CITY OF SANTA MARIA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

110 S. PINE STREET #101 (ON HERITAGE WALK) • SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA 93458-5082 • 805-925-0951 • TDD 925-4354

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Notice is hereby given that a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for the below described project per the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as set forth in the Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 to 21174, as amended. Reviewers did not identify potentially significant impacts from the project.

1. Environmental Document No: SP2018-0012

2. Applicant: City of Santa Maria Utilities Department

3. Project Description: Environmental review of a Special Project (SP2018-0012) for Main Street Sub-watershed Improvements on a 40 acre site in the PF (Public Facilities) district.

   A. Project Title: Main Street Subwatershed Improvement

   B. Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 113-120-032

   C. Location: Southwest corner of West Black Road and Main Street (SR-166), Santa Barbara County

   D. Proposed Project: The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department proposes to treat approximately 100 million gallons (MG) of urban stormwater runoff and agricultural tail water through a diversion pipeline from the City's West Main Street storm drain system to remove nitrate from at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and all documents referenced in the document may be reviewed at the Community Development Department, 110 S. Pine Street, #101, Santa Maria, CA, 93458, Phone No. (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2244, FAX No. (805) 928-7565. The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration is also available for review in the Santa Maria Public Library, located at 421 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria, CA. Written comments on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration will be accepted during the period from **October 29, 2018 to November 30, 2018.** Please submit comments on or before 5:00 p.m. on **November 30, 2018,** the close of the public comment period.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA
Environmental Checklist / Initial Study
MAIN STREET SUBWATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SP2018-0012)

1. **Project Title and Location**
   Main Street Subwatershed Improvement Project

   Located on an approximately 2.4-mile-long generally linear corridor along West Main Street (State Route [SR] 166), Black Road, and the northern portion of the City of Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located to the west of the intersection of West Main Street/ Hanson Way within the City of Santa Maria and unincorporated Santa Barbara County (Figures 1 and 2)

2. **Lead Agency, Contact and Preparer**
   Alexandra Griffith, Water Quality Programs Manager
   City of Santa Maria, Utilities Department
   2065 East Main Street #101
   Santa Maria, CA 93454
   805-925-0951 ext. 7241
   agriffith@cityofsantamaria.org

3. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address**
   City of Santa Maria
   Utilities Department
   2065 East Main Street #101
   Santa Maria, CA 93454

4. **General Plan Designation**
   City of Santa Maria: Community Facilities (CF)
   County of Santa Barbara: Agricultural II (minimum lot size of 40 acres) (A-II-40)

5. **Zoning Designation**
   City of Santa Maria: Public Facilities (PF)
   County of Santa Barbara: Service Commercial (C-S)

6. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting**
   The project is located on an approximately 2.4-mile-long generally linear corridor along West Main Street (State Route [SR] 166), Black Road, and the northern portion of the City of Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located to the west of the intersection of West Main Street / Hanson Way within the City of Santa Maria and unincorporated Santa Barbara County (Figures 1 and 2).

   Portions of the project site are located within California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way, as well as Santa Barbara County Flood

Control District easements. The project site is surrounded by the WWTP, active agricultural fields, SR 166 (West Main Street), Black Road, and the Canal. There is one single-family residence to the east of the WWTP and Black Road, adjacent to the project site.

7. Description of Project

Background

The City of Santa Maria (City) was awarded a Proposition 1 Stormwater Program Grant from the State Water Resources Control Board to partially fund the Main Street Subwatershed Improvement Project (herein referred to as "proposed project" or "project").

Approximately 950 acres of the urban Main Street Subwatershed contributes stormwater runoff to the Main Street Canal (Canal), where stormwater combines with agricultural tail water. The Canal confluences with the Unit II ditch and ultimately discharges into the Santa Maria River. The Canal is a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d)-listed waterbody impaired for fecal indicator bacteria (FIB), nutrients, and pesticides/toxicity. Water quality issues within the Canal impact the Santa Maria River by contributing pollutants that impair the beneficial uses of the receiving water. The Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin also has high nitrate levels within the aquifer's shallow portion. Removal of nitrate from urban stormwater runoff and groundwater would help to reduce overall nitrate levels within the receiving water and groundwater basin, respectively. To help attain the City's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation goals for nutrients, an estimated 54% reduction in contributory loads from the Subwatershed is necessary.

The City intends to divert and treat approximately 100 million gallons (MG), or 300 acre-feet per year (afy), which equates to a continuous flow of approximately 200 gallons per minute (gpm). The goal of the proposed project is to intercept flow from the City's West Main Street storm drain system for nitrate removal and groundwater recharge. Flow would be diverted into an abandoned sanitary sewer main located within West Main Street and Black Road and conveyed to the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), where flows would be discharged into a woodchip denitrification bioreactor. Low urban stormwater flows would be augmented by groundwater supplied by an existing well at the WWTP. The bioreactor would convert nitrate within the water to nitrogen gas. The treated water would then be conveyed to a repurposed percolation pond within the northwestern portion of the WWTP property, allowing the treated effluent to infiltrate into the groundwater basin.

Project Components

The elements of the project include (from generally east to west):

- A new diversion structure installed on the southern side of West Main Street, approximately 580 feet to the west of the intersection of West Main Street / Hanson Way
- Approximately 83 feet of new 14-inch-diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipeline installed perpendicular to West Main Street, approximately 580 feet to the west of the intersection of West Main Street / Hanson Way
- Approximately 9,689 feet of existing, abandoned 14-inch-diameter vitrified clay pipe (VCP) sewer main located within West Main Street and Black Road (the project would include removal of asphalt from West Main Street to adjust the existing manholes to finish surface and construction of up to nine new manholes offset from the main approximately four feet south of the southern edge of the eastbound travel lane)
- Approximately 913 feet of new 14-inch-diameter PVC pipeline from the terminus of the abandoned sewer line in Black Road to the proposed bioreactor on the WWTP property
- A new approximately 1.2-acre woodchip denitrification bioreactor on the WWTP property
- A new groundwater well (if determined to be required) to supplement water delivered to the bioreactor
- Approximately 1,482 feet of new 8-inch-diameter PVC pipeline to connect the proposed bioreactor to the existing percolation pond for groundwater recharge

Additional information about the proposed project components is provided below.

<u>Low-Flow Diversion (Existing, Abandoned Sewer Pipeline)</u>

The low-flow diversion would occur within the City's storm drain system, just upstream of the outfall into the Canal. An abandoned 14-inch-diameter VCP sewer main located within West Main Street and Black Road would convey the diverted flows. The maximum dry weather flow rate would be controlled by the flow in the storm system, either when these flows are less than the sewer main capacity, or, in some cases, would be controlled by the capacity of the intake structure when dry weather flows are higher than 200 gpm. Dry weather flow within the West Main Street storm drain is primarily urban runoff with agricultural tail water and landscape irrigation. Flows would vary based on crop irrigation scheduling and other agricultural management practices outside of the City's control.

Low flows were observed within the storm system during the month of November 2017. A measurable precipitation event had not occurred since September 2017. Flow measurements were taken within the box culvert upstream of the Canal. These flow observations indicate that it may not be feasible to divert the project goal of 300 afy from the storm system alone; however, with supplemental water provided by the non-potable well at the WWTP, it would be feasible to treat and infiltrate 300 afy. Flows would likely be less than the proposed diversion rate of 200 gpm. The project may divert most, if not all, of the dry weather flows, which contain a much higher concentration of pollutants compared to wet weather flows. Because of the supplemental non-potable well water, it may be possible to achieve the 54% reduction in pollutants without necessarily diverting 54% of the volume of flow from the Canal.

The proposed project would also include the removal of asphalt from West Main Street to adjust the manholes over the existing sewer main to finish surface. In addition, up to nine new by-pass access manholes would need to be installed approximately four feet south of the southern edge of the eastbound travel lane at a depth of 12 feet.

Proposed Diversion Structure

The intake structure would be placed at the invert of the culvert on the southern side of West Main Street, approximately 580 feet to the west of the intersection of West Main Street / Hanson Way. A six-inch-diameter concrete dike would be integrated into the box culvert to divert low flows to the intake. Higher flows would pass over the dike and discharge into the Canal. Any interruption to the flow would be contained within the box culvert structure. Refer to Figure 3 for the details of the proposed diversion structure.

A manhole is proposed to connect the intake pipe system to the existing sewer main within West Main Street. The maximum height of water in the manhole would not exceed the flow line of the box culvert; therefore, surcharging out of the manhole is not anticipated to be an operations concern.

Water samples taken from the box culvert outfall were analyzed for nitrate content as well as suspend solids. Stormwater from the culvert appeared to be free of sediment loading. A separate sedimentation structure would, therefore, not be required. However, the project would include installation of an approved full-capture device in-line (i.e., a trash grate) to remove trash and other debris from urban runoff.

Proposed Bioreactor

The woodchip denitrification bioreactor would be located along the northern edge of the eastern portion of the WWTP property. The bioreactor would have a surface area of approximately 1.2 acres and be approximately six feet deep, for a total volume of 1.8 MG. The retention time would be about two days. Water would flow through the woodchip-filled basin for approximately 400 feet before discharging into a flow control structure and discharge pipe to the percolation pond. The bioreactor would be lined with an impermeable liner to prevent seepage. Refer to Figure 4 for the details of the proposed bioreactor.

The bioreactor would be constructed at an elevation that would prevent the ability to use gravity flow; this would allow surcharging of the upstream pipe. The maintained water level within the pipe would be about 3 feet below the existing grade and surcharging would not adversely affect pipe capacity.

During periods of low flow (less than 200 gpm), the existing non-potable well within the WWTP would supplement flows to the woodchip denitrification bioreactor to maintain appropriate woodchip saturation levels. A flow-measuring device would be placed in a manhole upstream of the bioreactor and activate the pump to supplement low flows. This is an important project element as these types of bioreactors can have odor issues if the woodchips are not provided with adequate flow.

If it is determined that additional water is necessary to adequately supply the bioreactor (beyond that from collected urban stormwater runoff and the existing non-potable well), the project may also include a new well that could pump up to 300 gpm of groundwater into the bioreactor. The exact location of the potential new well is currently unknown; however, the well would be located in close proximity to the bioreactor, potentially between the bioreactor and the entrance of the WWTP. The footprint of the additional well would be approximately five feet by five feet in area, and the well would be approximately 200 feet deep.

The project would also include a graded 12-foot-wide access road around the perimeter of the bioreactor.

A *Geotechnical Engineering Report* (Earth Systems Pacific 2017; see Appendix A) was prepared to specifically analyze the soils at the proposed bioreactor location. The report concluded that the soils in the bioreactor area are considered to be highly erodible. To help prevent erosion, excavated surfaces would be compacted with heavy equipment before an impermeable liner is inserted. In addition, the liner would be secured in place to minimize erosion of soils. The *Geotechnical Engineering Report* includes other recommendations with regard to site preparation, grading, and drainage and maintenance of the bioreactor that are incorporated as project design features.

<u>Proposed Pipelines</u>
The proposed project would include the use of approximately 9,689 feet (1.84 miles) of abandoned 14-inch-diameter VCP sewer main located within West Main Street and Black Road; however, a total of approximately 2,478 feet (0.47 mile) of new pipeline would be installed for the project. Approximately 83 feet of 14-inch-diameter PVC pipeline installed perpendicular to West Main Street, approximately 580 feet to the west of the intersection of West Main Street /

Hanson Way. This relatively short pipeline would connect the Canal water to the existing abandoned pipeline within West Main Street. The project would also include approximately 913 feet of 14-inch-diameter PVC pipeline to connect the terminus of the abandoned sewer line in Black Road to the proposed bioreactor on the WWTP property. In addition, approximately 1,482 feet of eight-inch-diameter PVC pipeline would be installed to connect the proposed bioreactor to the existing percolation pond for groundwater recharge.

Installation of the new pipelines would include the placement of the pipes in approximately 5-foot-wide, 12-foot-deep trenches.

Dust Control

The following dust control measures would be implemented:

- Water or dust control agents would be applied to active excavated/disturbed areas, unpaved surfaces, and dirt stockpiles as necessary (at least twice daily) to prevent or suppress particulate matter from becoming airborne. All soil to be stockpiled over four days would be protected with a secure tarp or chemical stabilizers to prevent windblown dust.
- All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials would be covered with a fabric cover and maintain a freeboard height of 12 inches.

Traffic Control

A Traffic Management Plan would be implemented during construction of the proposed project. During construction, access along some portions of affected roadways may be limited. If project construction limits traffic to one lane, traffic would be flagged around the work area. Access would be maintained to driveways along affected roadways.

Construction Schedule

Construction of the project would commence in September 2018 and take four to six months to complete.

8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

County of Santa Barbara Department of Public Works
California Department of Transportation
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
State Water Resources Control Board

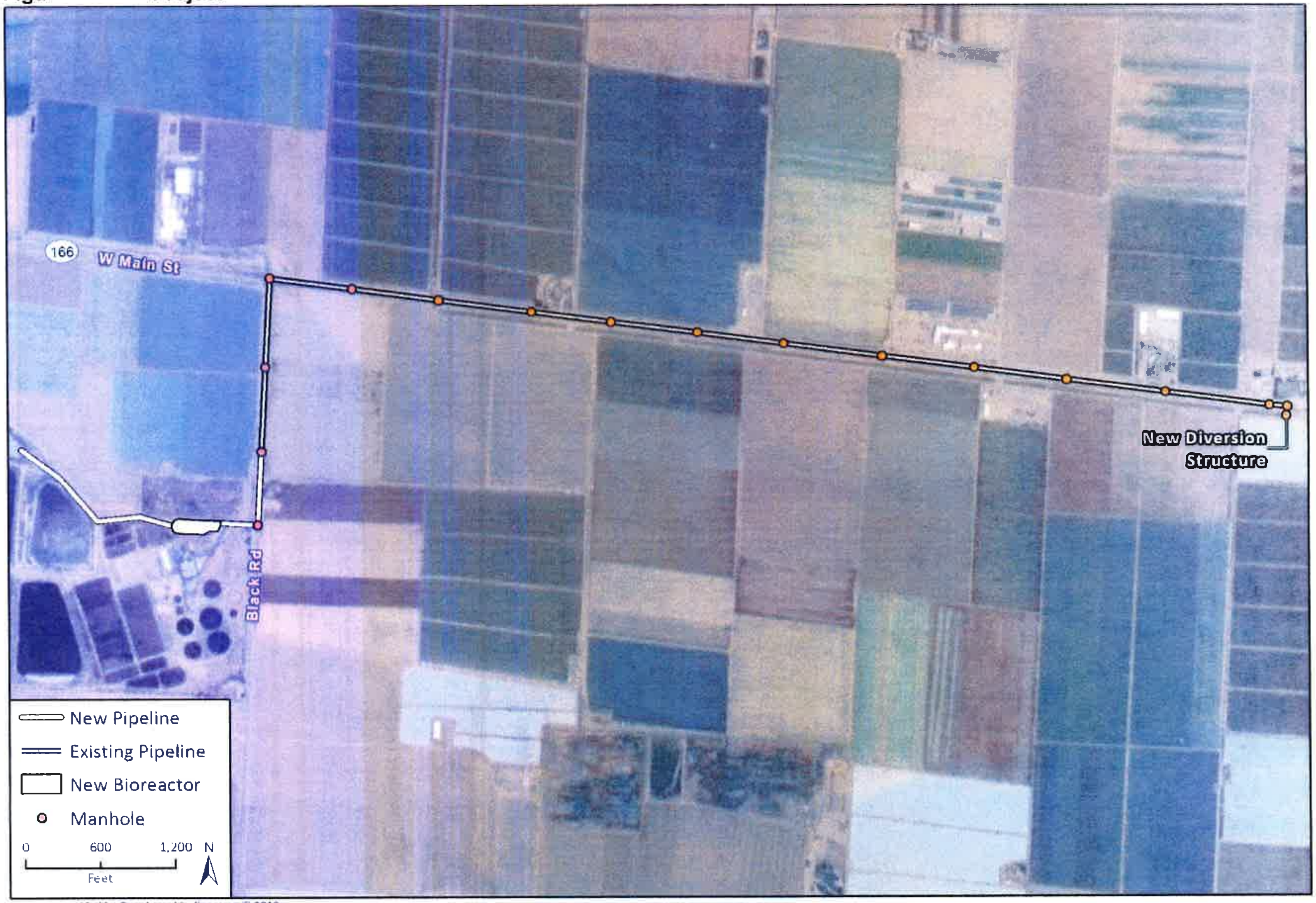
Figure 1 **Regional Location**

Imagery provided by Esri and its licensors © 2018.

Project Location

N

Figure 2 Project Site Location



Imagery provided by Google and its licensors © 2018.
Additional data provided by Wallace Group, 2018.

Figure 3 **Diversion Structure Details**

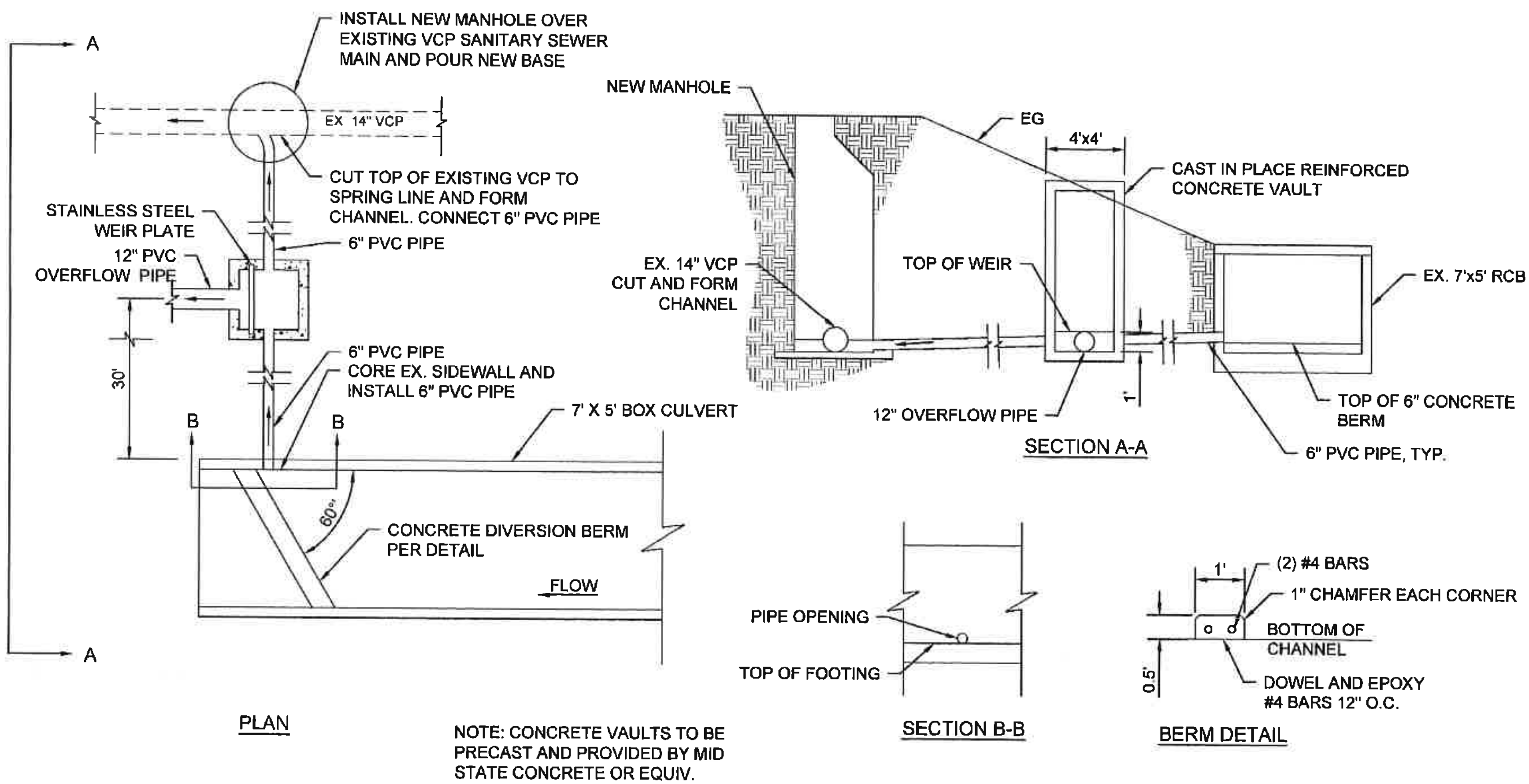
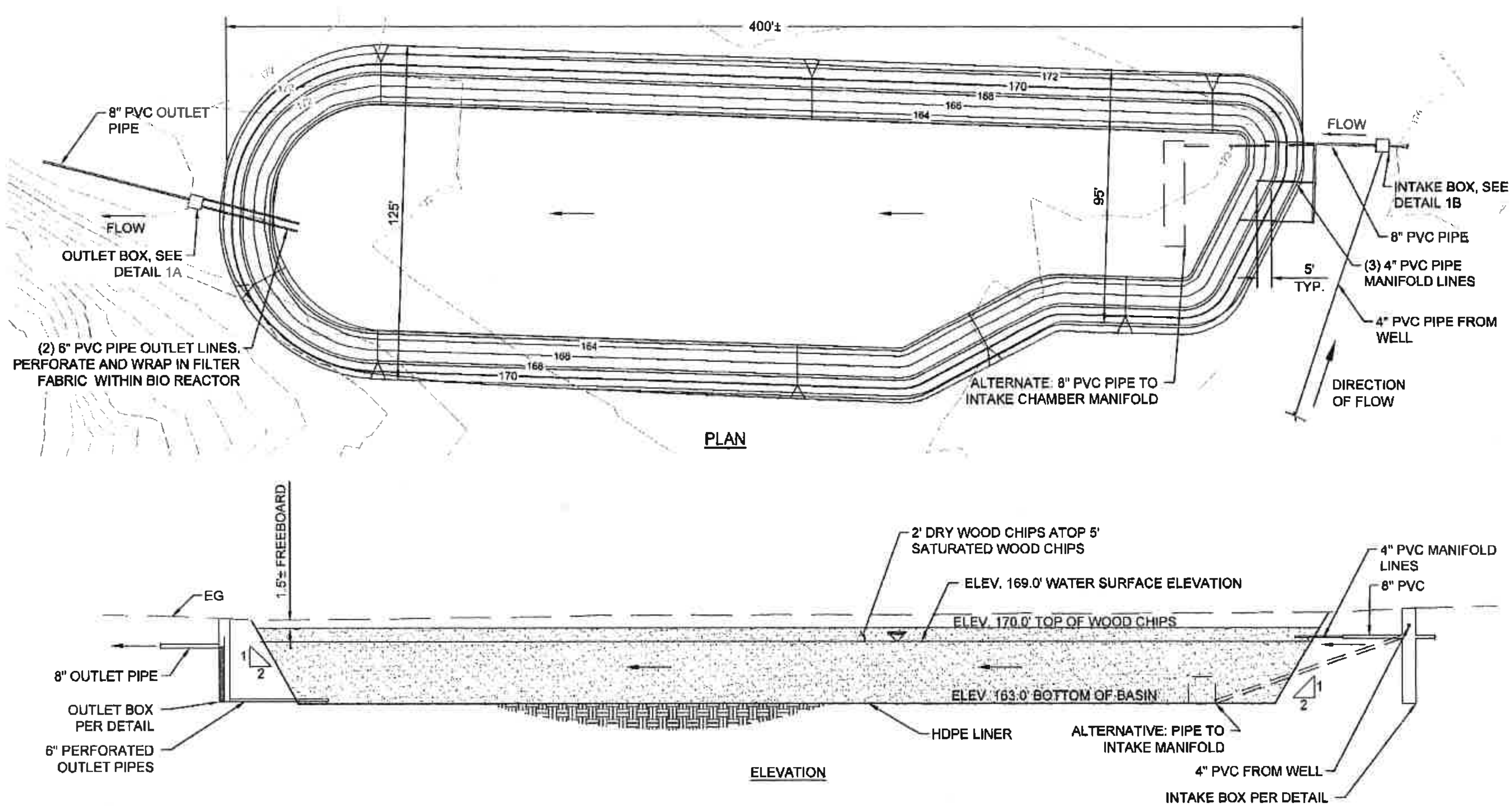


Figure 4 Bioreactor Details



1. AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X

Discussion:

a. The project site is surrounded by active agricultural fields, a WWTP, and roadways. According to the City and County of Santa Barbara (County) General Plans, no unique or important scenic vistas exist in the vicinity of the project site (City 2001 and County 2009a). *No impact to a scenic vista would occur.*

b. According to the City and County General Plans and the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, no designated state or local scenic highway corridors are located in or near the project site (City 2001, County 2009b, and Caltrans 2018). In addition, no locally significant scenic resources have been identified in the vicinity of the project site. *No impact to scenic resources would occur.*

c. The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. Accordingly, following construction, the proposed project elements would not interfere with the appearance of the surrounding land uses. *Impacts to visual character and quality would be less than significant.*

d. No new outdoor or security lighting would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Accordingly, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the project area. *No impact associated with light or glare would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

2. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning or, 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 Public Resources Code section 51104(g))?				X
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

Discussion:

a-b. The project site is within lands designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local Importance, including some Williamson Act Farmland, as well as Urban and Built-Up Land (California Department of Conservation [DOC] 2015 and 2018). However, the project would not affect Farmland, including Williamson Act Farmland, or result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use because the areas of ground disturbance associated with the project would occur on the WWTP property (which is designated as Urban and Built-Up Land) or within County and Caltrans road rights-of-way and/or utility easements. *No impact to agricultural resources would occur.*

c-d. There is no forest land or timberland on or within the vicinity of the project site. *No impact to forestry resources would occur.*

e. Refer to responses to Checklist Questions 2a-b and 2c-d, above. *No impact to agricultural or forestry resources would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

3. AIR QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Air Quality Standards and Attainment

The project site is located in the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB), which is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD). SBCAPCD is one of 15 local air quality management agencies established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). As the local air quality management agency, SBCAPCD is required to monitor air pollutant levels to ensure that applicable state and federal air quality standards are met and, if they are not met, to develop strategies to meet the standards. Depending on whether or not the standards are met or exceeded, the SCCAB is classified as being in "attainment" or "nonattainment" for six criteria pollutants, including ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), particulates less than 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$, respectively), and lead (Pb). California air quality standards are identical to or stricter than federal standards for all criteria pollutants. Table 1 illustrates the current Federal and California Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Table 1 Current Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Federal Standard	California Standard
Ozone	0.070 ppm (8-hr avg)	0.070 ppm (8-hr avg) 0.09 ppm (1-hr avg)
Carbon Monoxide	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 35.0 ppm (1-hr avg)	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 20.0 ppm (1-hr avg)
Nitrogen Dioxide	0.053 ppm (annual avg)	0.18 ppm (1-hr avg) 0.030 ppm (annual avg)
Sulfur Dioxide	0.030 ppm (annual avg) 0.14 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.5 ppm (3-hr avg)	0.04 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.25 ppm (1-hr avg)
Lead	1.5 µg/m³ (calendar quarter)	1.5 µg/m³ (30-day avg)
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	150 µg/m³ (24-hr avg)	20 µg/m³ (annual avg) 50 µg/m³ (24-hr avg)
Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	12 µg/m³ (annual avg) 35 µg/m³ (24-hr avg)	12 µg/m³ (annual avg)

Source: CARB 2016
ppm= parts per million
µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter

The primary pollutants of concern in Santa Barbara County are O_3 and PM_{10}. The major local sources for PM_{10} are agricultural operations, vehicle dust, grading, and dust produced by high winds. Ozone is a secondary pollutant that is not produced directly by a source, but rather, is formed by a reaction in the presence of sunlight between nitrogen oxides (NO_X) and reactive organic compounds (ROC; also referred to as reactive organic gases [ROG]); therefore, reductions in ozone concentrations are dependent on reducing the amount of these precursors. In Santa Barbara County, the major sources of ROC are motor vehicles, organic solvents, the petroleum industry, and pesticides; and the major sources of NO_X are the marine shipping industrial operations, motor vehicles, and fuel combustion by various industrial sources (SBCAPCD 2015). According to the current CARB State and National Area Designation Maps, the County is in nonattainment-transitional for the State O_3 and in nonattainment for the State PM_{10} standards (CARB 2015 and 2016).

Sensitive Receptors

Certain population groups are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill, especially those with cardio-respiratory diseases. The majority of sensitive receptor locations are therefore residences, schools, and hospitals. The closest sensitive receptor to the project site is a single-family residence located immediately northeast of the entrance to the WWTP, along Black Road. The residence would be approximately 200 feet from construction activities associated with installing the new bioreactor and approximately 25 feet from construction activities associated with installing the new pipeline, at its nearest point.

Discussion

a. Under state law, the SBCAPCD is required to prepare an overall plan for air quality improvement for the SCCAB. The 2016 Ozone Plan (2016 Plan) is the eighth triennial update to the initial state Air Quality Attainment Plan adopted by the SBCAPCD Board of Directors in 1991. The 2016 Plan addresses the attainment and maintenance of state and federal ambient air quality standards within the SCCAB. Since 1992, Santa Barbara County has adopted or amended rules implementing more than 25 control measures aimed at reducing emissions at stationary sources. These measures have substantially reduced ozone precursor pollutants (NO_X and ROC). To be consistent with an Air Quality Attainment Plan, a project's direct and indirect pollutant emissions must be accounted for in the growth assumptions of the plan, and the project must be consistent with the policies in the plan. Vehicle use and emissions are directly related to population, as additional residents would result in more vehicular use. Populations within the 2016 Plan and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) forecasts are accounted for with regards to SBCAPCD emissions inventories.

The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The project is an allowed use in the City and County. The project would not increase the population within the City or County and would be within growth forecast assumptions used in the 2016 Plan. Therefore, the project would be consistent with the 2016 Plan. *Impacts related consistency with the applicable air quality plan would be less than significant.*

b-c Construction Emissions: Construction of the project would result in temporary increases in air pollutant emissions associated with site grading, pipeline trenching, and paving activities. The SBCAPCD does not have quantitative thresholds of significance for short-term construction emissions but informally uses a threshold of 25 tons per year for ROGs, NO_X, $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10}.

Projected construction emissions for the installation of the new pipelines, diversion structure, and bioreactor have been estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod version 2016.3.1) and are shown in

Table 2. Default model inputs were modified to reflect construction details provided by the project engineer, such as a four- to six-month construction schedule beginning in September 2018 and dimensions for the new bioreactor bed (equating to 11,616 cubic yards of excavation). Where information was not available, model default assumptions were used.

Table 2 Total Project Construction Emissions (Tons)

Pollutant	Total Emissions	Significance Threshold	Significant Impact?
ROG	0.42	25	No
NO_X	8.01	25	No
CO	3.20	-	N/A
SO_X	0.01	-	N/A
PM_{10}	0.96	25	No
$PM_{2.5}$	0.49	25	No

See Appendix B for CalEEMod worksheets.

As shown in, the project would not generate emissions in excess of SBCAPCD thresholds during construction activities. It is noted that construction of the potential new groundwater well was not included in the emissions calculated in

Table 2; however, construction of the well would not result in emission levels that would increase the overall project construction emissions beyond the significance thresholds for air pollutants.

Because the County does not meet state standards for PM_{10}, the SBCAPCD considers dust control measures required for projects involving earthmoving activities of any size or duration sufficient to reduce fugitive dust emissions to a level of less than significant, especially for smaller projects. As such, the SBCAPCD permitting requirements for dust control would be required for the project even though emissions would not exceed the SBCAPCD construction emission significance thresholds. Implementation of these SBCAPCD permitting requirements would ensure that PM_{10} emissions generated by construction activities would be reduced to the maximum extent possible.

Operational Emissions

Air pollutant emissions generated during project operation would result primarily from automobile exhaust produced during routine maintenance of the project. The SBCAPCD has set thresholds of significance with regard to operational air quality impacts. A project would have a significant impact if it were to emit, from all sources, more than 240 pounds per day of ROG or NO_X or more than 80 pounds per day of PM_{10}. Additionally, a significant impact would occur if the project would emit more than 25 pounds per day of ROG and NO_X from motor vehicle trips only.

Project operational emissions were calculated using CalEEMod (version 2016.3.1) and are shown below in

Table 3. As shown in the table, the operation/maintenance of the proposed project would not generate emissions in excess of the adopted thresholds. It is noted that operation of the potential new groundwater well was not included in the emissions calculated in

Table 3; however, operation of the well would not result in emission levels that would increase the overall project operation emissions beyond the significance thresholds for air pollutants.

Table 3 Daily Operational Emissions (Tons/Year)

Pollutant	Total Operational Emissions	Significance Threshold	Significant Impact?
ROG	<0.01	240	No
NO_X	0.00	240	No
CO	<0.01	-	N/A
SO_X	0.00	-	N/A
PM_{10}	0.00	80	No
$PM_{2.5}$	0.00	80	No

See Appendix B for CalEEMod worksheets.

In summary, the project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation and would not 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. Emissions associated with the proposed project would not exceed local significance criteria, and the project is expected to comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the SBCAPCD. *Impacts would be less than significant.*

d. Land uses such as schools, hospitals, and convalescent homes are considered to be relatively sensitive to poor air quality conditions because children, the elderly, and people with health afflictions, especially respiratory ailments, are more susceptible to respiratory infections and other air quality-related health problems than the general public. Residential areas are also considered sensitive to air pollution because residents tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. As discussed above, the closest sensitive receptor to the project site is a single-family residence along Black Road, located immediately northeast of the entrance to the WWTP. The residence would be approximately 200 feet from construction activities associated with installing the new bioreactor and approximately 25 feet from construction activities associated with installing the new pipeline, at its nearest point. However, as shown in

Table 2 and

Table 3, the project would not generate air pollutant emissions in exceedance of the SBCAPCD thresholds during construction or operation of the proposed project. The majority of project emissions would be from mobile sources that would contribute to regional emissions, but would not contribute substantially to localized elevated criteria pollutant levels. Therefore, the project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. *Impacts to sensitive receptors would be less than significant.*

e. The proposed project would include the repurposing of a percolation pond and the development of a bioreactor on the WWTP property, which could potentially result in some new odors. However, according to the WWTP Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the existing percolation and recharge ponds at the WWTP do not create offensive odors other than a slight dirt-like smell (City 2006). The nearest sensitive land use would be the residence located approximately 200 feet from the proposed bioreactor. Accordingly, the project would not result in objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. *Impacts associated with odors would be less than significant.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
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 Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
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?			X	
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?			X	
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
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?				X

The analysis of biological resources within the project site is based on a search of available biological databases, review of aerial photographs and topographic maps, and review of multiple literature resources.

The predominant land use surrounding the project site is agriculture, and habitats in the area are highly modified, primarily consisting of row crops and associated agricultural roads and disturbed areas. Agricultural fields are an anthropogenic, frequently disturbed habitat and include irrigated row crops that are typically monotypic. Regular cultivation and other agricultural practices generally eliminate habitat for burrowing animals such as small mammals, and many associated amphibian and reptile species that utilize small mammal burrows or construct their own burrows. Other land uses and habitat types in the vicinity include ruderal and developed areas associated with the WWTP; roadways and road shoulders; materials storage yards, outbuildings, and machinery lots; barren ground; industrial; irrigated pasture; and fallow agricultural fields that are vegetated by ruderal plant species and/or non-native grassland. Ruderal areas provide poor habitat for animal species due to low vegetation cover, frequent disturbance and a lack of native species; however, these areas can be used during dispersal and for movement during foraging in adjacent habitats. The quality of habitat for wildlife is limited since the majority of the project site is surrounded by development and agriculture.

There are no above-ground drainage features within the project site or disturbance footprint. Drainage features immediately adjacent to the project site include the West Main Street Canal (Canal) and drainage ditches (Figure 3). These man-made hydrologic features typically provide drainage for agricultural fields and also support flood control needs in the region. Plant species composition and density is highly variable depending upon the periodicity of water within the ditches as well as time elapsed since the most maintenance activities (e.g., mowing and dredging). The ditches along State Route (SR) 166 are a major collector of runoff from roadways as well as agricultural and industrial areas in the region. Water flows west along SR 166 until it either reaches the Unit II ditch and/or the Santa Maria River. The Canal collects stormwater from the City of Santa Maria's storm drain system and confluences with the Unit II ditch and ultimately discharges into the Santa Maria River.

The topography of the project site is generally flat with onsite elevations ranging from 172 to 187 feet above mean sea level. According to the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey of Santa Barbara County, California, Northern Santa Barbara Area, three soil map units are mapped within the project site: Sorrento Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Sorrento Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; and Terrace Escarpments, Loamy (NRCS 2018).

Discussion:

a. Special Status Species

Queries of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation system (IPaC; 2018a), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; 2018), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (2018) were conducted to obtain comprehensive information regarding state and federally listed species as well as other special status species considered to have potential to occur within the *Santa Maria*, California United States Geological Service (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles. The results of these scientific database queries were compiled into a table provided as Appendix C.

i) Special Status Plants:

The drainage features adjacent to the project site provide potentially suitable habitat for La Graciosa thistle (*Cirsium scariosum* var. *loncholepis*), a state threatened, federally endangered, California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1 species. The CNDDB has documented occurrences of this species within the SR 166 man-made ditch systems west of the intersection of SR 166 and Highway 1 approximately five miles west of the project site. Review of the USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper (2018b) indicates the presence of federally designated critical habitat for La Graciosa thistle in the vicinity and is located approximately 4.2 miles west of the project site. The drainage features also contain potentially suitable habitat for California sawgrass (*Cladium californicum*), a CRPR 2B.2 species, and Gambel's water cress (*Nasturtium gambelii*), a state threatened, federally endangered, CRPR 1B.1 species. There are no CNDDB documented occurrences of California sawgrass or Gambel's water cress within five miles of the project site.

These species most typically occur in association with natural wetlands and marshes. The drainage features adjacent to the project site are heavily maintained; therefore, there is low potential for these species to occur. In addition, these features occur outside the area of disturbance. No impacts to special status plant species are expected.

ii) Special Status Wildlife:

The project site and habitats adjacent to the project site were assessed for the potential to support two special status species: California red-legged frog (CRLF; *Rana draytonii*), a federally threatened species and California Species of Special Concern (SSC) and western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*), a SSC.

The project site is located within the known range of CRLF in Santa Barbara County, based upon the current range depicted in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Plan for the California Red-legged Frog (USFWS 2002). Federally designated critical habitat for the CRLF has also been identified in the vicinity and is located approximately 4.8 miles south of the project site. Three CRLF occurrences have been recorded by the CNDDB within the above-ground canal adjacent to the project site along SR 166. The occurrences were documented downstream from the outfall into the canal. The diversion will occur within an existing box culvert in the storm drain system, upstream of the outfall into the canal. The above-ground drainage features downstream of the outfall provide dispersal habitat depending upon available moisture; however, these features do not contain suitable breeding habitat due to the variable water flow and maintenance regimen. The open water associated with the constructed basins and ponds within the WWTP may provide breeding opportunities for CLRF in the region if suitable water quality and emergent vegetation are present. Onsite upland habitat quality is generally low because of active agricultural operations and development. However, patches of medium quality upland habitat occur west of the new bioreactor location due to the presence of cover (i.e. scrub). CRLF could occur transiently in upland areas within the project site if sufficient moisture is present. For example, CRLF are not precluded from traversing agricultural areas (Bulger et al. 2003). CRLF are not anticipated to occur upstream of the outfall, which includes the below-ground box culvert and storm drain. Implementation of the diversion structure within the box culvert may result in a reduction in water within the drainage features downstream of the diversion. A decrease in flow within the drainage features may result in a periodic decrease in usable CRLF dispersal habitat due to decreased moisture levels. However, the diversion will only divert low-flows, which would be controlled by a six-inch-diameter concrete dike in the box culvert. By only diverting the low-flows, the water containing the highest percentage of pollutants would be redirected to the WWTP to be cleaned prior to entering the ground water. The high-flow water with fewer pollutants would continue to enter the drainage features downstream of the diversion. The flows within the project site and vicinity would continue to vary based on crop irrigation scheduling and other agricultural management practices. Thus, diversion of low flows for bioreactor treatment would alter the hydrology of the ditch during low-flow conditions, but would not substantially change the suitability of the ditch for CRLF.

Potential impacts to this species would occur if individuals are present during construction and are exposed to vehicle and heavy equipment traffic. The applicant may elect to pursue take coverage through consultation with USFWS under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act, or through Section 7 if there is a federal nexus, such as a permit under the Clean Water Act. If the applicant does not obtain take coverage, the project must fully avoid take of listed species.

The project site and adjacent habitat was also assessed for the potential to support western spadefoot. The western spadefoot is known to breed in temporary rain pools, including those that are human-made (e.g., cattle tanks, road ruts, etc.). The drainage features and constructed basins/ponds within the WWTP may provide suitable breeding habitat when standing water is present. Within the project site, the upland habitats found west of Black Road may provide suitable upland habitat for the western spadefoot toad as they contain sandy soils for occupancy during the non-breeding season. Based on the habitat requirements, known occurrences in the vicinity of the project site, and suitable habitat found within the project site, this species has potential to occur. Potential impacts to this species would occur if individuals are present during construction and are exposed to vehicle and heavy equipment traffic.

Suitable nesting habitat for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) occurs on utility poles, shrubs, and structures associated with the WWTP. Due to the lack of vegetation and suitable nest substrates in the project footprint, no direct impacts to nests are anticipated; however, if nests are present in the vicinity during construction, project-related activities and noise could cause disruption of normal adult behaviors resulting in the abandonment or harm to eggs and nestlings.

Appropriate measures to reduce *impacts to less than significant levels* are provided at the end of this section.

b. There is no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community that would be adversely affected by the proposed project. The drainage features adjacent to the project site may exhibit beds and banks. In addition, these features provide a movement corridor for various aquatic, semi-aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species such as the CRLF and therefore, are expected to be under CDFW jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. of the CFGC. However, the drainage features occur outside the project footprint and are not expected to be directly impacted by project related activities. The implementation of best management practices would minimize the potential for inadvertent and/or indirect impacts to these features. Therefore, *impacts would be less than significant.*

c. No jurisdictional wetlands are expected to occur within or adjacent to the project site. The drainage features adjacent to the project site may constitute other waters potentially subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdictions if an ordinary high water mark is present. These features are intermittent to perennial, with variations in water levels depending upon annual rainfall as well as the amount of runoff from surrounding agricultural activities, and thus meet the definition of a Relatively Permanent Water (RPW). In addition, they are hydrologically connected to the Santa Maria River, which eventually flows into the Pacific Ocean, a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW). Note that final determinations of the boundaries and jurisdictional status of wetlands, waters, and riparian habitat are made by each agency. The drainage features occur outside the project footprint and are not expected to be directly impacted by project related activities. Additionally, the proposed project would result in a net reduction in pollutants in surface and ground waters within the greater watershed. The implementation of best management practices would minimize the potential for impacts to water quality. Therefore, *impacts would be less than significant.*

d. There are no major wildlife movement corridors within the project site. Amphibian species such as the western spadefoot and CRLF have potential to utilize the above-ground drainage features as a linkage from one watercourse to another and to major patches of habitat such as the Santa Maria River and its associated riparian areas. Due to constant maintenance activities, and variable water table/flow, the function of these features as wildlife corridors is potentially limited. As noted above, no project related activities will occur within the above-ground drainage features. Implementation of the diversion structure into the box culvert within the West Main Street Canal may result in a reduction in usable CRLF dispersal habitat downstream of the diversion during low-flow conditions due to decreased moisture levels resulting from diversion of low-flow waters. However, any potential change in moisture is not expected to be substantial from that of the already variable water table/flow. Therefore, *impacts would be less than significant.*

e. The City oversees land use planning through implementation of the City's General Plan. Biological resources are specifically addressed in the General Plan Resources Management Element. The proposed project would not conflict with the policies related to the protection of biological resources. In addition, no native trees would be removed as a result of the proposed project. *No impact would occur.*

f. There are no habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans in effect for the project site. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project:

BIO-1 Nesting Bird Survey:
The following measures shall be implemented to avoid and minimize potential impacts to nesting birds:

- If construction occurs during the nesting season (February 15 through August 31), a nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than two weeks prior to the onset of construction activities. The nesting bird survey shall be conducted within any and all suitable habitat that occurs within the project site, within 300 feet of its immediate vicinity for raptors, and 100 feet for all other bird species (as is feasible). If no active nests are found, no further action would be required.
- If active bird nests are found, then an appropriately sized avoidance buffer should be established by the biologist in consultation with the City and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) if appropriate, and all construction work within the buffer should be delayed until after the nesting season has ended or until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged.
- Limits of construction to avoid the nest shall be established in the field with flagging and stakes or construction fencing. Construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. The project proponent shall record the results of the recommended protective measures described above to document compliance with applicable state and federal laws pertaining to protection of native birds.

BIO-2 Preconstruction Survey:
A pre-construction survey for CRLF and western spadefoot shall be conducted of the project site by a qualified biologist two weeks prior to the start of project construction. A report documenting results of the survey shall be provided to the Community Development Director, prior to site disturbance. In the event CRLF is encountered, measures in BIO-4 below shall be implemented.

BIO-3 Construction Practices to Minimize Effects:
The following measures shall be implemented during construction to minimize the potential for inadvertent indirect impacts on sensitive species and/or jurisdictional other waters.

- Access routes, staging, and construction areas shall be limited to the minimum area necessary to achieve the project goal and shall avoid impacts to other waters, including locating access routes and construction areas outside of jurisdictional areas.
- All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles shall occur in a location where a spill would not drain toward aquatic habitat. A plan must be in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills prior to the onset of work activities. All workers shall be informed of the appropriate measures to take should an accidental spill occur.
- To control sedimentation during and after project implementation, appropriate erosion control best management practices (i.e. silt fence, etc.) shall be implemented around the area of disturbance to minimize adverse effects to the adjacent agricultural ditches. No plastic monofilament netting shall be utilized on-site.
- Raw cement, concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances which could be hazardous to aquatic species resulting from project-related activities, shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering jurisdictional areas.
- If construction occurs between November 1 and April 30, the qualified biologist should conduct a pre-activity clearance sweep prior to start of project activities within 48 hours after any rain events of 0.1 inch or greater.
- If trenches are not closed nightly, then adequate means of escape shall be provided (i.e. earthen ramps not more than 2:1 slope, wooden boards, etc.). Trenches shall be inspected daily for wildlife and shall be inspected immediately prior to backfilling.

BIO-4 Procedures for Sensitive Species, if Encountered:
If western spadefoot are detected during the pre-construction survey and/or during construction, all work shall halt until the individual can be moved to a safe location outside the work area to an area with suitable habitat. In the event the pre-construction survey identifies the presence of CRLF, or if individuals of CRLF are encountered during construction, then the applicant shall stop work until the CRLF leave the site of their own accord. If CRLF do not move off site on their own, then the applicant shall contact the USFWS and comply with all relevant requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act and/or California Endangered Species Act.

Plan Requirements and Timing. The applicant shall provide pre-construction survey results in measure BIO-1 and BIO-2 to the satisfaction of the Community Development Director, prior to site disturbance. On-going measures required by BIO-3 shall be accomplished by the applicant during construction. In the event CRLF or any other sensitive species is identified on the project site, the applicant shall coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW and implement measures in BIO-4 described above.

Monitoring. City staff will review any pre-construction survey report, and will perform on-site inspections as necessary during construction. If measures in BIO-4 are necessary, a qualified biologist will monitor activities between the applicant/owner and the USFWS and/or CDFW, as appropriate.

Effectiveness of Mitigation Measures. Potentially significant impacts to CRLF and other sensitive species would be feasibly mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of the above mitigation measures.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?				X
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			X	
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X	

Discussion:

a. The project site does not contain, nor is it located near any historic resources identified in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historic Resources. The project site is not identified on the City's Landmarks Map or on the City's Objects of Historic Merit Map. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project would occur in previously disturbed areas, including within the West Main Street roadbed and flood control channel and the Black Road roadbed as well as areas already disturbed through construction of the access roads, ponds, and other facilities at the WWTP. Furthermore, the cultural records search conducted for the WWTP yielded no known historic resources within 0.25 mile of the WWTP site (City 2006). In addition, the project does not propose removal, relocation, or a substantial change in context to any structures on the project site. *No impact to historical resources would occur.*

b. According to the Resources Management Element of the City's General Plan, the Santa Maria Valley is not a major archaeological resource area as only a few sites have been recorded or discovered in the area. Figure RME-5 of the Resources Management Element delineates High or Moderate, Low, and Negligible Archaeological Sensitivity Areas in the City. The project site is located in Archaeological Sensitivity Area 1 – Negligible Sensitivity (City 2001). In addition, ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project would occur in previously disturbed areas, including within the West Main Street roadbed and flood control channel and the Black Road roadbed as well as areas already disturbed through construction of the access roads, ponds, and other facilities at the WWTP. Furthermore, the cultural records search conducted for the WWTP yielded no known archaeological sites within 0.25 mile of the WWTP site (City 2006). Nonetheless, ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project could potentially uncover previously unknown buried archaeological deposits. Accordingly, a standard discovery clause would be required as a condition of approval for the project. This discovery clause requires that, in the event that unknown archaeological resources are encountered during grading, construction activity would cease until the resource can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and an appropriate plan for preservation of the resource can be developed. With implementation of this standard condition of approval, *potential impacts to archaeological resources would be less than significant.*

c. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project would occur in previously disturbed areas, including within the West Main Street roadbed and flood control channel and the Black Road roadbed as well as areas already disturbed through construction of the access roads, ponds, and other facilities at the WWTP. In addition, grading and excavation for the proposed project would occur at shallow depths. Accordingly, it is unlikely that paleontological resources would be discovered during project construction activities. *Potential impacts to a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature would be less than significant.*

d. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project would occur in previously disturbed areas, including within the West Main Street roadbed and flood control channel and the Black Road roadbed as well as areas already disturbed through construction of the access roads, ponds, and other facilities at the WWTP. Furthermore, the cultural records search conducted for the WWTP yielded no known archaeological sites within 0.25 mile of the WWTP site (City 2006). Although there are no records of human remains found on the project site or historic use as a cemetery, there is potential for discovery and/or disturbance of unknown human remains during excavation and grading activities. In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, California State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 stipulates that no further disturbances shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to CEQA regulations and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. With adherence to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, which stipulates the process to be followed when human remains are encountered, *impacts associated with the disturbance of human remains would be less than significant.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: In the event that findings occur, the following mitigation measures are required to reduce the archaeological and cultural resource impacts of the project to an insignificant level:

CUL 1:

If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area should be halted and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If necessary, the evaluation may require preparation of a treatment plan and archaeological testing for *California Registry of Historical Resources* (CRHR) eligibility. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA and cannot be avoided by the project, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted to mitigate any significant impacts to historical resources.

CUL 2:

If human remains are found during ground-disturbing activities, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner determines origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the *Native American Heritage Commission* (NAHC), which will determine and notify a *Most Likely Descendant* (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site and provide recommendations for treatment to the landowner within 48 hours of being granted access.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			X	
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv. Landslides?				X
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?			X	
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			X	
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?				X

Discussion:

a.i-ii. Figure SE-2 of the City of Santa Maria's General Plan Safety Element indicates that the project site is located approximately 1.7 miles to the west of Santa Maria Fault, at its closest location (City 1995). However, according to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), no zones of required investigation as delineated pursuant to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act exist within 10 miles of the City (DOC 2015). The United States Geologic Survey's (USGS) *Spectral Response Maps and Their Relationship with Seismic Design Forces in Building Codes* (1995) contours the United States into various *zones* relating to specific structural detailing requirements. According to the USGS, the project site resides in Zone 4, which is the highest rating for ground motion probability among the six identified zones (USGS 1995). The City uses the California Building Code (CBC) to establish design requirements for structures to withstand the magnitude of earthquakes that occur in the area.

The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The proposed project would be developed in compliance with all other applicable local, state, and federal building code and construction standards. Given the types of structures and their locations, the proposed project would not 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. *Impacts related to the rupture of a known earthquake fault and seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.*

a.iii. Liquefaction potential is generally low in the City due to the relatively deep groundwater levels that are ordinarily over 70 feet below the ground surface. As shown in Figure SE-2 of the City's General Plan Safety Element, no shallow perched groundwater has been identified in or near the project site (City 1995). *No impact due to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, would occur.*

a.iv. As shown in Figure SE-2 of the City's General Plan Safety Element, no steep slopes or escarpments that could present landslide hazards have been identified in or near the project site (City 1995). *No impact due to landslides would occur.*

b. Erosion is associated with destabilized earth material resulting from grading, excavation, or fill and cut operations before the material is stabilized by covering with structures, paving, or vegetation. The proposed project has a minor potential to increase wind or water erosion of soils during construction, due to the presence of soil piles and exposed trenches; however, control measures would include applicable best management practices (BMPs), as identified in sources including the California Stormwater Quality Association's Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbooks and/or Caltrans' Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual.

   A *Geotechnical Engineering Report* (Earth Systems Pacific 2017; see Appendix A) was prepared to specifically analyze the soils at the proposed bioreactor location. The report concluded that the soils in the bioreactor area are considered to be highly erodible. To help prevent erosion, excavated surfaces would be compacted with heavy equipment before an impermeable liner is inserted. In addition, the liner would be secured in place to minimize erosion of soils. The *Geotechnical Engineering Report* includes other recommendations with regard to site preparation, grading, and drainage and maintenance of the bioreactor that are incorporated as project design features. *Impacts related to potential erosion and sedimentation would be less than significant.*

c. As discussed in responses to Checklist Questions 6.a.iii and 6.a.iv above, the project area is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed project. *No impact related to unstable geologic units or soils would occur.*

d. According to Figure SE-2 of the City's General Plan Safety Element, expansive soils exist in areas near the project site; however, no expansive soils, as identified in Figure SE-2, directly underlie the project site (City 1995). Nonetheless, future development on the site would be required to comply with the most recent CBC and International Building Code standards. Compliance with these standards would not result significant impacts associated with expansive soils. *Impacts related to expansive soils would be less than significant.*

e. The proposed project would not require connection to a septic tank or an alternative wastewater disposal system. Therefore, the project would not result in any impacts related to soils that are incapable of supporting septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X	

In response to an increase in human-made greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations over the past 150 years, California has implemented Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the "California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006." AB 32 codifies the Statewide goal of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (essentially a 15% reduction below 2005 emission levels) and the adoption of regulations to require reporting and verification of statewide GHG emissions. Furthermore, on September 8, 2016, the governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 32 into law, which requires the State to further reduce GHGs to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. SB 32 extends AB 32, directing the CARB to ensure that GHGs are reduced to 40% below the 1990 level by 2030.

SB 32 became effective on January 1, 2017 and requires CARB to develop technologically feasible and cost-effective regulations to achieve the targeted 40% GHG emission reduction by 2030 set in Executive Order (EO) B-30-15. On December 14, 2017, CARB adopted the 2017 Scoping Plan, which provides a framework for achieving the 2030 target. To meet reduction targets, the 2017 Scoping Plan relies on the continuation and expansion of existing policies and regulations, such as the Cap-and-Trade Program, as well as implementation of recently adopted policies and policies. The 2017 Scoping Plan also puts an increased emphasis on innovation, adoption of existing technology, and strategic investment to support its strategies. As with the 2013 Scoping Plan Update, the 2017 Scoping Plan does not provide project-level thresholds for land use development. Instead, it recommends that local governments adopt policies and locally appropriate quantitative thresholds consistent with a statewide per capita goal of 6 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) by 2030 and 2 MT CO_2e by 2050 (CARB 2017). As stated in the 2017 Scoping Plan, these goals are appropriate for plan-level analyses (city, county, sub-regional, or regional level), but not for specific individual projects because they include all emissions sectors in the state.

Pursuant to the requirements of SB 97, the Resources Agency adopted amendments to the *State CEQA Guidelines* for the feasible mitigation of GHG emissions or the effects of GHG emissions in March 2010. These guidelines are used in evaluating the cumulative significance of GHG emissions from the project.

The vast majority of individual projects do not generate sufficient GHG emissions to directly influence climate change. However, physical changes caused by a project can contribute incrementally to cumulative effects that are significant, even if individual changes resulting from a project are limited. The issue of climate change typically involves an analysis of whether a project's contribution towards an impact would be cumulatively considerable. *Cumulatively considerable* means that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064[h][1]).

For future projects, the significance of GHG emissions may be evaluated based on locally adopted quantitative thresholds, or consistency with a regional GHG reduction plan (such as a Climate Action Plan). However, the SBCAPCD has not yet adopted thresholds of significance for GHG emissions from area sources (such as land development projects) that would be applicable to the proposed project. Therefore, the SBCAPCD recommends the use of the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) GHG thresholds for area sources.

In March 2012, SLOAPCD adopted CEQA thresholds for GHG emissions in order to achieve goals outlined in the County's EnergyWise Plan. There are three thresholds that can be used to evaluate the level of significance of GHG emissions impacts for residential and commercial projects. The three thresholds are described below:

- Qualified GHG Reductions Strategies. A project would have a significant impact if it is not consistent with a qualified GHG reduction strategy that meets the requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines. If a project is consistent with a qualified GHG reduction strategy, it would not have a significant impact;
- Bright-Line Threshold. A project would have a significant impact if it exceeds the "bright-line threshold" of 1,150 MT CO_2e per year; or
- Efficiency Threshold. A project would have a significant impact if the efficiency threshold exceeds 4.9 MT CO_2e per service population per year. The service population is defined as the number of residents plus employees for a given project.

Although construction activity is addressed in this analysis, CAPCOA does not discuss whether any of the suggested threshold approaches adequately address impacts from temporary construction activity. As stated in the *CEQA and Climate Change* white paper, "more study is needed to make this assessment or to develop separate thresholds for construction activity" (CAPCOA 2008). Nonetheless, air districts such as the SLOAPCD have recommended amortizing construction-related emissions over a 50-year period in conjunction with the project's operational emissions.

Because climate change is a cumulative impact by nature, the project's emissions contribution would be cumulatively considerable if it were to exceed any APCD-stated threshold. Therefore, a project's contribution to cumulative impacts related to GHG emissions and climate change would be cumulatively considerable if a project's emissions would exceed the SLOAPCD bright-line threshold.

Discussion:

a. Project implementation would generate GHG emissions through the burning of fossil fuels or other emissions of GHGs, thus potentially contributing to cumulative impacts related to climate change. Calculations of carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions are provided to identify the magnitude of potential project effects. The analysis focuses on CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O because these make up 98.9% of all GHG emissions by volume (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2007) and are the GHG emissions that the project would emit in the largest quantities. Fluorinated gases, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6), were also considered for the analysis. However, the quantity of fluorinated gases produced by the proposed project would not be significant since fluorinated gases are primarily associated with industrial processes. Emissions of all GHGs are converted into their global warming potential (GWP) in terms of CO_2e. Minimal amounts of other GHGs (such as chlorofluorocarbons [CFCs]) would be emitted; however, these other GHG emissions would not substantially add to the total calculated CO_2e amounts. Calculations are based on the methodologies discussed in the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) *CEQA and Climate Change* white paper (CAPCOA 2008) and included the use of the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) General Reporting Protocol (CCAR 2009).

   Construction of the proposed project would generate temporary GHG emissions primarily as a result of operation of construction equipment onsite, as well as the use of heavy trucks to export earth materials offsite and import woodchips for the bioreactor. Site preparation and grading typically generate the greatest amount of emissions due to the use of grading equipment and soil hauling. CalEEMod Version 2016.3.1 (see Appendix B for calculations) provides an estimate of emissions associated with construction of the project, based on parameters such as the duration of construction activity, area of disturbance, and anticipated equipment used during construction. Although construction of the project would take place over a four- to six-month period beginning in September 2018, average GHG emissions per year is the standard measurement for CO_2e. As shown in Table 4, construction of the proposed project is estimated to generate approximately 1,025 MT CO_2e. With proper operation and maintenance, woodchip bioreactors are expected to have an estimated useful service life of up to 39 years (Gold, et al. 2013). Therefore, amortized over the project's anticipated lifetime of 39 years, construction of the project would generate approximately 35 MT CO_2e per year.

Table 4 Estimated Construction GHG Emissions

Year	Project Emissions (MT CO_2e/yr)
2018	1,024.57
2019	348.00
Project Total	1,372.57
Total Amortized over 50 Years	35.19

See Appendix B for CalEEMod worksheets.

   Emissions associated with area sources were calculated in CalEEMod and utilize standard emission rates from the CARB, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and emission factor values provided by the local air district (CAPCOA 2017). Table 5 shows the project's combined operational and annualized construction GHG emissions. As shown in the table, the proposed project's CO_2e emissions are primarily generated by construction activities.

Table 5 Combined Annual GHG Emissions

Emission Source	Annual Emissions (MT CO_2e)
Construction	35.19
Operational	
Area	<0.01
Energy	0.00
Solid Waste	0.00
Water	0.00
Mobile	
CO_2 and CH_4	0.00
N_2O	0.00
Total	**35.19**

See Appendix B for CalEEMod worksheets and N_2O calculations.

As shown above in Table 5, the project would generate approximately 35 MT CO_2e per year, including mobile sources and construction emissions amortized over the 39-year lifetime of the project. As such, the project would not generate GHG emissions in exceedance of the SLOAPCD bright-line threshold for area sources of 1,150 MT CO_2e per year. It is noted that construction and operation of the potential new groundwater well were not included in the GHG emissions calculated in Table 4 and Table 5; however, construction of the well would not result in emission levels that would increase the overall project GHG emissions beyond the significance threshold for GH emissions. Impacts related to the project's GHG emissions would be less than significant.

b. The City does not have an adopted GHG reduction strategy or Climate Action Plan. However, the proposed project would not conflict with the strategies included in regional GHG reduction plans such as the County's *Energy and Climate Action Plan* (ECAP).

In addition, the proposed project would be required to comply with existing state regulations, which include increased energy conservation measures and other actions adopted to achieve the overall GHG emissions reduction goals identified in AB 32 and SB 32. Moreover, the proposed project would be consistent with the applicable land use and zoning designations, would not exceed the SLOAPCD bright-line GHG threshold, and would not conflict with any state regulations intended to reduce statewide GHG emissions. There is no locally adopted GHG reduction plan to reduce emissions from new development; therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with applicable plans and programs designed to reduce GHG emissions. *This impact would be less than significant.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the Project: None required.

8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
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?			X	
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
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?				X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
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?				X

Discussion:

a-b In the City, the use and storage of hazardous materials is primarily regulated by the Uniform Fire Code. Transport of hazardous materials and waste on public streets is primarily regulated by the California Vehicle Code and the City's Municipal Code. Storage and disposal of hazardous wastes is primarily regulated by the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) through their Hazardous Waste Generator Program as authorized by the State Health and Safety Code. Any business that stores hazardous materials in accordance with Article 80 of the Uniform Fire Code must provide either a hazardous materials inventory statement (HMIS) or a hazardous materials management plan (HMMP) to the Fire Chief of the City and the County. In addition, the City Fire Department and the County EHS require a Business Plan in accordance with state regulations for businesses that store and use hazardous waste (City 1995).

The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The construction and operation of the proposed project may involve use, transport, and disposal of limited amounts of hazardous materials. However, the project would be required to comply with all applicable local and state health and safety regulations and procedural requirements. Additionally, there are no foreseeable accident conditions that would result in a significant impact due to the release of hazardous materials into the environment. *Potential impacts associated with the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would be less than significant.*

c. The nearest school to the project site is Bonita Elementary School, located at 2715 West Main Street. Bonita Elementary School is located approximately 0.6 mile northwest of the project site; thus, the proposed project would not emit hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of a school. *No impact would occur.*

d. According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List), the project site is not located on or nearby any hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (DTSC 2018). Therefore, the proposed project would not result in any hazard to the public or the environment associated with identified hazardous materials sites. *No impact would occur.*

e. The project site is located approximately three miles northwest of the Santa Maria Public Airport at its nearest location on the WWTP property, within the extended runway centerline of Runway 12. However, the project site is located just outside of the identified Airport Influence Areas for the airport (Santa Barbara County Airport Land Use Commission 2012a). Additionally, the proposed project's components would be below, at, or slightly above grade, and would not present a hazard to overhead aircraft. *No impact would occur.*

f. The closest private airstrip or heliport to the project site is a heliport at the Marian Medical Center, located at 1400 East Church Street. This heliport is not in the vicinity of the project site as it is approximately 2.7 miles to the east. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of a private airstrip. *No impact would occur.*

g. The proposed project would not include any components or physical features that would impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emerge evacuation plan. All access and circulation routes would be in compliance with local and state safety regulations. In addition, as stated in the Project Description, if project construction limits traffic to one lane, traffic would be flagged around the work area. Access would be maintained to driveways along the proposed pipeline corridor. Traffic would not be affected after project construction is complete. *No impact would occur.*

h. The project site is not adjacent to a wildland area or characterized as residential uses intermixed with wildland areas. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
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 of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
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 which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X	
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X

Discussion:

a. Urban runoff can have a variety of deleterious effects. Oil and grease coming from the Main Street Subwatershed stormwater collection system contain a number of hydrocarbon compounds, some of which are toxic to aquatic organisms at low concentrations. Heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and copper are the most common metals found in urban stormwater runoff. These metals can be toxic to aquatic organisms, and have the potential to contaminate drinking water supplies. Nutrients from fertilizers, including nitrogen and phosphorous, can result in excessive or accelerated growth of vegetation or algae, resulting in oxygen depletion and additional impaired uses of water.

The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The proposed project is intended to improve water quality and water supply reliability. Treated water from the proposed bioreactor would be discharged into an existing percolation pond at the WWTP, where the water would be allowed to percolate into the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. The WWTP is under the regulatory jurisdiction of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Central Coast Region. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin* (RWQCB 2011) outlines specific water quality objectives for the groundwater underlying the region. The proposed project would comply with the requirements and regulations set forth by the RWQCB.

Potential water quality impacts associated with the proposed project would be limited to short-term construction-related erosion/sedimentation. Grading and construction activities associated with the project would be required to comply with the adopted standards contained within the City's Municipal Code, Section 8-12A (Stormwater). Through conformance with RWQCB National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit conditions and implementation of adopted City and County standards, *potential water quality impacts would be less than significant. Operational water quality impacts would be beneficial.*

b. The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The project could also potentially include a new groundwater well to supplement water supplied to the bioreactor by collected urban stormwater runoff and the existing non-potable well at the WWTP. Groundwater from the new well (if required) would be used in the bioreactor, and then reinjected back into the groundwater basin underlaying the WWTP. Accordingly, the project would not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. In fact, the proposed project is intended to improve water quality and water supply reliability by recharging the underlaying groundwater basin. *No impact would occur.*

c-d The construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond, would not affect local drainage patterns. No rivers or streams would be altered, and the project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation. The project would not increase the rate of volume of surface runoff from the project area, primarily because the project would not create new impervious surfaces. The proposed project would include installation of a diversion structure in the Canal; however, the project would implement construction BMPs to minimize erosion and runoff. *Impacts would be less than significant.*

e. As stated in response to Checklist Question 8.d above, the proposed project would not significantly increase the local surface runoff volumes. *Impacts would be less than significant.*

f. No potential water quality impacts other than those described above in this section are anticipated. *No impact would occur.*

g-h As shown in Figure SE-3 of the City's General Plan Safety Element, the project site is located outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplains (City 1995). In addition, the proposed project would not involve construction of residential units. *No impact would occur.*

i. According to the City's General Plan Safety Element, Twitchell Dam is the closest potential source of dam inundation in the Santa Maria area (City 1995). However, Twitchell Dam is not used for perennial water storage. The dam is primarily used for groundwater recharge and flood control. If Twitchell Dam were filled to capacity and the dam and Santa Maria Levee fail, a significant portion of the City would be inundated by flood water. Nonetheless, the proposed project would not cause people or structures to be located in an inundation risk area and would not expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. *No impact would occur.*

j. The project site is approximately 8.7 miles from the Pacific Ocean and between 150 and 190 feet above mean sea level. In addition, according to Figure SE-2 of the City's General Plan Safety Element, there are no steep slopes within the project area (City 1995). Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to an inundation risk area for seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

10. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?				X
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?				X
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

Discussion:

a. The project site is surrounded by active agricultural fields, a WWTP, and roadways, and is not in the vicinity of planned or existing residential or commercial land uses. In addition, the proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The project would not physically divide an established community. Specifically, construction and operation of the project would not result in physical barriers or road closures that would divide or prohibit access to the surrounding community. *No impact would occur.*

b. The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. Land use designations from the City and County General Plans within and immediately adjacent to the project site include Community Facilities (CF) in the City and Agricultural II (minimum lot size of 40 acres) (A-II-

40) in the County. These land use designations do not preclude utility lines/facilities. Zoning designations adjacent to or traversed by the proposed project include Public Facilities (PF) in the City and Service Commercial (C-S) in the County. Neither of these zones preclude public utilities corridors. The proposed project would therefore not conflict with zoning or general plan land use designations. *No impact would occur.*

c. There are no adopted habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans in effect on the project site or its vicinity. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

11. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X	
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?			X	

Discussion:

a-b. According to the City's General Plan Resources Management Element, the project site is not located on any area identified as Areas of Operational, Existing, or Abandoned Oil Facilities (City 2001). However, Figure RME-4 in the City's General Plan Resources Management Element identifies the project site as located within Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2) (City 2001). MRZ-2 denotes areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists. The project site is within the City-owned WWTP and City, County, and Caltrans easements or rights-of-way. Additionally, construction and operation of the proposed project would not preclude future opportunities to extract mineral resources from the project site. As a result, the proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a valuable known mineral resource or locally important mineral resource recovery site. *Impacts would be less than significant.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

12. NOISE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?		X		
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X		
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X	
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 levels?				X

Community noise levels are typically measured in terms of A-weighted decibels (dBA). A-weighting is a frequency correction that correlates overall sound pressure levels with the frequency response of the human ear. Equivalent noise level (Leq) is the average noise level on an energy basis for a specific time period. The duration of noise and the time of day at which it occurs are important factors in determining the impact of noise on communities. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and Day-Night Average Level (Ldn) account for the time of day and duration of noise generation. These indices are time-weighted average values equal to the amount of acoustic energy equivalent to a time-varying sound over a 24-hour period.

The City General Plan Noise Element includes noise compatibility standards for noise exposure by land use. These include interior and exterior noise standards as shown in Table 6.

Table 6 City of Santa Maria Interior and Exterior Noise Standards

Land Use Category		Standard dB CNEL	
Category	**Uses**	**Interior**	**Exterior**
Residential	Single Family, Duplex, Multiple Family, Mobile Home	45	60
Noise-Sensitive Land Uses	Motel, Hospital, School, Nursing Home, Church, Library, and Other	45	60
Commercial	Retail, Restaurant, Professional Offices	55	65
Industrial	Manufacturing, Utilities, Warehousing, Agriculture	65	70
Open Space	Passive Outdoor Recreation	—	65

Source: City 2009 (Noise Element of the Santa Maria General Plan, Table N-4)

Discussion:

a-d The project site is located in an active agricultural area with one nearby residence and the City-owned WWTP. The closest sensitive receptor to the project site is a single-family residence located immediately northeast of the entrance to the WWTP, along Black Road. No other sensitive receptors such as schools, healthcare facilities, or daycare centers exist or are planned in the area. Construction of the proposed project may generate noise associated with construction equipment and vehicle use; however, construction would be temporary and within typical daytime construction hours. Operation of the proposed project would generate a nominal increase in ambient noise levels associated with occasional trips to the project for maintenance purposes.

Construction of the project would involve site preparation, grading, and, paving. These activities typically involve the use of heavy equipment such as graders, tractors, dozers, and pavers. As noted by the Federal Transit Administration, noise levels associated with this type of equipment typically range from 80 to 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet (Federal Transit Administration 2006). The closest sensitive receptor to the project site would be the residence near the entrance of the WWTP. The residence would be approximately 200 feet from construction activities associated with the new bioreactor and approximately 25 feet (at its closest location) from construction activities associated with the installation of new pipeline. Table 7 displays the modeled construction noise associated with these two construction activities by construction phase.

Table 7 Anticipated Construction Noise Levels

	Bioreactor (200 feet)		Pipeline (25 feet)	
Construction Phase	**Leq**	**Lmax**	**Leq**	**Lmax**
Site Preparation	71.1	73.0	-	-
Grading	71.1	73.0	90.2	95.6
Paving	-	-	86.8	86.0
Peak Noise Level	**71.1**	**73.0**	**90.2**	**95.6**

See Noise Data Sheets in Appendix D.

As shown in Table 7, construction activities would result in noise levels in exceedance of the City's exterior noise standard of 60 dB CNEL for residences. However, construction noise would be temporary and periodic, and the installation of the new piping would be linear in nature. Therefore, the construction noise levels included in Table 7 for the proposed pipeline is a worst-case scenario since it would only be within 25 feet of the residence during a relatively short amount of time (not the entire four- to six-month construction timeframe. Nonetheless, although construction activities would be limited to daytime hours and would comply with all City rules and regulations, mitigation is required to reduce noise impacts to a less than significant level. *Construction noise impacts of the project would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.*

b. Groundborne vibration or noise levels are typically associated with the development of large, multi-story buildings that require the use of high-impact pile driving and other vibration-generating construction techniques. Pile driving would not be required for the construction of the project. *Groundborne vibration impacts would be less than significant.*

c. As stated above in response to Checklist Question 12.a above, operation of the proposed project would generate a nominal increase in ambient noise levels associated with occasional trips to the project for maintenance purposes. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in permanent increases in noise that would result in exposure of persons to excessive noise levels. *Impacts would be less than significant.*

e. The project site is located approximately THREE miles northwest of the Santa Maria Public Airport at its nearest location on the WWTP property, within the extended runway centerline of Runway 12. However, the project site is located just outside of the identified noise contours associated with the airport (Santa Barbara County Airport Land Use Commission 2012b). Therefore, workers at the project site would not be subject to excessive noise levels from the airport. *This impact would be less than significant.*

f. The closest private airstrip or heliport to the project site is a heliport at the Marian Medical Center, located at 1400 East Church Street, which is approximately 2.7 miles to the east. Therefore, workers at the project site would not be subject to excessive noise levels from the heliport. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: The following mitigation measure is required to reduce construction noise impacts:

N-1 *Construction Noise Limitations:*

Typical field techniques for reducing noise from construction activities shall be implemented to reduce construction noise levels when construction equipment is within 800 feet of noise-sensitive receptors:

- To the extent practical and unless safety provisions require otherwise, adjust all audible back-up alarms downward in sound level, reflecting locations that have expected lower background level, while still maintaining adequate signal-to-noise ratio for alarm effectiveness and complying with applicable OSHA safety requirements. Where feasible, use signal persons and strobe lights, or alternative safety equipment and/or processes consistent with OSHA safety requirements, for reducing reliance on high-amplitude sonic alarms.
- Place stationary noise sources, such as generators and air compressors, on the project site away from affected noise-sensitive receptors. Place non-noise-producing mobile equipment such as trailers in the direct sound pathways between suspected major noise-producing sources and sensitive receptors.

- Pneumatic impact tools and equipment used at the construction site shall have intake and exhaust mufflers recommended by the manufacturers thereof, to meet relevant noise limitations.
- Line or cover hoppers, storage bins, and chutes with sound deadening material (e.g., apply wood or rubber liners to metal bin impact surfaces).
- Provide upgraded mufflers, acoustical lining, or acoustical paneling for other noisy equipment, including internal combustion engines.
- Use alternative procedures of construction and select a combination of techniques that generate the least overall noise and vibration.
- Use construction equipment manufacturers or modified to reduce noise and vibration emissions, such as:
  - Electric instead of diesel-powered equipment,
  - Hydraulic tools instead of pneumatic tools, or
  - Electric saws instead of air- or gasoline-driven saws.

Effectiveness of Mitigation Measure(s). Potentially significant impacts associated with construction noise would be mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of the above measures.

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. 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 and other infrastructure)?				X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

Discussion:

a. The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The project is intended to improve water quality and water supply reliability. The project does not include any residential component. Furthermore, the proposed project would not include the development of new or the extension of existing utilities that could remove obstacles for growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth in the area. *No impact would occur.*

b-c The project site is located in an area surrounded by active agricultural land. No residential development is planned within or in the general vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not displace any people or existing or planned housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

14. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i. Fire protection?				X
ii. Police protection?				X
iii. Schools?				X
iv. Parks?				X
v. Other public facilities?				X

Discussion:

a,i-v. The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The project would not increase the population in the City or County and would not introduce new commercial or industrial uses that would require a substantial increase in existing public services, including fire and police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities, that currently service the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the need for new or expanded public facilities that could result in environmental impacts. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

15. RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				X
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?				X

Discussion:

a-b The proposed project would not result in an increase to the City or County populations. Accordingly, the project would not result in an increased use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities. The proposed project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures 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 component of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			X	
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?			X	
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?				X

d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?				X
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				X

Discussion:

a-b Because the WWTP is an existing facility in operation and the proposed project would not substantially alter the capacity or operation of the WWTP, the project would only introduce a relatively minor, temporary increase in vehicle trips during operation for standard maintenance activities. Similarly, while construction activities would likely generate a small number of trips associated with construction equipment and work vehicles, these trips would be limited to the construction period, and would not be considered substantial in relation to the existing traffic in the project vicinity. As stated in the *Project Description* above, a Traffic Management Plan would be implemented during construction of the project. During construction, access along some portions of affected roadways may be limited. If project construction limits traffic to one lane, traffic would be flagged around the work area. Access would be maintained to driveways along affected roadways. Therefore, the proposed project would not introduce added vehicle trips that would conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. *Impacts to traffic and circulation would be less than significant.*

c. The project site is located approximately 3 miles northwest of the Santa Maria Public Airport at its nearest location on the WWTP property, within the extended runway centerline of Runway 12. However, the project site is located just outside of the identified Airport Influence Areas for the airport (Santa Barbara County Airport Land Use Commission 2012a). Additionally, the proposed project's components would be below, at, or slightly above grade, and would not result in a change in air traffic patterns or air traffic levels. *No impact would occur.*

d. The proposed project would not include any design features that would increase traffic hazards such as dangerous intersections or the introduction of incompatible uses. *No impact would occur.*

e. During construction of the proposed project, access along West Main Street and Black Road may be limited. Implementation of the Traffic Management Plan would include measures (such as flagging) that would divert traffic to an appropriate route during an emergency. Therefore, the project would not result in inadequate emergency access. *Impacts would be less than significant.*

f. The proposed project would not include design features that would conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. *No impact would occur.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

17. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 establishes that "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.2). It further states that the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter the significant characteristics of a tribal cultural resource, when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3).

PRC Sections 21074(a)(1)(A) and (B) define tribal cultural resources as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe" and is:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k), or
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. In applying these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

   AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding those resources. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified. Under AB 52, lead agencies are required to "begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project." Native American tribes to be included in the process are those that have requested notice of projects proposed within the jurisdiction of the lead agency.

On March 27, 2018, pursuant to AB 52, the City initiated the required government-to-government consultation with the Santa Ynez Tribal Elders Council representative, Freddie Romero. The City did not receive any response from the Santa Ynez Tribal Elders Council as of April 27, 2018 (30 days from notification). Therefore, the City has met their consultation obligations under AB 52 and the consultation period is now closed. No further actions under AB 52 are required by the City.

Discussion:

a-b No tribal cultural resources were identified within the project site as a result of AB 52 consultation for the project. In addition, ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project would occur in previously disturbed areas, including within the West Main Street roadbed and flood control channel and the Black Road roadbed as well as areas already disturbed through construction of the access roads, ponds, and other facilities at the WWTP. Furthermore, the cultural records search conducted for the WWTP yielded no known archaeological sites within 0.25 mile of the WWTP site (City 2006). Nonetheless, ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project could potentially uncover previously unknown buried archaeological deposits, including tribal cultural resources. As discussed in Section 5.b. above, a standard discovery clause would be required as a condition of approval for the project. With implementation of this standard condition of approval, *potential impacts to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant*.

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Coast Region of the Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
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?				X
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
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?				X

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			X	
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X	

Discussion:

a. Because the project would not involve the construction of facilities that would generate sewage, the proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of any wastewater facilities or exceed applicable wastewater treatment requirements. *No impact would occur.*

b. The proposed project would provide the City with improved service capabilities and reliability. It would not, however, require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. *No impact would occur.*

c. The proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of stormwater drainage facilities. *No impact would occur.*

d. The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a below-grade diversion structure, bioreactor at an existing WWTP, and 0.47 mile of pipeline, as well as the reuse of existing below-grade sewer main and percolation pond. The proposed project is intended to improve water quality and water supply reliability. The project would not require new or expanded entitlements for water service. *No impact would occur.*

e. The proposed project would not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities beyond what is discussed and included throughout this Initial Study. *No impact would occur.*

f-g. Solid waste generation during project construction would be short-term and minimal. Construction debris (e.g., asphalt) would be recycled if feasible. Excess soil would be hauled from the project site and disposed of at locations approved for such use. Operation of the project would not generate any solid waste or affect landfill capacities. Additionally, the project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. *Impacts related to landfills would be less than significant.*

Mitigation Measure(s) incorporated into the project: None required.

CONSULTATION AND DATA SOURCES

CONSULTATION SOURCES

City Departments Consulted

	Administrative Services
	Attorney
	Fire
	Library
	City Manager
	Police
	Public Works
X	Utilities
	Recreation and Parks

County Agencies/Departments Consulted

	Air Pollution Control District
	Association of Governments
	Flood Control District
	Environmental Health
	Fire (Hazardous Materials)
	LAFCO
	Public Works
	Planning and Development
	Other (list)

Special Districts Consulted

	Santa Maria Public Airport
	Airport Land Use Commission
	Cemetery
	Santa-Maria Bonita School District
	Santa Maria Joint Union High School
	Laguna County Sanitation District
	Cal Cities Water Company

State/Federal Agencies Consulted

	Army Corps of Engineers
	Caltrans
	CA Fish and Wildlife
	Federal Fish and Wildlife
	FAA
	Regional Water Quality Control Bd.
	Integrated Waste Management Bd.
	Other (list)

DATA SOURCES

General Plan

X	Land Use Element
X	Circulation Element
X	Safety Element
X	Noise Element
	Housing Element
X	Resources Management Element

Other

X	Agricultural Preserve Maps
X	Archaeological Maps/Reports
	Architectural Elevations
	Biology Reports
	CA Oil and Gas Maps
X	FEMA Maps (Flood)
	Grading Plans
X	Site Plan
	Topographic Maps
X	Aerial Photos
	Traffic Studies
	Trip Generation Manual (ITE)
X	URBEMIS Air Quality Model
X	Zoning Maps
X	Other (see next page)

REFERENCES

Bulger, John, B., Norman J. Scott Jr., and Richard B. Seymour. 2003. *Terrestrial Activity and Conservation of Adult California Red-legged Frogs Rana aurora draytonii in Coastal Forest and Grasslands.* Biological Conservation 110: 85-95.

California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA). 2008. *CEQA & Climate Change: Evaluating and Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Projects Subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.* January. Available at: http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2010/05/CAPCOA-White-Paper.pdf.

______. 2017. *California Emissions Estimator Model User's Guide.* October. Available at: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/caleemod/user's-guide---october-2017.pdf?sfvrsn=6.

California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2016. *Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards: Ozone.* June. Available at: https://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/2016/state_o3.pdf.

______. 2015. *Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards: PM_{10}.* December. Available at: https://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/2015/state_pm10.pdf.

______. 2017. *California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan.* December 14. Available at: https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scoping_plan_2017.pdf.

California Climate Action Registry (CCAR). 2009. *California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol: Reporting Entity-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Version 3.1.* January. Available at: https://sfenvironment.org/sites/default/files/fliers/files/ccar_grp_3-1_january2009_sfe-web.pdf.

California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2018. *Santa Barbara County Important Farmland 2016.* January. Available at: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2016/sba16.pdf.

______. 2015. Santa Barbara County Williamson Act FY 2015-2016. Available at: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/Santa_Barbara_15_16_WA.pdf.

______. 2015. *CGS Information Warehouse: Regulatory Maps.* Accessed February 13, 2018. Available at: http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=regulatorymaps.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2010. *List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations.* Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, Sacramento, CA. April 2018.

______. 2018. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), Rarefind 5 (online). Commercial Version.

California Native Plant Society. 2018. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Online Edition, v8-03. Available at www.rareplants.cnps.org.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2018. *EnviroStor.* Accessed February 13, 2018. Available at: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=santa+maria.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2018. California Scenic Highway Mapping System: Santa Barbara County. Accessed February 12, 2018. Available at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/.

Earth Systems Pacific. 2017. *Geotechnical Engineering Report Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant Denitrification Bioreactor, Santa Maria, California.* December 20.

Federal Transit Administration. 2006. *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment.* May.

Gold, A., Addy, K., David, M., Schipper, L., and Needelman, B. 2013. *Artificial Sinks: Opportunities and Challenges for Managing Offsite Nitrogen Losses*. August. Available at: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1936-704X.2013.03147.x/full.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). 2007. *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis, Working Group I Contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg1/ar4_wg1_full_report.pdf.

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Central Coast Region. 2011. *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin*. June. Available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/docs/basin_plan_2011.pdf.

Santa Barbara, County of (County). 2009a. *Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Open Space Element*. Adopted 1979, republished May 2009. Available at: http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/programs/genplanreformat/PDFdocs/OpenSpace.pdf.

_____. 2009b. *Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Scenic Highways Element*. Adopted 1975, republished May 2009. Available at: http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/programs/genplanreformat/PDFdocs/ScenicHwys.pdf.

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD). 2016. *2016 Ozone Plan*. October. Available at: https://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-2016-Ozone-Plan-Approved-October-20-2016.pdf.

Santa Barbara County Airport Land Use Commission. 2012a. Exhibit III-5, *Airport Influence Area: Santa Maria Public Airport*, of the *Santa Barbara County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*. June 14. Available at: http://www.sbcag.org/uploads/2/4/5/4/24540302/iii-5_smx_aia_061412.pdf.

_____. 2012b. Exhibit III-1, *Noise Compatibility Policy Map: Santa Maria Public Airport*, of the *Santa Barbara County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*. April 30. Available at: http://www.sbcag.org/uploads/2/4/5/4/24540302/noise_compatibility_policy_map_smx.pdf.

Santa Maria, City of (City). 2009. *City of Santa Maria General Plan, Noise Element*. Adopted December 16, 1997 and amended April 15, 2009. Available at: https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/home/showdocument?id=596.

_____. 2008. *Santa Maria Area Zoning Map – Urban Areas*. September 25. Available at: http://sbcountyplanning.org/PDF/maps/LUDC%20(and%20Article%20III%20Zoning%20Maps)/LUDC_SantaMariaArea.pdf.

_____. 2006. *Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Final Environmental Impact Report*. https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/home/showdocument?id=6881.

_____. 2005. *Zoning Map for the City of Santa Maria*. https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/home/showdocument?id=6625.

_____. 2001. *City of Santa Maria General Plan, Resources Management Element*. Adopted May 7, 1996 and amended January 16, 2001. Available at: https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/home/showdocument?id=598.

_____. 1995. *City of Santa Maria General Plan, Safety Element*. November 21. Available at: https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/home/showdocument?id=612.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 2010. *California Tiger Salamander Habitat Map.*

______. 2015. *Draft recovery plan for the Santa Barbara County Distinct Population Segment of the California tiger salamander (Ambystoma californiense).* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Ventura, California. vi + 76 pp.

______. 2018a. Information for Planning and Consultation System. Accessed March 2018. Available at: http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/

______. 2018b. Critical Habitat Portal. Accessed March 2018. Available at: http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov.

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). 2018. Web Soil Survey – Santa Barbara County, California (Northern Santa Barbara Area). Accessed March 2018. Available at: https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx.

United States Geologic Survey (USGS). 1995. *USGS Spectral Response Maps and Their Relationship with Seismic Design Forces in Building Codes.* https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1995/0596/report.pdf.

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?		X		
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				X
c. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

Discussion:

a. The project may result in impacts to special status wildlife. However, potentially significant impacts to such resources would be feasibly mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-4. Therefore, the project would not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. In addition, the project would not eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory. *Impacts to biological resources would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.*

b. The proposed project could potentially result in impacts to significant noise impacts to the single-family residence along Black Road, located immediately northeast of the entrance to the WWTP, during construction of the pipeline in Black Road. However, with implementation of Mitigation Measure N-1, potential noise impacts to the residence with be less than significant. There are no other projects proposed in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not incrementally contribute to cumulative impacts, as there are none. *No cumulative impact would occur.*

c. The project would not consist of any uses or activities that would negatively affect any persons in the vicinity. In addition, all resource topics associated with the project have been analyzed in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines and found to pose no impact, less than significant impact, or less than significant impact with mitigation. Consequently, the project would not result in any environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings directly or indirectly. *No impact would occur.*

SUMMARY OF POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

	Aesthetics/Visual Resources		Mineral Resources
	Agricultural and Forestry Resources	X	Noise
	Air Quality		Population and Housing
X	Biological Resources		Public Services
	Cultural Resources		Recreation
	Geology and Soils		Transportation/Traffic
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Tribal Cultural Resources
	Hazards and Hazardous Materials		Utilities and Service Systems
	Land Use and Planning	X	Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION

On the basis of the Initial Study, the staff of the Community Development Department:

____ Finds that the proposed project is a Class ___ **CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION** and no further environmental review is required.

____ Finds that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

_X_ Finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

____ Finds that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.

____ Finds 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 acceptable standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on the attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)/SUBSEQUENT EIR/SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/ADDENDUM** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

____ Finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to acceptable 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.

Ivana Yeung **Associate Planner**	**Chuen Ng** **Environmental Officer**
10/23/18 **Date**	10/23/18 **Date**

City of Santa Maria
Community Development Department
110 South Pine Street, #101
Santa Maria, CA 93458
805-925-0951