

**Findings of Fact for the Supplemental Program Environmental
Impact Report for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities
Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan
SCH # 2003021052**

Prepared for the:



San Diego County Water Authority

4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, California 92123

Prepared by:



Carlsbad, California

and

DUDEK
Encinitas, California

MARCH 2014

**Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the
2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and
Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Purpose.....	1
1.2 Organization/Format.....	3
1.3 Summary of Project Description.....	3
1.4 Project Objectives.....	5
1.5 Environmental Review Process.....	5
2.0 FINDINGS OF FACT.....	7
2.1 Findings of No Significant Effects Related to the Climate Action Plan.....	7
2.2 Findings on Significant Unavoidable Effects.....	7
2.3 Findings on Significant but Mitigated Effects.....	7
2.3.1 Aesthetics.....	7
2.3.2 Agricultural Resources.....	10
2.3.3 Air Quality.....	11
2.3.4 Biological Resources.....	13
2.3.5 Cultural Resources.....	17
2.3.6 Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources.....	19
2.3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	23
2.3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality.....	26
2.3.9 Land Use and Planning.....	29
2.3.10 Noise.....	32
2.3.11 Recreation.....	35
2.3.12 Transportation and Traffic.....	37
2.3.13 Utilities and Public Services.....	40
2.4 Findings on Less than Significant Effects.....	41
2.4.1 Agricultural Resources.....	41
2.4.2 Air Quality.....	43
2.4.3 Biological Resources.....	44
2.4.4 Cultural Resources.....	46
2.4.5 Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources.....	46
2.4.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	47
2.4.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	47
2.4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality.....	48
2.4.9 Land Use and Planning.....	50

**Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the
2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and
Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan**

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
2.4.10 Recreation	50
2.4.11 Transportation and Traffic	51
2.4.12 Utilities and Public Services	52
3.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES	53
3.1 Findings of Alternatives.....	53
4.0 REFERENCES.....	55

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This statement of findings addresses the environmental effects associated with the Proposed Project modifications described in the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update (2013 Master Plan Update, Water Authority 2013a) and the Climate Action Plan (CAP, Water Authority 2013b) that are described in the Supplemental Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR). This statement is made pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code Sections 21081 and 21081.6, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.), Sections 15091 and 15093.

A Program Environmental Impact Report on the Master Plan was certified in 2003 (2003 Master Plan PEIR, Water Authority 2003a, 2003b). The 2003 Master Plan PEIR examined the full range of potential effects of construction and operation of these facilities, and identified standard mitigation practices that could be employed to reduce, minimize, or avoid those potential effects in future project-specific CEQA documents that tiered off the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. The 2003 Master Plan has now been updated, with an emphasis on maximizing efficient use of the existing water system, and is therefore referred to as the *2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update* (2013 Master Plan Update).

Based upon the outcome of the 2013 Master Plan Update analyses and an Initial Study (prepared in June 2013, see Appendix B to the SPEIR) to assess the full range of potential environmental effects associated with the 2013 Master Plan Update and CAP, the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) has determined that a supplement to the previous 2003 PEIR (an SPEIR) is adequate to satisfy the requirements of CEQA for programmatic-level review. Based upon the original 2003 Master Plan PEIR, the current program-level environmental review is intended to supplement the definition of existing baseline conditions, update the list and status (e.g., built, no longer needed, or modified) of each of the projects included in the 2003 Master Plan and its 2003 PEIR, update the thresholds of significance based on changes to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G since 2003, identify the range of potential effects for the Proposed Project modifications and CAP, and update and/or supplement the mitigation measures that could be recommended to address any potential new or different effects.

It is anticipated that additional project-specific environmental review will be conducted for individual projects as they are proposed for implementation in the future. For the five additional Proposed Project modifications added by the current 2013 Master Plan Update, it is expected that

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

the project-specific environmental review will tier from this SPEIR for identification of effects and mitigation measures to the extent applicable.

As an additional planning element related to the 2013 Master Plan Update process, the Water Authority has also prepared a CAP and related analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The CAP is intended to comply with CEQA requirements for tiering and streamlining the analysis of GHG emissions (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15183.5).

Public Resources Code Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 require that the lead agency, in this case the Water Authority, prepare written findings for identified significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding. Specifically, CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 states, in part, that:

(a) No public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding. The possible findings are:

- (1) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects as identified in the final EIR.
- (2) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
- (3) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR.

In accordance with Public Resource Code Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, whenever significant effects cannot be mitigated to below a level of significance, the decision-making agency is required to balance, as applicable, the benefits of the project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. If the benefits of a project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse effects may be considered “acceptable,” in which case the lead agency must adopt a formal statement of overriding considerations.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

The Final SPEIR identified potentially significant effects that could result from the 2013 Master Plan Update Proposed Project modifications. The CAP was found to have no potentially significant adverse effects, and therefore has no mitigation requirements. The Water Authority finds that the inclusion of certain mitigation measures as part of the approval of the Proposed Project modifications will reduce all of those effects to less than significant levels. As required by CEQA, the Water Authority, in adopting these findings, also adopts a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Proposed Project modifications. The Water Authority finds that the MMRP, which is incorporated by reference and made a part of these findings, meets the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 by providing for the implementation and monitoring of measures intended to mitigate potentially significant effects of the Proposed Project modifications. In accordance with the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines, the Water Authority adopts these findings as part of its certification of the Final SPEIR for the Proposed Project modifications and CAP. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21082.1, subdivision (c)(3), the Water Authority also finds that the Final SPEIR reflects the Water Authority's independent judgment as the lead agency for the Proposed Project modifications and CAP.

1.2 Organization/Format

Section 1 contains a description of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP and background relative to the environmental review process. Section 2.1 explains that there are no significant environmental effects related to the CAP and Section 2.2 explains that there are no significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project modifications that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level. Section 2.3 identifies the potentially significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project modifications that will be mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of the identified mitigation measures. Section 2.4 identifies potential environmental effects that were determined to be less than significant as a result of the Proposed Project modifications. Section 3 discusses the alternatives that were evaluated in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR.

1.3 Summary of Project Description

The 2013 Master Plan Update is the present iteration of an active and dynamic planning process that has been conducted by the Water Authority to attain its primary goals to provide reliable, high-quality, and secure water supplies to its member agencies throughout the San Diego region. The Water Authority's service area extends from the international border with Mexico in the south, to Orange and Riverside Counties in the north, and from the Pacific Ocean to the foothills that terminate the coastal plain in the east.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

In 2003, the Water Authority adopted a Regional Water Facilities Master Plan (2003 Master Plan) that identified seawater desalination as the preferred water supply alternative, and identified a set of facilities that was necessary to meet water supply demands over a 20- to 25-year period. Approximately 17 facilities were identified, including Phase I (50 million gallons per day (mgd)) seawater desalination, along with potential Phase II and III (100 to 200 mgd) seawater desalination locations, various pipeline projects, storage reservoirs and tanks, water treatment systems, and conveyance pipelines and related system improvements.

The 2003 Master Plan has now been updated with an emphasis on maximizing efficient use of the existing water system, and is therefore referred to as the 2013 Master Plan Update. In the course of this planning process, the Water Authority determined that sufficient water supplies to meet projected demands through the 2035 planning horizon will be available, and that currently only a limited number of new facilities (described in detail below) are required in the next 10 to 20 years to maximize system efficiency and ensure reliable delivery of regional water supplies. The planning results show no need for additional water supplies within the planning horizon due to a variety of factors described in the SPEIR.

Therefore, under current and reasonably foreseeable conditions, the only new facilities needed before 2035, as identified by the 2013 Master Plan Update and addressed in this supplemental CEQA analysis as the “Proposed Project modifications,” include:

1. Pipeline 3/Pipeline 4 (P3/P4) Conversion Project
2. System Isolation Valves
3. Regulatory System Storage
4. San Vicente 3rd Pump Drive and Power Supply
5. Asset Management Program.

Each of these Proposed Project modifications is an efficiency improvement that will enable the Water Authority to better manage the existing system and to optimize conveyance volumes and use of existing water treatment facilities. As an additional planning element related to the 2013 Master Plan Update process, the Water Authority has also prepared a CAP and related analysis of GHG emissions. The CAP identifies the Water Authority’s 2009 Emissions Inventory (baseline) and the total GHG emissions expected over the 2013 Master Plan Update planning horizon, a target goal for emissions reductions, and a range of measures (called Energy Conservation Opportunities or ECOs) to achieve the desired GHG emissions reductions.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

1.4 Project Objectives

The purpose of the 2013 Master Plan Update is “to evaluate the ability of the Water Authority to continue to meet its mission based on current plans for water supply and facility improvements, and to recommend any additional facilities and improvements to existing facilities needed to cost effectively meet the Authority’s mission through 2035” (Water Authority 2013). The 2013 Master Plan Update is designed to serve as the “roadmap” for implementing the major capital improvements needed by the Water Authority to meet demands through 2035.

Guiding objectives that have shaped the development of the 2013 Master Plan Update include:

- Plan facilities to meet regional treated and untreated water demand and supply projections;
- Optimize the use of existing regional infrastructure;
- Protect the public health, safety, and welfare by maintaining a safe and reliable water supply;
- Plan facilities that are cost-effective; and
- Develop facility plans adaptive to changes in future conditions.

1.5 Environmental Review Process

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared by the Water Authority and mailed to responsible and trustee agencies, the State Clearinghouse, and the San Diego County Clerk on April 18, 2013, for a 30-day public comment period as mandated by CEQA Guidelines Section 15082. The formal CEQA scoping process provides an opportunity for government agencies and the public to provide comments on the issues and scope of the environmental review document.

The NOP was sent to federal, state, and local trustee and responsible agencies (see the Scoping Report for the mailing list, included in Appendix A of the SPEIR). Public notification for the availability of the NOP and the formal scoping meeting also included an announcement in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* (see Appendix A of the SPEIR). This notice was used to inform the general public and other interested parties of the project, as well as the date, time, and location of the scoping meeting. In addition, the NOP was sent to the San Diego County Clerk’s Office to be posted for 30 days as required by CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21092.3).

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

The public review and comment period for the NOP ended on May 18, 2013. The Water Authority held a public scoping meeting on April 29, 2013, to provide the public and government agencies with information on the Proposed Project modifications and CAP, an overview of the CEQA process, and an opportunity to identify potential environmental issues and alternatives for consideration. Three written comment letters were received during the scoping process. Written comments received during the scoping process are part of the project record, have been reviewed, and were considered by the Water Authority in scoping and development of the SPEIR. The input received from the CEQA scoping process assisted the Water Authority in identifying the range of actions, issues, and potential effects associated with the Proposed Project modifications and CAP. All issues raised in the scoping meeting have been reviewed by the Water Authority in determining the appropriate level of environmental analysis.

The Draft SPEIR was made available for public review and comment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines (Section 15087(c)). The public review period was from November 22, 2013, through January 16, 2014, providing 55 days for public comment. Copies of the Draft SPEIR were made available to the public at the Water Authority's office and on the Water Authority's website, as well as public libraries in the project area. Twelve written comment letters were received during the public review period, including comment letters from four state agencies, five community groups or private organizations, and three individuals. In addition, form letters were received from 213 members of the San Diego chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. Of these letters, 15 contained minor variations and the rest contained the same comments. Written and oral comments received during the public review period are part of the project record, have been reviewed, and were considered by the Water Authority in development of the Final SPEIR.

The Water Authority's Board of Directors has reviewed the administrative record, including but not limited to the Final SPEIR, Water Authority staff recommendations, and public testimony, in deciding whether to certify the SPEIR and approve the 2013 Master Plan Update and CAP.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

2.0 FINDINGS OF FACT

Having received, reviewed, and considered the information in the SPEIR and supporting administrative record, the Water Authority hereby makes findings pursuant to and in accordance with Sections 21081, 21081.5, and 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code.

2.1 Findings of No Significant Effects Related to the Climate Action Plan

The CAP would not include any construction activities or new facilities, and therefore, has no potential to change or adversely affect environmental resources. As described in Chapter 2 of the SPEIR (Project Description), the proposed ECOs related to the CAP include efficiency measures for interior lighting at existing facilities, operations, and the vehicle fleet that would have no substantial effect on the environment. All potential effects related to the CAP are found to be less than significant.

2.2 Findings on Significant Unavoidable Effects

This section identifies the significant unavoidable environmental effects that require a statement of overriding considerations to be issued by the Water Authority, pursuant to Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, if the project is approved. Based on the findings in the SPEIR, there were no effects to have been determined to fall within the “significant unavoidable effects” category for any of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP.

2.3 Findings on Significant but Mitigated Effects

This section identifies significant adverse environmental effects of the Proposed Project modifications that require findings to be made under Public Resources Code Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091. Based on substantial record evidence, the Water Authority finds that adoption of the mitigation measures set forth below will reduce the identified significant environmental effects to less than significant levels.

2.3.1 Aesthetics

Impact 1: Scenic Vistas. The Proposed Project modifications could have an adverse effect on scenic vistas or substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the project sites and their surroundings.

The Proposed Project modifications would consist of activities in belowground facilities and within or near existing aboveground facilities that would not be visible from off-site viewing

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

locations, including scenic vistas and sensitive viewpoints. Therefore, potential effects associated with belowground facilities associated with the Proposed Project modifications would be similar to those identified for pipelines in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, and as such are not further discussed. Similar to Flow Regulatory Storage Facilities (FRSs) and Flow Control Facilities (FCFs) that were previously analyzed in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, the Proposed Project modifications include aboveground or partially aboveground facilities. While new aboveground or partially aboveground facilities would be located adjacent to or near existing aboveground Water Authority facilities and/or buried infrastructure, new facilities could result in significant aesthetic effects if they are visible from scenic vistas or sensitive viewpoints, or if they would occur in visually sensitive areas and substantially affect existing visual character or quality. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure (MM-) AES-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-AES-1

- a) Where possible, projects shall be sited in topographically screened locations, in locations screened by vegetation, or adjacent to existing facilities and surface disturbance to reduce visual contrast with adjacent undisturbed areas.
- b) Design elements of the facility will incorporate surrounding architecture and topographical features and blend with the surrounding vegetation and colors.
- c) Project facilities shall be painted inconspicuous colors that match the natural color scheme of the adjacent vegetation, rock formations, or exposed soils to reduce visual contrast.
- d) Landscaping and/or fencing that screens project facilities from the view of adjacent residences and roads could also reduce the severity of aesthetic effects.

Impact 2: Scenic Resources. The Proposed Project modifications could substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State Scenic Highway corridor.

Potential effects to scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway corridor associated with the Proposed Project modifications would remain similar to those previously identified in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. Based on preliminary program-level review, Proposed Project modifications within the viewshed of officially designated State Scenic Highways in the Water Authority service area would be buried and located belowground; therefore, no effects

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

would occur. However, if new aboveground or partially aboveground facilities are visible from State Route (SR) 52, SR 76, and Interstate (I-) 15 (north of SR 76 through the Temecula City boundary) (eligible State Scenic Highways) and these roadways are officially designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) prior to Proposed Project modifications' construction, then Proposed Project modifications would be subject to the applicable scenic corridor protection programs of those highway corridors. Implementation of MM-AES-2, derived from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised for the SPEIR, would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-AES-2

- a) Avoid scenic resources, such as mature trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, if possible. Where unavoidable, the removal of these resources will be minimized to the extent practical.
- b) Should any of the Proposed Project modifications be constructed within the viewshed of a designated State or County scenic highway, the mitigation measures described above for Aesthetic Effect 1 will be implemented to reduce the severity of aesthetic effects.

Impact 3: Lighting and Glare. Proposed Project modifications could create new sources of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in surrounding areas.

Effects associated with new sources of light and glare during construction and operation of Proposed Project modifications would be similar to those previously identified for Water Authority facilities in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. Implementation of MM-AES-3 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-AES-3

- a) Proposed Project modifications that will require night lighting will include a lighting plan at the time of final design that will identify the location of lights, how they will be aimed, and types of shielding that will be utilized to avoid the production of glare, minimize uplighting and light spill, and avoid the spread of stray light across site boundaries.
- b) To reduce daytime glare, concrete or metal surfaces and structures will be constructed with materials that minimize reflection of light or sunshine.

Impact 4: Construction-Related Ground Disturbance. Construction-related ground disturbance would result in short-term aesthetic effects. Aesthetic effects associated with ground

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

disturbance necessitated by construction of the Proposed Project modifications would be similar to effects identified in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications will require removal of vegetation, grading, and surfacing that would have short-term aesthetic effects as related to visible contrast with adjacent undisturbed areas. With implementation of MM-AES-4 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, the short-term nature of ground-disturbance effects is less than significant.

MM-AES-4 During construction, removal of vegetation and grading shall be minimized to reduce visible disturbance. Following completion of construction, pipeline corridors and other disturbed areas shall be graded to follow the natural landform and revegetated to reduce visual contrast (Water Authority's General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended).

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential aesthetic and visual quality-related effects of the Proposed Project to scenic vistas, scenic resources, lighting and glare, and construction-related ground disturbance, to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant aesthetic and visual quality-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR.

2.3.2 Agricultural Resources

Impact 1: Conversion of Important Farmland. Conversion of Important Farmland as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program to non-agricultural use could occur.

The project study area currently contains 166 acres of Important Farmland, including Farmland of Local Importance. It is important to note that construction of the additional 2013 Master Plan Update projects is not scheduled to occur for 5 to 10 years or more or may not occur at all depending on water supply and demand variables in the future. If all of the lands currently identified as being in agricultural use retain that designation in the future and the 2013 Master Plan Update projects are implemented, the potential exists that construction of the Proposed Project modifications could result in loss of Important Farmland.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Proposed Project modifications would be located near existing facilities, where practicable, in order to avoid farmland. Some disturbance and/or loss of farmland could occur in areas where facilities would be built in existing agricultural areas. The construction of new pipelines (P3/P4 Conversion Project) and access/maintenance roads (for example, to access new System Isolation Valves) may temporarily, or in some cases permanently, impair the use of farmland for agricultural purposes. Implementation of MM-AG-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR remains applicable and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

MM-AG-1

- a) Avoidance of construction on agricultural land where feasible;
- b) If possible, schedule construction during periods of non-production; and
- c) Compensate land owner for loss of land and/or production.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measure is feasible, is adopted, and will reduce the potential agricultural resource effects of the Proposed Project related to the conversion of Important Farmland to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project that mitigate or avoid potentially significant agricultural resource-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.3 Air Quality

Impact 1: Conflict with an Applicable Air Quality Plan. Construction and operation of the Proposed Project modifications could cause a violation of an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.

The air pollutants of greatest concern in San Diego County are ozone and particulate matter less than 10 and 2.5 microns (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, respectively) because of the current nonattainment status for these pollutants. During construction of the various Proposed Project modifications, vehicles and other construction equipment such as graders, excavators, dozers, scrapers, tractors, water trucks, generator sets, and associated equipment would generate exhaust emissions of reactive organic gas (ROG), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur oxide (SO_x), PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} would also be generated in the form of fugitive dust emissions from land clearing and grading, and vehicle traffic on unpaved surfaces at the project sites and on access roads. Although fugitive dust related to construction activities would be temporary in nature, the resulting airborne particulate matter may have a measurable effect on the air quality in the vicinity of the construction area. Fugitive dust emissions would vary depending on the construction schedule, activities being performed at the site, and the site location relative to paved access roads. In addition, soil conditions and meteorological conditions, such as rain and wind, would also influence the creation and dispersion of fugitive dust.

Since it is not possible to accurately estimate the construction schedule and future emissions from development of the facilities associated with the Proposed Project modifications at a programmatic level, construction activities could lead to the violation of an applicable air quality standard for ROG, NO_x, CO, SO_x, PM₁₀, or PM_{2.5}. Therefore, implementation of MM-AQ-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce criteria pollutant emissions associated with the Proposed Project modifications to less than significant.

MM-AQ-1 The following mitigation measure will be implemented during construction of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP to reduce exhaust emissions of ROG, NO_x, CO, SO₂, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}.

- Heavy-duty diesel equipment engines will be properly tuned and maintained to manufacturers' specifications to ensure minimum emissions under normal operations. The Water Authority will require its construction contractors to implement this measure to the extent practical.

The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce fugitive dust including PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions.

- Apply water or chemical dust suppressants to un-stabilized disturbed areas and/or unpaved roadways in sufficient quantity and frequency to maintain a stabilized surface.
- Water or water-based chemical additives will be used in such quantities to control dust on areas with extensive traffic including unpaved access roads.
- Vehicles hauling dirt or fill will be covered with a tarp or by other means.

Impact 2: Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Criteria Pollutants. Operation of Proposed Project modifications could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutants.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

By its nature, air pollution is largely the result of a cumulative effect. The nonattainment status of regional pollutants is a result of past and present development within the air basin, and this regional effect is a cumulative effect; projects within the air basin would contribute to this effect only on a cumulative basis. No single project would be sufficient in size, by itself, to result in nonattainment of the regional air quality standards. Instead, a project's emissions may be individually limited, but cumulatively considerable when taken in combination with past, present, and future development projects.

As regional growth occurs within the San Diego Air Basin, the increased population, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and construction of new development could result in increased emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors in excess of the significance thresholds. These thresholds are designed to identify those projects that would result in significant levels of air pollution and to assist the region in attaining the applicable state and federal ambient air quality standards. When a project exceeds these significance thresholds, it is considered to impede attainment and maintenance of ambient air quality standards.

As discussed above, construction-related criteria air pollutant and precursor emissions could exceed significance thresholds based on construction of the facilities associated with the Proposed Project modifications. Therefore, implementation of MM-AQ-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measure (MM-AQ-1) is feasible, is adopted, and will reduce the potential air quality resource related-effects of the Proposed Project modifications related to the conflict of an applicable air quality plan and criteria pollutants to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in or incorporated into the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant air quality resource-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.4 Biological Resources

Impact 1: Candidate, Sensitive, or Special-Status Species. The Proposed Project modifications could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Impact 2: Sensitive Natural Community. The Proposed Project modifications could have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Impact 3: Federally Protected Wetlands. The Proposed Project modifications could 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, hydrologic interruption, or other means.

Construction, operation, and maintenance activities associated with the Proposed Project modifications could result in direct effects to vegetation communities through removal of vegetation by construction grading, including grubbing of shrubs and trees, vehicle access, proposed buildings and facilities footprints, etc.; construction of access roads and/or improvements to segments of the existing access roads; utilization of temporary material construction staging areas in undisturbed areas; compaction of soils that results in loss of vegetative cover; disturbance that results in topsoil loss through wind and soil erosion; removal of shrub/tree riparian habitat within intermittent and perennial stream channels; vehicle access on undisturbed vegetation communities for as-needed maintenance and emergency repairs; and fill(ing) or encroachment into wetland buffers.

In addition, general indirect effects to vegetation communities may include, but are not limited to, increased vegetation loss through off-site soil erosion and deposition; soil compaction that reduces water absorption and infiltration; organic matter accumulation and increased soil temperatures; introduction and proliferation of noxious weeds; reduction in localized species densities; inhibiting or effecting native species functions, including seed production, shade, protection from predators, and plant productivity; and fugitive dust settling/covering on adjacent vegetation.

Construction, operation, and maintenance activities associated with the Proposed Project modifications could result in direct effects to wildlife, including provision of new human access into previously undisturbed habitats; mortality by vehicular collision or other human-related activity; impairing essential behavioral activity, such as breeding, feeding, or shelter/refugia; destruction or abandonment of active nest(s); direct loss of occupied or potentially suitable habitat;

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

disruption of corridors, including constriction of points of passage; and permanent habitat loss, including loss of foraging, nesting, or burrowing/refuge cover.

In addition, general indirect effects to wildlife may include, but are not limited to, displacement of wildlife by construction activities; noise from construction equipment, traffic, and permanent facilities; and increased artificial light from outdoor lighting around facilities. However, implementation of MM-BIO-1 through MM-BIO-13 and PDF-1 through PDF-11 from the Water Authority's Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) (Water Authority and RECON 2010) would reduce effects to less than significant.

Impact 4: Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other Conservation Plan. The Proposed Project modifications could conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state HCP.

The Water Authority's NCCP/HCP is independent from other regional conservation plans (NCCPs or HCPs), including the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), but is consistent with and complementary to these other conservation plans. The Proposed Project modifications include activities envisioned to be undertaken and mitigated pursuant to the Water Authority NCCP/HCP.

Within the Western Riverside MSHCP area, a small portion of the P3/P4 Conversion Project lies just outside of the Water Authority NCCP/HCP Probable Effect Zone and in an area designated as a "Major Amendment Area." Activities that result in take of a Covered Species within the Major Amendment Area will be processed as a Major Amendment to the NCCP/HCP. Because the Water Authority NCCP/HCP is consistent with and complementary to the MSHCP, the Proposed Project modifications do not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP. Implementation of MM-BIO-1 and the Water Authority's NCCP/HCP Minimization Measures (Water Authority and RECON 2010) would reduce effects to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM-BIO-1

- a) In areas where NCCP/HCP non-covered listed or non-covered non-listed sensitive species (collectively "non-covered special-status species") may occur,

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

ensure that biological surveys are conducted according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocols (when available) and special-status plant species surveys are conducted at the appropriate time of year by a qualified biologist;

- b) Avoid, to the extent practicable through design or site selection, non-covered special-status species and their habitats;
- c) Utilize existing Water Authority standard construction specifications (General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended) to minimize direct and indirect impacts of construction on natural resources unless more stringent measures are identified in project-specific environmental impact review. These specifications may be used for construction within or adjacent to sensitive habitats requiring such mitigating measures as habitat revegetation, erosion control, and brush clearing protocols;
- d) Initiate consultation with the appropriate State or Federal jurisdictional agency if the potential for non-covered listed species disturbance exists following final site selection, and comply with permit conditions; and
- e) Comply with all applicable permit conditions stated in any U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Section 404 permit and/or CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement (F&G Code Section 1602).

Finding

The Water Authority finds that, together with the previously adopted NCCP/HCP (December 2010) and approved project design features and mitigation measures contained therein, the above mitigation measure is feasible, is adopted, and will reduce the potential biological resource-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP related to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species; sensitive natural communities; federally protected wetlands; and applicable conservation plans to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant biological resource-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

2.3.5 Cultural Resources

Impact 1: Historical Resources. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

The Proposed Project modifications may occur outside the footprint of existing facilities and in previously undeveloped locations. Although historic resources are not anticipated to be demolished, damaged, or relocated as a result of the Proposed Project modifications, in the unlikely event that a historic resource is discovered during implementation, ground disturbance associated with the construction of new facilities could disturb or destroy important cultural resources. However, implementation of MM-CUL-1, derived from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised for the SPEIR, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-CUL-1

- a) A qualified archaeologist shall ensure a recent records search has been completed at the appropriate California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) information center, and ensure that appropriate pedestrian surveys for the area of potential effect (APE) have been completed prior to construction. The purpose of these inventories will be to identify potentially significant historical resource constraints.
- b) Any historical resources discovered by the qualified archaeologist as a result of the survey shall be evaluated as to their historical significance and appropriate mitigation measures identified and implemented.

Impact 2: Archaeological Resources. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

The Proposed Project modifications may occur outside the footprint of existing facilities, and in previously undeveloped locations. Although archaeological resources are not anticipated to be affected, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the Proposed Project modifications could result in the discovery of significant archaeological resources. The locations of these projects are not within areas designated as having high sensitivity for archaeological resources. In the event that grading and excavation activities during construction unearth intact archaeological materials, implementation of MM-CUL-2, which

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

was derived from Cultural Resources Mitigation Measure 1 in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised for the SPEIR, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-CUL-2

- a) On-site archaeological resource surveys shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist prior to the construction of a new facility. The purpose of this survey will be to more precisely locate and map significant archeological resources.
- b) Any resources discovered by the qualified archaeologist as a result of the survey shall be evaluated as to their cultural and archaeological significance and appropriate mitigation measures identified.
- c) The qualified archaeologist shall recommend archaeological field monitoring when excavation occurs in areas where subsurface archaeological resources are considered highly likely to possibly exist. The monitoring may include participation by a Native American monitor.
- d) In the event that unanticipated archaeological resources are encountered during Proposed Project modifications and CAP construction, all earthmoving activity shall cease until the qualified archaeologist examines the findings, assesses their significance, and offers recommendations for procedures deemed appropriate to either further investigate or mitigate adverse effects to those archaeological resources that have been encountered (e.g., excavate the significant resource). These additional measures shall be implemented.

Impact 3: Human Remains. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

The Proposed Project modifications may occur outside the footprint of existing facilities, and in previously undeveloped locations. When specific projects are proposed, site-specific surveys would be conducted.

Although disturbance to human remains is not anticipated, unanticipated discoveries of human remains could occur and would require handling in accordance with Public Resources Code 5097.98, which states that in the event that human remains are discovered during construction, construction activity shall be halted and the area shall be protected until consultation and treatment can occur as prescribed by law. In the unexpected event that human remains are unearthed during construction activities, implementation of MM-CUL-3 derived from Cultural

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Resources Mitigation Measure 1 in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised for the SPEIR, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-CUL-3 In the event of accidental discovery of any human remains, the County coroner shall be notified immediately and construction activities shall be halted in accordance with Section 15064.5(e)(1) of the CEQA Guidelines and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the remains are found to be Native American, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, Subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 (as amended by Assembly Bill 2641) shall be followed. No additional work shall take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the identified appropriate actions have been completed.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential cultural resource related-effects of the Proposed Project modifications related to historic resources, archaeological resources, and human remains to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant cultural resource-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.6 Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources

Impact 1: Seismic Activity. Seismic activity in the Proposed Project modifications areas could expose humans to the risk of injury or death due to surface fault rupture, earthquake ground-shaking, liquefaction, or landslides and could cause damage to Proposed Project modifications.

The Proposed Project modifications would be subject to earthquakes that could damage facilities and affect reliable use of pipelines. Primary earthquake hazards include damage from ground displacement along a fault zone, severe ground shaking, and induced secondary hazards such as liquefaction, rapid differential settlement, lurching, landslides, and rockfalls. Earthquake-related hazards could be reduced by engineering design or avoidance of high hazard areas. In general, the most severe hazard is probably posed by landslides and soil erosion in steep terrain. Implementation of MM-GEO-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce these effects to less than significant.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

MM-GEO-1 To reduce the hazards of seismic damage, project sites will not be located within obvious fault zones, if possible. No projects are near any known Holocene (within the last 10,000 years) faults, but fault movement often occurs on previously unknown or “inactive” faults throughout the State. A geotechnical engineering investigation consistent with California geologic and engineering standards will be conducted for applicable facilities by a licensed geotechnical engineer. The geotechnical engineer will prepare a report that summarizes the results of a field investigation, including site inspection and soil testing, potential geologic hazards (including fault rupture and severe secondary effects of earthquakes), along with design criteria and construction methods to effectively construct the Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications with an acceptable level of risk. The report will address all geologic and geotechnical factors related to the design and construction of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications. The geotechnical engineering investigation will delineate areas of active and potentially active faults. To the extent possible, it will identify fault traces and locate them in the field so faults can be avoided.

All practicable precautions will be taken to design and construct project facilities to withstand the projected ground shaking associated with the most probable magnitude earthquake (MPE) in the area. This includes secondary hazards induced by earthquakes (liquefaction, lurching, lateral spreading, rapid differential settlement, induced landslides, and rock-fall avalanche). The MPE represents the strongest earthquake likely to occur over the design life of the projects. Project structures will be designed using project-specific criteria in accordance with the latest revision of the National Electrical Safety Code (American National Standards Institute [ANSI] C.2) and the California Building Code (CBC).

Impact 2: Increased Soil Erosion. Ground disturbance and vegetation removal during construction could result in increased soil erosion.

Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could result in surface disturbances and removal of vegetation leading to increased soil erosion. Sedimentation into streams and water bodies would likely increase if disturbed soils were left exposed during periods of high precipitation, runoff, and winds. Erosion potential is generally more severe on steep, sparsely vegetated slopes; fine sandy or silty soils, and in loose sandy soils where strong winds occur. Erosion potential is also elevated in areas where fires have occurred if such areas remain largely unvegetated, especially in areas with previously existing high erosion potential. Soil erosion is expected to be minimal following successful reclamation of disturbed areas. Because the areas where erosion may be increased due to the Proposed Project modifications

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

and CAP are narrow and spread over a large area, this effect would be less than significant and mitigation is not required. However, to further reduce the potential for erosion effects, MM-GEO-2 (designated as Geology and Soils Mitigation Measure 3 in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR) is recommended.

MM-GEO-2 Erosion Control Plans shall be prepared as necessary for each of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications which identify the best management practices that will be implemented to reduce soil loss and water quality effects.

- a) The Erosion Control Plan will include, but not be limited to:
 - i. Confine all vehicular traffic associated with construction to designated rights-of-way, material yards, and access roads;
 - ii. Limit disturbance of soils and vegetation removal to the minimum area necessary for access and construction;
 - iii. Where vegetation removal is necessary, use cutting/mowing methods instead of blading, wherever possible;
 - iv. Graded material will be sloped and bermed, where possible, to reduce surface water flows across the graded area;
 - v. Use detention basins, certified weed-free straw bales, or silt fences, where appropriate; and
 - vi. Use drainage control structures, where necessary, to direct surface drainage away from disturbance areas and to minimize runoff and sediment deposition downslope from all disturbed areas. These structures include culverts, ditches, water bars (berms and cross ditches), and sediment traps.
- b) Implement Hydrology and Water Quality MM-HYD-1.

Impact 3: Expansive Soils. Shrink and swell actions of expansive soils could damage Proposed Project modifications structures or foundations.

Foundations and structures associated with Proposed Project modifications would generally extend below the 4-foot zone, which would not be affected by expansive soils (i.e., soils with high shrink/swell potential). However, some structures could be significantly affected by the presence of expansive soils. Project-level, site-specific future geotechnical studies would identify areas of expansive soils. Implementation of MM-GEO-3, designated as Geology and Soils

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Mitigation Measure 3 in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised for the SPEIR, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-GEO-3 The Water Authority shall require the construction contractor to comply with the Water Authority's General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended.

Impact 4: Paleontological Resources. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could destroy or disturb significant paleontological resources due to site grading or other ground-disturbing activities.

Some of the Proposed Project modifications may occur outside the footprint of existing facilities, and in previously undeveloped locations. Most paleontological resources are not exposed at the surface, and fossils are usually found during earth-moving activities. Since the exact location and depth of sensitive paleontological resources is unknown, in the event that unexpected, intact, paleontological resources are unearthed during construction, effects could be potentially significant. Implementation of MM-PALEO-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-PALEO-1 In order to mitigate potential effects, the following measures shall be implemented in the event project construction will occur on geologic formations of moderate to high sensitivity for paleontological resources. These activities will be carried out by a qualified professional paleontologist.

- Existing bedrock outcrops and (possibly) excavation of test trenches will be inspected for fossil remains;
- Surface collection of discovered fossil remains will be conducted via simple excavation of exposed specimens and possibly plaster-jacketing large and/or fragile specimens or more elaborate quarry excavations of richly fossiliferous deposits;
- Stratigraphic and geologic data will be recovered to provide context for recovered fossil remains. These data will typically include a description of lithologies of fossil-bearing strata, measurement and description of the overall stratigraphic section, and photographic documentation of the setting;
- Laboratory preparation of collected fossil remains will be conducted for potentially significant or unique finds;
- Prepared significant or unique fossil remains will be cataloged and identified;

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

- Cataloged fossil remains will be transferred for storage to an accredited institution, if feasible; and
- A final report summarizing the findings from the laboratory and field, stratigraphic units inspected, typed of fossils discovered, and the significance of the curated collection will be prepared.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential geological, soils, and paleontological related-effects of the Proposed Project modifications related to seismic activity, expansive soils, and paleontological resources to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant geological, soils, and paleontological resource-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Impact 1: Wildland Fires. Activities associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project modifications could 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.

As described in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project modifications could increase the potential for wildfires in the service area. Workers smoking cigarettes, sparks from equipment, welding, or other activities could increase potential for fire ignition. Large portions of the service area feature suburban residential areas bordered by wildland–urban interfaces (WUI) identified as undeveloped ridges covered with grass, chaparral, and woodland vegetation that is highly susceptible to wildfires. Implementation of MM-HAZ-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-HAZ-1

- a) Prior to construction, develop and implement (in consultation with the Fire Marshal) a Fire Prevention Program for each facility, as necessary.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

- b) Develop an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for each new or expanded facility, as necessary. Each ERP shall be developed by the facility operator in coordination with the County Office of Emergency Services, the County Environmental Health Department, and the appropriate Fire Protection District.

Impact 2: Accidental Release of Hazardous Materials. Transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project modifications, or upsets and accidental releases of hazardous materials would create the potential for exposure of workers, the public, and the environment.

As described in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction, operation, and maintenance would pose potential health and safety hazards to construction and maintenance workers, nearby residents, and the environment. Potential effects would be associated with accidental releases or spills and improper disposal. Implementation of MM-HAZ-2 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-HAZ-2 The Water Authority will develop an ERP in conjunction with the local fire department that will incorporate appropriate actions in the case of an accidental release of hazardous material. For example, features that could be installed to minimize the risk of public exposure to hazardous materials or gases due to an unintentional release include:

- a) Chlorine and ammonia gas detection and alarm systems that operate continuously 24 hours per day, 7 days per week;
- b) Wind monitors to determine the downwind threatened areas; and
- c) Coordination and pre-emergency planning with the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and the surrounding communities.

Impact 3: Exposure to Existing Hazardous Materials. During construction of the Proposed Project modifications, workers and the public could be exposed to existing hazardous materials present at project sites.

Some of the Proposed Project modifications may occur outside the footprint of existing facilities, and in previously undeveloped locations. Although the presence of hazardous materials is not anticipated, these areas have historically been used for agriculture and may contain residual traces of pesticides. During construction of the Proposed Project modifications,

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

workers and the public could therefore be exposed to existing hazardous materials present at project sites. Implementation of MM-HAZ-3 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-HAZ-3 In order to mitigate potential health hazards related to exposure of construction personnel to hazardous materials in the soil, the Water Authority will complete the following steps for each site proposed for disturbance as part of a project-facilitated construction activity in the project area:

Step 1: Investigate the site to determine whether it has a record of hazardous material contamination; and if so, characterize the site according to the nature and extent of soil contamination that is present before development activities proceed at that site.

Step 2: Determine the need for further investigation and/or remediation of the soils conditions on the contaminated site. For example, if there will be little or no contact with contaminated soil, industrial cleanup levels will likely be applicable. If the slated development activity could involve human contact with soils, such as may be the case with residential use, then Step 3 should be completed. If no human contact is anticipated, then no further mitigation is necessary.

Step 3: If it is determined that extensive soil contact will accompany the intended use of the site, undertake a Phase II investigation involving soil sampling at a minimum. Should further investigation reveal high levels of hazardous materials in the site soils, mitigate health and safety risks according to County Department of Environmental Health and Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations. This will include site-specific health and safety plans prepared prior to undertaking any building or utility construction.

Impact 4: Potential Hazards to Recreational Users. The presence of Proposed Project modifications at lakes, reservoirs, parks, and open space areas could create potential risks to recreational users of these areas due to construction activities, potential vehicle accidents involving Water Authority operation and maintenance vehicles, and unauthorized public access to Water Authority facilities.

As described in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, construction of Proposed Project modifications at or near recreation sites could create hazards for area visitors. Operation and maintenance activities would necessitate the use of vehicles to access facilities within various recreational and open space areas. Certain types of facilities can represent an attractive nuisance to

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

members of the public visiting lakes, reservoirs, parks, and open space areas. Implementation of MM-HAZ-4, designated as Public Safety and Hazardous Materials Mitigation Measure 5 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-HAZ-4

- a) The Water Authority or its construction contractor would close construction areas from public access and will implement Traffic Control Plans to minimize hazards to recreational users from construction-related traffic.
- b) The Water Authority will require its workers to exercise caution and maintain safe travel speeds when driving within recreational and open space areas to minimize the risk of accidents with recreational users.
- c) The Water Authority will fence and lock potentially dangerous structures to prevent members of the public from climbing on or entering these facilities to minimize the risk of injuries or falls.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential hazards and hazardous material related-effects of the Proposed Project modifications related to wildland fires, the accidental release of hazardous materials, exposure to existing hazardous materials and the potential hazards to recreational users to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant hazards and hazardous material related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

Impact 1: Substantial Degradation of Water Quality. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could result in degradation of downstream water quality.

If improperly performed, construction of Proposed Project modifications could result in degradation of water quality in receiving water bodies in several ways. Construction of pump station foundations, pipeline trenches, and foundations/pads for aboveground pipeline/aqueduct

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

facilities would result in land disturbances characterized by vegetation clearing; soils locally compacted by heavy machinery for access roads and staging areas; soils loosened by construction excavations and placed in stockpiles; and presence of construction-related vehicles, machinery, and equipment. These conditions can often lead to increased rates of erosion and sediment transport into downstream watercourses. Bare earth surfaces exposed during construction, and impermeable surfaces that characterize finished facility sites may also locally alter drainage patterns such that new areas are exposed to stormwater runoff. In addition, solvents, fuels or other noxious materials associated with construction, if not properly contained, may be transported with stormwater runoff, degrading downstream water quality.

In addition, excavation for Proposed Project modifications facilities may require removal of groundwater seepage by continuous or intermittent pumping. Discharge of this groundwater into nearby drainages may potentially alter existing water runoff patterns, and may affect existing channel configurations, but only temporarily during the construction phases of the project and only prior to backfill of open trenches or development of foundation/pads. The quantity of water that may be discharged and the actual point of discharge into adjacent drainages as a result of dewatering operations would be determined as part of final design for each facility, and resulting data would be used in the development of appropriate mitigation measures. Groundwater dewatering, as well as treatment and discharge of chlorinated water from pipeline dewatering, are both considered non-stormwater discharges and require coverage under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits as well as under the Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The Water Authority also has general conditions and standard contract specifications that are employed in the design and construction of all of its projects. These include standards for erosion control, dewatering, earthwork, and tunneling, and requirements for revegetation and site restoration.

Pipeline segments may also traverse or parallel drainage channels, which may result in temporary drainage alteration as a result of grading and excavation, possibly affecting the direction or velocity of surface flows. Implementation of MM-HYD-1, derived from Water Resources Mitigation Measure 1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised, would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-HYD-1 The Water Authority will comply, where applicable, with all current State, regional, and city water quality provisions:

- a) The Water Authority shall ensure that all ground-disturbing activities are conducted consistent with the Water Authority’s General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended;

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

- b) File with the RWQCB a Notice of Intent to comply with the Statewide General Permit for Construction Activities;
- c) File with the SWRCB or the RWQCB, as applicable, a Notice of Intent and/or other permit registration documents necessary to authorize any non-stormwater discharges that are not covered under the Statewide General Permit for Construction Activities, including pipeline dewatering discharges, utility vault dewatering, and/or groundwater dewatering discharges.
- d) Prepare and implement a project-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (including an erosion control plan as described in MM-GEO-2) if grading or extensive excavation is involved;
- e) Implement a monitoring, inspection, and documentation program to assure the effectiveness of control measures, including post-construction measures;
- f) Obtain or comply with existing General Stormwater Discharge Permit(s) for industrial activities, where applicable; and
- g) Comply with the NPDES Phase II Non-Point Discharge Program.

Impact 2: One-Hundred-Year Flood Hazard Area. Some of the proposed facilities would be located within the 100-year flood zone resulting in potential effects on flooding and water quality.

Portions of the Proposed Project modifications may be partially or entirely located within the 100-year floodplains, and could adversely affect water quality by releasing fuels and other hazardous substances in the event of a 100-year flood. These facilities would generally be unmanned and inaccessible to the public, and thus the public safety implications are low. However, to the extent these facilities utilize substances considered hazardous, a flood could result in release of potentially hazardous materials, even for facilities that have secondary containment systems. Implementation of MM-HYD-2 would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-HYD-2 Project facilities shall comply with construction standards which include, but are not be limited to:

- a) designing structural components to be capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy; and
- b) having design and construction plans certified by a registered civil engineer or architect, who will review and certify that they are in compliance with the Water Authority's General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential hydrology and water quality-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications related to water quality and the 100-year flood zone to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant hydrology and water quality-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.9 Land Use and Planning

Impact 1: Conflicts with Sensitive Land Uses or Potential to Physically Divide an Established Community. Construction of Proposed Project modifications could cause conflicts with sensitive land uses or divide an established community.

Construction-related activities could have effects on existing sensitive land uses, such as residential neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, places of worship, and scientific institutions. These effects are typically short-term nuisance-related and pertain to dust, noise, and disruption of traffic flow and facility access and egress. In some cases, the use of heavy equipment, truck traffic, and construction machinery, as well as the closure of traffic lanes or entire roads, could disrupt the ability of these sensitive land uses to fulfill their functions.

Construction of the Proposed Project modifications would require the use of roads serving residential communities. In addition, some projects would be located adjacent to, or in close proximity to, residential neighborhoods. Construction-related fugitive dust emissions, truck traffic, and construction noise have the potential to disrupt the relatively quiet setting of residential land uses and disrupt or delay access to various neighborhoods. Similarly, construction-related traffic and noise have the potential to disrupt the operation of schools, places of worship, and scientific institutions located in close proximity.

None of the Proposed Project modifications would divide an established community. The proposed facilities include projects that would improve operational and energy efficiency at existing Water Authority facilities. Some of the Proposed Project modifications would occur outside the footprint of existing facilities. Implementation of MM-LU-1 requires the implementation of MM-TRA-1 and MM-TRA-2 and MM-NOI-1 through MM-NOI-4. MM-

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

LU-1, derived from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-LU-1 Implement Traffic Mitigation Measures MM-TRA-1 and MM-TRA-2 and Noise Mitigation Measures MM-NOI-1, MM-NOI-2, MM-NOI-3, and MM-NOI-4.

Impact 2: Displacement of Land Uses. Construction of Proposed Project modifications could result in the permanent displacement of existing, developing, or approved residential, commercial, industrial, extractive, governmental, or institutional land uses.

In general, Proposed Project modifications would be built adjacent to existing Water Authority facilities, such as water treatment plants (WTPs), reservoirs, and existing pipeline routes. Some of the Proposed Project modifications would occur outside the footprint of existing facilities. No permanent displacements of residences, businesses, mining or other resource extractive land uses, or other established land uses would occur with Proposed Project implementation.

Although unlikely, future site-specific engineering and design considerations could necessitate the displacement of established or approved land uses. Should permanent displacement of an existing or approved land use be required, implementation of MM-LU-2 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-LU-2

- a) For any existing land uses that would be displaced by Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications, the Water Authority will compensate property owners, in accordance with law, at fair market value as determined by certified independent appraisers and as required by law.
- b) Relocation assistance will be offered to displaced residents and commercial businesses in accordance with applicable law.

Impact 3: Right-of-Way Conflicts or Utility Service Disruption. Construction of Proposed Project modifications could conflict with existing ROWs and disrupt utility service.

Consistent with the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, the area where construction of Proposed Project modifications could take place includes both developed and undeveloped lands. Construction of facilities has the potential to result in short-term construction-related conflicts with existing utility ROWs and linear facilities, such as roads, highways, transmission lines, gas and water pipelines, drainage ditches, and communication lines. Wherever feasible, facilities would be designed and sited to avoid existing and approved utility ROWs (other than Water Authority ROWs).

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

The Proposed Project modifications include projects designed to improve operational and energy efficiency at existing Water Authority facilities. Some of these projects may occur outside the footprint of existing facilities.

Therefore, while it is anticipated that most elements of the Proposed Project modifications would be designed and located to minimize conflict with existing ROWs and utilities operations and facilities, short-term construction-related effects could occur. However, implementation of MM-LU-3 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-LU-3

- a) The construction contractor will coordinate construction activities with the operator of the affected utility to minimize disruption of service.
- b) Relocation, modification, or interruption of existing linear projects or disruption of service will be addressed in accordance with applicable law.

Impact 4: Applicable Land Use Policies. Elements of the Proposed Project modifications could be inconsistent with applicable land use plans, policies of the Water Authority's NCCP/HCP, or other applicable HCPs.

While most general plans accommodate water infrastructure projects and recognize them as critical local and regional public infrastructure, implementation of Proposed Project modifications could result in conflicts or inconsistencies with certain provisions of general plans within the Proposed Project area. Similarly, certain projects could conflict with the Water Authority NCCP/HCP. In most cases, the project facilities would be designed, sited, and constructed to avoid or minimize the potential for conflicts and/or planning or policy inconsistencies.

The Water Authority NCCP/HCP addresses Water Authority projects that are not covered by any other HCP or NCCP. The NCCP/HCP Plan Area encompasses the Water Authority Service Area and those lands that extend northward into Riverside County within a 1-mile area on each side of the first and second aqueducts originating at Lake Skinner and the Diamond Valley Reservoir, as well as a 1-mile area on each side of the ROWs, and exterior boundaries of other facilities within San Diego County that are outside the Service Area boundary. The NCCP/HCP Plan Area covers approximately 992,000 acres of land in San Diego and southern Riverside Counties. The Proposed Project modifications could result in conflicts or inconsistencies with the NCCP/HCP. However, implementation of MM-LU-4 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

MM-LU-4 While zoning ordinances do not apply to the location or construction of facilities used for the production, generation, storage, or transmission of water (California Government Code Section 53091), the Water Authority will submit project proposals to the planning agencies of those cities/communities potentially affected for review of general plan conformity in accordance with applicable law.

Land uses within established Preserve Areas are generally limited to those which are considered compatible with the need to permanently protect natural resources. Necessary public water infrastructure upgrades and new construction along with maintenance and operation activities required by the Water Authority to fulfill its mission statement are consistent with planned uses within the Water Authority NCCP/HCP. The Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications will be incorporated into the Water Authority NCCP/HCP in a manner that will not preclude planned preserve areas and will conform to the appropriate subarea plan with regard to site design criteria and mitigation. The general guidelines collectively specified within the Water Authority NCCP/HCP will allow compatible development for these Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications in the appropriate areas.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential land use-related effects of the Proposed Project related to conflicts with sensitive land uses, displacement of land uses, ROW conflicts and utility disruption, and applicable land use policies, to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project that mitigate or avoid potentially significant land use-related effects of the Proposed Project identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.10 Noise

Impact 1: Temporary Increases in Noise Levels. Noise generated during construction of Proposed Project modifications could result in temporary increases in noise levels at sensitive receptors, which could exceed standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Construction of facilities could generate noise at several local sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, hospitals, daycare centers, residential areas) in the area that exceed established criteria or local regulations and codes. The construction-related noise levels would be from, but not necessarily limited to, the use of heavy equipment at the site or vehicles transporting material to or from the construction site. Pipeline construction would cause localized, temporary short-term increases in noise levels. However, no long-term noise effects would result from the pipeline construction. Actual noise levels resulting from construction activities would vary depending on the type of equipment used, the number of concurrent activities, and the distance to a particular receiver. Noise effects would vary depending on the time of day and the location where construction activities would occur. Implementation of MM-NOI-1, derived from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-NOI-1

- a) The Water Authority shall ensure that construction activities are conducted consistent with the Water Authority's General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended including:
 - i. Comply with relevant/applicable sound control and noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances which apply to any work performed;
 - ii. Equip each internal combustion engine used for any purpose on the job or related to the job with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Do not operate internal combustion engines on the project without said muffler;
 - iii. Noise level requirements shall apply to all equipment on the job or related to the job, including but not limited to trucks and transient equipment that may or may not be owned by the Contractor. Avoid the use of loud sound signals in favor of light warnings except where required by safety laws for the protection of personnel;
 - iv. To the extent practical and feasible, construction work shall be accomplished on a regularly scheduled eight (8)-hour-per-day work shift basis, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- b) Some idling of construction equipment will occur; however, equipment shall be turned off when not being utilized for more than 10 minutes.
- c) Noise barriers may be necessary around noisy equipment or near a noise sensitive area if other administrative controls cannot be implemented.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Impact 2: Blasting Noise. Blasting that may be necessary during construction could create a nuisance at local sensitive receptors.

Effects associated with blasting during the construction of the Proposed Project modifications would be similar to those previously identified for Water Authority facilities in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. Implementation of MM-NOI-2 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-NOI-2 The Water Authority shall ensure that all blasting activities are conducted consistent with the Water Authority's General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended including:

- Blasting during construction shall only be conducted when other practicable excavation methods are not available.
- Advance written notification of the date and time of any blasting activities shall be provided to all residents and businesses within 400 feet of the blast area.
- In the event that blasting is necessary, a Blasting Plan shall be developed and approved by the local regulatory authority.

Impact 3: Operation Noise Levels. Noise generated during the operation of Proposed Project modifications could result in increased noise levels at sensitive receptors, which could exceed standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.

Noise effects associated with operation of the Proposed Project modifications would be similar to those previously identified for Water Authority facilities in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. Implementation of MM-NOI-3 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-NOI-3

- a) If noise from equipment or machinery operation exceeds applicable and relevant regulations for noise-sensitive locations, low noise equipment or machinery shall be provided to achieve the necessary noise limits.
- b) If low noise equipment or machinery is insufficient in meeting the required noise limits, a noise barrier (e.g., building or other method) shall be placed around the equipment to provide the necessary noise attenuation.
- c) A combination of items (a) and (b) above shall be used to control the noise level to applicable limits from the equipment or machinery operating at the site.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Impact 4: Groundborne Vibrations and Noise Levels. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could expose persons or structures to excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels.

Groundborne vibrations and noises could be generated by, but not necessarily limited to, the use of heavy equipment at the site or vehicles transporting material to or from construction sites. Areas affected could include noise/vibration-sensitive receivers near construction sites or roads traveled by construction vehicles. The character of the groundborne vibrations and noise would be dependent upon various factors, such as the type of soil/rock, type of equipment used, and meteorological conditions. Construction noise and vibration could create disturbances to sensitive locations similar to those previously identified for Water Authority facilities in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. Implementation of MM-NOI-4 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-NOI-4 Prior to the construction of new facilities within 500 feet of sensitive structures, a groundborne vibration study shall be conducted. The purpose of the study will be to more precisely determine potential vibration effects from construction or operation, using the project-specific alignments and equipment. The vibration study shall document the methodology used, results, effect assessment, and mitigation measures, if necessary.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential noise-related effects of the Proposed Project related to temporary increases in noise levels, blasting noise, operation noise and groundborne vibrations and noise levels to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project that mitigate or avoid potentially significant noise-related effects of the Proposed Project identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.11 Recreation

Impact 1: Disturbance or Displacement of Recreational Facilities. The Proposed Project modifications could result in direct disturbance or displacement of established recreation facilities or an increase in 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.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Some of the Proposed Project modifications may occur outside the footprints of the existing Water Authority facilities and therefore have the potential to affect adjacent or nearby recreational facilities and uses. A majority of the work involved in the would occur underground, within the Water Authority's existing ROW. The aboveground construction work would be short-term in duration, temporary and limited to locations within and adjacent to the ROW to the maximum extent feasible and practical. In general, the location of Proposed Project modifications would minimize effects to recreational areas open to the public.

None of the Proposed Project modifications would directly increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks. The Proposed Project modifications would not result in a permanent or substantial deterioration of existing neighborhood parks. However, short-term effects could affect access to the facilities or facility amenities during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect, but implementation of MM-REC-1, derived from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-REC-1 Restoration and/or reopening of recreational facilities temporarily affected by Proposed Project modifications and CAP modifications, such as parking areas, picnic grounds, trails, and other temporarily closed facilities after completion of project construction

Impact 2: Disruption of Recreational Activities. During construction of the Proposed Project modifications, construction activities could result in the disruption of existing recreational activities.

The temporary effects on existing recreational uses could affect recreational activities such as sports events, hiking, and picnicking. Disruptions are not anticipated to last longer than 1 year; however, this temporary effect on existing recreational facilities would result in a potentially significant recreational effect. However, implementation of MM-REC-2 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-REC-2 Affected public agencies will be compensated for possible loss of business revenue from disruption of recreational activities during construction.

Impact 3: Reduction of Recreation Quality. Operation of the Proposed Project modifications could result in the reduction of recreation quality.

Temporary effects on existing recreational uses could affect recreational activities such as sports events, hiking, picnicking, and recreation-related concessions. Disruptions are anticipated to be temporary; however, temporary effects on existing recreational facilities

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

would result in a potentially significant effect. Implementation of MM-REC-3, derived from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR and since revised, would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-REC-3 The Water Authority will coordinate with relevant/applicable agencies to develop project design or construction methods that minimize effects to users of the recreation area or facilities.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential recreation-related effects of the Proposed Project related to the disturbance and displacement of recreational facilities, the disruption of recreational activities and the reduction of recreation quality to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project that mitigate or avoid potentially significant recreation-related effects of the Proposed Project identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.12 Transportation and Traffic

Impact 1: Increased Traffic Levels, Delays, or Hazards. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could result in: (1) temporary increases in traffic levels (i.e., existing level of service (LOS) to levels of D or lower), (2) increased traffic delays, or (3) increased traffic hazards.

SR-75, SR-125, SR-163, SR-52, SR-76, SR-79, SR-94, I-5, and I-8 are State Highways and are under the jurisdiction of Caltrans and could be affected by the Proposed Project modifications. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could result in increased traffic levels on roadways used to transport equipment, materials, and personnel to construction areas. During facility construction, traffic increases would result from worker commute trips, delivery trucks, and haul trucks. The number of workers at any one site could vary substantially depending upon the type of construction activity and project. In addition, the volume of excavated soil and import backfill, demolition and construction debris, and the number of supply haul trucks spread over the construction workday would also vary. Future project-level analysis will estimate these truck trips.

The Proposed Project modifications could occur outside the footprint of existing water facilities. Facilities located in existing streets would temporarily disrupt traffic flows due to lane closures, intersection blockages, or road closures. Depending on the available existing

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

street width, traffic flows may be restricted to one direction during construction. Traffic delays could result from such closures/restrictions as well as from increased truck traffic if construction and/or deliveries were to occur during peak traffic periods. In addition, there is a potential for short-term increases in safety hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and restriction of access to adjacent uses because of the nature of construction and operation of heavy construction equipment or machinery.

Construction could also disrupt or delay transit service if construction occurs along bus routes. Designated bikeways could also be affected if construction of the facilities crosses these routes. Implementation of MM-TRA-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-TRA-1 In order to mitigate the potential traffic and circulation effects of the Proposed Project modifications, the following mitigation measures will be implemented as appropriate on a project-by-project basis and in accordance with County Water Authority Act, section 5 paragraph (6), when applicable.

- a) Prior to the start of the construction phase, the contractor shall submit a Traffic Control Plan to the appropriate local jurisdiction for review and approval. The plan shall be consistent with the Caltrans Traffic Manual, Chapter 5, and include the following information:
 - i. Signage posted in areas designated as temporary traffic control zones; and
 - ii. Speed limits to be observed within control zones.
- b) Where appropriate for work on public roadways, the Water Authority will submit a set of proposed construction plans to agencies with jurisdiction over the roadways to allow them to comment on the proposed plans.
- c) During construction, the Water Authority shall implement traffic management measures, as deemed necessary and applicable by a properly licensed engineer:
 - i. Temporary traffic lanes shall be marked, barricades and lights shall be provided at excavations and crossings;
 - ii. Pipeline construction activities shall affect the least number of travel lanes as possible, with both directions of traffic flow being maintained at all times, to the extent feasible;
 - iii. Pipeline construction shall avoid the morning and evening peak traffic periods to the extent feasible;

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

- iv. Construction within any major intersection shall be restricted to only one-half of an intersection at any one time in order to maintain one lane of traffic flow in each direction. Pipeline crossings of freeways, light rail, and railroad tracks shall be constructed using methods that provide minimal disruption to freeway, and railroad operations, to the extent feasible;
 - v. Construction across on- and off-street bikeways shall be done in a manner that allows for safe bicycle access or bicycle traffic will be safely rerouted;
 - vi. Private driveways located within construction areas will remain open to maintain access to the maximum extent feasible. It is anticipated that if the trench will remain open in front of a private driveway for more than 5 days, metal plates would be used to provide 24-hour access, except for up to 3 hours of blockage as needed during construction; and
 - vii. To minimize potential cumulative traffic effects as a result of lane closures during construction, the Water Authority will require that the project construction contractor(s) coordinate with construction contractor(s) for any concurrent nearby projects that are planned for construction.
- d) During construction, the Water Authority shall notify all affected fire, police, and paramedic departments/services as well as any affected public transportation agencies of the schedule and duration of construction activities affecting roadways.
 - e) The Water Authority shall seek to coordinate all traffic-control plans in the local project area so that conflicts can be minimized (e.g., by staggering construction schedules).

Impact 2: Damage to Local Roadways. Construction activities could result in damage to local roadways.

Construction traffic, especially vehicles used for heavy equipment and materials movement, could exceed the design weight capacities on local roadways, resulting in damage to these roadways during construction. The potential for damage to local roadways is generally more prevalent for rural and local roads, because these roadways are designed for lighter traffic volumes and lighter vehicles. Implementation of MM-TRA-2 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

MM-TRA-2 Following or during construction, as necessary to maintain safe driving conditions, any damage to existing roadways caused by construction vehicles will be repaired as determined appropriate by the Water Authority.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential transportation and traffic-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications related to the increase of traffic levels, delays, or hazards and damage to local roadways to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant recreation-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.3.13 Utilities and Public Services

Impact 1: Relocation of Existing Utility Infrastructure. Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could require that existing utility infrastructure be relocated. Such relocations could result in long-term interruptions in service.

The Proposed Project modifications could be constructed within ROWs used by existing utility infrastructure (i.e., water, wastewater, and gas pipelines and electrical transmission lines) belonging to the Water Authority, its member agencies, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), or other utility service providers.

Project-level site-specific engineering design will need to coordinate the Proposed Project modifications with existing utilities. The potential exists for existing utilities to be affected or to require replacement or relocation. Such disruption of services would be considered significant; however, implementation of MM-UTL-1 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and effects would be less than significant.

MM-UTL-1 The Water Authority shall ensure that the construction contractor complies with the Water Authority's General Conditions and Standard Specifications, dated 2005, as amended (Protection of Existing Facilities), which describes procedures for locating, protecting, and relocating existing underground utilities so that any service interruptions are temporary.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Impact 2: Construction Effects to Nearby Schools. Construction of Proposed Project modifications located within close proximity to schools could affect school service through temporarily increased noise, dust, and traffic.

Where construction activities could occur on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, access and egress and school operations, in general, could be disrupted. This would represent a service effect that would be short-term in nature. Following the completion of construction, there would be no effects to school services due to long-term operation of facilities.

Construction of the Proposed Project modifications could result in a short-term increase in employment in the region. However, given the size and nature of proposed facilities and the implementation timeline, the construction workforce would likely come from the existing labor pool. Accordingly, the Proposed Project modifications are not expected to appreciably increase the local population nor increase school enrollments. Implementation of MM-UTL-2 from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR would remain applicable and would reduce effects to less than significant.

MM-UTL-2 Effects to schools related to construction activity shall be mitigated as follows:

- a) Implement MM-TRA-1.
- b) When practicable, potentially disruptive construction activities shall be scheduled when the schools are not in session.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the above mitigation measures are feasible, are adopted, and will reduce the potential utilities and public services related-effects of the Proposed Project modifications related to the relocation of existing utility infrastructure and the construction effects to nearby schools to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the Water Authority finds that, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081, subdivision (a)(1), and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, subdivision (a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Project modifications that mitigate or avoid potentially significant utilities and public services-related effects of the Proposed Project modifications identified in the Final SPEIR, and reduces potential effects to less than significant.

2.4 Findings on Less than Significant Effects

2.4.1 Agricultural Resources

Impact 3: Loss of farmland to non-agricultural use. Most of the Proposed Project modifications would be sited on or near existing facilities and, therefore, would be located on

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

previously disturbed land. Land would be converted back to its former state to the extent feasible after construction activities are completed. The Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on the loss of farmland and the conversion to non-agricultural use.

Impact 4: Quantity or quality of water used for agricultural production. Construction activities could have a short-term effect on the availability of water for agricultural uses in some areas, but this is not considered a likely outcome of construction of the Proposed Project modifications. If water service interruption were to occur, it would be of very short duration and would have a less than significant effect on water used for agricultural production.

Impact 5: Productivity of the adjacent agricultural areas. Fugitive dust from construction activity could migrate into nearby agricultural fields. If this occurs, it is expected to be temporary and not expected to cause a significant effect to the productivity of adjacent agricultural land. The maintenance of facilities located in or adjacent to agricultural fields would not be a significant source of fugitive dust and effects to the productivity of adjacent agricultural areas would be less than significant.

Impact 6: Introduction of/or a substantial increase in pests and/or disease. Ground disturbance during digging, trenching, and removing vegetation could provide an opportunity for non-native pest plants and/or noxious weeds to establish near the Proposed Project modifications. Most of these disturbances would be within facility boundaries and not within agricultural land areas. If agricultural land is disturbed during construction, it will be returned to its former state as much as practicable after construction is complete since the majority of facilities would be located below the ground surface. Introduction of pests and/or disease would result in a less than significant effect.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on agricultural resources, including the loss of farmland, water quantity or quality used for agricultural production, the productivity of adjacent agricultural areas, and the introduction of pests or disease to agricultural areas. The CAP would have a less than significant effect on all agricultural resource effect areas; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

2.4.2 Air Quality

Impact 3: Conflict with applicable air quality plan. Project consistency is based on whether the Proposed Project modifications would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional air quality standards (RAQS) and/or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Projects that are consistent with the assumptions used in development of the applicable air quality plan are considered to not conflict with or obstruct the attainment of the air quality levels identified in the plan.

Construction of the Proposed Project modifications would involve the use of heavy equipment in an off-road setting, haul trucks, and would have worker commute trips related to construction activities. The use of construction equipment in the RAQS is estimated for the region on an annual basis, and the Proposed Project modifications would not increase the assumptions for off-road equipment use in the RAQS. In addition, the Proposed Project modifications involve minor increases in operational motor vehicle activity for maintenance activities. Any stationary source emissions would be consistent with San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) permit requirements and measures in the RAQS. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project modifications would not exceed the assumptions used to develop the current plan and would not obstruct or conflict with the air quality plan. This effect would be less than significant.

Impact 4: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The greatest potential for toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions resulting from construction of the Proposed Project modifications would originate from diesel exhaust particulate matter emissions associated with heavy equipment operations. During construction, heavy-duty construction equipment, on-site generators, and construction worker vehicles could generate diesel particulate matter, which has been identified as a TAC by the California Air Resources Board, in a localized area for a short period. The variable nature of construction activity also affects the amount of time that equipment is typically within a distance that would expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations.

The dose of TAC to which receptors are exposed is the primary factor used to determine health risk. Dose is a function of the concentration of a substance in the environment and the duration of exposure a person has with the substance. According to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), health risk assessments (HRAs) used to determine the exposure of sensitive receptors to TAC emissions should be based on a 70-year exposure period; however, such assessments should also be limited to the period/duration of activities associated with the Proposed Project.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

The longest period that construction activities would occur at a distance reasonably considered to have an effect on a sensitive receptor is approximately 24 months. In addition, construction of pipelines would move sequentially, and therefore, individual sensitive receptors would be exposed to TAC emissions for shorter periods of time. Thus, if the maximum duration of construction activities near a sensitive receptor is 24 months, then the exposure would be approximately 3% of the total exposure period used for typical health risk calculations (i.e., 70 years). This effect would be less than significant.

Operation of the Proposed Project modifications would primarily involve gasoline- and/or diesel-fueled vehicles associated with maintenance activities. Any additional sources of TACs, such as diesel-fueled back-up generators, would be subject to the SDAPCD's rules and regulations. This includes Regulation XII, which applies to any new, relocated, or modified emission unit that may increase emissions of TACs. Therefore, the Proposed Project modifications are not expected to include substantial sources of TAC emissions that would expose sensitive receptors to adverse health effects. This effect would be less than significant.

Impact 5: Objectionable odors. The facilities constructed as part of the Proposed Project modifications would utilize typical construction techniques, and the odors would be typical of most construction sites and short-term in duration. Long-term operation of the facilities would not generate odors. As a result, the Proposed Project modifications would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. This effect would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on air quality, including conflicts with applicable air quality plans, the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, and the generation of objectionable odors. The CAP would have a less than significant effect on all air quality effect areas; therefore, no mitigation is required.

2.4.3 Biological Resources

Impact 5: Interference 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. Although effects to vegetation communities and habitat for wildlife

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

species are anticipated to occur, the Proposed Project modifications are not expected to significantly affect or restrict wildlife movement. Movement of most mammal and reptile species takes place at night and generally most construction projects are limited to day-light working hours. Due to the linear and geographic and temporal spread-out nature of the Proposed Project modifications, temporary effects to native habitats at each location would be relatively small, allowing wildlife to move freely around any project equipment within the work area.

Permanent effects are anticipated to be relatively small areas at widespread locations that will not significantly block or preclude wildlife movement. These short- and long-term effects will be avoided and minimized to a level below significant through implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures; therefore, these effects to wildlife corridors are considered less than significant.

Impact 6: Conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

Once additional project-specific information is available, each Proposed Project modification will be reviewed for applicable tree preservation policies and ordinances for each local jurisdiction, in which the specific project is located. Whenever possible, pipelines would be placed in existing improved or future public ROWs, such as streets, highways, utility corridors, or other publicly owned lands to avoid effects to sensitive biological resources, including oak trees and other native trees. When new pipeline ROWs are required, ROW selection and pipeline construction will be implemented pursuant to measures specified in the Water Authority NCCP/HCP. Therefore, potential effects resulting from conflicts with a local tree preservation policy or ordinance are less than significant at the program level.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on biological resources, including interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, and conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

2.4.4 Cultural Resources

Impact 4: Cultural resources. Ground-disturbing activities would be limited primarily to construction activities associated with the Proposed Project modifications that are addressed by the mitigation measures required to protect historical and archeological resources and any human remains that may be encountered (MM-CUL-1, MM-CUL-2 and MM-CUL-3). Operations of the Proposed Project modifications do not include any activities that could encounter or affect such resources. Therefore, once constructed, potential effects on cultural resources resulting from operation of facilities are found to be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that post-construction operations of the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on cultural resources. The CAP would have a less than significant effect on all cultural resource effect areas; therefore, no further mitigation is required.

2.4.5 Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources

Impact 5: Subsidence. Groundwater would not be pumped for any projects, except for short-term dewatering purposes, and aquifers in the study area are not thick enough for subsidence to be an issue. Most alluvial basins in the project area have insufficient thickness or volumes of silt and clay to be highly vulnerable to subsidence due to dewatering. Therefore, the risk of subsidence at project sites is considered to be less than significant.

Impact 6: Seiche from a seismic event. No Proposed Project modifications are anticipated to increase the risk of seiche from a seismic event. The Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on the potential for seiche from a seismic event.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on geology, soils, and paleontological resources, including subsidence and seiche from a seismic event. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

2.4.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Impact 1: Generation of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the measures discussed in Section 3.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, of the SPEIR, the Water Authority identified other potential CAP implementation measures, including additional ECOs, fleet upgrades, solar photovoltaic installations, and in-line hydropower projects that could result in additional reductions beyond those included in this analysis. However, the feasibility of those measures is still being evaluated; therefore, GHG analysis conservatively assumed that they would not result in additional reductions. With implementation of the Proposed Project modifications and CAP, the Water Authority would achieve emission reductions that exceed the Assembly Bill 32 goals for 2020 and 2035. Therefore, the Proposed Project modifications would not generate significant GHG emissions and would not impede state goals for GHG reductions. This effect would be less than significant.

Impact 2: Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation. The Proposed Project modifications and CAP would achieve GHG reductions that exceed the emission reduction goals of Assembly Bill 32. Therefore, the Proposed Project modifications would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. This effect would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on GHG emissions, and that potential GHG effects are less than significant.

2.4.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Impact 5: Interfere with adopted ERPs or EREPs. Construction and operation of Proposed Project modifications would not interfere with adopted ERP/EREPs within the service area. The

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Water Authority would coordinate with local jurisdictions to make sure that temporary construction-related effects would not interfere with or impair implementation of ERP or EREPs. Therefore, effects would be less than significant.

Impact 6: Dam, pipeline, or water facility failure and resulting flood. The Proposed Project modifications do not include any alteration to dam structures. Therefore, effects from facility-related flooding would not occur as a result of the Proposed Project modifications. Construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities could have the potential to result in pipeline or water facility failure. The potential for the Proposed Project modifications to expose people or structures to potentially significant flood hazards would be less than significant.

Impact 7: Hazardous emissions near an existing or proposed school. None of the Proposed Project modifications would result in the emission of hazardous air pollutants, acutely hazardous materials, substances or wastes within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Some construction activities requiring the use of vehicle-related fuels and lubricants could occur within proximity of schools. However, construction activity near schools would be short-term in nature, and the potential for accidental spills or releases of these hazardous materials and related risks to schools during construction is very low. Potential effects would be further minimized through implementation of MM-HAZ-3, and thus, would be considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on hazards and hazardous materials, including an interference with adopted ERPs or EREPs; dam, pipeline, or water facility failure and resulting flood; and hazardous emissions near an existing or proposed school.

2.4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

Impact 3: Recharge of the aquifers. Construction and operation of Proposed Project modifications are not expected to cause any effects to groundwater resources because the project would not result in substantial changes in impervious surfaces and therefore, would not result in any changes in infiltration and groundwater recharge. Temporary groundwater

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

withdrawals may be needed to dewater excavations but would be localized, small scale, and of short duration. Proposed Project modifications may involve the addition of impervious surfaces (i.e., paved and/or compacted areas) associated with structure/equipment foundations. However, these additions would be non-continuous, minor in extent, and designed in a manner that would direct surface runoff to the nearest constructed or natural drainage channel. New facilities and structures could redirect stormwater runoff, but only in a highly localized context, and such runoff would later have the opportunity to recharge the regional aquifer through infiltration. Such changes would not have a measurable effect on the volume of the regional groundwater aquifer or on the local groundwater table level. In addition, facility operation would not require groundwater use and would not deplete groundwater supplies. The potential effects of the Proposed Project modifications on groundwater volumes or water table levels would be less than significant.

Impact 4: Impede or redirect flood flows. The Proposed Project modifications may be partially located within a 100-year floodplain. However, no housing, habitable structures, or publicly accessible facilities are proposed. Further, with the exception of aboveground pipeline appurtenances (such as pump stations; blow off and vacuum valves; storage tanks; utility cabinets; manholes, vaults, and other access structures), the Proposed Project modifications are located underground and would not affect, or be adversely affected by flood hazards in the long-term. The existing aboveground structures are typically located along the pipeline/aqueduct alignments, are low-profile, and are designed and located in a manner that avoids blocking or redirecting flood flows for adjacent properties or public areas.

The potential effect on flooding is limited to the potential for new aboveground structures to locally impede or redirect flow in the event of a large flood event. As these facilities are proposed at a programmatic level of detail, the specific method of construction is not yet known, which means that any new pipeline extension may be accomplished either via standard open-trench methods of installation, or more likely (due to CWA Section 404 permitting requirements) by trenchless methods, whereby launching and receiving pits are excavated on either side of the floodplain and the new pipeline is pushed through the soft sediments using horizontal direction drilling or other similar method. Either way, this activity would be short-term and would not likely be affected by a flood event. Following construction, system components within the flood zone would be underground and therefore unaffected by flooding. Effects are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on hydrology and water quality, including the recharge of aquifers and impedance of, or redirection of flows.

2.4.9 Land Use and Planning

Impact 4: Conflicts with existing or planned land uses. Once constructed, long-term operation and maintenance of Proposed Project modifications would not conflict with existing or planned land uses within the Water Authority's service area, southern Riverside County, or the City of Temecula because the facilities are either being constructed adjacent to existing (and within the fence) of existing facilities, within existing facility ROWs, or would be built underground. Therefore, the Proposed Project modifications would not conflict with existing or planned land uses; and potential land use effects are found to be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on land use and planning, including a conflict with existing or planned land uses.

2.4.10 Recreation

Impact 4: Restrict or delay access to established recreational resources. The Proposed Project modifications could necessitate the closure or partial closure of roads used to access recreational areas. Similarly, truck traffic could increase traffic congestion and/or degrade road conditions to recreation sites and delay access to those resources. Following the completion of construction, roads would be restored to their previous condition, and no permanent access-related effects to these recreation resources would occur. Since these access-related effects would be short-term in nature and would cease following the end of construction, these effects would be less than significant.

Impact 5: Recreational use of parks and open space areas. Construction of facilities could generate dust and noise that would constitute a temporary nuisance to some recreational users of nearby parks and open space areas in the service area. These effects would be temporary in

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

nature will be mitigated as specified under Air Quality and Noise above, Therefore, these temporary effects on recreational uses are found to be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on recreation, including access to an established recreational resource and recreational use of parks and open space areas.

2.4.11 Transportation and Traffic

Impact 3: Temporary increases in traffic levels, traffic delays, inadequate emergency access, and increased traffic hazards. Long-term traffic increases would be limited to low volume traffic associated with operations and maintenance of Proposed Project modifications. There could be an estimated maximum increase of 40 round trips per day associated with project operations at any given location, spread to some extent throughout a 24-hour day. A total of 40 round trips per day is small relative to existing traffic conditions at the proposed locations; therefore, traffic effects associated with project operations would not adversely affect existing LOS on roadways or at intersections, and potential future operational traffic effects would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on transportation and traffic, including temporary increases in traffic levels, traffic delays, inadequate emergency access, and increased traffic hazards.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

2.4.12 Utilities and Public Services

Impact 3: Police service. While construction of Proposed Project modifications would increase the number of facilities within a given police patrol area, construction would not result in any increase in police or sheriff patrol efforts, or require additional patrol officers, or result in an increase in response time. Therefore, the effects from implementation would be less than significant.

Impact 4: Fire protection services. While construction of Proposed Project modifications would increase the number of facilities within a given fire protection area/district, this construction would not result in any increase in fire protection efforts or in response time. Since the Proposed Project modifications would not result in a change in the level of fire protection service, the effects from implementation would be less than significant.

Impact 5: Additional utility infrastructure. The Proposed Project modifications would result in a small increase in demand for electric and natural gas utility services. Various Proposed Project modifications would require an electric power supply, and potentially natural gas, for operation. Utility providers plan and forecast future utility demands in the region as a whole and expand their capacity to meet future needs and provide adequate levels of service. Therefore, effects would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(3), mitigation measures are not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

Finding

The Water Authority finds that the Proposed Project modifications would have a less than significant effect on utilities and public services, including police service, fire protection services, and additional utility infrastructure.

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

3.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Five alternatives were evaluated in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR in addition to the no project alternative. The alternatives that were evaluated and remain applicable to the SPEIR for the 2013 Master Plan Update and CAP include:

- No Project;
- Conveyance of Supplies From the North, or MWD with Pipeline 6 (Master Plan Alternative 1);
- Conveyance of Supplies From the West, or Regional Seawater Desalination (Master Plan Alternative 2);
- Conveyance of Supplies From the East, or RCRCF (Master Plan Alternative 3);
- Increased Water Conservation; and
- Increased Local Supply Above Planned Yield – Combined Recycled Water and Groundwater Projects.

3.1 Findings of Alternatives

Chapter 19, Alternatives, of the 2003 Master Plan PEIR, contains an analysis of the alternatives. Based upon the analysis, the Water Authority finds as follows:

The 2003 Master Plan has been updated and the supporting analyses determined that no new water supplies are needed to meet projected demands over the 2035 planning horizon. Therefore, the alternatives evaluated in the 2003 Master Plan PEIR have not changed and are not modified as a result of this 2013 Master Plan Update.

Seawater desalination (Conveyance of Supplies From the West) remains the Water Authority's adopted preferred alternative from the 2003 Master Plan PEIR. The Water Authority has determined it has adequate water supplies to meet future population growth through the year 2035.

**Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the
2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and
Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

4.0 REFERENCES

Water Authority (San Diego County Water Authority). 2003a. Regional Water Facilities Master Plan. November 2003.

Water Authority. 2003b. Regional Water Facilities Master Plan Final Program Environmental Impact Report. November 2003.

Water Authority. 2011. *2010 Urban Water Management Plan*. Accessed September 30, 2013. <http://www.sdcwa.org/2010-urban-water-management-plan>.

Water Authority. 2013a. *2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization & Master Plan Update*.

Water Authority. 2013b. *Climate Action Plan*.

Water Authority and RECON. 2010. *San Diego County Water Authority Subregional Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP)*. Prepared for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. Prepared by San Diego County Water Authority and RECON Environmental, Inc. San Diego, California. October 2010.

**Findings of Fact for the Supplemental PEIR for the
2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and
Master Plan Update and Climate Action Plan**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK