of the modular restroom. Development of the project would be required to comply with all applicable rules set forth by the VCAPCD. As shown in Table 3, operational emissions from the project are below the VCAPCD thresholds. Therefore, no long-term impact to regional air quality would occur.

**Table 3 Operational Emissions (pounds/day)**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>Significance Threshold</b>	<b>Significant Impact?</b>
ROG	<0.1	25	No
NO <sub>x</sub>	<0.1	25	No
CO	<0.1	n/a	No
SO <sub>x</sub>	<0.1	n/a	No
PM <sub>10</sub>	<0.1	n/a	No
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	<0.1	n/a	No

Air pollution emissions associated with project construction and operation would not exceed VCAPCD thresholds. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*d. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Sensitive receptors include population groups such as children, the elderly, and people with health problems, as well as land uses that are more likely to be used by these population groups such as health care facilities, retirement homes, school and playground facilities, and residential areas. The sensitive receptors nearest to the project include a residence approximately three miles south. As indicated above, neither temporary construction emissions nor long-term project operational emissions would exceed VCAPCD thresholds; therefore, the project would not subject sensitive receptors to significant pollutant concentrations. Impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*e. Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?*

Use of the proposed project would include visitation by passenger vehicles, and operation of the vault toilet facility; these factors could introduce odors to the site, but they would be intermittent. The vault toilet is a standard design used by the Forest Service and United. The building has a passive ventilation system that minimizes odors typical of a public vault toilet facility and would be regularly maintained which would avoid adverse odors. In addition, the project site is located approximately three miles north of the nearest sensitive receptor, and sensitive receptors would therefore not be affected by potentially objectionable odors from the vault toilet.

Odors would be generated by the operation of diesel-fueled equipment during the construction phase of the project and would include the smells of oil or diesel fuels. The odors would be limited to the time that construction equipment is operating and would not occur within proximity to a substantial number of people. In addition, all off-road construction equipment would be subject to the California Air Resources Board anti-idling rule (SS2449(d)(2)), which limits idling to five minutes. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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## 4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A site reconnaissance for the proposed project was conducted on July 20, 2016, to evaluate biological resources within and adjacent to the project site and within the proposed access road, assess the habitat suitability for potential special-status species, map sensitive biological resources or communities (if present), determine presence/absence of waters or wetlands, document any wildlife connectivity features, and record observations of plant and wildlife species.

The project site has historically been used for cattle grazing and ranching, as apparent on historic photos and maps of the Lisk Ranch, provided by United. The Lisk Ranch, which originally existed on this site, was demolished and abandoned in the 1950s, and subsequent cattle leases (King Family) expired in 2001. However, the site was thoroughly disturbed during uses for ranching and grazing. In addition, United has been leasing the area to beekeepers since 2005. Remaining evidence of previous human activity, occupation, and disturbance is present in the form of disturbed ground and an empty, deteriorated cement-lined water pond (no longer operational, due to deterioration and siltation). During a site visit conducted for the proposed project, evidence of recent apiary activities within the project site was also observed (private party authorized apiary usage under a lease agreement with United). Based on a review of historical aerial photographs, as well as lease records from United, apiary activities have taken place within the project area since 2005. As described above and herein, the project site is historically and recently disturbed by human activities, which have also altered vegetation communities in the area. Existing general plant communities identified within the project site during site visits conducted for the proposed project include coastal sage scrub, southern oak woodland, annual grassland, chaparral, and ruderal.

Vegetation communities identified within the project site provide suitable habitat for numerous avian and bat species. Avian species observed/detected (i.e., visual/audio) within or near the project site include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens turati*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), ash-throated flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), California scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), blue grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*), and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*). One reptile species, western side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) tracks were also identified within the project area.

The project is located in eastern Ventura County, approximately 11 miles northeast of the unincorporated town of Piru, California. The project is located on the northwest side of Lake Piru, approximately 600 feet west of Piru Canyon Road (Forest Service Road 4N13), and at the base of a small canyon that is oriented west to east. No aquatic or riparian vegetation exists on the project site; therefore, the lack of aquatic habitat eliminates the potential for the presence of special-status aquatic species to occur. No special-status habitats occur on the project site.

- 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Rincon's search of the California Natural Diversity Database Biogeographic Information and Observation System (CNDDDB BIOS) identified eleven (11) special status wildlife species, zero (0) special status plant species, and nine (9) communities as having been observed within a five-mile

radius of the project site (project area). Table 4 provides a list of CNDDDB special-status species documented near the project site.

Special status species are those plants and animals that are:

- Listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA)
- Listed or proposed for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- Recognized as Species of Special Concern (SSC) by the CDFW
- Afforded protection under Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and/or California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)
- Plants with a California Native Plant Society California Rare Plant Rank 1 or 2

Assessments for the potential occurrence of special-status species are based upon known ranges, habitat preferences for the species, species occurrence records from the CNDDDB, species occurrence records from other sites near the survey area, and previous reports for the project site. The potential for each special-status species to occur in the survey area was evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **No Potential.** Habitat on and adjacent to the site is clearly unsuitable for the species requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, substrate, elevation, hydrology, plant community, site history, disturbance regime).
- **Low Potential.** Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the site is unsuitable or of very poor quality. The species is not likely to be found on the site.
- **Moderate Potential.** Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is unsuitable. The species has a moderate probability of being found on the site.
- **High Potential.** All of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is highly suitable. The species has a high probability of being found on the site.
- **Present.** Species observed on the site or has been recorded (e.g., CNDDDB, other reports) on the site recently (within the last 5 years).

**Table 4 Special-status Species Potentially Occurring within the Project Area**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Ventura Co. Locally Important	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<b>Fish</b>						
Catostomus santaanae	Santa Ana sucker	FT	--	No	Endemic to Los Angeles Basin south coastal streams. Habitat generalists, but prefer sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water, and algae.	Low Potential (not likely to be found on site). Fresh water aquatic habitat is not present on the project site. Suitable habitat, however, may occur in adjacent aquatic resources, outside the project footprint.
<b>Amphibians</b>						
Anaxyrus californicus	arroyo toad	FE	SSC	No	Semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill and desert riparian, desert wash, etc. Rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores; loose, gravelly areas of streams in drier parts of range.	Low Potential. The project site occurs within mapped arroyo toad critical habitat; however, suitable habitat does not occur within the project site. Suitable habitat may occur in adjacent aquatic habitat located outside the project footprint.
Rana boylei	foothill yellow-legged frog	FE	SSC	No	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying.	Low Potential. Aquatic habitat is not present on the project site. Suitable habitat, however, may occur in adjacent aquatic resources, outside the project footprint.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT	SSC	No	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Low Potential. Critical habitat occurs within one mile of project site. No documented CNDDB occurrences within five miles of project site. The project site lacks suitable habitat; however, suitable habitat may occur in the adjacent aquatic resource areas located outside the project footprint.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Ventura Co. Locally Important	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<b>Reptiles</b>						
Actinemys pallida (formerly Emys marmorata)	Southern western pond turtle (formerly western pond turtle)	--	SSC	No	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6,000 feet elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	Low Potential. Aquatic habitat is not present on the project site; however, there is potential that suitable habitat occurs in the adjacent aquatic resource areas located outside the project footprint.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	Blainvillii (coast) horned lizard	--	SSC	No	Grasslands, coniferous forests, woodlands, and chaparral, with open areas and patches of loose soil. Roadsides, disturbed areas.	Moderate Potential. Species not documented within project site; however, the project site and associated roadway may provide suitable conditions for horned lizard occurrence.
Thamnophis hammondi	two-striped garter snake	--	SSC	No	Generally found around pools, creeks, cattle tanks, and other water sources, often in rocky areas, in oak woodland, chaparral, brushland, and coniferous forest.	Low Potential (not likely to be found on site). Aquatic habitat is not present on the project site; however, there is potential that two-striped garter snake may occur in the adjacent aquatic resource areas located outside the project footprint.
<b>Birds</b>						
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE	SE, SSC	No	Nests in dense riparian forests interspersed with small openings for open water, or shorter/sparser vegetation, creating a mosaic that is not uniformly dense. Willow flycatcher breeding sites are almost always occur near slow-moving or still surface water and/or saturated soil.	Low Potential (not likely to be found on site). Critical habitat occurs within one-mile of project site. No documented CNDDB occurrences within five-miles of project site. The project site lacks suitable habitat; however, there is potential that suitable habitat may occur in the designated critical habitat area in the adjacent aquatic resource areas, located outside the project footprint.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Ventura Co. Locally Important	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Gymnogyps californianus	California condor	FE	SE, FP	No	Require vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude. Deep canyons containing clefts in the rocky walls provide nesting sites. Forages up to 100 miles from roost/nest.	Low Potential (not likely to be found on site). The southern boundary of the project site falls approximately four miles west/north west from the Sespe Condor Sanctuary in the Los Padres National Forest and the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. The project site lacks suitable nesting habitat and the likelihood for a California condor to land on the project site is very low, but there is a potential for a foraging condor could be found within the general area.
Falco mexicanus	prairie falcon	--	WL	No	Inhabits dry, open terrain, either level or hilly. Breeding sites located on cliffs. Forages far afield, even to marshlands and ocean shores.	Low Potential. Grassland within the project site provides suitable foraging habitat but lacks nesting habitat.
<b>Mammals</b>						
Eumops perotis californicus	western mastiff bat	--	SSC	No	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	Moderate Potential. Suitable foraging habitat occurs within the project site and the adjacent areas. Suitable roosting habitat occurs within the chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodland habitat located adjacent to the project site. No potential roosts were identified during the reconnaissance site visit.
Status Definitions: FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, SE = State Endangered, FP = CDFW Fully Protected, SSC = CDFW Species of Special Concern						

### Special-Status Plant Species

The CNDDDB does not list any special status plant species occurrences within five (5) miles of the project site. However, a southern California walnut (*Juglans californica*) tree, California Rare Plant Rank 4.2, was observed within the north section of the project site during the site survey, but outside of the planned ground disturbance area (approximately 150 feet away from proposed ground disturbance). This species is not considered a California Rare Plant Rank 1 or 2. No sensitive plants were observed during the reconnaissance survey, and due to previous human disturbance observed no special status plant species are expected to occur within the project area. Table 5

provides a list of plant species observed within the project area during the reconnaissance field survey.

**Table 5 Plant Species Observed within and Adjacent to the Project Area**

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin
Amaranthaceae	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	Tumbleweed	Non-native
Anacardiaceae	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant sumac	Native
Anacardiaceae	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak	Native
Apiaceae	<i>Lomatium dasycarpum</i> ssp. <i>dasycarpum</i>	Woolly fruited lomatium	Native
Apocynaceae	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Narrow leaf milkweed	Native
Asteraceae	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mule fat	Native
Asteraceae	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Italian thistle	Non-native
Asteraceae	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow star thistle	Non-native
Asteraceae	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Skeleton weed	Non-native
Asteraceae	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	Hairy goldenaster	Native
Asteraceae	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	Non-native
Asteraceae	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle	Non-native
Boraginaceae	<i>Cryptantha microstachys</i>	Tejon cryptantha	Native
Boraginaceae	<i>Eriodictyon crassifolium</i> var. <i>nigrescens</i>	Thick leaved yerba santa	Native
Boraginaceae	<i>Plagiobothrys nothofulvus</i>	Rusty haired popcorn flower	Native
Brassicaceae	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	Non-native
Brassicaceae	<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>	Prince's plume	Native
Caprifoliaceae	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>caerulea</i>	Blue elderberry	Native
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Croton setiger</i>	Turkey mullein	Native
Fabaceae	<i>Acmispon heermannii</i>	Heermann's lotus	Native
Fabaceae	<i>Lupinus albifrons</i> var. <i>albifrons</i>	Silver bush lupine	Native
Fabaceae	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	Non-native
Fabaceae	<i>Trifolium microcephalum</i>	Small head clover	Native
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	Native
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Red stemmed filaree	Non-native
Juglandaceae	<i>Juglans californica</i>	Southern California walnut	Native, 4.2
Lamiaceae	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound	Non-native
Lamiaceae	<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White sage	Native
Liliaceae	<i>Brodiaea</i> sp.	Brodiaea	Native
Malvaceae	<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>	Bush mallow	Native
Onagraceae	<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	Elegant clarkia	Native
Phrymaceae	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Sticky monkeyflower	Native
Poaceae	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Large oats	Non-native
Poaceae	<i>Bromus arizonicus</i>	Arizona brome	Native
Poaceae	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome	Non-native
Poaceae	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermudagrass	Non-native
Poaceae	<i>Elymus caput-medusae</i>	Medusa head	Non-native
Polygonaceae	<i>Eriogonum baileyi</i> var. <i>baileyi</i>	Bailey's buckwheat	Native
Polygonaceae	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Native
Rhamnaceae	<i>Frangula californica</i> ssp. <i>cuspidata</i>	Sierra hoary coffeeberry	Native
Rhamnaceae	<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	Hollyleaf redberry	Native
Rosaceae	<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i> var. <i>fasciculatum</i>	Chamise	Native
Solanaceae	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimsonweed	Native
Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco	Non-native
Zygophyllaceae	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncture vine	Non-native

## Special-Status Wildlife Species

No special-status wildlife species were observed onsite during the reconnaissance survey; however, a CNDDDB search for special status wildlife occurrences within a five-mile radius of the project site identified eleven (11) special-status species (see Table 4). Based on existing habitat within the project area, including the adjacent aquatic resources areas that do not occur within the project footprint, eleven (11) species have a moderate or low potential to occur within the project area. Project activities would not impact the adjacent aquatic resources and no creek crossings would occur leading to the proposed trailhead parking area facility. Opening access to the public on to Piru Canyon Road, which leads to Blue Point Campground, may present potential impacts to aquatic resources that may occur along the adjacent Lisk Creek, which the road crosses after the proposed trailhead parking area facility.

The gate at Reasoner Canyon and the gate at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility (see Figure 4) are being removed (or locked open in place) by United as part of the proposed project. The project includes replacing the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility access gate with a new gate located beyond the proposed trailhead parking area facility near the Lisk Creek crossing of Piru Canyon Road, to continue limiting public vehicular access into areas of sensitive frog/toad habitat. Potential impacts to special-status wildlife species will be less than significant, because implementation of the proposed trailhead parking area facility will not increase public vehicular access beyond the proposed parking area or the relocated gate beyond current conditions.

Further discussion regarding the potential impacts to the species addressed in this analysis is provided below, including appropriate avoidance and minimization measures and mitigation measures that will be implemented during project activities.

- **Santa Ana Sucker.** The CNDDDB documents Santa Ana sucker approximately 1.2 miles upstream of project site, within Piru Creek. Identifications have not been documented adjacent to the project site and project activities will not impact the adjacent Piru Creek or Lisk Creek that may provide suitable habitat for the species. The project is not expected to impact Santa Ana sucker; however, BMPs will be implemented, such as an erosion control and sediment plan, to avoid or minimize potential impacts to the adjacent aquatic resources. The project will have less than significant impact to Santa Ana sucker or potentially suitable habitat for Santa Ana sucker.
- **Arroyo Toad (ARTO).** The project site is located within mapped ARTO critical habitat (50 Code of Federal regulations [CFR] Part 17; Federal Register Vol. 66, No. 26, pages 9414-9474, February 7, 2001). The project site lacks suitable aquatic habitat; however, the adjacent Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable aquatic habitat for ARTO. Although the majority of the project site is composed of ruderal habitat, a small portion of the project site as well as adjacent areas is composed of suitable upland habitat for ARTO (e.g., coastal sage scrub, grassland, oak woodland). There are no recorded observances of ARTO within five (5) miles of the project site and no ARTO were observed during field surveys; however, due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent creek channels, and designation of critical habitat in the project area, the ARTO has a low potential to occur within the project area. Potential impacts to ARTO may occur when toads are most active during their breeding season (March to July) and during night time hours and may move across upland habitats, near roads, where toads have a greater likelihood to be crushed by vehicles. These impacts have greatest potential to occur along the road crossing at Lisk Creek, located past the proposed trailhead parking area facility and the existing trailhead on Piru Canyon Road. The placement of an access gate past the proposed trailhead parking area facility near the Lisk Creek crossing (as discussed in the project description) will limit public vehicle access when toads have the greatest likelihood to occur

along the roadway. In addition, construction BMPs to control erosion and sedimentation into the adjacent waterways would be implemented, and Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would be implemented, requiring pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife. Therefore, the potential for project impacts to ARTO would be less than significant.

- **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (FYLF).** The project site occurs within one mile of CNDDDB documented occurrences for FYLF, within the adjacent Piru Creek. The project site lacks suitable aquatic habitat; however, the adjacent Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable aquatic habitat for FYLF. Due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent creek channels, FYLF has a low potential to occur within the project area. Potential impacts to FYLF may occur when frogs are most active during their breeding season (April to early July) and during night time hours. These impacts have greatest potential to occur along the road crossing at Lisk Creek, located past the proposed trailhead parking area facility. The placement of an access gate past the proposed trailhead parking area facility near the Lisk Creek crossing (as discussed in the project description) will limit public vehicle access when frogs have the greatest likelihood to occur along the roadway. In addition, construction BMPs to control erosion and sedimentation into the adjacent waterways would be implemented, and Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would be implemented, requiring pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife. Therefore, the potential for project impacts to FYLF would be less than significant.
- **California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF).** The project site is located within one mile of mapped CRLF critical habitat (VEN-2) (50 CFR Part 17; Federal Register Vol. 75, No. 51, pages 12816-12959, March 17, 2010). The project site lacks suitable aquatic habitat; however, the adjacent Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable aquatic habitat for CRLF. Although the majority of the project is composed of ruderal habitat, a small portion of the project site as well as adjacent areas is composed of suitable upland habitat for CRLF. There are no recorded observances of CRLF within five (5) miles of the project site; however, due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent creek channels, and designation of critical habitat in the project area, CRLF has a low potential to occur within the project area. Potential impacts to CRLF may occur when frogs are most active during their breeding season (late November to April) and during night time hours. These impacts have greatest potential to occur along the road crossing at Lisk Creek, located past the proposed trailhead parking area facility. The placement of an access gate past the proposed trailhead parking area facility near the Lisk Creek crossing (as discussed in the project description) will limit public vehicle access when frogs have the greatest likelihood to occur along the roadway. In addition, construction BMPs to control erosion and sedimentation into the adjacent waterways would be implemented, and Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would be implemented, requiring pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife. Therefore, the potential for project impacts to CRLF would be less than significant.
- **Southern Western Pond Turtle.** The project site occurs within one mile of CNDDDB documented occurrences for pond turtle, within the adjacent Piru Creek. Suitable habitat may occur within the adjacent aquatic resources; however, these resources will not be impacted by project activities. Suitable upland nesting habitat may also be present in the undisturbed areas surrounding the project site. Potential impacts to pond turtle may occur when turtles are active in upland habitats for nesting, near roads, where turtles have a greater likelihood to be crushed by vehicles. These impacts have greatest potential to occur along the road crossing at Lisk Creek, located past the proposed trailhead parking area facility. The placement of an access gate past the proposed trailhead parking area facility near the Lisk Creek crossing (as discussed in the project description) will limit public vehicle access when turtles have the greatest likelihood to occur along the roadway. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would be implemented and will identify

potentially occurring pond turtles located in the upland habitats; additionally, a biological monitor will ensure construction activities do not impact turtle activities, thus reducing potential impacts to pond turtle to less than significant.

- **Blainvillii Horned Lizard.** Suitable habitat for horned lizard may occur within the ruderal areas and roadways within the project site; however, no horned lizards were observed during reconnaissance-level biological surveys onsite. As required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1, pre-construction surveys completed prior to initial ground clearing activities will identify any potentially occurring horned lizards located in the upland habitats and relocate them out of harm's way, thus reducing potential impacts to horned lizard to less than significant.
- **Two-Striped Garter Snake.** The project site occurs within one mile of CNDDDB documented occurrences for two-striped garter snake, within the adjacent Piru Creek. Suitable habitat may occur within the adjacent aquatic resources; however, these resources will not be impacted by project activities. Vehicles crossing Lisk Creek, past the proposed trailhead parking area facility, may impact two-striped garter snake by crushing. The placement of an access gate past the proposed trailhead parking area facility near the Lisk Creek crossing (as discussed in the project description) will limit public vehicle access when snakes have the greatest likelihood to occur along the roadway. Mitigation Measure BIO-1b would be implemented, requiring pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife. With implementation of this measure, pre-construction surveys would be completed prior to initial ground clearing activities, and identification will be made of potentially occurring two-striped garter snake located in the upland habitats. A biological monitor will ensure implementation of this mitigation measure so that construction activities do not impact two-striped garter snake activities, thus reducing potential impacts to two-striped garter snake to less than significant.
- **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.** The project site is located adjacent to mapped southwestern willow flycatcher critical habitat, within the Santa Clara Management Unit, which includes Piru Creek (50 CFR Part 17; Federal Register Vol. 786, No. 2, pages 344-534, January 3, 2013). No recorded observances of southwestern willow flycatcher have been documented within five (5) miles of the project site. The project site lacks suitable riparian and aquatic habitat; however, the adjacent Piru Creek and Lisk Creek may provide suitable riparian habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher. Due to the presence of critical habitat and potentially suitable habitat in the adjacent creek channels, the southwestern willow flycatcher has a low potential to occur within the project area; however, no suitable habitat occurs within the project footprint. Potential indirect impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher may occur during construction activities, if construction activities take place during breeding season when the birds have potential to occur in the area. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, a nesting bird survey will be conducted within 500 feet from the project site if activities are conducted during the nesting bird season. Identification of nests will prompt construction activities to be mitigated or avoided until birds have fledged, as appropriate. No riparian habitat will be removed as part of project activities and project activities will be temporary. Therefore, with the implementation of these measures, potential impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher will be less than significant.
- **California Condor.** The Sespe-Piru critical habitat unit includes the Sespe Condor Sanctuary in the Los Padres National Forest and the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, the southern boundary of which is approximately four miles west-northwest of the project site. The project site lacks suitable nesting habitat (e.g., cave on cliff or rock crevice), but there is the potential that a foraging condor could be found within the general area. The likelihood of a California condor to land on the project site is very low, given the lack of suitable habitat needed for a bird of this size to take flight and a lack of foraging material (i.e. carrion). Therefore, the California

condor has a low potential to occur within the project site and with the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, potential impacts to California condor will be less than significant.

- **Prairie Falcon.** Preferred nesting habitats of prairie falcon (e.g., natural crevice, ledge on a cliff, or steep bluff) were not observed within the project area. The main food source for the prairie falcon is ground squirrel and avian species; however, ground squirrel, ground squirrel burrows, and other mammal burrows were not observed within the project site. Grassland habitat present within the project site may provide foraging habitat due to the presence of various avian species. Therefore, there is a low potential for the prairie falcon to occur foraging onsite. The proposed project would not cause an adverse impact to foraging prairie falcon due to the large amount of additional foraging space available within two miles of the project site, and large areas of open space that occur to the east, west, north, and south would likely support prairie falcon in the area. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, which requires preconstruction nesting bird surveys, would reduce potential indirect impacts to less than significant.
- **Western Mastiff Bat.** Suitable roosting habitat occurs within the chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodland habitat located adjacent to the project area. No potential roosts were identified within the project area, but the project area and adjacent areas provide suitable foraging habitat for this species. Therefore, this species has a moderate potential to occur foraging within the project area, and the project has a potential to indirectly impact individuals, if present. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, which requires pre-construction surveys for bats, would reduce the potential for indirect impacts to the western mastiff bat to less than significant.

## Foraging Raptors

The project site has the potential to support foraging raptors. Small mammals and lizards that likely occur on site provide potential prey for raptors, such as the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). However, the proposed project would not cause an adverse impact to foraging raptors due to the large amount of additional foraging space available within the areas surrounding the project site. Large areas of open space also occur to the north, east, south, and west that would support foraging raptors in the area. Therefore, potential project impacts to foraging raptors would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

## Nesting Birds

The project site has a high potential to support nesting birds, particularly passerines, due to the vegetation communities present onsite (e.g., coastal sage scrub, southern oak woodland, annual grassland, and chaparral).

Nesting birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code (CFG) 3503. The MBTA makes it unlawful to "take" (damage, destroy, remove, either intentionally or unintentionally) birds, nests, egg or young in the nest of any species under the act's protection. The take provision also includes any disturbance that causes a nest to fail and/or the loss of reproductive effort. The loss of reproductive effort, or a take under the MBTA or CFG would be considered a significant impact without mitigation.

## Mitigation Measure

The following mitigation measure, in compliance with MBTA and CFG requirements, would be required to reduce impacts to nesting birds and special-status species to a less than significant level.

**BIO-1 Special-Status Wildlife and Nesting Bird Preconstruction Clearance Surveys.** No more than one week prior to vegetation clearing and construction within the project site, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for special-status wildlife species and nesting birds. Any potential bat roosting areas shall be inspected and if roosting bats are present, the roosts will be avoided. In addition, during any construction activities involving vegetation clearing, or initial modification of natural habitat, United Water Conservation District shall contract with a biological monitor. The biological monitor shall have the authority to stop any project activities to relocate an animal outside of project limits to a pre-designated relocation area with suitable habitat conditions essential for the animal's survival. The biological monitor qualifications shall include experience handling a variety of wildlife, and permitted with the appropriate regulatory agencies, as necessary. The monitor shall document all wildlife observed during project activities, all wildlife relocated out of the project impact area, and pre-designated relocation areas.

In the event initial vegetation clearing and grading must occur during the avian nesting season (February 1 – August 31), a nesting bird survey shall be conducted concurrent with the pre-construction wildlife survey. The nesting bird survey will cover the development footprint and 500 feet from the development footprint, as practicable. If occupied (i.e., active) nests are found, land clearing activities within a setback area surrounding the nest shall be postponed or halted; the setback area shall be determined by qualified biologist. The standard setback is 300 feet for most birds and 500 feet for raptors, as recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This setback can be increased or decreased based on the recommendation of the qualified biologist, with provisions such as equipment restriction, disturbance duration, and nest monitoring.

Land clearing activities may commence within the setback area when the nest is no longer active (i.e., juveniles have fledged), as determined by the qualified biologist. Land clearing activities may also occur outside of the setback areas, but encroachment into the buffer shall only occur at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

## Significance After Mitigation

With the implementation of the mitigation measure listed above, impacts of the proposed project to special-status species would be less than significant.

### POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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

Although scattered coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) are located within the project's ruderal habitat, the oak trees will not be directly impacted from project activities (i.e., oaks will not be removed). Additionally, southern oak woodland occurs adjacent to the project site, but will not be impacted by construction activities. The CNDDDB search identified nine (9) sensitive habitats within five (5) miles of the project site including: Canyon Live Oak Ravine Forest, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Walnut Forest, California Walnut Woodland, Southern Mixed Riparian Forest, Southern Willow Scrub, and Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh. No sensitive plant communities occur

within the project site or directly adjacent to the project site. Additionally, there is a low potential for additional sensitive plants or habitats to be located on site due to the previous human activity disturbance. Based on the lack of sensitive communities on and adjacent to the project site, potential impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- c. *Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

No federally protected wetlands occur on the project site, and no direct impacts are anticipated. No indirect impacts to offsite downstream waters and wetlands would occur with adherence to existing stormwater regulations.

**NO IMPACT**

- 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?*

Use of the project site by migrating wildlife is minimal because the site consists of previously disturbed land and does not provide undisturbed contiguous habitat. Local wildlife movement corridors were not observed onsite, but wildlife may utilize adjacent riparian area(s) along Lisk Creek. Therefore, local wildlife movement is not expected to be directly affected by the proposed project.

The proposed project would use existing roads and previously disturbed areas, and would not increase road density, add to fragmentation of habitats, or introduce new barriers to movement within the project site. The project would limit night lighting, and significant noise emission would be confined to the construction period. In addition, there is abundant, contiguous, undisturbed habitat to the north along the Lisk Creek corridor and to the northeast along the Piru creek corridor, which provides more suitable features/conditions such as vegetative cover and access to water. Additionally, the project is located over 500 feet from Piru Creek so construction and operation (e.g., noise, dust) would not indirectly affect wildlife movement through Piru Creek; therefore, direct and indirect impacts on local wildlife movement and regional connectivity will be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- e. *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

There are numerous trees on the project site; therefore, the proposed project would fall within the Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance and Tree Protection Guidelines; the proposed project would be implemented in compliance with the Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance and Tree Protection Guidelines. No oak or heritage trees are proposed for removal; therefore, impacts to oak trees will be less than significant. The biological resources policies contained within the Ventura County General Plan including Piru Area Plan Goal 1.5.1.2, which requires protection of the Piru Creek wildlife corridor (discussed above), would apply to the project. There are no other local policies or ordinances that apply to the project site. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*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?*

The project site does not occur in any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

## 5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This section analyzes potential impacts to archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources. The cultural resources study included a records search with the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), Native American scoping, a field survey and evaluation of the site. The paleontological analysis included a desk-top review of geologic maps and primary literature. The project site is located on currently vacant, previously developed land. The project is located on a thin veneer of Quaternary (Holocene-age) alluvium overlying the Miocene-age Monterey Shale, which is known to contain scientifically significant paleontological resources.

The project area lies on the west shore of Lake Piru, within the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province, in the southern reaches of the Topatopa Mountains, just north of the Santa Clara River valley. The Transverse Ranges are an east-west trending series of steep, fault-bounded, mountain ranges and valleys extending from the Channel Islands in the west to the San Bernardino Mountains in the east. The Transverse Ranges are tectonically active and complex, comprising Proterozoic (more than 1.5 billion years old) batholiths (i.e., igneous intrusive bodies) and metamorphic rocks (i.e., rocks altered by heat and pressure) to Cenozoic (less than 66 million years old) marine and terrestrial sediments, some of which contain abundant fossils (e.g., the Crowder Formation) (Meisling and Weldon 1989; Silver 1971). The Transverse Ranges are rapidly rising due to intense north-south compression forces controlled by the San Andreas Fault Zone. Hydrocarbon-rich sedimentary rocks, for example the Monterey Shale, originally deposited in marine settings, are being thrust up and folded, exposing large areas for oil-production (California Geological Survey 2002).

The project site is located within an area historically occupied by the Tataviam. The Tataviam territories included the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage east of Piru Creek, but also encompassed the Sawmill Mountains to the north and the southwestern portion of the Antelope Valley. Groups neighboring Tataviam territory included the Chumash to the north and west, the Serrano to the east, and the Gabrielino (Tongva) to the south. Based on the results of the

archaeological records search, there is no evidence that any of the known Tataviam places are located within or adjacent to the project site.

## Prehistory

During the twentieth century, many archaeologists developed chronological sequences to explain prehistoric cultural changes within all or portions of southern California (c.f., Jones and Klar 2007; Moratto 1984). Wallace (1955, 1978) devised a prehistoric chronology for the southern California coastal region that included four horizons: Early Man, Milling Stone, Intermediate, and Late Prehistoric. Wallace's chronology was based on early studies and lacked the chronological precision of absolute dates (Moratto 1984:159). Since then, Wallace's (1955) synthesis has been modified and improved using thousands of radiocarbon dates obtained by southern California researchers over recent decades (Byrd and Raab 2007:217; Koerper and Drover 1983; Koerper et al. 2002; Mason and Peterson 1994). The prehistoric chronological sequence for southern California presented below is a composite based on Wallace (1955) and Warren (1968) as well as later studies, including Koerper and Drover (1983).

### *Early Man Horizon (ca. 10,000 – 6000 B.C.)*

Numerous pre-8000 B.C. sites have been identified along the mainland coast and Channel Islands of southern California (c.f., Erlandson 1991; Johnson et al. 2002; Jones and Klar 2007; Moratto 1984; Rick et al. 2001:609). One of them, the Arlington Springs site on Santa Rosa Island, produced human femurs dating to approximately 13,000 years ago (Arnold et al. 2004; Johnson et al. 2002). On nearby San Miguel Island, human occupation at Daisy Cave (SMI-261) has been dated to nearly 13,000 years ago. This site also included some of the earliest examples of basketry on the Pacific Coast, dating to over 12,000 years old (Arnold et al. 2004).

Although few Clovis or Folsom style fluted points have been found in southern California (e.g., Dillon 2002; Erlandson et al. 1987), Early Man Horizon sites are generally associated with a greater emphasis on hunting than later horizons. Recent data indicate that the Early Man economy was a diverse mixture of hunting and gathering, including a significant focus on aquatic resources in coastal areas (e.g., Johnson et al. 2002) and on inland Pleistocene lakeshores (Moratto 1984). A warm and dry 3,000-year period called the Altithermal began around 6000 B.C. The conditions of the Altithermal are likely responsible for the change in human subsistence patterns at this time, including a greater emphasis on plant foods and small game.

### *Milling Stone Horizon (6000 – 3000 B.C.)*

Wallace (1955:219) defined the Milling Stone Horizon as "marked by extensive use of milling stones and mullers, a general lack of well[-]made projectile points, and burials with rock cairns." The dominance of such artifact types indicates a subsistence strategy oriented around collecting plant foods and small animals. A broad spectrum of food resources was consumed including small and large terrestrial mammals, sea mammals, birds, shellfish and other littoral and estuarine species, near-shore fishes, yucca, agave, and seeds and other plant products (Kowta 1969; Reinman 1964). Variability in artifact collections over time and from the coast to inland sites indicates that Milling Stone Horizon subsistence strategies adapted to environmental conditions (Byrd and Raab 2007:220). The Topanga Canyon site in the Santa Monica Mountains is considered one of the definitive Milling Stone Horizon sites in southern California.

Lithic artifacts associated with Milling Stone Horizon sites are dominated by locally available tool stone and in addition to ground stone tools such as manos and metates, chopping, scraping, and

cutting tools are very common. Kowta (1969) attributes the presence of numerous scraper-plane tools in Milling Stone Horizon collections to the processing of agave or yucca for food or fiber. The mortar and pestle, associated with acorns or other foods processed through pounding, were first used during the Milling Stone Horizon and increased dramatically in later periods (Wallace 1955, 1978; Warren 1968).

#### *Intermediate Horizon (3000 B.C. – A.D. 500)*

Wallace's Intermediate Horizon dates from approximately 3000 B.C.-A.D. 500 and is characterized by a shift toward a hunting and maritime subsistence strategy, as well as greater use of plant foods. During the Intermediate Horizon, a noticeable trend occurred toward greater adaptation to local resources including a broad variety of fish, land mammal, and sea mammal remains along the coast. Tool kits for hunting, fishing, and processing food and materials reflect this increased diversity, with flake scrapers, drills, various projectile points, and shell fishhooks being manufactured.

Mortars and pestles became more common during this transitional period, gradually replacing manos and metates as the dominant milling equipment. Many archaeologists believe this change in milling stones signals a change from the processing and consuming of hard seed resources to the increasing reliance on acorn (e.g., Glassow et al. 1988; True 1993). Mortuary practices during the Intermediate typically included fully flexed burials oriented toward the north or west (Warren 1968:2-3).

#### *Late Prehistoric Horizon (A.D. 500 – Historic Contact)*

During Wallace's (1955, 1978) Late Prehistoric Horizon the diversity of plant food resources and land and sea mammal hunting increased even further than during the Intermediate Horizon. More classes of artifacts were observed during this period and high quality exotic lithic materials were used for small finely worked projectile points associated with the bow and arrow. Steatite bowls were carved from stone and made for cooking and storage. An increased use of asphalt for waterproofing is noted within this period. More artistic artifacts were recovered from Late Prehistoric sites and cremation became a common mortuary custom. Larger, more permanent villages supported an increased population size and social structure (Wallace 1955:223).

### **Ethnographic Background**

The project area was historically occupied by the Tataviam, about whom very little is recorded (King and Blackburn 1978). Kroeber (1925) described the area as occupied by the Alliklik. Researchers today generally agree that the terms Tataviam and Alliklik describe the same group and that they spoke a Uto-Aztecan language, most likely a Takic language (Hudson 1982). Tataviam territory included the upper Santa Clara River from Piru Creek eastward, extending over the Sawmill Mountains to the southwest edge of the Antelope Valley (King and Blackburn 1978). Their territory was bounded on the west and north by various Chumash groups; on the south by the Tongva (Gabrielino and Fernandño, though some Tataviam were also identified as Fernandño because of their association with Mission San Fernando); and to the east by the Kitanemuk.

Exogamous marriage was common, with Tataviam intermarrying with Tongva, Chumash, and Kitanemuk neighbors (King and Blackburn 1978). The word "Piru," is derived from a Kitanemuk name for the Tataviam village present on Piru Creek, though the Tataviam pronunciation was similar. King and Blackburn (1978) hypothesize that the Tataviam relied on yucca as a food source more than their neighbors because of the predominance of large south-facing slopes within their territory. Additional food resources included acorns, sage seeds, berries, small mammals, and deer.

Settlement size ranged from 10 to 200 persons, with small settlements often ancillary to large villages. Archaeological evidence from Bower's Cave – located between Newhall and Piru – combined with ethnographic evidence suggest their ritual organization was similar to both the Chumash and Gabrielino, whose lifestyles were distinct from one another.

By 1810 the Tataviam were virtually completely “missionized,” through baptism at Mission San Fernando. Juan Fustero, self-titled “the last of the Piru Indians” and one of the most well-known historical figures in the area, was possibly the last full-blooded Tataviam man. Born on the Temescal Ranch in 1841, he was the last great-grandson of the last chief of the Piru Tribe (Fillmore Gazette 2008). Although he referred to himself as the last of the Tataviam, some reports indicate that his wife was also full-blooded Tataviam, and thus their children would be as well (SCV History n.d.). In 1885 the U.S. government granted him a patent for a homestead in Piru Canyon where he subsequently settled with his family. There he farmed, ranched, made bridles and lariats, and procured small amounts of gold from a mysterious source. He died in 1921, and a memorial monument for Fustero was placed along the shores of Lake Piru in 1956, close to where he spent most of his life (Carey 2012).

## History

Post-European contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848–present).

### *Spanish Period (1769-1822)*

Spanish exploration of California began when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo led the first European expedition into the region in 1542. For more than 200 years after his initial expedition, Spanish, Portuguese, British, and Russian explorers sailed the California coast and made limited inland expeditions, but they did not establish permanent settlements (Bean 1968; Rolle 2003). In 1769, Gaspar de Portolá and Franciscan Father Junipero Serra established the first Spanish settlement in what was then known as Alta (upper) California at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. This was the first of 21 missions erected by the Spanish between 1769 and 1823. Mission San Buenaventura was founded in 1782. It was during this time that initial Spanish settlement in the vicinity of the project site began.

### *Mexican Period (1822-1848)*

The Mexican Period commenced when news of the success of the Mexican Revolution (1810-1821) against the Spanish crown reached California in 1822. This period saw the privatization of mission lands in California with the passage of the Secularization Act of 1833. This Act enabled Mexican governors in California to distribute mission lands to individuals in the form of land grants. Successive Mexican governors made more than 700 land grants between 1822 and 1846, putting most of the state's lands into private ownership for the first time (Shumway 2007). About 20 land grants (ranchos) were located in Ventura County.

The Mexican Period for Ventura County and adjacent areas ended in early January 1847. Mexican forces fought combined US Army and Navy forces in the Battle of the San Gabriel River on January 8 and in the Battle of La Mesa on January 9 (Nevin 1978). American victory in both of these battles confirmed the capture of Los Angeles by American forces (Rolle 2003). On January 10, leaders of the Pueblo of Los Angeles surrendered peacefully after Mexican General Jose Maria Flores withdrew his forces. Shortly thereafter, newly appointed Mexican Military Commander of California Andrés Pico

surrendered all of Alta California to US Army Lieutenant Colonel John C. Fremont in the Treaty of Cahuenga (Nevin 1978).

### *American Period (1848- Present)*

The American Period officially began with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, in which the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million for the conquered territory, which included California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Settlement of southern California continued to increase during the early American Period. Many ranchos in the county were sold or otherwise acquired by Americans, and most were subdivided into agricultural parcels or towns.

The discovery of gold in northern California in 1848 led to the California Gold Rush (Guinn 1977; Workman 1935:26). The presence of commercial grade oil in what later became Ventura County was discovered in 1852 at Rancho Ojai (Franks and Lambert 1985). By 1853, the population of California exceeded 300,000. Ventura County was officially divided from Santa Barbara County on January 1, 1873. Thousands of settlers and immigrants continued to move into the state, particularly after the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 and the real estate boom of the 1880s (Dumke 1944).

The construction of the Saugus to Santa Barbara Branch (or Santa Paula Branch) of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1880s encouraged travel through and settlement of the Santa Clara River Valley, as well as a large distribution network for its citrus and other products (Sperry 2006). The first version of the Southern Pacific's Coast Line, between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, was completed in 1900 through the Santa Clara Valley. A later version through Santa Susanna and bypassing the Saugus Branch was completed in 1904, offering a coastal alternative to the Central Valley mainline.

Construction on the St. Francis Dam, located in Los Angeles County, began in 1924 to help store water imported from the Los Angeles Aqueduct (constructed between 1907 and 1913 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, under the direction of William Mulholland). The dam collapsed in 1928, creating a massive flood throughout the Santa Clara River Valley that killed more than 450 people. The towns of Castaic Junction, Piru, Fillmore, Bardsdale, Santa Paula, and Saticoy were badly damaged and thousands of acres of farmland were washed away or covered with, in some areas, more than ten feet of silt and debris. The St. Francis Dam disaster is considered one of the worst catastrophes in California history.

### **Project Site Setting**

The project site is located on a currently vacant, but previously developed ranch (see figure 2 in Section 4.0 Project Location). The site was formerly part of the Lisk Ranch homestead and today is the location of the existing trailhead for Pothole Trail as well as modern apiary activities. While no evidence of the homestead is present within the project site, the remains of a concrete lined water reservoir is located immediately west of the project site.

### *Town of Piru and Lake Piru*

Piru, originally pronounced "pea-roo" and only later "pie-roo," comes from the Tataviam word for the tule reeds they used for basket construction. The town of Piru was established in 1887 by religious publisher David C. Cook, who wanted to establish a second Garden of Eden and thusly planted the fruits described in the Bible including apricots, dates, figs, grapes, olives, and pomegranates. Not coincidentally, the year 1887 was also the year when the railroad was completed

through this area. The Piru Post Office was opened the following year in 1888. Center Street in Piru was part of the main route to the coast, before State Route 126 bypassed the town in the early 1940s.

United was formed in 1950, and the Santa Felicia Dam was constructed on Piru Creek in 1954, which formed Lake Piru. United owns the lake and surrounding land, totaling over 2,000 acres, and has developed recreational facilities for public use. Lake Piru is a destination for boating, hiking, biking, equestrian, and other recreational activities.

## Geology and Paleontology of the Project Site

The project area is underlain by one mapped geologic unit: Quaternary (Holocene-age) alluvium (Dibblee and Ehrenspeck 1996). The site occurs at the contact between mapped Quaternary alluvium and Miocene-aged Monterey Shale. These mapped geologic features represent the approximate boundaries between geologic units at the surface and are not likely to be mapped exactly correctly in any one location. Therefore, either Quaternary alluvium or Monterey shale may occur at the surface within the project footprint. Furthermore, the Quaternary unit is likely relatively thin at the project site, as the site occurs on the south slope of an east-plunging anticline where surface erosion is expected to be high. Quaternary alluvium increases in age with depth and is ultimately underlain by Monterey Shale. The Monterey Shale is extensively mapped throughout the local vicinity and region and is known to produce abundant marine invertebrate and vertebrate fossils. At the surface, Holocene-age alluvium at the surface is unlikely to contain fossils, but it may become sufficiently old (i.e. 5000 years before present or older) at depth to support significant paleontological resources. The fossil-rich Monterey Shale occurs at unknown, but likely shallow depth, possibly within 5 feet of the surface.

The Monterey Shale is a cream-white, siliceous, thin-bedded, Miocene marine shale that crops out discontinuously along the California coast from San Diego to Humboldt counties. The Monterey Shale is richly fossiliferous, containing marine invertebrates, plants, and vertebrates, including whales and fish (Bagg, Jr. 1905; Bell et al. 2009; Boersma and Pyenson 2015; David 1943; Finger 1992; Hanna 1928; Kleinpell 1938). A search of the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) online collections database revealed 1237 localities in 22 counties in the Monterey Shale. Of these localities, 55 occur in Ventura County. The majority of these localities yielded exclusively marine microfossils (e.g., foraminiferans) and invertebrates, but at least two localities yielded vertebrate fossils (UCMP 2016).

## Cultural Resources Records Search

On July 14, 2016, a search of the California Historical Resources Information Systems (CHRIS) at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) was conducted (Appendix B). This search, which is what is typically used for CEQA compliance, was conducted to identify all previously recorded cultural resources and previously conducted cultural resources work within the project site and a 0.5-mile radius around it. The CHRIS search included a review of the NRHP, the CRHR, the California Points of Historical Interest list, the California Historical Landmarks list, the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility list, and the California State Historic Resources Inventory list. The results of the SCCIC records search indicate that no previously recorded cultural resources are located within the project site. Two previously recorded resources were identified within the 0.5-mile buffer surrounding the project site:

- One historical archaeological site, an abandoned ranch (P-56-001562), and

- One historical structure, a monument and/or grave marker for Juan Jose Fustero (P-56-001625; P-100210). Although the SCCIC lists these resources as two separate sites, the descriptions, maps and photographs in the site records indicate they are the same resource. A review of the SCCIC's records suggests that the mapped location of P-100210 is incorrect, and that the mapped location of P-56-001625 is the actual location of the Fustero monument/grave marker.

The SCCIC records search also identified four previously conducted cultural resources studies: one of these was located adjacent the project site and three were outside of the project site. The project would occur in compliance with United's Historic Properties Management Plan (United 2011), which specifies procedures relating to cultural resource compliance within the Santa Felicia Dam/Lake Piru Perimeter Area Project.

### **Native American Scoping**

As part of the process of identifying cultural resources issues for this project within or near the project site, Rincon contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a review of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) (Appendix C). Rincon submitted the request to the NAHC on July 15, 2016. The NAHC faxed a response on July 21, 2016, stating that the SLF search came back with "negative results." The NAHC additionally provided a contact list of five Native American individuals or tribal organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the project site. Rincon contacted each of the NAHC individuals and tribal organizations via email or U.S. mail on July 22, 2016 requesting information regarding their knowledge of the presence of cultural resources that may be impacted by this project. On August 4, 2016, Rincon followed up with an additional request for information. As of August 8, 2016, Rincon has received one response from Rudy Ortega, President of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. Mr. Ortega stated that Lake Piru is sensitive area with two villages in the vicinity: one north and one south of the lake. Mr. Ortega stated at that time that someone would follow up with Rincon at a later date; however, as of December 2017 Rincon has received no further comment from Mr. Ortega or the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians regarding any village sites in the area.

The proposed project design was initially developed as part of the Santa Felicia Project Recreation Trail Plan (United 2016b), which was submitted to FERC in April 2016. Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) was later passed on July 1, 2016, for consultation with Native American tribes. AB52 consultation was not conducted for this project because the project was developed prior to AB52; however, as described above, local tribes were contacted and input received and addressed in this Initial Study for the proposed project.

### **Field Survey and Site Evaluation**

Field survey of the project site was conducted on July 20, 2016, including survey of the area in four sections; this was necessary due to the terrain type, vegetation, and marked boundaries. The entire project site, including access/entry points, is demarcated by wood posts. Survey methods consisted of systematic surface inspection of all accessible areas with transects walked at 15-meter intervals or less to ensure that all surface-exposed artifacts and sites could be identified. The ground surface was examined for the presence of prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools), historical artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics), sediment discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, roads and trails, and depressions and other features that might indicate the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., post holes, foundations).

The first section surveyed, Section 1, consists of the site of the proposed parking area and bathroom facilities. The development area is marked with rebar and wiring strung around the perimeter. This section was surveyed by walking east-west transects spaced no more than 10 meters apart. Section 2 consists of the perimeter of the project site and was surveyed by walking along the wire fencing marking the area. Section 3 consists of the access point leading to the proposed parking area and bathroom facilities location and was surveyed by walking north-south transects spaced no more than 15 meters apart. Section 4 consists of the access road from Piru Canyon Road to the proposed parking area and bathroom facilities location; this section was surveyed by walking transects adjacent to both sides of the road. Visibility throughout the surveyed area was excellent, averaging approximately 90 percent. The area adjacent to the access road had the poorest visibility, at approximately 30 percent.

The entire project site has been disturbed by previous activities on the Lisk Ranch, which originally existed on the site but was demolished and abandoned in the 1950s, and subsequent cattle leases (King Family) which expired in 2001. As previously described, the site was thoroughly disturbed during uses for ranching and grazing. In addition, United has been leasing the area to beekeepers since 2005. Remaining evidence of previous human activity, occupation, and disturbance is present in the form of disturbed ground and an empty, deteriorated cement-lined water pond (no longer operational, due to deterioration and siltation). Some modern trash is present, including charred cordage (possibly from sandbags), bee keeping materials, a boat battery, shotgun shells, rope, and metal and PVC pipes. Faunal remains of a large mammal are also present, likely cow bones associated with previous use of the area for livestock grazing. The remains of a concrete-lined water reservoir that may be historic in age, associated with the Lisk Ranch homestead, is located outside of the project area and was noted but not formally recorded.

The survey of the project site was negative for cultural resources. Based on the results of the records search, Native American scoping, and field survey and site evaluation, it is recommended that a finding of *no impact to historical resources* be determined for the current undertaking.

## Methodology and Significance Thresholds

The significance of a cultural and/or paleontological resource and impacts to the resource is determined by whether or not that resource can increase the collective knowledge regarding the past. The primary determining factors are site content and degree of preservation.

For the purpose of this analysis, a significant impact would occur if physical changes that could be facilitated by buildout of the proposed project would result in the following conditions, listed in Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines*.

1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines §15064.5;
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5;
3. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; and/or
4. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

A “substantial adverse change” in the significance of a historical resource is defined as “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.” CEQA Guidelines

Section 15064.5(b) states that the significance of an historical resource is “materially impaired” when a project does any of the following:

- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources;
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources... or its identification in an historical resources survey..., unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 also states that the term “historical resources” shall include the following:

- A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et. seq.).
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) as follows:
  - (A) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;
  - (B) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
  - (C) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
  - (D) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (Guidelines Section 15064.5)

## Paleontological Sensitivity

Significant paleontological resources are fossils or assemblages of fossils that are unique, unusual, rare, uncommon, diagnostically important, or are common but have the potential to provide valuable scientific information for evaluating evolutionary patterns and processes, or which could improve our understanding of paleochronology, paleoecology, paleophylogeography or depositional histories. New or unique specimens can provide new insights into evolutionary history; however, additional specimens of even well represented lineages can be equally important for studying evolutionary pattern and process, evolutionary rates and paleophylogeography. Even unidentifiable material can provide useful data for dating geologic units if radiocarbon dating is possible. As such, common fossils (especially vertebrates) may be scientifically important, and therefore considered highly significant.

The SVP (2010) describes sedimentary rock units as having a high, low, undetermined, or no potential for containing significant nonrenewable paleontological resources. This criterion is based on rock units within which vertebrate or significant invertebrate fossils have been determined by previous studies to be present or likely to be present. Significant paleontological resources are fossils or assemblages of fossils, which are unique, unusual, rare, uncommon, diagnostically or stratigraphically important, and those which add to an existing body of knowledge in specific areas, stratigraphically, taxonomically, or regionally. While these standards were specifically written to protect vertebrate paleontological resources, all fields of paleontology have adopted these guidelines. Rincon has evaluated the paleontological sensitivity of the proposed project site according to the following SVP (2010) categories:

- I. **High Potential (sensitivity).** Rock units from which significant vertebrate or significant invertebrate fossils or significant suites of plant fossils have been recovered are considered to have a high potential for containing significant non-renewable fossiliferous resources. These units include but are not limited to, sedimentary formations and some volcanic formations which contain significant nonrenewable paleontological resources anywhere in their geographical extent, and sedimentary rock units temporally or lithologically suitable for the preservation of fossils. Sensitivity comprises both (a) the potential for yielding abundant or significant vertebrate fossils or for yielding a few significant fossils, large or small, vertebrate, invertebrate, or botanical and (b) the importance of recovered evidence for new and significant taxonomic, phylogenetic, ecologic, or stratigraphic data. Areas which contain potentially datable organic remains older than Recent, including deposits associated with nests or middens, ranch dump sites, and areas which may contain new vertebrate deposits, traces, or trackways are also classified as significant.
- II. **Low Potential (sensitivity).** Sedimentary rock units that are potentially fossiliferous but have not yielded fossils in the past or contain common and/or widespread invertebrate fossils of well documented and understood taphonomic, phylogenetic species and habitat ecology. Reports in the paleontological literature or field surveys by a qualified vertebrate paleontologist may allow determination that some areas or units have low potentials for yielding significant fossils prior to the start of construction. Generally, these units will be poorly represented by specimens in institutional collections and will not require protection or salvage operations. However, as excavation for construction gets underway it is possible that significant and unanticipated paleontological resources might be encountered and require a change of classification from Low to High Potential and, thus, require monitoring and mitigation if the resources are found to be significant.

- III. **Undetermined Potential (sensitivity).** Specific areas underlain by sedimentary rock units for which little information is available are considered to have undetermined fossiliferous potentials. Field surveys by a qualified vertebrate paleontologist to specifically determine the potentials of the rock units are required before programs of impact mitigation for such areas may be developed.
- IV. **No Potential.** Rock units of metamorphic or igneous origin are commonly classified as having no potential for containing significant paleontological resources.

## Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- a. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?*

Development of the proposed project would occur on an undeveloped site currently used for accessing the Pothole trailhead and bee keeping. The National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, and the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program do not list any historic resources on the project site (NRHP 2016; VCCHP 2016). There are no structures or significant sites on the project site and therefore there are no historic resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines §15064.5. Therefore, there would be no impacts to historic resources from implementation of the proposed project.

### **NO IMPACT**

- b. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?*

The vicinity of Lake Piru has a long cultural history and is known to have been home to the Tataviam tribe prior to settlement by Euro-Americans. Archaeological materials associated with their occupation may exist on the project site and have the potential to provide important scientific information regarding history and prehistory. As discussed above, no recorded prehistoric or historic archeological sites are present on or adjacent to the project site. Therefore, project implementation would not affect any known cultural resources.

Ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project have the potential to damage or destroy undiscovered historic or prehistoric archaeological resources that may be present below the ground surface, particularly during project excavation. As previously described, the site has historically been thoroughly disturbed during uses for ranching and grazing. Remaining evidence of previous human activity, occupation, and disturbance is present in the form of disturbed ground and an empty, deteriorated cement-lined water pond (no longer operational, due to deterioration and siltation). Consequently, damage to or destruction of sub-surface cultural resources would be unlikely as a result of the proposed project, which requires minimal ground disturbance; however, the potential for encountering unknown resources is present and therefore mitigation is necessary to ensure that potential impacts to subsurface cultural resources are reduced to a less than significant level.

## Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures would be implemented to mitigate potentially significant impacts relating to the possible discovery of intact cultural resources during project construction. These measures would apply to all phases of project construction.

**CR-1a Procedures for Discovery of Intact Cultural Resources.** In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction, all ground-disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been evaluated and protected or removed, work in the area may resume.

**CR-1b Procedures for Discovery of Human Remains.** If human remains are unearthed, no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the California Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified within 24 hours.

#### **POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED**

c. *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

The project site is directly underlain by Holocene-aged alluvial sediments (Dibblee and Ehrenspeck 1996), and possibly the Miocene Monterey Shale. Holocene-aged alluvium does not have a record of abundant and diverse fossils and is generally considered to have low paleontological sensitivity. However, middle and early Holocene units are sufficiently old to support significant paleontological resources and are considered to have high paleontological sensitivity at depths of five-feet or great below the surface.

The Monterey Shale has a robust and diverse fossil record that includes scientifically significant invertebrates and vertebrates. The Monterey shale is considered to have high paleontological sensitivity based on abundance and scientific importance of its fossil record.

Ground disturbance associated with the construction of the proposed project has the potential to directly disturb middle and early Holocene units and the Monterey Shale. Impacts to paleontological resources resulting from ground disturbing construction activity could include damage or destruction of fossils, or loss of geologic context for fossils, and would be considered a significant impact without mitigation.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

The following mitigation measures would be implemented to mitigate potentially significant impacts relating to the possible discovery of intact paleontological resources during project construction. These measures would apply to all phases of project construction.

**CR-2(a) Paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program.** Prior to the start of construction, construction personnel shall be informed on the appearance of fossils and the procedures for notifying paleontological staff should fossils be discovered by construction staff.

**CR-2(b) Paleontological Mitigation and Monitoring Program.** Any excavations exceeding five feet in depth shall be monitored on a full-time basis by a qualified paleontological monitor until at least 50 percent of the grading or excavation is completed. After 50 percent of the grading or excavation is complete, the Principal Paleontologist may amend the monitoring and mitigation schedule. Ground disturbing activity that does not exceed five feet in depth in young alluvium does not require paleontological monitoring.

The Paleontological Mitigation and Monitoring Program shall be supervised by a qualified paleontologist - an individual with an M.S. or Ph.D. in paleontology or geology who is experienced with paleontological procedures and techniques, who is knowledgeable in the geology of California, and who has worked as a paleontological mitigation project supervisor for a least one year. Monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified paleontological monitor – an individual who has experience with collection and salvage of paleontological resources.

If fossils are discovered, the qualified paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) shall recover them. Once salvaged, fossils shall be identified to the lowest possible taxonomic level, prepared to a curation-ready condition, and curated in a scientific institution with a permanent paleontological collection, along with all pertinent field notes, photos, data, and maps.

Upon completion of ground disturbing activity (and curation of fossils if necessary) the qualified paleontologist shall prepare a final mitigation and monitoring report outlining the results of the mitigation and monitoring program. The report shall include discussion of the location, duration and methods of the monitoring, stratigraphic sections, any recovered fossils, and the scientific significance of those fossils, and where fossils were curated.

#### **POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED**

- d. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

Human burials outside of formal cemeteries often occur in prehistoric archeological contexts. The project site is undeveloped but previously disturbed, and the project would involve minimal ground disturbance. However, human burials, in addition to being potential archaeological resources, have specific provisions for treatment in Section 5097 of the California Public Resources Code. The California Health and Safety Code (Sections 7050.5, 7051, and 7054) has specific provisions for the protection of human burial remains. Existing regulations address the illegality of interfering with human burial remains, and protects them from disturbance, vandalism, or destruction. Public Resources Code §5097.98 also addresses the disposition of Native American burials, protects such remains, and established the Native American Heritage Commission to resolve any related disputes.

Implementation of these regulations and Mitigation Measure CR-1b would ensure that development of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact from potential disturbance of human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. Impacts will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

#### **POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED**

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## 6 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Expose people or structures to potentially substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Strong seismic ground shaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Landslides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is made unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a.1. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving 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?*

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zones are defined as zones which delineate areas of known active faults, as defined by the State of California; the project site is not located within a defined Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zone. However, the project is located within a seismically active area of southern California, and there are known active fault zones in the project area. The project would not introduce new residents or structures to the area such that increased risk associated with a seismic event would occur. Under the proposed project, use of the site would likely increase due to improved access and parking; however, increased usage would be comprised of local recreationists already utilizing facilities and recreational opportunities in the area. The project would have no effect on the potential for seismic events to occur and would not substantially increase the risk of impact from an earthquake to people or structures in the area. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- a.2. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?*

As noted above, the project is located in a seismically active area of southern California. The project would likely increase recreational use of the site, but that increased use would be comprised of recreationists who are already active in the area. Implementation of the project would not increase the potential for strong seismic ground shaking to occur in the project area. The only structure proposed under the project is the restroom facility, which would not pose substantial threat associated with seismic ground shaking. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- a.3. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

Liquefaction is a process whereby soil is temporarily transformed to fluid form during intense and prolonged ground shaking or because of a sudden shock or strain. Liquefaction typically occurs in areas where the groundwater is less than 30 feet from the surface and where the soils are composed of poorly consolidated fine to medium sand. As discussed in Section 9, "Existing Conditions", soils in the project area are easily eroded and susceptible to debris flows, especially when severe wildfire events are followed by storms. It is possible that seismically-related ground failure could occur during construction or operation of the project. However, the project site is currently used for recreational purposes and implementation of the project would have no effect on the potential for seismic-related ground failure to occur. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- a.4. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?*

The site is adjacent to an approximately 120-foot-tall ridgeline with plateau on top. It is possible that in the event of a strong seismic event, the project site could be affected by a landslide event.

However, this is an existing condition that would not be altered by the proposed project. Recreationists currently visit the proposed project site, and although the project would likely result in increased visitation to the trailhead parking area, such usage would be temporary and of short (mostly daily) duration. The project would therefore not affect the site's susceptibility to landslide hazards or introduce new substantial hazards. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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

As described in Section 9, soils in the project area are generally susceptible to erosion. Ground-disturbing activities would occur during project construction; however, project design features described in Section 9 would include the implementation of BMPs to avoid or minimize erosion potential. Further, the project requires minimal grading to maintain the direction of surface drainage to the north, towards Lisk Creek.

The trailhead parking area would be covered with compacted gravel, in a grade designed to maintain existing drainage patterns. This surface material would not affect soil erosion or the loss of topsoil on the project site; however, either option would increase the potential for downstream erosion to occur as a result of increased surface water runoff across the project site. Project design features listed in Section 9 include erosion control measures and drainage BMPs including directing surface flows away from impermeable surfaces (such as the proposed parking area surface); these measures would maintain existing drainage patterns as much as feasible and slow the velocity of increased surface runoff resulting from the parking area surface (comprised of packed gravel or base material). Additionally, the design of the proposed project would address existing erosion issues at the project site, particularly where the access/spur roads are currently deeply rutted by surface flows, thereby resulting in improved circumstances. As discussed in the description of the proposed project, the lower (northern) road will be abandoned in-place as part of the project, and the upper (southern) spur road will provide access to and from the project site; this road is outside of the stream's flow path, and existing ruts in this road will be repaired during project implementation. Potential impacts related to erosion and loss of topsoil impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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

There are hillsides in the project area that may be susceptible to geologic hazards. However, the project site is currently used for access to the adjacent wilderness area, and although the project may increase use of the trailhead parking area and the Pothole trailhead, this would not affect the potential for existing geologic hazards such as landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse to occur. Implementation of project design features listed in Section 9 would ensure that the project does not exacerbate existing hazards, such as through implementation of a SWPPP to control and contain potential erosion resulting from construction activities. Operation of the site would not affect existing geologic hazards and would not involve additional ground-disturbing activities. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- d. *Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?*

Expansive soils are clay-based, and subject to changes in volume and settlement in response to wetting and drying. The project site is characterized more by sandy soils and cobbles, and expansive soils have not been identified on the project site. The only structure included under the project is the restroom facility, which would include toilets of a vault design, provided in pre-cast concrete. The use of this structure would not introduce hazards associated with the potential presence of expansive soils, due to both structure design, and the nature of the structure being for intermittent use by visitors to the site. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT 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?*

The project involves the installation of a vault-style toilet housed in a restroom facility. Vault toilets do not use water for flushing. Wastes collect in a tank, which is pumped out when full. This restroom design is currently used by both the Forest Service and United. A passive ventilation system dries the waste and minimizes odors. The waste is then transported to an approved facility for disposal. The project will not install septic tanks or other wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

# 7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Climate change is the observed increase in the average temperature of the earth’s atmosphere and oceans along with other substantial changes in climate (such as wind patterns, precipitation, and storms) over an extended period. Climate change is the result of numerous, cumulative sources of greenhouse gases (GHG), which contribute to the “greenhouse effect,” a natural occurrence that helps regulate the temperature of the planet. The majority of radiation from the sun hits the earth’s surface and warms it. The surface in turn radiates heat back towards the atmosphere, known as infrared radiation. Gases and clouds in the atmosphere trap and prevent some of this heat from escaping into space and re-radiate it in all directions. This process is essential to support life on Earth because it warms the planet by approximately 60° Fahrenheit. Emissions from human activities since the beginning of the industrial revolution (approximately 250 years ago) are adding to the natural greenhouse effect by increasing the gases in the atmosphere that trap heat and contribute to an average increase in Earth’s temperature.

GHGs occur naturally and from human activities. Human activities that produce GHGs include fossil fuel burning (coal, oil, and natural gas for heating and electricity, gasoline and diesel for transportation); methane generated by landfill wastes and raising livestock; deforestation activities; and some agricultural practices. GHGs produced by human activities include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). Since 1750, estimated concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O in the atmosphere have increased over by 36 percent, 148 percent, and 18 percent respectively, primarily due to human activity. Emissions of GHGs affect the atmosphere directly by changing its chemical composition. Changes to the land surface indirectly affect the atmosphere by changing the way in the Earth absorbs gases from the atmosphere. Potential impacts in California of global warming may include loss of snow pack, sea level rise, more extreme heat days per year, more high ozone days, more large forest fires, and more drought years (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2009).

CEQA Guidelines provide regulatory direction for the analysis and mitigation of GHG emissions appearing in CEQA documents, while giving lead agencies the discretion to set quantitative or qualitative thresholds for the assessment and mitigation of GHGs and climate change impacts. To date, agencies such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) have adopted significance thresholds for GHGs. The VCAPCD has not yet adopted GHG emission significance thresholds for projects in their jurisdiction.

Given that Ventura County is adjacent to the SCAQMD jurisdiction and is part of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region, the VCAPCD recommends use of local GHG emission thresholds of significance for land use development projects at levels consistent with those set by the SCAQMD (VCAPCD 2011).

In the latest guidance provided by the SCAQMD's GHG CEQA Significance Threshold Working Group in September 2010, SCAQMD considered a tiered approach to determine the significance of residential and commercial projects. The draft tiered approach is outlined in the meeting minutes, dated September 29, 2010.

- **Tier 1.** If the project is exempt from further environmental analysis under existing statutory or categorical exemptions, there is a presumption of less than significant impacts with respect to climate change. If not, then the Tier 2 threshold should be considered.
- **Tier 2.** Consists of determining whether or not the project is consistent with a GHG reduction plan that may be part of a local general plan, for example. The concept embodied in this tier is equivalent to the existing concept of consistency in CEQA Guidelines section 15064(h)(3), 15125(d) or 15152(a). Under this Tier, if the proposed project is consistent with the qualifying local GHG reduction plan, it is not significant for GHG emissions. If there is not an adopted plan, then a Tier 3 approach would be appropriate.
- **Tier 3.** Establishes a screening significance threshold level to determine significance. The Working Group has provided a recommendation of 3,000 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year for commercial/residential projects and 10,000 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year for industrial projects.
- **Tier 4.** Establishes a service population threshold to determine significance. The Working Group has provided a recommendation of 4.8 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year for land use projects.

Because Ventura County does not have a qualified GHG reduction plan, the proposed project is evaluated based on the SCAQMD's recommended Tier 3 significance threshold of 3,000 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. The 3,000 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year Tier 3 screening level threshold is intended to assess commercial/residential projects and, although the project is not a commercial/residential land use, it is the most appropriate threshold for the proposed project.

*a. Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

The project's proposed construction activities, energy use, daily operational activities, and mobile sources (traffic) would generate GHG emissions. CalEEMod was used to calculate emissions resulting from project construction and long-term operation. Project-related construction emissions are confined to a relatively short period of time in relation to the overall life of the proposed project. Therefore, construction-related GHG emissions were amortized over a 30-year period to determine the annual construction-related GHG emissions over the life of the project. As shown in Table 6, the project construction would result in an average of approximately 0.9 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. Table 7 shows the combined annual GHG emissions from construction and operation of the project.

**Table 6 Estimated Construction GHG Emissions**

Year	Project Emissions MT/yr CO <sub>2</sub> e
Total	27.3
Total Amortized over 30 Years	0.9

See Appendix A for CalEEMod worksheets.

**Table 7 Combined Annual Emissions of Greenhouse Gases**

Emission Source	Annual Emissions (CO <sub>2</sub> e) in metric tons
Construction	0.9
Operational	
Area	<0.1
Energy	<0.1
Solid Waste	<0.1
Water	<0.1
Mobile	
CO <sub>2</sub> and CH <sub>4</sub>	0.6
N <sub>2</sub> O	<0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.9</b>

See Appendix A for CalEEMod worksheets.

As shown in Table 7, total annual GHG emissions from the project would be approximately 2 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year, which is well below the SCAQMD threshold of 3,000 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. Therefore, GHG emissions from the project would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- b. Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

The VCAPCD has not adopted a plan, policy, or regulations for the purpose of reducing the emission of GHGs. Further, the project would not result in any increase in population or increased demand on energy resources. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any plans or policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions and no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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# 8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located in 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 for people residing or working in the project area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project near a private airstrip, would it result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

During project construction, potentially hazardous materials such as fuels and lubricants would be used to operate vehicles and equipment. With the implementation of standard BMPs such as those described in the project design features (see Section 9, "Description of the Project"), these types of materials would be appropriately handled to avoid adverse impacts.

During operation of the project, maintenance trucks would regularly access the site to clean waste out of the trash and toilet facilities and transport it to approved facilities for disposal. These are not considered hazardous materials, but the trucks transporting them would be large diesel-fueled vehicles, and an unanticipated accident could result in a release of fuel. Trucks would access the site using Piru Canyon Road, which is operated and maintained by the Forest Service along the portion between the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility and the proposed project site; this portion of the road includes sharp turns and sections of disrepair, mostly characterized by broken pavement and potholes. In order to avoid potential impacts associated hazardous roadway conditions, Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 would be implemented to provide appropriate signage and ensure that truck operators are aware of road conditions. An extensive signage plan will be required to ensure public and worker safety.

### Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure would be implemented to mitigate potentially significant impacts associated with the condition of Piru Canyon Road. This measure would apply to all phases of project construction and operation.

**HAZ-1 Provide Signage Regarding Road Conditions.** Signs shall be clearly posted along Piru Canyon Road with information regarding the condition of Piru Canyon Road, as well as a map of Piru Canyon Road, showing its route between the entrance to the Lake Piru Recreation Area and the proposed project site. These signs shall be posted in the following locations, at a minimum: at the entrance to the Lake Piru Recreation Area (at or near the gatehouse), and at the turn-off from Piru Canyon Road for the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility.

### POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- 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?*

The proposed project would improve a previously disturbed site to provide a parking area and improved access to the existing trails in the area. Hazardous materials would not be utilized during construction or operation, with the exception of vehicle fuels and lubricants needed to operate equipment, machinery, and vehicles. These materials are commonly used in the area for accessing and maintaining recreational sites. Standard BMPs (such as those described in Section 9) and handling procedures ensure that there are no reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. In addition, Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, to be implemented above for criterion (a), would provide signage to ensure that truck operators are aware of potentially hazardous road conditions, to avoid the potential for unanticipated accidents that could result in the release of hazardous materials such as vehicle fuels and lubricants. Potential impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

**POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED**

- c. *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?*

The nearest existing school is Piru Elementary School, located approximately 11.7 miles to the southwest of the project site. The project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials within 0.25 mile of a school. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- d. *Would the project be located on a site included on a list of hazardous material 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?*

The following databases compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 were checked in July 2016 for known hazardous materials contamination at the project site:

- **Underground Storage Tanks (UST):** The UST database contains registered USTs. This database is maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board.
- **Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST):** LUST records contain an inventory of reported leaking underground storage tank incidents. This database is maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board.
- **RCRA (TSD, LQG, SQG):** RCRAInfo is U.S. EPA's comprehensive information system providing access to data supporting the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 and the Hazardous and solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984.
- **FINDS:** Facility Index System. Contains both facility information and pointers to other sources that contain more detail.

No hazardous materials sites were identified on the proposed project site, and therefore no impact would occur.

**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 for people residing or working in the project area?*

The nearest airport to the project site is the Santa Paula Airport, located approximately 20.4 miles to the southwest. The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The project would not impact airport operations, alter air traffic patterns, or conflict with established Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight protection zones. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- f. *For a project near a private airstrip, would it result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?*

As noted above, the nearest airport to the project site is 20.4 miles away. The project is not located near a private airstrip and would not result in associated hazards. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- g. *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

The proposed project would not involve the development of structures that could potentially impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project would improve access to the parking area by repairing the existing access/spur road. Implementation of the project would increase vehicle travel on the portion of Piru Canyon Road between the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility and the proposed project site, but this would not impede any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- h. *Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?*

The project site is in a rural area in unincorporated Ventura County, and is adjacent to open space land subject to wildland fires. According to Cal Fire (2007), the site is located in a high fire hazard severity zone. Construction and operation of the project would include the use of motorized vehicles and equipment which would be properly maintained in compliance with project design features to avoid the potential for sparks to initiate a wildland fire. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fire. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## 9 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering or the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or offsite	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Place housing in a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary, Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
h. Place structures in a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including that occurring as a result of the failure of a levee or dam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
j. Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■

*a. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?*

Construction of the project would include grading activities that may result in soil erosion and sedimentation that could degrade water quality; however, the implementation of project design features described in Section 9, and compliance with existing laws and regulations would minimize or avoid such effects. Per Ventura County Ordinance Number 4450 relating to stormwater quality management for unincorporated areas and the California State Construction General Permit (Order No. 2009-2009-DWQ), the project would implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), including BMPs to protect water quality. Therefore, potential impacts associated with water quality standards and waste discharge requirements would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*b. Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering or the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?*

The proposed project would require temporary water use for dust abatement during construction and to periodically clean the restroom facility during operations. All necessary water would be obtained from local sources and delivered to the project site via water trucks. There are no groundwater wells on-site and no new wells would be installed to support the project. Water use associated with the project would be minimal and provided by approved sources currently in use by United.

The project would introduce new surfaces in the form of packed gravel; however, such materials would be limited to not more than one acre of the parking area and would not interfere with recharge to the overall groundwater basin. Therefore, surfacing of the proposed parking area would not adversely impact groundwater recharge rates or patterns, and the project would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge or deplete groundwater resources.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- c. *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including by altering the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or offsite?*

The project would not alter the course of any stream or river. Closure and rehabilitation of the northern spur road to the project site would direct flows into the existing Lisk Creek to maintain natural drainage patterns (as opposed to flows concentrating on the roadway, as occurs under existing conditions). The project would introduce new surfaces in the form of packed gravel on the site, and drainage improvements would be implemented to direct surface flows away from impermeable areas to maintain natural drainage patterns and avoid potential impacts associated with erosion. In addition, as discussed under previous impact analyses, project design features would include the implementation of erosion control measures to avoid adverse impacts associated with erosion and sedimentation, including but not limited to the implementation of a SWPPP. Therefore, potential impacts associated with erosion or sedimentation on- or off-site would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- d. *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or offsite?*

As noted, the project would not alter the course of any stream or river. No work would be conducted within Lisk creek, and disturbance to the creek by visitors of the parking area would be discouraged using clear signage and trail markers.

As discussed above, the project would utilize packed gravel or a material of comparable material on the parking area. The use of this type of material would maintain more pervious surfaces throughout the project site than the use of hard pavement, thereby minimizing potential impacts associated with increased flooding on- or off-site. The use of hard pavement on the parking area surface would increase impervious areas, which could potentially result in increased flooding on- or off-site. Drainage design features such as gutters and slope control would be implemented to direct surface water flows and avoid potential impacts associated with flooding. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- e. *Would the project create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*

The project site is not near or connected to any stormwater drainage systems. The project site would be covered with packed gravel or a material of comparable permeability. As described above in the discussion of potential flooding impacts, the use of packed gravel on the proposed trailhead parking area facility surface would provide a more permeable surface than the use of hard pavement (which was determined to be infeasible due to the potential for stormwater runoff related issues). Drainage design features would be installed to direct surface flows and avoid adverse impacts. Therefore, effects on stormwater runoff rates and patterns would be minimal. The concrete pad used for the restroom facility would be impervious, but due to its small size in comparison with the project site it would have a negligible impact on stormwater runoff.

The proposed project includes onsite drainage improvements consisting of a surface flow dissipater located at the site perimeter. These improvements would include perimeter fencing along the northern and western sides of the trailhead parking area. The flow dissipater would be situated behind perimeter fencing. A drainage structure will be placed every 50 feet around the perimeter. Grade of the parking area would be configured with an approximately two percent slope, consistent with existing conditions and directing surface runoff flows towards the dissipater area to minimize potential impacts associated with runoff and erosion. Therefore, the project does not provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff and potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*f. Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?*

As described in Section 9, soils in the project area are generally susceptible to erosion. Ground-disturbing activities would occur during project construction; however, project design features described in Section 9 would include the implementation of BMPs to avoid or minimize erosion potential. Further, the project requires minimal grading to maintain the direction of surface drainage to the north, towards Lisk Creek. Additionally, the trailhead parking area would be covered with compacted gravel or a material of comparable permeability, in a grade designed to maintain existing drainage patterns (maximum two percent slope). The use of compacted gravel for the proposed trailhead parking area facility surface would minimize the potential for increased surface water runoff rates and associated increases in off-site erosion and sedimentation by maintaining permeability of the ground surface. Conversely, the use of hard pavement such as asphalt would contribute to increased surface water runoff rates by introducing new impermeable areas, and this option is therefore not considered part of the proposed project. The project would decrease the amount of sediment transported offsite because surfacing of the project site will prevent sheetflow over the current exposed dirt surface. Adherence to the project design features and BMPs described in Section 9 would ensure that impacts to turbidity would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*g. Would the project place housing in a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary, Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map?*

The proposed project would not introduce new housing and would not alter existing drainage patterns such that existing housing would be placed within a flood hazard area. Therefore, no impact would occur. The project site is not located within a FEMA-designated 100-year flood hazard area. FEMA has not prepared flood hazard maps for Piru Canyon upstream of Santa Felicia Dam.

**NO IMPACT**

*h. Would the project place in a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?*

The project site is not located within an area that has been delineated by FEMA for flood hazards. However, the site is situated above the Lisk Creek bed and is not subject to substantial flood hazards. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- i. *Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding including that occurs as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?*

The project site is located approximately 18 miles downstream of the Pyramid Dam. The site is located approximately 0.35 mile to the west and 70 feet above the current bed of Piru Creek. In the unlikely event of a dam failure, it would be unlikely for the site to be inundated by floodwaters. Additionally, although the project would increase use of the trailhead parking area, the project would not introduce new residents or habitable structures to the area, and potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- j. *Would the project result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?*

The project site is not located near any coastline and is not subject to inundation by tsunami. The site is located adjacent to the Lake Piru reservoir; however, elevation of the project site is approximately 1,120 feet above sea level (amsl), 115 feet above the Lake Piru reservoir's maximum elevation of 1,055 feet amsl (United 2009). Therefore, the site is not considered at risk of inundation from a seiche event.

There are hillside surrounding the project site that may be susceptible to mudflow, should precipitation events of extended duration result in complete soil saturation. However, the project site is currently utilized as a trailhead, and improvement of the trailhead that would occur under the project would not alter existing hazards. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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# 10 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project have any of the following impacts?				
a. Physically divide an established community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with an applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*a. Would the project physically divide an established community?*

The project consists of improving a previously disturbed area located approximately 11.5 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Piru, to accommodate the parking of vehicles and trailers at this site. The site is located in the Piru Lake Recreation Area and is designated as Open Space. The site is surrounded by Forest Service land and the Lake Piru Recreation Area. Construction of the project would not physically divide an established community.

**NO IMPACT**

*b. Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

The project is situated in the scenic viewshed of the Lake Piru reservoir and is designated as Open Space and Scenic Resource Protection (SRP). This zoning designation requires Planning Director approval of a development permit as the site will disturb more than 1,000 square feet or more of native vegetation (Sec. 8109-4.1 (Ventura County, 2016)). The project would obtain a permit from Ventura County per Sec. 8107-25 for alterations of trees and will use a certified arborist for any tree-related work. The project is designed to meet the requirements for a discretionary development permit. United will be required to obtain a zone clearance and building permit for the proposed restroom structure. The rehabilitation of the existing access/spur road will be done with native vegetation and be consistent with United’s Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan (2010). The project would therefore not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulations. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- c. *Would the project conflict with an applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?*

As discussed in Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the project site does not occur in any adopted HCP area, NCCP area, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

# 11 Mineral Resources

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

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?*

The two principal mineral resources located in Ventura County are petroleum and aggregate. Aggregates include sand, gravel, and rock which are used for fill, construction-grade concrete, and riprap, among others. Although many sand and gravel sites exist throughout the County, most of the extraction sites are located in and along the Santa Clara River bed. Other minerals of commercial value in Ventura County are asphalt, clay, expansible shale, gypsum, limestone, and phosphate. The project site is not in Ventura County’s designated Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) (Ventura County, 2010). The project would require the import of mineral resources such as gravel, rock, and concrete materials to the project site; however, due to the availability of such resources in the region, this would not result in an adverse impact associated with the loss of availability of mineral resources. No impact would occur.

**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?*

There are no mineral mining or recovery sites on or directly accessible from the project site, and improvement of the trailhead parking area would not affect access to or availability of a mineral resource recovery site. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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# 12 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in any of the following impacts?				
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels above those existing prior to implementation of the project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above those existing prior to implementation of the project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located in an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project near a private airstrip, would it expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a. *Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Noise associated with the proposed project would occur during the one-month construction period and would be limited to the use of vehicles and equipment required to implement the proposed grading and ground cover activities, as well as the placement of perimeter fencing around the site. There are no residences or other sensitive receptors on or adjacent to the project site, and construction noise would not affect sensitive receptors in excess of any applicable standards.

For traffic-related noise, impacts are considered significant if project-generated traffic results in exposure of sensitive receptors to an unacceptable increase in noise levels. The project may result in

increased use of the trailhead parking area and the Pothole Trailhead (in its current or relocated location, at the discretion of the Forest Service), potentially resulting in increased passenger vehicle traffic to and from the parking area. This would occur on an existing roadway and would not expose sensitive receptors to new noise or types of noise. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- b. *Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Project construction would generate short-term groundborne vibration and noise associated with the use of construction vehicles and equipment to complete the proposed grading and groundcover activities. However, there are no sensitive receptors in the project area, and potential vibration-related effects would be temporary and of short duration, limited to the one-month construction period. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- c. *Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels above levels existing without the project?*

The proposed project site is accessible to the public, but recreationists have access only by walking approximately three miles along Piru Canyon Road from the parking area at the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility. Under the proposed project, use of the site would likely increase due to the availability of vehicular access along Piru Canyon Road, as well as parking at the proposed project site. However, it is anticipated that increased usage would be comprised of local recreationists already utilizing facilities and recreational opportunities in the area. Therefore, there would not be a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise level above current levels and impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- d. *Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Project construction would temporarily increase noise levels due to the use of vehicles and equipment on-site. Due to the short duration of construction activities, and the absence of sensitive receptors in the area, potential impacts associated with temporarily increased noise levels would be less than significant.

During project operations, use of the site would likely increase due to improved access and parking; this would result in periodic increases in noise associated with passenger vehicles and the presence of recreationists. However, the site is currently accessed by recreationists, and increased usage would therefore not result in significant impacts associated with periodic increases in ambient noise levels. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- e. *For a project located in 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?*

The nearest airport to the proposed project is located approximately 20.4 miles to the southwest. The proposed project is not in an airport land use plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- f. *For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise?*

There is no private air strip in or adjacent to the proposed project. As mentioned, the nearest airport is located approximately 20.4 miles to the southwest of the project site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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# 13 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in any of the following impacts?				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial amounts of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a. *Would the project induce substantial 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)?*

The proposed project would not introduce new homes or businesses and would not extend roads or other infrastructure. The improved trailhead parking area may result in increased visitation to the site, but visitors would be comprised of recreationists already visiting the area. No new permanent employees would be introduced, as existing United employees would provide project maintenance services. No impact to population and housing would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

b. *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

The project site is located in unincorporated Ventura County near the community of Piru and is currently undeveloped. Although visitation to the site may increase as a result of the project, access would occur on an existing roadway that is currently utilized by recreationists and would have no effect on existing housing. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- c. *Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

The project would not displace existing people or necessitate the construction of replacement housing. Although the potential for increased visitation would occur, access would be provided on an existing roadway and would have no effect associated with housing availability or access.

**NO IMPACT**

# 14 Public Service

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project result in any of the following impacts?

a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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:

1. Fire protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Police protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Other public facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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 public services:*

### a.1 Fire protection

The project site is located near the community of Piru, in unincorporated Ventura County. Fire protection to this area is provided by the Ventura County Fire Department. Fire Station No. 28 is approximately 11.8 miles southwest of the project site, located at 513 Church Street in Piru. This station would continue to serve the project site and area. The project would likely result in increased visitation to the site due to improved access and parking opportunities; signage would be provided regarding fire regulations such that the potential for fire hazards to occur due to increased visitation would be avoided. However, increased use at the project site resulting from improved access and parking may potentially require additional emergency responses to the area. The local fire departments have sufficient staff and vehicles to accommodate such responses, and the project would not result in the need for new or physically altered facilities for fire protection. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

*a.2. Police protection*

Police protection to the project area is provided by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. The Santa Clara Valley Station, located at 524 Sespe Avenue in the community of Fillmore, serves the community of Piru and the project area. The project may result in increased visitation to the project site due to improved parking and access, and it is possible that increased visitation may also increase unwanted activities such as littering and vandalism. It is understood that local property owners are concerned about opening Piru Canyon Road beyond the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility due to the potential for increased trespassing and vandalism, with particular concern over trespassing hunters.

As part of regular project operations, the project site would be visited and monitored by existing United personnel (or designees), which would discourage unlawful activities such as trespassing, littering, and vandalism. Regarding the potential for trespassing hunters, this is an existing issue in the project area, and regular monitoring of the project site and access road that would occur as part of the project design would ensure that such activities would not increase or be encouraged because of the project. As noted, United personnel (or designees) will patrol the area on a regular and frequent basis; any signs of trespassing, vandalism, or other unlawful activities will be reported to the local law enforcement authorities.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*a.3. Schools*

The project would improve recreational access in the area but would not result in population increases such that new or modified school facilities would be required. The project would have no effect on school service ratios, response times, or other performance objective. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

*a.4. Parks*

The proposed project would implement improvements to an existing recreational area. The trails that would be accessed from the project's proposed parking area improvements are currently used by hikers and equestrians on a regular basis. Although the project may increase use of local trails due to improved access and parking opportunities, it would not require new or altered governmental facilities, and would not result in significant impacts to parks. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*a.5. Other public facilities*

The project consists of the improvement of a trailhead parking area and would be maintained by existing United staff or designee. Construction of the project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts to schools, parks, or other public facilities in the region, and would not require new or physically altered facilities. Impacts to other public facilities (e.g., sewer, storm drains, and roadways) are discussed in Sections 16, *Transportation/Traffic*, and Section 17, *Utilities and Public Services*.

**NO IMPACT**

# 15 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in any of the following impacts?				
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 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?*

The proposed project would develop a previously disturbed site to provide parking and easier access for the Forest Service Pothole Trail (No. 18W04). The project may increase visitation to this trailhead due to improved access and parking; however, regular monitoring and maintenance of the trailhead parking area would occur as part of the project, and therefore the site would not experience deterioration as a result of project implementation. Pothole Trail (No. 18W04) enters the Sespe Wilderness Area in the southern part of the Los Padres National Forest. Local trails may also see increased use because of project implementation. However, such use is expected to be comprised of recreationists already visiting the area and would not result in or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of the trails or parking lot area. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

### LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT 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?*

The proposed project includes the improvement of a previously disturbed site which provides access to existing wilderness trails. Project implementation would result in temporary construction-related impacts associated with ground disturbance and the use of vehicles and equipment on-site; however, the implementation of project design features described in Section 9 would minimize or avoid potentially adverse impacts. During project operations, visitation to the site may increase but regular monitoring and maintenance included as part of the project design would deter potentially adverse impacts. Therefore, the proposed trailhead improvements would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

### LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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# 16 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in any of the following impacts?				
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing a measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways, and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bikeways, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise substantially decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing a measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways, and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?*

The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances, or policies that establish a measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Access to the project site would occur on an existing roadway (Piru Canyon Road) which is currently used for access to the site. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- b. *Would the project conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?*

The proposed project would not conflict with any congestion management programs. Under the proposed project, use of the site would likely increase due to improved access and parking. However, it is anticipated that increased usage would be comprised of local recreationists already utilizing local recreational opportunities in the area. Therefore, the proposed project would not have an impact.

**NO IMPACT**

- c. *Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?*

As discussed in Section 8, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, and Section 12, *Noise*, the nearest airport to the proposed project is located approximately 20.4 miles to the southwest. The project would not impact air traffic patterns by either increasing traffic levels or by changing the location of the airport. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- d. *Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?*

The project does not include any design features or incompatible uses that would substantially increase hazards or incompatible uses. Access to the project site is via Piru Canyon Road, which is operated and maintained by the Forest Service. This road is characterized by sharp turns and current disrepair in the form of broken asphalt and potholes; the proposed project does not include repair or maintenance of this road (which is the responsibility of the Forest Service). The project would not introduce new sharp curves or dangerous intersections and would repair and improve the existing access/spur road leading to the proposed parking area from Piru Canyon Road.

Visitation to the site may increase due to improved access and parking opportunities, which would increase the use of Piru Canyon Road by passenger vehicles and trucks with horse trailers. In addition, the transportation of construction vehicles and equipment to the project site, as well as the transportation of construction-related water supplies, would temporarily increase use of Piru Canyon Road. As previously described, signage would be provided regarding road conditions (Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, *Provide Signage Regarding Road Conditions*) to minimize the potential for hazards associated with transportation on local roadways. The project would not introduce

incompatible uses, as passenger vehicles and trucks with horse trailers presently utilize roadways within the Lake Piru Recreation Area. Potential impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

**POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED**

*e. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

Overall, the proposed project would increase access for emergency vehicles to the site by improving the access/spur road to the site, and by improving access through existing gates on Piru Canyon Road. The project does not include improvements to Piru Canyon Road, which is operated and maintained by the Forest Service, but also would not introduce conditions which would affect existing emergency access to the site. There are currently locked gates on Piru Canyon Road (one gate at Reasoner Canyon, and one gate just north of the Juan Fernandez Launch Ramp Facility); as previously discussed, these gates would be removed (or locked open in place) as part of the proposed project. The project would not result in inadequate emergency access, and no impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

*f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bikeways, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise substantially decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?*

The proposed project would not conflict with or substantially decrease the performance or safety of any adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bikeways, or pedestrian facilities. As described above, implementation of the project would result in overall improved access. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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# 17 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in any of the following impacts?				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a. *Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

The proposed project does not include the discharge of wastewater on site and would therefore not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Waste from the proposed restroom facility would be removed and transported to

an approved facility for disposal. No water service would be provided to the site. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- b. *Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

The proposed project will not discharge any wastewater on-site, and waste from the restroom facility will be collected and trucked to an approved disposal facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate project-related waste. The project would not require new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. No impact would occur.

**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?*

As described above, the project includes restroom facilities that would be regularly cleaned out, with waste transported to and disposed of at an approved local facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate project-related waste. Therefore, no impact would occur with respect to wastewater treatment capacity.

**NO IMPACT**

- d. *Would the project require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

As discussed in Section 9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the project includes drainage improvements and the implementation of BMPs to ensure that runoff from the parking area surface would not result in substantial adverse effects associated with stormwater. Natural drainage patterns on the project site would be restored and maintained to the maximum extent practicable. No new or expanded stormwater drainage facilities would be required to accommodate the project. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- e. *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?*

As discussed in Section 9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the proposed project will not have any water facilities on-site and water will only be used during the construction phase and infrequently for maintenance of the restroom facility. Any water used will be brought from local sources during construction and maintenance. Potential impacts associated with use of Piru Canyon Road to deliver water to the site are addressed in Section 16, *Transportation*. The project does not require existing entitlements and resources or new and expanded entitlements; therefore, no impact to water supplies or entitlements would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- f. *Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?*

The nearest landfill to the project site is the Toland Landfill, which is located approximately 26.3 miles southwest of the project site and has a life expectancy of approximately 25 years at the present waste generation rate and therefore has sufficient capacity to serve the project. Implementation of the project would not require demolition activities that would generate waste needing to be disposed of at a landfill facility. Operation and maintenance of the project would include the emptying of on-site trash receptacles, and transport/disposal of this waste to the Toland Landfill. There are currently no trash receptacles on the project site; however, visitors to the site would be comprised of local recreationists who currently access trails in the area. The project is therefore not expected to result in an increase of regional trash production, and there is sufficient landfill capacity available to serve the project. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

- g. *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

As discussed above, operation and maintenance of the project would include trash collection and disposal (at a local landfill) but would not introduce a substantial new source of solid waste. Cleaning out of the restroom facility would occur in compliance with regulations applicable to waste collection and disposal. The project would therefore comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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# 18 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a. *Does the project have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?*

As discussed in Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the proposed project would not result in significant unavoidable impacts to biological resources, including to habitat of fish or wildlife species. Mitigation Measure BIO-1, *Special-Status Wildlife and Nesting Bird Preconstruction Clearance Surveys*, would ensure the avoidance of adverse impacts. In addition, the proposed project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory because no examples are known to exist at the site. Mitigation Measures CR-1a and CR-1b, *Procedures for Discovery of Intact Cultural Resources* and *Procedures for Discovery of Human Remains*, would ensure that should previously unknown resources be found at the site the significance of these

would be assessed and impacts mitigated. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

**POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED**

- 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)?*

As described in the environmental issue area analyses, the project would have no impact, a less than significant impact, or a less than significant impact after mitigation with respect to all environmental issue areas. The project would not conflict with the current Ventura County General Plan or land use pattern in the project site and vicinity. There are no other planned or pending projects in the immediate vicinity of the project site that would create cumulative impacts. Therefore, the project’s contribution to any cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable. No impact would occur.

**NO IMPACT**

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

The proposed project has been found in this Initial Study to have no impacts to human health. Construction noise and vibration would occur during the construction period and may be experienced by local residents and recreationists. In addition, increased traffic on Piru Canyon Road may occur as a result of increased access and parking opportunities. Informational signage provided as part of the project, as well as regular monitoring and maintenance activities, would ensure that implementation of the project would be consistent with current conditions of the site and surrounding area. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

**LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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## List of Preparers

### **Rincon Consultants, Inc.**

Rincon Consultants, Inc. prepared this IS-MND under contract to the United Water Conservation District. Linda Purpus is the project planner from the United Water Conservation District. Persons involved in data gathering analysis, project management, and quality control are listed below.

Jennifer Haddow, Principal/Program Manager  
Aubrey Mescher, Senior Environmental Planner/Project Manager  
David Daitch, Program Manager/Senior Biologist  
Thea Benson, Senior Biologist  
Monica Jacinto, Associate Biologist  
Lindsey Sarquilla, Senior Planner/Air Quality Specialist  
Hannah Mize, Associate Environmental Planner/Air Quality Specialist  
Christopher Duran, Senior Archaeologist  
Meagan Szromba, Associate Archaeologist  
Amanda Silver-Westrick, Associate Planner  
Andrew Hall, Environmental Planning and Sustainability Group Intern



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

**From:** Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager  
Edward Reese, Control Systems Supervisor

**Date:** February 27, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** **3.5 Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager as the District's Authorized Agent for Purposes of Obtaining Federal Assistance Provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security and Subgranted through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program**  
**Motion**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the General Manager as the District's authorized agent for purposes of obtaining federal assistance provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security and Subgranted through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, Grant Subaward Number 2023-9999.

### **Background:**

The United Water Conservation District's Control Systems team has recently conducted a Vulnerability Architecture Design Review (VADR) with the Critical Infrastructure Security Administration (CISA) from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The results of this review identified additional options for consideration and industry best practices to enhance existing cyber security efforts for the Operational Technology (OT), Industrial Control Systems (ICS), and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems of the District. The Control Systems team, with the help of the Grant Task Force team, has applied for the Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program as a result of the findings. The United Water Conservation District was awarded the \$247,500 grant in December of 2024.

The grant has a performance period of two years. The objective of the program is to strengthen cybersecurity practices and the resilience of state and local governments and emphasize the importance of the national homeland security mission.

**Agenda Item: 3.5 Authorizing the United Water Conservation District's General Manager as the District's Authorized Agent for purposes of obtaining federal assistance provided by Federal Department of Homeland Security and sub- granted through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)**  
**Motion**

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**Discussion:**

Staff propose that the General Manager be designated as an authorized agent for all interactions with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). This authorization will include providing responses and documents, to CalOES. Authorizing one agent will significantly expedite timely responses to the CalOES, which oftentimes requests responses within a short turnaround time.

**Mission-Related Goals:**

Enhancing the District's cyber security posture and awareness is in agreement with Goals B System Reliability and Goal E Regional Partnership Leadership.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The District would not incur any cost related to this resolution as the entire effort is covered by the grant. There are continued service costs associated with the post-grant performance period if the District is inclined to continue these services.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Resolution– A resolution of the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District designating the General Manager as an authorized agent of California's Office of Emergency Services Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Attachment B – Governing Body Resolution Designation of Authorized Agent Form for Fiscal Years 2022/2023 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

# ATTACHMENT A

## RESOLUTION

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DESIGNATING THE GENERAL MANAGER AS THE DISTRICT'S AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR PURPOSES OF OBTAINING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND SUBGRANTED THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022/2023 STATE & LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the United Water Conservation District (the "District") is a water conservation district formed in 1950 under the Water Conservation Act of 1931 contained in the California Water Code, and is therefore a public entity established under the laws of the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued the Fiscal Year 2022 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCPG); and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the SLCPG is to assist state, local, and tribal governments with managing and reducing systemic cyber risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal assistance provided through the SLCPG is subgranted through the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, as a public agency, the District is eligible for, and has and/or seeks to apply for SLCPG funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors for the District ("Board") supports efforts to further strengthen cybersecurity practices and resilience within the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes and hereby determines it to be in the best interest of the District to authorize the General Manager to execute for and on behalf of the District take any actions necessary for the purposes of obtaining federal financial assistance and/or state financial assistance under the SLCPG; and

**WHEREAS**, this is a resolution specific to the SLCPG and covers the following applicable SLCPG subgrant award years: 2023 through December 31, 2027 (one year past the full period of performance date of December 31, 2026, for any SLCPG subaward); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes and hereby determines the District has complied with applicable local protocols and/or rules that may apply to its application for and/or receipt of any funding as part of the SLCPG.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The recitals set forth hereinabove are true and correct and are incorporated herein.
2. The General Manager is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the District take any actions necessary for the purposes of obtaining federal financial assistance and/or state financial assistance under the SLCPG and further take such other actions and execute such documents as such officers shall deem necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution, with said execution to provide conclusive evidence of the Board's approval.
3. This Resolution shall be effective as of the date of its adoption and shall extend through and including December 31, 2027, which covers the full period of performance for any SLCPG subaward.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District on March 12, 2025, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Maulhardt, President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Kimball, Secretary/Treasurer

# ATTACHMENT B

## Governing Body Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Directors  
(Governing Body)  
OF THE United Water Conservation District THAT  
(Name of Applicant)  
General Manager, OR  
(Name or Title of Authorized Agent)  
\_\_\_\_\_, OR  
(Name or Title of Authorized Agent)  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name or Title of Authorized Agent)

is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the named Applicant, a public entity established under the laws of the State of California, any actions necessary for the purpose of obtaining federal financial assistance provided by the federal Department of Homeland Security and subgranted through the State of California for the following Grant Award:

FY22/FY23 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)  
(List Grant Year and Program)

Passed and approved this 12th day of March, 20 25

### Certification

I, Tracy Oehler, duly appointed and  
(Name)

Clerk of the Board/Board Secretary Of the Board of Directors of the United Water Conservation District  
(Title) (Governing Body)

do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and approved by the  
12th day of March, 20 25

Clerk of the Board/Board Secretary  
(Official Position)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) March 12, 2025  
(Date)



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Craig Morgan, Chief Operations Officer  
Randy Castañeda, Operations Supervisor — Water Treatment  
J.D. Smallwood, Operations Supervisor — Water Distribution

**Date:** February 27, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.1 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report  
Information Item

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Receive this summary report from the Operations and Maintenance department about its activities for February 2025.

### **1. Major Facilities Update**

- **Santa Felicia Dam**
  - On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the lake level was 1011.55' and on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the lake level had risen to 1012.50'
  - Santa Felicia Dam release flows consistently remained at 7+ CFS throughout January due to Habitat Flow requirements and no Migration Releases due to lack of rainfall.
  - CalOES staff performed the Monthly Siren Test on Friday, 2/7/25 with no issues to report.
  - Various preparations are ongoing and continuing at SFD in anticipation of regulatory inspection season.
  - SFD's monthly inspection is ongoing for the month of February.
  
- **Freeman Diversion, Saticoy, and El Rio Recharge Facilities**
  - District staff operated the Freeman Diversion at various flows throughout February, harvesting Santa Clara River flows and storm runoff, maintaining compliance with our environmental regulations, and delivering surface water to El Rio, PTP, and PV pipelines.
  - Saticoy staff utilized District owned heavy equipment to perform sediment removal along various canals and drainages.
  - Various clean-up and storm preparation activities are taking place at and around the Saticoy facility and the Freeman Diversion.

**Agenda Item: 4.1 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report  
Information Item**

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- Herbicide application tasks are ongoing and continuing near the Freeman Diversion, the Saticoy Spreading Grounds, the Noble Basins, and the North Bank.
- Various heavy equipment maintenance is ongoing and continuing at the Saticoy location.
- Various cleanup and maintenance activities are ongoing around the Saticoy Shop.
- Static water levels (distance of water from the well pad to the water table):

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Saticoy	51'	25'	63'
El Rio	62'	63'	130'
PTP	60'-100'	59'-97'	100'-119'

- **Oxnard-Hueneme (OH) Delivery System**

- El Rio operators worked with a contractor to troubleshoot issues with Fe/Mn return wash water pumps.
- El Rio staff compiled UWCD flow meter photos and documentation for quarterly FCGMA compliance records.
- El Rio operators performed testing on cathodic protection anodes at various sites along OH pipeline.
- El Rio staff placed Fe/Mn Plant in out of service mode to open pressure filters and obtain media grab samples for analysis by manufacturer.
- El Rio operators began to prepare Gas Eng. 3 for pump inlet and outlet piping replacement.

- **Pleasant Valley County Water District (PVCWD)**

- PVCWD received United's surface water supply, and surface water supply from Conejo Creek Project.
- 12% sodium hypochlorite injection continues at Saticoy's Moss Screen facilities for quagga mussel control.

- **Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)**

- During January, the PTP system demand was met with surface water and PTP wells.
- UWCD staff conducted drone video footage of the construction work for the Recycle Water pipeline project on Laguna Rd.
- El Rio operators performed monthly operational tests of the PTP emergency generators.
- El Rio operators shut down and drained the PTP pipeline on Sturgis Road to allow for the installation of new isolation valves on turnouts 139 and 144.

**Agenda Item: 4.1 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report  
Information Item**

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- **Control Systems**

- Installed Humidity Sensor In Moss Screen for Future Fan Automation
- Created Base Configuration Template for AXIS P3738-PLE Camera
- Created Network Rack Configuration Template
- Created SOP - 0005 - UWCD OT Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan
- Assisted Operations with troubleshooting FEMN Backwash & RWW sequence
- OH VFD Booster plant program tuning and setpoint changes to prevent oscillations and water hammering

- **Lake Piru Water System**

- All chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the drinking water system were within proper ranges for January.
- Monthly pH, turbidity, and coliform samples were obtained for Lake Piru, as part of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule compliance monitoring.
- Basic maintenance and inspections are ongoing and continuing.

**2. Operations and Maintenance Projects Update**

- El Rio completed the monthly DDW Drought Tolerance report.
- El Rio operators worked with HACH Co. technician on quarterly service of continuous monitoring water quality analyzers.
- Staff performed weed abatement at PTP and PV reservoirs.
- El Rio staff continued training the new interim Chief Water Treatment Operator on daily operations for OH, PTP, and PV activities.
- Saticoy and SFD staff assisted the Recreation Team by performing carpentry and landscaping work at the Condor Point Store.
- El Rio staff attended OH Emergency Response Plan update and Recycle Water Project meetings.

**3. Other Operations and Maintenance Activities**

- Monthly bacteria samples were obtained for the PTP system.
- Monthly meter readings were obtained for OH, PTP and PV pipelines.
- Staff completed and electronically transmitted the monthly OH Surface Water Treatment Rule report to the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.
- El Rio staff completed quarterly Stage 2 DBP rule and NPDES reports and submitted them to DDW and LARWQCB.
- Static water levels were obtained for all El Rio, Saticoy, and PTP wells.
- Weed abatement continued throughout the District.
- O&M personnel from El Rio and Saticoy attended aerial lift training hosted by HERC Rentals.

**Agenda Item: 4.1 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report  
Information Item**

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**4. Safety and Training**

- Staff attended a safety meeting on traffic safety.
- Tailgate safety meetings were conducted at all individual O&M field locations, and the topics included refresher training on equipment used at the various O&M locations; specifically, tailgate safety meetings were conducted prior to every commencement of maintenance activities at the Freeman Diversion.
- El Rio operators went through quarterly in-house Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and associated equipment (SCBA/B-kit) training.

**Attachment:** Operations Log for January

**OPERATIONS LOG v 10/7/21**

DATE	SANTA FELICIA DAM								FREEMAN DIVERSION**					RECHARGE				IRRIGATION						O-H													
	SFD El.	Stor.	Surface	Evap.	Inflow Balance	Outflow USGS	Hydro	Rain 106E	River	Diverted	Fish*** Facility	Bypass Channel	Crest	El Rio	Saticoy Facility	Noble/Rose	Piru	T.I.D.	P.T.P.	PVCWD	L.P.	Saticoy Wells	Total	Ci2													
	Ft.	A/F	Acres	Inches	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Kw	Inches	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Misc CFS†	Weir CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	A/F	A/F	A/F	%	A/F	A/F	A/F							Lbs.					
<b>A/F*</b>		36130			4,540	21,862		0.23	28,260	24,825	2,942	492		10,869	9931	4614	0.0	4,025	1,116	1,933		0.0	0	2,575	16,558												
1/1/25	1011.55	36256	840	0.105	73	7.4	0	0.00	82	72	9.6	0	0	70.13	2	0	0	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	19.4	159											
1/2/25	1011.83	36492	842	0.073	128	7.41	0	0.00	84	74	9.6	0	0	62.93	7	0	0	0.0	7.4	7.2	0.2	0.00	0.0	0.0	26.9	277											
1/3/25	1011.98	36618	843	0.080	72	7.41	0	0.00	77	67	9.6	0	0	45.83	2	0	0	0.0	38.1	12.4	25.7	0.19	0.0	0.0	27.5	319											
1/4/25	1012.04	36669	843	0.120	35	7.41	0	0.00	77	67	9.6	0	0	50.98	2	0	0	0.0	27.8	10.8	17.0	0.13	0.0	0.0	26.8	253											
1/5/25	1012.05	36677	843	0.172	15	7.41	0	0.00	79	70	9.6	0	0	66.38	3	0	0	0.0	0.6	1.7	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	24.6	186											
1/6/25	1012.09	36711	843	0.159	27	7.41	0	0.00	80	70	9.6	0	0	50.24	3	0	0	0.0	33.4	19.0	14.4	0.10	0.0	0.0	30.2	255											
1/7/25	1012.09	36711	843	0.080	9	7.41	0	0.00	76	66	9.6	0	0	40.32	1	0	0	0.0	49.9	24.8	25.1	0.19	0.0	0.0	36.5	274											
1/8/25	1012.08	36702	843	0.212	7	7.41	0	0.00	72	63	9.6	0	0	36.04	2	0	0	0.0	49.5	19.3	30.2	0.24	0.0	0.0	52.4	318											
1/9/25	1012.11	36728	844	0.222	24	7.42	0	0.00	80	70	9.6	0	0	35.69	-4	8.61	0	0.0	59.5	16.4	43.1	0.31	0.0	0.0	52.6	453											
1/10/25	1012.09	36711	843	0.230	3	7.43	0	0.00	69	54	7.2	7.8	0	40.36	-8	0	0	0.0	41.2	20.4	20.8	0.20	0.0	0.0	49.9	386											
1/11/25	1012.12	36736	844	0.106	22	7.42	0	0.00	75	67	7.7	0	0	60.19	1	0	0	0.0	11.0	10.8	0.2	0.00	0.0	0.0	47.2	359											
1/12/25	1012.11	36728	844	0.134	6	7.42	0	0.00	74	66	7.7	0	0	61.15	1	0	0	0.0	6.7	6.6	0.1	0.00	0.0	0.0	42.4	302											
1/13/25	1012.12	36736	844	0.123	14	7.42	0	0.00	75	67	7.7	0	0	40.84	0	0	0	0.0	52.3	25.7	26.6	0.20	0.0	0.0	40.2	308											
1/14/25	1012.09	36711	843	0.231	-1	7.42	0	0.00	71	63	7.7	0	0	32.38	1	0	0	0.0	59.5	17.1	42.4	0.34	0.0	0.0	33.4	273											
1/15/25	1012.11	36728	844	0.234	20	7.44	0	0.00	75	67	7.7	0	0	32.38	4	0	0	0.0	61.4	16.5	44.9	0.34	0.0	0.0	32.1	208											
1/16/25	1012.00	36635	843	0.116	-37	7.44	0	0.00	76	69	7.7	0	0	32.53	6	0	0	0.0	59.5	11.8	47.7	0.35	0.0	0.0	32.0	336											
1/17/25	1012.12	36736	844	0.096	60	7.42	0	0.00	67	59	7.7	0	0	30.17	-1	0	0	0.0	58.7	12.3	46.4	0.40	0.0	0.0	31.8	302											
1/18/25	1012.24	36837	845	0.078	60	7.42	0	0.00	66	58	7.7	0	0	29.09	0	0	0	0.0	57.3	12.5	44.8	0.39	0.0	0.0	28.7	229											
1/19/25	1012.20	36804	844	0.051	-8	7.42	0	0.00	69	62	7.7	0	0	34.45	1	0	0	0.0	51.1	4.2	46.9	0.39	0.0	0.0	24.6	191											
1/20/25	1012.27	36863	845	0.080	39	7.42	0	0.00	71	64	7.7	0	0	38.5	1	0	0	0.0	48.5	20.5	28.0	0.22	0.0	0.0	34.6	254											
1/21/25	1012.23	36829	844	0.145	-7	7.42	0	0.00	65	57	7.8	0	0	26	0	0	0	0.0	61.5	25.1	36.4	0.32	0.0	0.0	34.6	311											
1/22/25	1012.21	36812	844	0.132	1	7.42	0	0.00	67	59	7.8	0	0	27.68	0	0	0	0.0	61.2	14.6	46.6	0.40	0.0	0.0	33.0	337											
1/23/25	1012.18	36787	844	0.140	-3	7.42	0	0.00	64	56	7.8	0	0	23.73	1	0	0	0.0	63.5	22.6	40.9	0.37	0.0	0.0	35.5	394											
1/24/25	1012.18	36787	844	0.135	10	7.42	0	0.00	65	57	7.7	0	0	26.93	1	0	0	0.0	57.5	17.2	40.3	0.36	0.0	0.0	34.1	257											
1/25/25	1012.19	36795	844	0.095	13	7.42	0	0.00	70	62	7.6	0	0	5.68	33	0	0	0.0	46.8	14.7	32.1	0.26	0.0	0.0	32.2	246											
1/26/25	1012.22	36820	844	0.021	20	7.42	0	0.16	89	81	7.6	0	1.1	36.83	37	0	0	0.0	13.2	0.4	12.8	0.08	0.0	0.0	24.7	190											
1/27/25	1012.33	36913	845	0.051	55	7.42	0	0.90	116	99	6.7	8.4	1.3	41.93	30	26.48	11.26	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	27.6	190											
1/28/25	1012.43	36998	846	0.042	51	7.42	0	0.00	106	99	7.4	0	0	38.06	26	18.42	9.67	0.0	32.4	17.4	15.0	0.08	0.0	0.0	27.0	231											
1/29/25	1012.45	37015	846	0.112	18	7.42	0	0.00	100	93	7.4	0	0	60.65	-6	17.22	14.68	0.0	41.6	9.3	32.3	0.18	0.0	0.7	30.0	293											
1/30/25	1012.48	37040	846	0.044	21	7.42	0	0.00	98	91	7.4	0	0	56.38	-1	11.52	0	0.0	47.7	4.7	43.0	0.24	0.0	0.6	33.5	343											
1/31/25	1012.50	37057	847	0.032	17	7.42	0	0.00	96	89	7.4	0	0	61.59	-5	10.85	0	0.0	43.5	13.3	30.2	0.17	0.0	0.6	27.6	246											
<b>TOTAL CFS</b>					763	230		1.06	2429	2158	253	16	2	1296	142	93	36	0.0																			
<b>AVERAGE CFS</b>					25	7			78	70	8	1	0	42	5	3	1	0.0																			
<b>TOTAL A/F</b>					1511	455			4810	4272	501	32	5	2566	280	184	71	0.0	1243	411	834		0	1.9	1034	8680											
MONTHLY REVENUE TO DATE (approx.)								\$0	K																												
<b>AVERAGE A/F</b>					49	15			155	138	16	1	0	83	9	6	2	0.0	40	13	27	21%	0	0.1	33	280											
<b>WATER YEAR TOTALS A/F</b>					6,050	22,317		1.29	33,070	29,097	3,444	524	5	13,436	10,396	4,685	0.0	5,268	1,527	2,767		0	2	3,608	25,238												
* Input total A/F previous month																																					
** Daily averages imported from Ranch Systems																																					
***Fish facility flows include Denil fishladder, aux pipe and smolt bypass pipe																																					



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Bernard Riedel Jr., Senior Park Ranger

**Date:** February 24, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.2 Recreation Department Monthly Report  
Information item

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Receive this summary report from the Recreation Department regarding its activities for the month of February 2025.

### **Discussion:**

February marks the end of the slow season for the Lake Piru Recreation Area (LPRA) and visitation will increase as the weather gets warmer. Ranger staff continue with various maintenance projects to prepare the park for the busy season. A significant storm moved through the area that brought approximately 3.5 inches of rainfall, so staff utilized sandbags and straw wattles to minimize the impact on park operations.

Park Ranger Michael Groeneveld received Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) training. As a TLO, Park Ranger Groeneveld can assess, analyze, and share threat information in a way that supports security efforts and ensures coordination across various agencies and organizations.

Park Ranger Todd Spencer attended Inland Boating Officer training in Lake Havasu, Arizona. This course is designed to provide vessel operators with the skills necessary to safely operate a public safety vessel on inland rivers and lakes.

### Tasks and Activity Highlights

LifeSail began setting up operations in a section of the Dry Storage area they are renting at the LPRA. LifeSail is a nonprofit serving underprivileged youth in the Piru, Fillmore, and Santa Paula area. Their program teaches the importance of ownership, teamwork, and leadership through sailing.

### Training/Meetings/Events

- During February, park rangers completed training in case law, and law enforcement policies and procedures from District vendor Lexipol as well as completed safety training from District vendor Target Solutions.

## 4.2 Recreation Department Monthly Report Information Item

- On February 12, Park Ranger Groeneveld participated in Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC) training. Groeneveld can now serve as a point of contact for a public safety agency in matters related to terrorism information and intelligence.
- On February 17 to 21, Park Ranger Spencer participated in Inland Boating Officer training in Lake Havasu. This is a five-day, 40-hour post-certified introductory course for boating enforcement officers. This course is designed to provide vessel operators with the skills necessary to safely operate a public safety vessel on inland rivers and lakes.

### Revenue and Visitation Recap

2025 Day Use/Other Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2025 Day Use/Other Revenue (Jan 1 – Feb 23)	\$30,043
2024 Day Use/Other Revenue (Jan 1 – Feb 29)	\$29,609
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	<b>\$434</b>
Annual Increase/Decrease %	<b>1.5%</b>
2025 Camping Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2025 Camping Revenue (Jan 1 – Feb 23)	\$42,126
2024 Camping Revenue (Jan 1 – Feb 29)	\$50,011
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	<b>\$7,885</b>
Annual Increase/Decrease in %	<b>15.8%</b>
Total Combined Revenue Current and Previous Year Comparison (2025 vs. 2024)	
2025 All Revenue (Jan 1 – Feb 23)	\$72,169
2024 All Revenue (Jan 1 – Feb 29)	\$79,620
Total Revenue Increase from Prior Year	<b>\$7,451</b>
Annual Increase/Decrease in %	<b>9.3%</b>

\* It should be noted that the above figures have not been verified by the District's Finance Department.

2025 Total Visitation Figures				
Month	# People	# Vehicles	# Vessels	# Pets
January	1,952	649	76	3
February	2,780	911	146	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>11</b>

## **4.2 Recreation Department Monthly Report Information Item**

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### Incidents

On February 9, a camper sustained severe burns while trying to light his campfire using an accelerant. He went to the ranger station and requested assistance. Park Rangers assessed his injuries, notified the Ventura County Fire Department, and the individual was airlifted to Grossman Burn Center in West Hills, California.

### Citations/Enforcement Summary

Throughout February, no citations were issued for violations of District Ordinance 15 or for violations of the California Penal Code of the California Harbors and Navigation Code. It should be noted that Park Ranger staff issued verbal warnings for violations of District ordinances and state laws.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Dr. Jason Sun, Supervisory Water Resources Engineer  
Murray McEachron, Hydrologist Supervisor  
John Lindquist, Water Resources Supervisor

**Date:** February 21, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.3 **Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Receive a report on Water Resources Department activities for the month of February 2025, including a summary of the activities of the Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee and three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency).

### **Discussion:**

#### **Staff Activities**

Notable activities conducted by staff during the month included the following:

- Groundwater modeling:
  - Staff continued updating the groundwater model for the Fillmore-Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPGSA).
  - Staff supported the OPV adjudication process.
  - Staff received a request from Mound Basin GSA for a detailed budget estimate on modeling support for the Mound Basin GSP update. Staff are currently preparing the level of effort estimate.
  - Staff prepared to apply for WaterSMART Applied Science Grants to support updates to the district-wide regional model. The grant program is currently on pause, and staff will apply once applications reopen.

**Agenda Item: 4.3 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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- Hydrology:
  - Staff are monitoring and coordinating with the Operations Department for operations of diversions while implementing the bypass flows for steelhead migration.
  - Staff continued to assist in evaluating fish passage under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), particularly comments provided by NMFS and CDFW.
  - Staff is preparing a new model to evaluate proposed bypass flows on an hourly basis to help inform the HCP process.
  - Staff continue to provide information and review reports for the FPBGSA.
  - Staff continued collecting surface water data throughout the district's service area, following up with quality control, analysis, and reporting activities required or requested to support water resources management by United and other entities within our service area.
  - Staff is assisting with the preparation of the five-year update to United's Santa Clara River Watershed Sanitary Survey required by the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW).
  - Staff are preparing with Legal for the Evidentiary Hearing with Wishtoyo.
  - Staff evaluated the flex allocation program for the recent operations of the Saticoy Wells.
  
- Hydrogeology:
  - Staff continued to participate in planning and execution of Phase 1 of the EBB Water Project at Navy Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu, including the following activities:
    - Processing aquifer-testing and water-quality data from the new EBB monitoring wells.
    - Coordinating with contractors and the US Navy to transfer or dispose of wastes from drilling and testing of the new EBB monitoring wells.
    - Plan last steps in SGM grant funding, including final reporting to DWR under SGM grant
  - Staff continued planning for support of the first 5-Year GSP Update effort in the Fillmore and Piru Basins.
  - Staff continued development of United's Water Resources Development draft budget for FY 2025/26.

**Agenda Item: 4.3 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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- Staff helped the Finance Department develop projections for groundwater and surface water use throughout United's service area to aid in budget development.
  - Staff coordinated with other departments within United to develop a proposal to update United's data management system (DMS).
  - Staff tabulated and transmitted groundwater quality data to parties involved in a lawsuit in Santa Paula basin. United is not a party to this lawsuit.
  - Staff continued supporting United's legal counsel with collection and organization of information pertaining to the OPV Basins adjudication.
  - Staff prepared annual reports to FCGMA regarding surface-water use (required for our "SCR flex allocation") and Forebay conditions (for GREAT water allocation adjustment by the City of Oxnard).
  - Staff began organizing data and preparing a five-year update to United's Santa Clara River Watershed Sanitary Survey required by the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW).
  - Staff provided support to the Engineering and the Operations Departments during a meeting with DDW regarding an amended water supply permit for El Rio Well #20.
  - Staff provided support to the Operations Department in evaluating potential causes of occasionally elevated electrical conductivity measurements at PTP Well #3.
  - Staff responded to reports of artesian conditions occurring at three wells (two on Teal Club Road and one south of Hueneme Road), including reviewing construction details and recent groundwater elevations at the affected wells.
  - Staff conducted routine collection of groundwater elevation and quality data throughout the District's service area, following up with quality control, analysis, and reporting activities required to support water resources management by United and other entities within our service area.
  - Staff continued with plans to optimize the efficiency of United's groundwater monitoring program by obtaining cost estimates for passive samplers (HydraSleeves) and selecting monitoring wells for their initial installation.
- Outreach and Education
    - Staff gave presentations on the EBB project at the American Ground Water Trust Annual Conference (February 4) and the CalDesal Annual Conference (February 5).

**Agenda Item: 4.3 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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- Staff attended an Association of Water Agencies-Ventura County “Waterwise Breakfast” meeting, which included a presentation by United General Manager Mauricio Guardado on shifting Federal and State policy regarding water-supply reliability (February 20).

**Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA)**

Staff continue to participate in the FCGMA’s groundwater sustainability planning and implementation efforts in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins. United staff continue to meet periodically with FCGMA staff and other stakeholders to evaluate groundwater conditions and advance water-supply projects that support a sustainable, resilient water-supply portfolio for the region. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to FCGMA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

*Board of Directors meetings* –The FCGMA held a special Board meeting on February 12, which included the following notable agenda topics:

- The Board approved the revised “First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Oxnard Subbasin” and directed agency staff to submit it to DWR.
- The Board received a presentation from the County of Ventura Public Works Agency regarding the development of a map-based database that depicts boundaries and contact information for water purveyors throughout the County.
- The Board received a presentation from Calleguas Municipal Water District on their Water Resources Implementation Strategy (WRIST), including discussion of potential water-supply optimization strategies in the Las Posas Valley Basin, their storage 51,995 AF of stored groundwater in the OPV Basins, and their interest in developing a water-banking framework in the Oxnard Plain area.
- The Board received a presentation from the City of Oxnard on the City’s Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) Program, including discussion of their Phase 1 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project and their Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) expansion plans.
- The Board received a presentation from the Hallmark Group (a consulting firm) on results of their analysis of Agency staffing needs, concluding that the Agency is currently understaffed, and that the Agency will require additional staff as its responsibilities increase in the future.
- The Board approved support of a State legislative proposal to amend SGMA to provide that Section 10726.6, Action to Determine Validity of Plan, sets forth the sole process for challenging a GSP, and authorized the Chair to sign a letter of support.

The FCGMA cancelled its regular Board meeting scheduled for February 26. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 26.

**Agenda Item: 4.3 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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**Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA)**

Staff continue to participate in FPBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP implementation for the Fillmore and Piru basins. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to FPBGSA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

*Board of Directors meetings* – The FPBGSA held a regular Board meeting on February 20, which included the following notable agenda topics:

- The Board waived penalties and interest charges totaling \$4,586.27 for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for late payment associated with pumping from its Fillmore Fish Hatchery wells.
- The Board received a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates summarizing the Water Year 2023-2024 Annual Reports to the California Department of Water Resources for the Fillmore and Piru Basins.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 20.

It should be noted that on February 27, DWR approved the GSPs that were resubmitted by the FPBGSA for the Fillmore and Piru Basins in July 2024. The GSPs originally submitted for these basins by the FPBGSA in January 2022 were deemed incomplete by DWR.

**Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA)**

Staff continue to participate in MBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP implementation for the Mound basin. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to MBGSA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

*Board of Directors meetings* – The MBGSA canceled their February 24 regular Board meeting.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 24.

**Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Staff continue to participate in the Santa Paula Basin TAC in support of the Santa Paula Basin Judgment and in conformance with SGMA reporting requirements for adjudicated basins, as follows:

- Staff revised the draft version of the WY 2023 Santa Paula Basin annual report based on input from TAC members and participated in a TAC meeting on February 24 to discuss the schedule for finalizing and submitting the report, as well as filing the required annual summary data with DWR.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Josh Perez, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer  
Tony Huynh, Risk and Safety Manager  
Zachary Plummer, Technology Systems Manager  
Tracy Oehler, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

**Date:** February 26, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.4 **Administrative Services Department Monthly Report**  
**Information Item**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Review this staff report from the Administrative Services Department of its highlights for February 2025.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Finance**

- Completed groundwater billing for 12/31/24
- Preparing Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget for general manager and assistant general manager review
- Finalizing the 2023-24 ACFR
- Finalizing the FY2023-24 Audit Report

#### **Administrative Services**

- Provided administrative assistance for drafting, finalizing, distributing/posting materials, and room set up for the following meetings: special Board of Directors (Feb. 3), Finance and Audit Committee (Feb. 4), and regular Board of Directors (Feb. 8), as well as the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting (Feb. 20) held at the City of Fillmore's office.
- Coordinated logistical support with room and beverage setup for the following outside agency meetings: UC Davis CA Avocado Society (Feb. 5), AWA Executive Committee (Feb. 6), Water Issues Committee (Feb. 18), AWA WaterWise Program (Feb. 20), Farm Bureau (Feb. 25 and 26), and Santa Clara River Watershed Committee (Feb. 27).

#### **4.4 Administrative Services Department Monthly Report Information Item**

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- Coordinated with staff and scheduled a tour of the Freeman Diversion for Senator Monique Limon held on Feb. 28.

#### **Human Resources**

- Completed processing of the 2025 1094C and 1095C for full-time employees required by the Department of Treasury.
- Posted annual OSHA Form 300A and Regulatory Compliance posters at all District facilities in collaboration with Risk Management staff.
- Current recruitments are ongoing for the following positions:
  - Environmental Services Field Technician – interviews scheduled for February 18 and 20, 2025 selection forthcoming
  - Environmental Services Field Assistant – position closes March 13, 2025
  - Season Park Ranger Assistant – position closes on March 13, 2025
  - Technology Systems Intern – position closes April 21, 2025
- Staff attended Ventura College Technology Career Fair on February 26, 2025, and registered for the Moorpark College Career Fair to be held on March 5, 2025.
- Human Resources and Risk and Safety staff are also scheduled to attend the SDRMA Spring Education Day on March 26, 2025, as part of ongoing safety training and specialization efforts designed to maximize insurance savings.

#### **Risk and Safety Management**

- Met with OES Director at County EOC along with the District's Senior Park Ranger and Control Systems Supervisor to discuss regional collaboration efforts and partnership on certain technology projects.
- Coordinated Aerial Lift Safety Training for additional Operations and Maintenance staff which provided additional operational flexibility.
- Deployed noise dosimeters to measure noise exposure during a full shift across multiple sites as part of the District's Hearing Conservation Program.
- Recertified Administrative staff in Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid.
- Attended FBI-CISA-EPA California Water Security Summit held at Metropolitan Water District along with the District's Senior Park Ranger, covering both physical and cyber security issues pertaining to the water and dam's sectors.
- Delivered District's preparedness and response efforts to Red Flag Warning/PSPS Events and Fires at Santa Clara Valley Watershed Committee.
- Conducted baseline hearing tests for the new Lake Piru Recreation Area Park Ranger Cadets.
- Supported Human Resources and Technology Systems staff with potential networking contractor selection process.

#### **4.4 Administrative Services Department Monthly Report Information Item**

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##### **Technology Systems**

- Career Day Event:
  - Successfully participated in tremendously successful Career Day at Cal State University Northridge Technology Career Event.
- Saticoy Office Equipment Deployment:
  - The Saticoy office began receiving modernized mobile computing equipment.
  - Deployment is approximately 50% complete, with three out of six deployments finalized.
- Lake Piru Rangers Office Equipment:
  - Equipment for the Lake Piru Rangers Office has been received.
  - Technology Systems staff members are currently configuring the equipment for deployment scheduled for March.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Robert J. Richardson, Engineering Manager  
Nathan Summerville, Senior Engineer

**Date:** February 27, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** **4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report**  
**Information item**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Receive this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding its activities for the end of January through February 2025. Please refer to the end of the report for a list of acronyms.

### **Discussion:**

#### 1. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

- FERC General Compliance
  - February 16 – Gannett Fleming updated SFD STID Sections 1-9 to conform to Chapter 15 Guidelines and submitted them to District staff for review.
- Outlet Works Improvement Project
  - January 26 – Staff received the draft Kinematic Stability Analysis of Sloping Intake Report from GEI.
  - January 31 – Staff e-filed the Final Construction Report for the 72" BFV Redundancy Project with FERC.
  - February 5 - Water Quality sampling of two wells at SFD to inform the Soils and Groundwater Management Plan was conducted by Rincon Consultants.
  - February 6 – Staff sent UWCD Comments on the Draft Kinematic Stability Analysis of Sloping Intake Report to GEI.
  - February 18 – Staff submitted the Kinematic Stability Analysis of Sloping Intake Report to FERC and DSOD.
  - February 19 – ECG conducted surveying of the New Release Channel DPP Borings.

#### 4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

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- Spillway Improvement Project
    - February 10 – GEI submitted a draft of the updated Kinematic Analyses of Cut Slopes for the Proposed Spillway Improvements.
    - February 10 – Staff submitted final comments to GEI on SFD Rapid Drawdown Analysis TM.
    - February 10 – GEI submitted a draft Stabilization of the Hillside Adjacent to the Left Wall of Spillway TM.
    - February 14 – Staff submitted their comments on the draft Stabilization of Hillside Adjacent to Left Wall of Spillway TM to GEI.
  - Grants: See the Grants section as part of this report.
2. Lake Piru Recreation Area FIP
- Staff reviewed the Alternatives TM prepared by Stantec for LPRA Water Treatment Plant and discussed the next steps.
  - February 11 – Staff met with a prospective contractor specialized in public restroom construction to discuss potential LOG & Oak Lane restroom replacements using a design-build approach.
  - February 18 – Staff and the General Manager conducted a site visit at LPRA to discuss restroom rehabilitation projects and review the restroom rehabilitation options.
3. Freeman Diversion Expansion
- February 18 - Amendment No. 1 to the NHC Agreement for the Freeman Diversion Hardened Ramp Full 90% Design Support was executed by the General Manager.
  - Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.
4. Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade – Freeman to Ferro
- Inverted Siphon Replacement
    - Staff continued to review and finalize the as-built drawings.
    - February 20 – Staff submitted Invoice 1 to DWR in the amount of \$199,804.94 for the Inverted Bypass Pumping under the FDRE Agreement.
  - Three Barrel Culvert Replacement
    - February 20 – Staff received the unexecuted 408 permission from USACE.
  - Vineyard Avenue Crossing
    - February 14 – Staff provided a letter of Authorization for HDR to submit a permit package to Caltrans for a boring in the center of Vineyard Ave.
    - February 20 – HDR submitted a Caltrans permit Application on behalf of the District for one geotechnical boring on Vineyard.
  - Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.

#### **4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item**

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##### 5. SWP Interconnection Pipeline Project

- February 10 – District Staff provided additional comments on the design plans to City of Ventura Staff.
- February 12 – District Staff received red-line revisions from City of Ventura Staff addressing the conflict with the proposed 30” pipeline and United’s existing 78” main supply pipeline.
- February 14 – City of Ventura postponed the bid advertisement date (a new date is to be determined).

##### 6. OH Well 14 Energy Efficiency Upgrade

- January 31 - A comparison of motor control device alternatives for Well No. 14 was compiled and shared with the working group. A preferred motor control device (variable frequency drive) option was identified.
- February 20 - Staff met internally to review the Preliminary Design Report for the Well No. 14 Pipeline Replacement Project and discussed the schedule for project delivery over the next three years. Preliminary Design of the discharge pipeline will be completed this fiscal year. Final design and permitting is planned for FY26, and Construction is planned for FY27. Well Rehabilitation is planned for next fiscal year.

##### 7. Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

- February 7 – Staff continued to work with OLDCC Staff on the final DCIP grant non-Federal amounts and grant close-out requirements.
- February 14 – United received the final As-Built drawings and invoice from K/J.

##### 8. Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project and Impact on PTP

- February 19 – Staff attended the pre-construction meeting held by the City of Oxnard, Construction Manager (MNS Engineers), and Resident Engineer (V&A, Inc.).
- February 19 – Staff followed up on an upcoming and related project with Union Pacific - "Leesdale/LOSSAN double track project". It was understood from the pre-construction meeting that a second and parallel set of tracks is planned in this location.

##### 9. PTP Metering Improvement Project

- Continued to work on acquisitions of easements for PTP Turnouts No. 145, 150, and 156.

#### 4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

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##### 10. PTP Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project

- February 4 – 256 of 24-inch PVC pipeline was installed. (see **Figure 1**).
- February 5-7 – No work by Toro due to inclement weather.
- February 7 – Staff coordinated with the Construction Manager (Mott-MacDonald) and Design Engineer (MKN & Associates) regarding a gas line conflict near Laguna Rd and Wood Rd. and an unknown agricultural water line crossing Laguna Rd.
- February 13-14 - No work by Toro due to inclement weather.
- February 17 - No Work by Toro (President's Day Holiday)
- February 19-21 – Toro installed pipeline turnouts, combination air-vacs and tees on the west side of the 24" PVC pipeline.
- By February 27, 1,600 LF of 24-inch PVC pipeline, and approximately 500 LF of 24-inch PVC pipeline were installed on the west and east sides of the Revelon Slough, respectively.

##### 11. Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- January 27 – NBVC Staff provided comments on the draft DOPPA (NEPA).
- January 30 – Staff and Navy staff held Monthly Progress meeting No. 48 and discussed action items from Leadership Mtg. No. 5 including public outreach, outgrant easement acquisition status, CEQA/NEPA progress, and 30% design progress.
- January 31 – Staff received 30% design plans from K/J for pipelines and the discharge facility which is currently under review.
- January 31 – Staff discussed the grant-required TAC with NBVC and SWRCB.
- February 4 – Staff requested pipeline alignment changes from K/J and ECG at EBB3 and near EBB1.
- February 11 – Staff coordinated with NBVC Staff on exploratory potholing needs (access to water, dig permit, traffic permit, disposal of waste, DBIDs, and project coordination).
- February 12 – Staff held a meeting with K/J to discuss proposed electrical enclosures for well sites (CMU and metal buildings and outdoor-rated enclosures). There is preference towards outdoor-rated enclosures (stainless steel or fiberglass). There is a potential for the addition of one building for parts storage.
- February 18 - Succeeding Phase 1A License Agreement (N62473-25-RP-00061) was executed which provides access to NBVC during the design process.
- February 19 – Staff continued to coordinate with NBVC Staff regarding an upcoming power study.
- CEQA/NEPA/Permits: Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.

#### 4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

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- Geotech/Hydrogeology: Please see the Monthly Water Resources Department Report for updates on the construction of new monitoring wells.
- Grants: See the Grants section as part of this report.

#### 12. OHP Gas Booster Replacement Project

- January 29 – Staff held a meeting with Beacon West to discuss El Rio Gas Booster replacement options.

#### 13. Asset Management/ CMMS System

- February 13 – An agreement with HDR Engineers, Inc. for consulting services related to the Asset Management / CMMS Project was executed by the General Manager. The contact amount is \$209,000 and includes the development of an asset registry for both the OHP and the Disinfection Facility at the El Rio Water Treatment Plant. Other work includes reviewing internal video collected for the OHP in November of last year, developing maintenance and condition assessment plans. The pilot will feed into additional Asset Management work in the next fiscal year.
- February 18 – A kick-off meeting was held with HDR and District Staff in attendance.

#### 14. Grants:

- February 5 – Staff attended the Rural Community Assistance Corporation Capital Improvement Planning Webinar.
- February 7 – Staff attended the ACWA Legislative Committee meeting.
- February 7 – Staff prepared a draft Component 4 project completion report for EBB Monitoring Wells.
- February 10 – Staff sent a request to Haggerty Consulting to re-open the SFD Outlet Works HMGP application.
- February 13 – Staff held a SLCGP Implementation meeting with CalOES.
- February 13 – Staff submitted the Phase 1 EBB Water Treatment SWRCB Progress Report/Reimbursement request.
- February 20 – Staff attended the California State Parks Grant Opportunity Workshop.

#### 15. Professional Development (Trainings, Conferences, Tours)

- February 5-6 - Maryam Bral, Robert Richardson, and Chris Coppinger attended the 2025 CalDesal Annual Conference. Maryam presented in Session #5 - Spotlight on Women in Desalination. Chris C. presented in Session #6 - Brackish Desal Projects and Prospects (see **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**)
- February 18 – Staff visited the Active Membranes Pilot Plant (see **Figure 3**).

#### 4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

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- February 27 – Maryam Bral and Josh Perez attended the West Ventura County Business Alliance Statement Lunch Series, where Camarillo City Manager Greg Ramirez and Oxnard City Manager Alexander Nguyen addressed the business community questions.

#### 16. Current and Upcoming Public Outreach Activities

- February 21 – Robert Richardson attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Rice Avenue/Fifth Street/SR-34 Grade Separation over Union Pacific Railroad Project on behalf of United (see **Figure 4**).



**Figure 1 - Construction of 24-inch PVC Pipeline along Laguna Road (photo dated February 4).**

**4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report  
Information Item**

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***Figure 2 - Maryam Bral presenting in Session #5 - Spotlight on Women in Desalination at 2025 CalDesal Annual Conference on February 5.***



***Figure 3 - Chris Coppinger presenting Session #6 - Brackish Desal Projects and Prospects at the 2025 CalDesal Annual Conference on February 5.***

#### 4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

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**Figure 4 - Chris Coppinger, Robert Richardson, Kimberly Badescu, Randy Casteneda, and Matthew Wong visited the Active Membranes Pilot Plant on February 18 in Fillmore, CA.**



**Figure 5 - Robert Richardson attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Rice Avenue/Fifth Street/SR-34 Grade Separation of Union Pacific Railroad Project on February 21.**

**4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report  
Information Item**

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**Acronym Index**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies
AWPF	Advanced Water Purification Facility
BESS	Battery Energy Storage Systems
BFV	Butterfly Valve
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMMS	Computerized Maintenance Management System
CMU	Concrete Masonry Unit
DBIDS	Defense Biometric Identification System
DCIP	Defense Community Infrastructure Program
DHAC	(FERC) Division of Hydropower and Legal Counsel
DOPPA	(NEPA) Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives
EBB	Extraction Barrier and Brackish
ECG	Encompass Consulting Group
FDRE	Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement
FERC	Federal Regulatory Commission
GEI	GEI Consultants
GTF	Grant Task Force
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
K/J	Kennedy Jenks Consultants
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LOG	Lower Olive Grove
LPRA	Lake Piru Recreation Area
MNS	MNS Engineers, Inc.
NBVC	Naval Base Ventura County
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHC	Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OHP	Oxnard-Hueneme Pipeline
OLDCC	Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation
PCO	Potential Change Order
PDR	Preliminary Design Review

#### 4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

PM	Project Manager
POC	Point of Connection
PSHA	Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis
PTP	Pumping Trough Pipeline
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
PVCWD	Pleasant Valley County Water District
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
QCIP	Quality Control and Inspection Program
RDP	Regional Defense Partnership
REPI	Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposals
SAG	Stakeholder Advisory Group
SAME	Society of American Military Engineers
SFD	Santa Felicia Dam
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SIP	Safety Improvement Plan
SLCGP	State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
STA	Station
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TCP	Traffic Control Plan
TENORM	Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material
TM	Technical Memorandum
Toro	Toro Enterprises, Inc.
Trussell	Trussell Technologies, Inc.
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFW	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
VCPWA	Ventura County Public Works Agency
VCWPD	Ventura County Watershed Protection District
VFD	Variable Frequency Drive
WM	Waste Management
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WUE	Water Use Efficiency



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager  
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager

**Date:** February 24, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** **4.6 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report**  
**Information Item**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Review this staff report from the Environmental Services Department staff regarding its activities for the month of February 2025.

### **Discussion:**

1. Santa Felicia Project Operations and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License Support

#### *Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project*

On February 11, 2025, United Water Conservation District (United) had a meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to clarify processes regarding Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). During the meeting, FERC also confirmed that they plan to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project by March 7, 2025, as part of the federal National Environmental Policy Act process.

#### *Water Release Plan and Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan*

Under the Water Release Plan and FERC license for the Santa Felicia Project, United is required to make certain water releases from the Santa Felicia Dam for steelhead habitat and migration when specific triggers are met. Triggers for habitat water releases are based on cumulative rainfall within the water year. United evaluates whether the trigger is met on the first day of each month, between January and June. The table below presents trigger criteria for each month and minimum required releases if triggers are met. Each month the trigger is not met, the minimum required habitat water release is seven (7) cubic feet per second (cfs). The trigger is not expected to be met by March 1, 2025. The minimum required habitat water release for the month of March is expected to be 7 cfs.

**4.6 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report  
Information Item**

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<b>Habitat water release trigger date</b>	<b>Trigger criteria (total cumulative precipitation on trigger date)</b>	<b>Minimum required water release if trigger is met</b>	<b>2025 Measured cumulative precipitation</b>	<b>Actual minimum required habitat water release for month</b>
<b>January 1</b>	4.80 inches	15 cfs	0.18 inches	7 cfs
<b>February 1</b>	8.10 inches	20 cfs	1.60 inches	7 cfs
<b>March 1</b>	12.00 inches	20 cfs	7.68 inches**	7 cfs (expected)
<b>April 1</b>	14.90 inches	20 cfs	TBD	TBD
<b>May 1</b>	16.30 inches	10 cfs	TBD	TBD
<b>June 1</b>	17.50 inches	9 cfs*	TBD	TBD

\*If triggered, the minimum required water release will remain at nine (9) cfs through October 1, at which time, minimum required water release will be seven (7) cfs through January 1 of next calendar year.

\*\*Provisional total as of when this report was written on February 19, 2025.

*Lower Piru Creek Habitat Improvement Plan (HIP)*

On September 4, 2024, United submitted a revised draft of the Lower Piru Creek Habitat Improvement Plan (HIP) and response to comments to NMFS for review and approval. NMFS’ review and approval are required prior to FERC’s approval of the HIP. On December 5, 2024, United staff participated in a technical workshop with NMFS and FERC staff to discuss NMFS’ comments on the plan. On January 15, 2025, as required by FERC, United filed meeting minutes and an updated timeline for consultation with NMFS and submission of a revised HIP. A follow up technical meeting with NMFS and FERC was scheduled for January 30, 2025, but NMFS requested cancellation of the meeting. A call to discuss technical considerations with NMFS is now scheduled for March 12, 2025. On February 21, 2025, FERC issued a response to United’s January 15, 2025, filing. FERC approved United’s proposed timeline of October 15, 2025, to file a revised NMFS-approved HIP.

*Historic Properties Management Plan*

On February 11, 2025, United executed a contract with Environmental Science Associates to complete cultural resource surveys and an Historic Properties Management Plan five-year update as required for Santa Felicia Project FERC license compliance.

*Santa Felicia Recreation Trail Plan – Santa Felicia Project*

In April 2018, United submitted an Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project on the northwest side of Lake Piru. On February 14, 2025, United received an Addendum to the IS-MND from the Los Padres Forest

## 4.6 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

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Association and Pax Environmental for consideration. The purpose of the addendum is to update the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation to include a modification to the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project and a trail reroute. The change to the CEQA documentation will go to the Board for approval.

### 2. Freeman Diversion Operations

During the month of February, Environmental Services (ES) staff supported Freeman Diversion operations and maintenance activities by coordinating with resource agencies as needed, assisting with fish ladder operations and sediment management activities, conducting surveys of dewatered areas, and providing on-site biological monitoring. United continues to monitor flow triggers and implement bypass flows and fish ladder operations according to the court order.

On February 20, 2025, ES staff accompanied CDFW as they conducted monthly electrofishing surveys upstream and downstream of the Freeman Diversion.

### 3. Quagga Mussel Management

Throughout the month of February 2025, ES staff continued conducting quagga mussel monitoring activities on Lake Piru, lower Piru Creek, and the spillway pool in accordance with the Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan (QMMCP). The QMMCP was revised in late 2024 and changes went into effect on January 1, 2025.

ES staff also continued quagga mussel veliger (larva) sampling in United's lower system. United staff continue to meet and coordinate regularly with Pleasant Valley County Water District.

### 4. Capital Improvement Project Permitting and California Environmental Quality Act Support

During the month of February 2025, ES staff continued to support Engineering Department staff with environmental permitting and CEQA compliance.

On February 10, 2025, ES staff finalized the No Legal Challenges letter for the Ferro-Rose Recharge Project as part of CEQA compliance materials required for submission to the Department of Water Resources for the grant reporting process.

On February 21 and 24, 2025, ES staff completed nesting bird surveys as part of the Laguna Road Pipeline Project CEQA compliance requirements.

### 5. Grant Efforts

During the month of February 2025, United coordinated with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding the \$23 million in WaterSMART Program grant funding for the optimized Freeman fish passage facility that United was selected for. USBR staff

## 4.6 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

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reported that as a result of the President's Executive Order "Unleashing American Energy," both WaterSMART grant programs are currently paused. United will continue to work with the USBR grant representative to determine the next steps.

### 6. Miscellaneous

During the month of February 2025, ES staff reviewed and provided comments on the draft East Grove Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Aquatic Study Plan to support the Fillmore Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency in Sustainable Groundwater Management Act efforts.

On February 12, 2025, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to ratify the findings regarding the listing of southern California steelhead/ rainbow trout under CESA. The Office of Administrative Law will review the regulations as a final step in the regulatory process.

On February 14, 2025, United provided a letter to the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior regarding the Freeman Diversion and Santa Felicia Dam projects to be considered per sections (f) and (g) of the President's January 24, 2025, Executive Order on California Water.

On January 30, 2025, full-time ES Field Technician Robyn Gorecki submitted her resignation to United. Robyn has accepted a new position in Mammoth Lakes, California. During the week of February 17, 2025, ES and Human Resources staff held interviews for candidates to fill the position.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

**From:** Tracy Oehler, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

**Date:** February 28, 2025 (March 12, 2025 meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 5.1 2025 Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award  
Motion

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Consider possible recipients for the Laubacher Award and conduct a vote to determine the 2025 recipient. Staff will present nominees for the award at the Board Meeting.

### **Discussion:**

The District established the Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award in 1997 to honor the memory of deceased Director Richard Laubacher. The award is to be presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated leadership and innovation in water conservation in agriculture, business, or educational fields in Ventura County. It should be awarded in recognition of a body of work over a long period of time, taking particular note of the recipient's longevity in Ventura County water resources leadership. Additionally, consideration shall be given to a nominee's contributions specifically to the mission of United Water Conservation District. Finally, the award shall not be presented to a current staff member or Director of the District.

If the Board decides to present an award at the 2025 Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Symposium on April 17, 2025, a decision must be made at this Board meeting in order to prepare the award and to ensure attendance of the recipient.

Nominee(s) will be presented to the Directors at the Board meeting. A vote on the recipient will be conducted by having a Director make a motion by referencing the letter before the nominee's name (e.g. A) John Jones, B) Jane Smith) on the list provided to the Directors. This is to prevent the award recipient from learning about the award until the day of the AWA Symposium. However, any member of the public upon request may receive a copy of the list of nominees.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

There are sufficient funds in the budget to cover the cost of the plaque that will be presented to the award winner.

**5.1 2025 Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award  
Motion Item**

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**Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award Recipients**

1997 – Supervisor John Flynn  
1998 – Calleguas Municipal Water District  
1999 – Lee Miller  
2000 – Port Hueneme Water Agency  
2001 – Thomas P. Vujovich  
2002 – Kelle Pistone, AWA VC  
2003 – Camrose Water District  
2004 – Lynn Maulhardt, GMA  
2005 – Irv Wilde  
2006 – Steve Bachman  
2007 – Ted Grandsen  
2008 – Dana Weishart  
2009 – Kathy Long  
2010 – John Mathews  
2011 – Bill Hair  
2012 – Rob Roy  
2013 – Sam McIntyre  
2014 – Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County  
2015 – Phil Drescher  
2016 – City of Oxnard  
2017 – Calleguas Municipal Water District  
2018 – Joe Gibson  
2019 – CoLAB Ventura County  
2020 and 2021 – no award presented  
2022 – Eugene West, Fox Canyon GMA  
2023 – Congresswoman Julia Brownley  
2024 – Ann DeMartini



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

**From:** Tracy Oehler, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

**Date:** February 28, 2025 (March 12, 2025 meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 5.2 Adopt a Resolution Supporting Scott Quady of Calleguas Municipal Water District to the Association of California Water Agencies-Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee  
**Motion**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Adopt a Resolution supporting the nomination of Scott Quady of Calleguas Municipal Water District to the Association of California Water Agencies-Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee.

### **Discussion:**

Director Scott Quady has been involved in ACWA JPIA for much of his 16-year tenure on the Calleguas Board. He has served as Calleguas' Voting Member for ACWA JPIA for 12 years and was recently selected by the Calleguas Board to continue to serve in that role for the next 2 years. Additionally, he previously served for five years on the ACWA JPIA's California Water Insurance Fund (CWIF). Director Quady has expressed an interest in serving on the Executive Committee for ACWA JPIA. A more detailed statement of qualifications for Director Quady is attached.

ACWA JPIA requires that in order for a person to be nominated to the Executive Committee, his own agency must adopt a nominating resolution and three other member districts must adopt concurring resolutions. As the Calleguas Board of Directors have adopted Resolution No. 2102 nominating Scott Quady at their February 5, 2025 board meeting, they are requesting UWCD Board of Directors' support of his nomination.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None.

### **Attachment(s):**

A – Resolution

B – Calleguas Board of Directors Request dated February 11, 2025

# ATTACHMENT A

## RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONCURRING IN NOMINATION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY (“JPIA”)

**WHEREAS**, this district is a member district of the JPIA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bylaws of the JPIA provide that in order for a nomination to be made to JPIA’s Executive Committee, three member districts must concur with the nominating district, and

**WHEREAS**, another JPIA member district, the Calleguas Municipal Water District has requested that this district concur in its nomination of its member of the JPIA Board of Directors to the Executive Committee of the JPIA;

#### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Board of Directors of the United Water Conservation District concurs with the nomination of Scott Quady of Calleguas Municipal Water District to the Executive Committee of the JPIA.
2. The District Secretary is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the JPIA at P.O. Box 619082, Roseville, CA 95661-9082, forthwith.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District on March 12, 2025, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Maulhardt, President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Kimball, Secretary/Treasurer

# ATTACHMENT B

RAUL AVILA, PRESIDENT  
DIVISION 1

THIBAUT ROBERT, SECRETARY  
DIVISION 4

REDDY PAKALA, DIRECTOR  
DIVISION 3



SCOTT H. QUADY, VICE-PRESIDENT  
DIVISION 2

JACQUELYN MCMILLAN, TREASURER  
DIVISION 5

KRISTINE MCCAFFREY  
GENERAL MANAGER

web site: [www.calleguas.com](http://www.calleguas.com)

2100 OLSEN ROAD • THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91360-6800 805/526-9323 • FAX: 805/522-5730

February 11, 2025

Lynn Maulhardt  
President  
Board of Directors  
United Water Conservation District  
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200  
Oxnard, CA 93030

Dear President Maulhardt,

The Board of Directors of the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) has nominated its Vice-President, Scott H. Quady, for election to the Association of California Water Agencies-Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA-JPIA) Executive Committee. Enclosed is a certified copy of Calleguas Resolution No. 2102, nominating Mr. Quady for the ACWA-JPIA Executive Committee.

Mr. Quady has served on the Calleguas Board for 16 years and has 40 years of experience as a professional in the water industry, including private, municipal and non-profit organizations. He currently serves on the ACWA Region 8 Board as Vice-Chair and ACWA Energy Committee; in prior years, he has served on the Water Quality, Safe Drinking Water, and Water Management Committees.

Mr. Quady has served on the Board of ACWA-JPIA since 2012 and has institutional knowledge of programs, their history, and how coverages evolved for the JPIA membership. He has helped the organization grow. Mr. Quady has been on the Workers' Compensation Committee since 2018 and served on the California Water Insurance Fund (CWIF) Captive Board in 2019 (3 years) and 2022 (2 years). He would be honored to serve on the Executive Committee and values ACWA-JPIA's hands-on approach to actively helping its members to reduce the risks of claims and assist with cost-effective and safe operations of water agencies throughout California. Enclosed is his Statement of Qualifications.

Calleguas respectfully requests your organization consider adopting a concurring resolution of nomination in support of Mr. Quady. Enclosed is a sample ACWA-JPIA concurring resolution for your consideration in support of his nomination or it can be found at:

[https://www.acwajpia.com/wp-content/uploads/Resolution\\_Concurring\\_Exco\\_2025.pdf](https://www.acwajpia.com/wp-content/uploads/Resolution_Concurring_Exco_2025.pdf)

Once the concurring nomination has been adopted, please send a certified copy to:

**ACWA/JPIA**

Attention: Laura Baryak  
ACWA JPIA  
P.O. Box 619082  
Roseville, CA 95661-9082  
[lbaryak@acwajpia.com](mailto:lbaryak@acwajpia.com)

and

**Calleguas Municipal  
Water District**

Attention: Kristine  
McCaffrey  
2100 E. Olsen Road.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
[kmccaffrey@calleguas.com](mailto:kmccaffrey@calleguas.com)

***This resolution must be received by ACWA/JPIA no later than 4:30 pm Friday, April 11, 2025.***

Thank you for your consideration of support for Mr. Quady's candidacy. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 805-579-7173 or [kmccaffrey@calleguas.com](mailto:kmccaffrey@calleguas.com).

Sincerely,



Kristine McCaffrey  
General Manager

Enclosures:

1. Calleguas Resolution No. 2102
2. Scott H. Quady Statement of Qualifications
3. Sample Concurring Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2102

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
NOMINATING SCOTT H. QUADY TO THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA  
WATER AGENCIES  
JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY ("JPIA")

WHEREAS, Calleguas Municipal Water District is a member district of the JPIA that participates in all four of its Programs: Liability, Property, Workers' Compensation, and Employee Benefits;


WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the JPIA provide that in order for a nomination to be made to JPIA's Executive Committee, the member district must place into nomination its member of the JPIA Board of Directors for such open position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Calleguas Municipal Water District that its member of the JPIA Board of Directors, Scott H. Quady be nominated as a candidate for the Executive Committee for the election to be held during the JPIA's Spring 2025 Board of Directors' meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the JPIA staff is hereby requested, upon receipt of the formal concurrence of three other member districts to effect such nomination.

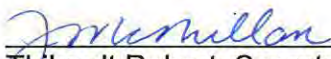
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Secretary is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the JPIA at P.O. Box 619082, Roseville, CA 95661-9082, forthwith.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this fifth day of February 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Raul Avila, President  
Board of Directors

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Calleguas Municipal Water District held on February 5, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Thibault Robert, Secretary  
Board of Directors

(SEAL)



## PROFILE

Master of Science Degree,  
Environmental Science (LMU)

Bachelor of Science Degree,  
Biochemistry (Cal Poly, SLO)

Engineer-In-Training (EIT),  
California Department of  
Consumer Affairs

Water Treatment Operator (2),  
State Water Resources Control  
Board

Environmental Compliance  
Inspector and Laboratory Analyst  
(4), California Water Environment  
Association

Member: American Water Works  
Association

## CONTACT

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805-579-7111

WEBSITE:  
[www.calleguas.com](http://www.calleguas.com)

EMAIL:  
[squady@calleguas.com](mailto:squady@calleguas.com)



# SCOTT QUADY

## Candidate Statement of Qualifications: ACWA-JPIA Executive Committee

Sixteen years as a water district board member

Forty-year career as a water industry professional: private,  
municipal and non-profit organizations

Retired as an Environmental Resource Analyst

## ACWA-JPIA

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### Board Member Director since 2012

- Workers Compensation Committee since 2018
- CWIF (California Water Insurance Fund, Captive)  
Board: 2019 (3 yrs), 2022 (2 yrs)

## ACWA

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- Region 8, Alternate Vice-Chair since 2023
- Energy Committee
- Prior/continuing interests: Water Quality, Safe Drinking  
Water and Water Management Committees

## CALLEGUAS BOARD HISTORY

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- First elected, 2008
- Board President, 2012-16, 2023-24
- Treasurer, 2016-22
- Vice-President, 2025 - Present

## CALLEGUAS COMMITTEES (HISTORICAL/CURRENT)

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- Chair, Finance, 2016
- Chair, Water Quality, 2012
- Member, Finance
- Alternate member, Public Engagement,  
Communication, and Legislative Affairs
- Member, Water Supply, Storage, and Partnership  
Development
- Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

**From:** Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager

**Date:** February 26, 2025 (March 12, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 5.3 **Adopt a Resolution in Support of the State Water Project Delta Conveyance Facilities Funding Request to Continue Planning and Design Work**  
**Motion**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Adopt a Resolution directing the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to execute a Contribution or Advance of Money for Delta Conveyance Planning Activities Letter as per the Agreement for the Advance or Contribution of Money to the California Department of Water Resources by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project on behalf of United Water Conservation District.

### **Background:**

In 1963, the Ventura County Flood Control District (VCFPD) (now the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD)) entered into an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for entitlement to 20,000 acre-feet of State Water Project (SWP) water supply annually (VCWPD State Water Contract) for use in portions of Ventura County. In 1970, the VCWPD and the Ventura River Municipal Water District (now the Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas)) entered into an agreement for Casitas to assume the administrative responsibilities and costs for the VCWPD State Water Contract.

Subsequently, Casitas entered into agreements with both the City of Ventura (City) and the United Water Conservation District (District), assigning 10,000 acre-feet of SWP entitlement to the City and 5,000 acre-feet to the District, while retaining 5,000 acre-feet. Under these agreements, the City and United assumed responsibility for the costs associated with their entitlements. Casitas remained the administrator of the VCWPD State Water Contract. As VCWPD is the named contractor, DWR requires VCWPD to execute most transactions.

### **5.3 Adopt a Resolution in Support of the State Water Project Delta Conveyance Facilities Funding Request to Continue Planning and Design Work**

#### **Motion**

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#### **Discussion:**

Due to regulatory, environmental, and physical, challenges, the amount of water that DWR has been able to reliably convey to its SWP contractors south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) has decreased over time. The primary flaw in the existing conveyance system is DWR's use of the Delta's surface water channels as conveyance, which was originally considered a temporary measure until the cross-Delta conveyance could be funded and constructed. Without action, the amount of water conveyed will continue to decrease from the current 60% annual average allocation to an estimated 40% annual average. In response to this challenge, DWR and the State Water Contractors (SWC) have been developing a potential Delta Conveyance Project/Delta Conveyance Facility (DCP/DCF) that will convey water from the Sacramento River in the northern Delta to the SWP pumping facilities in the southern Delta. The proposed project will include two new intake structures on the Sacramento River and a single tunnel under the Delta to the Banks Pumping Plant in the southern Delta. Conveyance of water via these new facilities will help DWR to avoid many of the regulatory and physical constraints of moving water through the Delta channels, thereby improving the reliability of water deliveries. The 2020 estimated cost for the project was approximately \$16 billion.

In 2020, DWR and the SWCs reached an agreement in principle for a DCP that would preserve operational flexibility such that DWR can manage the SWP to meet regulatory requirements, contractual responsibilities, and SWP purposes, and that would equitably allocate the costs and benefits. The next step toward developing the DCP was planning, preliminary design and other preconstruction activities scope of work that would support DWR's environmental review and permitting process, estimated to cost \$385 million over the period January 2020 to December 2024. The VCWPD State Water Contract share of the cost for the proposed scope of work was \$2,101,339. Advance funding at that level would preserve the VCWPD State Water Contract's expected annual average allocation at the 60% level. In 2020, at the request of Casitas, the City and the District, the VCWPD entered into the Agreement for Advance or Contribution of Money to the Department of Water Resources for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project (Funding Agreement). The City chose the DCP level of participation, which preserved its reliability at the 60% level. Both Casitas and the District chose the DCP-Plus level of participation, which preserved their reliability at the 60% level plus an additional average amount of water. Casitas and the District chose to cover the City's DCP-Plus share, for an estimated additional 2,000 acre-feet of water per year, split evenly between Casitas and the District. Over the next four years, the VCWPD State Water Contract agencies provided \$2,101,339 as per the Funding Agreement to fund their portion of the planning and design work for the period January 2021 to December 2024.

Since 2020, significant progress has been made on development and evaluation of conceptual designs, geotechnical surveys, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance (Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Final EIR) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance (Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)), and development of Endangered Species Act-related documents (Biological

### **5.3 Adopt a Resolution in Support of the State Water Project Delta Conveyance Facilities Funding Request to Continue Planning and Design Work Motion**

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Assessment (BA), Biological Opinions (BO), Incidental Take Permits (ITP)). Proposed scope of work over the next two years includes continued program planning, geotechnical surveys, completion of the NEPA process (review and approval of Final EIS), continued development of amended water rights, and determination of consistency with the Delta Plan. The DCP team's goal is to complete all permitting and certification process by the end of 2026.

The estimated cost for the upcoming scope of work is \$297,710,364. The VCWPD State Water Contract share of the cost for the proposed scope of work is \$1,637,407. To maintain the same DCP-Plus level of participation and coverage of half of the City's DCP-Plus costs that it selected in 2020, the District's share of the cost for the upcoming scope of work is \$461,451, spread over two years (\$184,580 in 2026 and \$276,871 in 2027). Staff recommend that the Board approve the Resolution.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

The fiscal year 2024-2025 budget contains sufficient funds to cover the anticipated year-one billing from DWR. Funds for the anticipated year-two billing will be included in the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget.

#### **Attachments:**

- A – Resolution
- B – DWR Funding Agreement
- C – Template Contribution Letter

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE VENTURA COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT TO EXECUTE A CONTRIBUTION OR ADVANCE OF MONEY FOR DELTA CONVEYANCE PLANNING ACTIVITIES LETTER AS PER THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR FUNDING FURTHER PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR THE POTENTIAL DELTA CONVEYANCE FACILITY ON BEHALF OF UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Casitas Municipal Water District, City of San Buenaventura, and United Water Conservation District (“District”) share the water supplies and related costs associated with the Water Supply Contract Between the State of California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and Ventura County Watershed Protection District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors has received information regarding the proposed Contribution or Advance of Money for Delta Conveyance Planning Activities letter (“Letter”) as per the funding agreement between the DWR and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District entitled Agreement for the Advance or Contribution of Money to the Department of Water Resources by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project (“Funding Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors has been informed that additional costs are attributable to the upcoming scope of work and that to maintain the same Delta Conveyance Project-Plus level of participation selected, its share of the upcoming scope of work is \$461,451.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Board of Directors of the District hereby directs the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to execute the Letter as per the Funding Agreement on the behalf of the District.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the District hereby approves the contribution and/or advance of its own funds in the amount of \$461,451 to the DWR for use in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement. The contribution or advance will be collected from the District over a two-year period via inclusion of a Pay-Go Charge on the Statement of Charges that the DWR will issue to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District. The charge shall be referred to as the 2021 Pay-go Charge.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District on March 12, 2025, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Maulhardt, President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Kimball, Secretary/Treasurer

**State of California  
California Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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**AGREEMENT FOR  
THE ADVANCE OR CONTRIBUTION OF MONEY TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
BY  
THE VENTURA COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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**FOR PRELIMINARY PLANNING AND DESIGN COSTS RELATED TO A  
POTENTIAL DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made, pursuant to the provisions of all applicable laws of the State of California, between the State of California, acting by and through its Department of Water Resources (“Department” or “DWR”), and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (“Contractor”), each herein referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”.

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, DWR and the Contractor listed on the signature page hereto have entered into and subsequently amended a long-term water supply contract, herein referred to as a “Water Supply Contract,” providing that DWR will supply certain quantities of water to the Contractor, providing that Contractor shall make certain payments to DWR, and setting forth the terms and conditions of such supply and such payments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (“BDCP”) process was initiated in 2005-2006 and the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (“DHCCP”) was initiated in 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (“BDCP”) and (“DHCCP”) resulted in development of a project known as the California WaterFix (“WaterFix”); and

**WHEREAS**, on July 21, 2017, DWR approved the California WaterFix project; and

**WHEREAS**, certain Contractors have entered into that certain Joint Powers Agreement dated May 14, 2018 forming the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (“DCA”); and

**WHEREAS**, DWR and DCA have entered into that certain Joint Powers Agreement (“JEPA”), dated May 22, 2018, as amended and restated, and as the same has or may be further amended, wherein the DCA will provide preliminary design, planning and other preconstruction activities to

assist the environmental planning process for a potential Delta conveyance project under the supervision of DWR (the "Work" as defined in the JEP A); and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of the resolution of the Board of Directors of Contractor authorizing its General Manager to execute this Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, a State Agency may advance or contribute funds to DWR for SWP purposes pursuant to Water Code section 11135 and (ii) DWR may accept such advanced or contributed funds and thereafter use such funds in accordance with the terms of this Agreement pursuant to Water Code section 11141; and

**WHEREAS**, DWR and Contractor desire to enter into this funding Agreement to provide for the contribution or advance of funds to DWR and authorize the use of the contributed funds for purposes related to environmental review, planning and design of a Delta conveyance project as described below.

## **AGREEMENT**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is mutually agreed by the Parties as follows:

1. When used in this Agreement, terms defined in the Water Supply Contract (as defined herein) shall be defined by reference to the Water Supply Contractor. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:
  - a. "**Calendar Year**" means the period January 1 through December 31.
  - b. "**Contributed Funds**" means money contributed or advanced to DWR by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement. The total initial amount Contractor agrees to provide is \$2,101,339.00 and is comprised of the following annual amounts to be paid to DWR in the manner described in Section 5 of this Agreement are \$431,184] for 2021, \$469,390 for 2022, \$600,382 for 2023, and \$600,382.
  - c. "**Contribution Payment(s)**" means the payments of Contributed Funds that Contractor agrees to provide to DWR pursuant this Agreement
  - d. "**Contractor**" means a State Agency that is a party to a Water Supply Contract with DWR.
  - e. "**Department**" or "**DWR**" means the California Department of Water Resources.
  - f. "**Effective Date**" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 11 hereof.

- g. “**JEPA**” means the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement between DWR and the DCA dated May 22, 2018, as amended and restated and as may be further amended from time to time.
  - h. “**Pay-Go Charge**” means the charge included on Contractor’s Statements of Charges for the purpose of collecting Contributed Funds that Contractor agrees to advance or contribute to DWR pursuant to this Agreement.
  - i. “**Party**” or “**Parties**” means DWR, the undersigned Contractor, or all signatories to this Agreement.
  - j. “**State Agency**” has the meaning ascribed to it by Water Code section 11102.
  - k. “**SWP**” or “**State Water Project**” means the State Water Project operated by DWR. The SWP generally includes the State Water Facilities, as defined in California Water Code section 12934(d), and certain facilities authorized by the Central Valley Project Act at section 11100 *et. seq.*
  - l. “**Water Supply Contract**” means the long-term water supply contract, as amended and as may be amended in the future, between Contractor and DWR.
  - m. “**Work**” has the meaning ascribed to it in the Recitals to this Agreement.
2. Effect of Agreement. DWR and Contractor agree that nothing in this Agreement supersedes previous funding agreements or the obligations under those funding agreements unless specifically addressed in this Agreement.
  3. Purposes of Agreement. This Agreement documents Contractors agreement to provide Contributed Funds to DWR for the purposes set forth in Section 4, the manner of providing those funds as set forth in Section 5, and the means by which future contributions may be made.
  4. Use of Funds. DWR shall use the Contributed Funds and any future Contributed Funds collected from Contractor pursuant to section 5 hereof, for the payment of DCA invoices submitted to DWR on or after October 1, 2020 for the Work done or costs incurred by DCA, or for Delta conveyance project planning work done by DWR through the Delta Conveyance Office (“DCO”) and any other purpose consistent with the JEPA, as the same has been, and may be, amended from time to time. DWR will not use funds provided under this Agreement for the activities described in the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta adopted by DWR on July 9, 2020.
  5. Charge Procedure. Contractor shall pay its Pay-Go Charge on the date(s) and in the amount(s) set forth on the revised Statement of Charges for 2021, and subsequent Statements of Charges issued to Contractor by DWR. The annual amounts will be paid in twelve monthly installments. Contractor may agree, without amending this Agreement, to

advance additional funds after the Effective Date, which shall be considered Contributed Funds, by delivery to DWR of a letter in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, which letter shall specify the amount to be advanced or contributed, whether the payments will be in the form of one or more lump sums or in 12 equal installments, and together with such other information the Parties deem necessary or desirable to effectuate the advance or contribution. A copy of the resolution, or other Board authorization, of Contractor's Board of Directors approving the subject contribution shall be enclosed with the letter. Upon receipt of a contribution letter DWR shall indicate its agreement by returning a counter signed copy of the letter to Contractor. The agreed upon advance or contribution shall thereafter be included in Contractor's Statement of Charges or a revised Statement of Charges, as appropriate. The charge shall be designated by reference to the year in which the charge is to begin, followed, if there be more than one such subsequent advance or contribution in a year by a dash and an integer followed by the words Pay-Go Charge.

6. Limitation. With respect to the Work and the DCA, nothing in this Agreement imposes any duty or obligation either expressly or by implication on DWR other than the duty to use Contributed Funds to pay the undisputed portion of DCA invoices submitted to DWR during the term of this Agreement in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the JEPA if, as and when Contributed Funds have been received by DWR under this Agreement and other similar agreements or arrangements with other Contractors for purposes substantially the same as those described herein and is available for the payment thereof.
7. Reporting. DWR, through its DCO and in coordination with its State Water Project Analysis Office (SWPAO), shall annually prepare a report summarizing the advances or contributions received, and expenditures made pursuant to, this Agreement. The first such report shall be completed not later than March 31, 2021 and thereafter not later than March 31 of each subsequent year. Contractor may request in writing a summary of the advances, contributions, and expenditures at any time during the term of this Agreement and DWR shall provide such within thirty (30) days of such written request.
8. Status of Project. Contractor recognizes that the funds contributed pursuant to this Agreement are for the planning activities in support of DWR's environmental review and permitting process, including but not limited to the Work, for a potential Delta Conveyance project. The advance or contribution of Contributed Funds is not contingent on, or in exchange for, DWR's agreement to exercise its discretion in future to approve a Delta conveyance project.
9. Unspent Funds. Upon termination of this Agreement, it is the intent of the Parties that any unspent Contributed Funds remaining after payment of all costs for which the funds were contributed will be returned to Contractor as a credit on Contractor's Statement of Charges in proportion to its percentage share of advances or contributions made by all Contractors that entered into Agreements similar to this Agreement.
10. Reimbursement of Contributed Funds. If a Delta conveyance project is approved by DWR and is implemented it is the intent of the Parties hereto that the Contributed Funds spent in

accordance with this Agreement be reimbursed or credited to Contractor according to the relative amount each such Contractor paid pursuant to this Agreement, upon the issuance and sale of revenue bonds by either the Department or a Joint Powers Authority established , whichever occurs earlier, for the purpose of, among other things, funding a future Delta conveyance facility. The Department shall be under no obligation to issue and sell bonds for the purpose(s) described in the foregoing sentence or to undertake any reimbursement or credit as so described, unless a determination is first made by DWR in its sole discretion that such issuance and sale of revenue bonds, such reimbursement, or such credit as applicable is consistent with applicable law, applicable judicial rulings, and applicable contractual obligations of DWR, and the Parties have negotiated and executed such further agreements as may be necessary to accomplish such credit or reimbursement on terms acceptable to DWR.

11. Effective Date and Term. This Agreement shall become effective on the date the last Party hereto signs the Agreement as set forth on the signature page(s) hereto ("Effective Date") and shall continue in effect until terminated in writing by the Parties. The Parties obligations under Section 10 shall survive termination of this Agreement.
12. Invoices, Notices or Other Communications. All invoices, notices, or other communications required under this Agreement will be in writing, and will be deemed to have been duly given upon the date of service, if: (i) served personally on the Party to whom notice is to be given; (ii) sent by electronic mail, and the Party to whom notice is to be given confirms receipt; or (iii) on the third day after mailing, if mailed to the Party to whom invoice, notice or other communication is directed, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to the designated representative(s) of the Party set forth below.

DWR:            Pedro Villalobos  
                    Chief, State Water Project Analysis Office  
                    Department of Water Resources  
                    1416 Ninth Street, Room 1620  
                    Post Office Box 94236  
                    Sacramento, California 94236-0001

*Copy to*  
Anthony Meyers  
Executive Director, Delta Conveyance Office  
Department of Water Resources  
901 P Street, Room 413  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

*Copy to*  
Christopher Martin  
Office of the Chief Counsel  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1620

Post Office Box 94236  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Contractor:

*Copy to:*  
Glenn Shephard, Director  
Ventura County Watershed Protection District  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

13. No Delegation of Authority. Nothing in this Agreement constitutes a delegation by any Party of its existing authority to make any decision it is mandated to make. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit DWR's final decision-making authority at the time of consideration of future Delta conveyance facility related approvals. All provisions of this Agreement are intended to be, and shall to the extent reasonable be interpreted to be, consistent with all applicable provisions of State and federal law. The undersigned recognize that the Parties are public agencies and have specific statutory responsibilities, and that actions of these public agencies must be consistent with applicable procedural and substantive requirements of State and federal law. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to, nor will have the effect of, constraining or limiting any public agency in carrying out its statutory responsibilities or requiring an agency to take any action inconsistent with applicable law. Nothing in this Agreement constitutes an admission by any Party as to the proper interpretation of any provision of law, nor will it have the effect of, waiving or limiting any public entity's rights and remedies under applicable law except as expressly provided elsewhere in this Agreement. Execution of this Agreement does not constitute pre-approval of any project or preferred project alternative, or waive or otherwise abridge responsible trustee duties required, or discretion authorized or granted by, State and federal law.
14. Amendment. Except as otherwise set forth above, this Agreement may only be amended or modified by a subsequent written agreement approved and executed by both Parties.
15. Applicable Law. This Agreement will be construed under and will be deemed to be governed by the laws of the United States and the State of California.
16. Integration. This Agreement constitutes the sole, final, complete, exclusive and integrated expression and statement of the terms of this Agreement among the Parties concerning the subject matter, and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreement, either oral or written, that may be related to the subject matter of this Agreement.
17. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same agreement. Each signing Party shall have received a copy of the signature page signed by every other Party.

Exhibits attached and incorporated herein:

Exhibit A Board Resolution or other Board Authorization  
Exhibit B Form of Letter Regarding Future Contributions  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto, by their authorized representatives, have  
executed this Agreement on the date(s) set forth below.

Approved as to Legal Form  
and Sufficiency

Spencer Kenner  
Spencer Kenner, Chief Counsel

1/6/2021  
Date

State of California  
Department of Water Resources

Jed Craddock  
Karia A. Nemeth,  
Director

1/6/2021  
Date

Approved as to Legal Form  
and Sufficiency

Alberto Boada  
Signature

Alberto Boada  
Printed Name  
12/14/2020  
Date

Glenn Shephard  
Ventura County Watershed Protection  
District

Glenn Shephard Digitally signed by Glenn Shephard  
Date: 2020.12.14 10:05:58 -08'00'

Glenn Shephard  
Signature  
Glenn Shephard  
Printed Name  
Director  
Title

12/14/2020  
Date

**Exhibit A**

**Resolution of the Board of Directors of Contractor**

**Exhibit B**

Form of Contribution Letter

[date]  
[address]

Re: Contribution or Advance of Money for Delta Conveyance Planning Activities

Dear Mr. Villalobos:

This letter is sent pursuant to section 5 of the Agreement for the Advance of Contribution of Money to the Department of Water Resources for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta conveyance Project dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 between Department of Water Resources and the [agency] ("Funding Agreement").

On [date] the Board of Directors of [agency] approved the contribution or advance of \$[amount] to the Department for use in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement. A copy of the Board's resolution is enclosed with this letter. The contribution or advance will be collected from [agency] in [a lump sum][equal monthly installments] by inclusion of a charge [on its Statement of Charges for [year]][on a revised Statement of Charges for [year] that Department will issue to [agency]]. The charge shall be referred to as the [year] Pay-go Charge. As provided by section 5 of the Agreement the contribution or advance described herein will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

Please confirm your agreement to the foregoing by countersigning in the space provided below and returning an original copy of this letter agreement to [agency] at [address].

[signature blocks for agency and Department]

Enclosure(s)

cc: Anthony Meyers, Executive Director of Delta Conveyance Office



**BOARD MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SUPERVISORS LINDA PARKS,  
KELLY LONG, ROBERT O. HUBER AND JOHN C. ZARAGOZA  
December 8, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.**

**Approval of, and Authorization for the Watershed Protection District Director to Sign, the Agreement for the Advance or Contribution of Money to the Department of Water Resources for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project; All Watershed Protection District Zones; All Supervisorial Districts. (Public Works Agency)**

- (X) All Board members are present, with Supervisor Huber absent.
  
- (X) The following persons are heard: Glenn Shephard and Jennifer Tribo.
  
- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Zaragoza, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves recommendations as stated in the Board letter.

By: Lori Key  
Lori Key  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

TEMPLATE LETTER

[Date]

Hong Lin  
California Department of Water Resources  
PO Box 942836  
Sacramento CA 94236-001

Re: Contribution or Advance of Money for Delta Conveyance Planning Activities

Dear Ms. Lin:

This letter is sent pursuant to section 5 of the Agreement for the Advance of Contribution of Money to the Department of Water Resources for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project dated December 14, 2020, between Department of Water Resources and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (“Funding Agreement”).

On [date], the Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District, on [date] the City Council of the City of San Buenaventura, and on February 12, 2025, the Board of Directors of the United Water Conservation District approved the contribution or advance of \$1,637,407 to the Department for use in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement. Copies of the resolutions from the Casitas Municipal Water District, City of San Buenaventura, and United Water Conservation District are enclosed with this letter. The contribution or advance will be collected from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District in equal monthly installments by inclusion of a charge on its Statement of Charges for 2026 and 2027 that Department will issue to Casitas Municipal Water District, as administrator of the Ventura County Water Protection District contract. The charge shall be referred to as the 2026 and 2027 Pay-go Charge. As provided by section 5 of the Agreement, the contribution or advance described herein will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

Please confirm your agreement to the foregoing by countersigning in the space provided below and returning an original copy of this letter agreement to Casitas Municipal Water District.

Sincerely,

Jeff Palmer  
Director, County of Ventura Watershed Protection District

Enclosure(s)

cc: Anthony Meyers, Executive Director of Delta Conveyance Office