



**PUBLIC NOTICE
INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA**

File No. PP12-015, Northern Regional Connector Pipeline. South Bay Water Recycling is proposing to install 16,000 linear feet of 30-inch recycled water pipeline, beginning at the perimeter of the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club on Tasman Boulevard in the City of Santa Clara and ending at Mountain View-Alviso Road in the City of Sunnyvale. The project would allow delivery of recycled water from the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant to the City of Sunnyvale.

The proposed pipeline is routed through the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club in the City of Santa Clara, and in the public right-of-way, generally paralleling Hwy 237, in the cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale.

The City of San Jose has performed environmental review on the project. Environmental review examines the nature and extent of any adverse effects on the environment that could occur if a project is approved and implemented. Based on the review, the City has prepared a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for this project. An MND is a statement by the City that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment if protective measures (mitigation measures) are included.

The public is welcome to review and comment on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The public comment period for this draft Mitigated Negative Declaration begins on **February 3, 2012**, and ends on **March 5, 2011**.

Because the project involves the delivery of recycled water from the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, the project will be heard by the Treatment Plant Advisory Committee (TPAC) on Thursday March 8, 2012, at 4:30 P.M. in Room T1047 of San Jose City Hall. The TPAC makes a recommendation on the project to the City Council.

The hearing date for this project is Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. before the San Jose City Council.

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, initial study, and reference documents are available online at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/eir/MND.asp#PP12-015> .

The documents are also available for review from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the City of San Jose Department of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement, located at City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street; and at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, located at 150 E. San Fernando Street.

For additional information, please contact John Davidson at (408) 535-7895, or by e-mail at john.davidson@sanjoseca.gov .

Joseph Horwedel, Director
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement


Deputy

Circulated on: February 3, 2012

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement has reviewed the proposed project described below to determine whether it could have a significant effect on the environment as a result of project completion. "Significant effect on the environment" means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

NAME OF PROJECT: Northern Regional Connector Pipeline

PROJECT FILE NUMBER: PP12-015

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Installation of 16,000 linear feet of 30-inch recycled water pipeline, beginning at the perimeter of the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club on Tasman Boulevard in the City of Santa Clara and ending at Mountain View-Alviso Road in the City of Sunnyvale

PROJECT LOCATION: Through the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club in the City of Santa Clara, and in the public right-of-way, generally paralleling Hwy 237, in the cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale.

APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION: Eric Hansen, P.E., South Bay Water Recycling, 3025 Tuers Road, San Jose CA 95121. Phone: (408) 363-4714.

FINDING:

The Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement finds the project described above will not have a significant effect on the environment in that the attached initial study identifies one or more potentially significant effects on the environment for which the project applicant, before public release of this draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, has made or agrees to make project revisions that clearly mitigate the effects to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT TO REDUCE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS TO A LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT LEVEL

- I. **AESTHETICS.** The project will not have a significant impact on aesthetics or visual resources, therefore no mitigation is required.
- II. **AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.** The project will not have a significant impact on agriculture or forest resources, therefore no mitigation is required.
- III. **AIR QUALITY.**

Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The project will have temporary construction-related air quality impacts. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District recommends that all construction projects implement best management practices for fugitive dust control. These Basic Construction Mitigation Measures are as follows (BAAQMD, 2011):

- All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day.
- All haul trucks transporting soils, sand, or other loose material offsite shall be covered.
- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power street sweeping is prohibited.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible.
- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes. Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator.
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the lead agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Because of the presence of known nesting habitat north of the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club, the following mitigation measures below will be conducted to avoid any direct and indirect effects to burrowing owl during construction.

- To minimize and avoid potential direct and indirect impacts to burrowing owl, pre-construction surveys 7 days prior to any construction activity shall be conducted in areas with suitable habitat found within 500 feet of the pipeline alignment (i.e., the undeveloped lands north of the golf course) to ensure that no individuals that may have established territories will be directly or indirectly affected by the pipeline alignment. All surveys shall be done by a qualified biologist in conformance with CDFG survey protocol for burrowing owl. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed for more than 30 days after the pre-construction survey, the site must be re-surveyed.
- If individuals are found during the pre-construction survey, a qualified biological monitor may be retained to ensure that no direct or indirect impacts occur to burrowing owl during construction activities. All activities shall be limited to the designated construction zone. In addition, any potential habitat adjacent to the construction area shall be temporarily marked and signed to keep construction activities away from these areas and to avoid unnecessary

disturbance of existing vegetation and sensitive habitat. The biological monitor may also implement an onsite construction personnel education program at the beginning of construction activities to provide additional information on working with this special-status species.

- No owls shall be evicted from their burrows during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). Lastly, no owls shall be evicted without prior notice to and approval from the CDFG. During the nesting season, if any burrowing owls are detected within 500 feet of construction activities, a 250-foot construction-free buffer zone between project activities and the occupied burrow will be established by a qualified biologist. In addition, the qualified biologist will consult with CDFG to report the occurrence and comply with avoidance guidelines. Depending on the distance between the nesting burrow and the action area, the onsite biological monitor will observe the burrow and owl activity during construction to determine whether the nesting burrowing owls are being disturbed by project activities. A qualified biologist will consult with CDFG if disturbance is occurring to determine what measures should be implemented to avoid disturbance. In addition, a qualified biologist will consult with CDFG before removing the 250-foot construction-free buffer zone to ensure the pipeline alignment and its associated construction activities avoid all occupied burrows.
- If occupied burrows are found within the construction area during the non-nesting season, owls must be removed to avoid take or indirect impacts. CDFG must be notified and, upon approval, a CDFG-qualified biologist may use passive relocation techniques using one-way doors to exclude owls from re-entering their burrows. Trapping techniques are not advised. One-way doors shall be placed in the burrows to be removed for 48 hours to ensure that the owls have left the burrows before excavation. Once the doors are removed, the burrow shall be excavated by hand carefully. In addition, sections of flexible plastic piping shall be inserted into the burrow during careful excavation to maintain an escape route if owls are still presently in the burrow during excavation. The fully excavated burrow shall be filled to prevent reoccupation.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2. The proposed pipeline alignment will cross two creeks. As a part of the construction process, the applicant will file a Modification for a Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game. With the Notification for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, the project will follow all avoidance and mitigation measures necessary to compensate for any accidental impacts to subsurface flows at the two creek crossings within the project alignment.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. The project will not have a significant impact on cultural resources, therefore no mitigation is required.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. The project will not have a significant impact due to geology and soils, therefore no mitigation is required.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. The project will not have a significant impact due to greenhouse gas emissions, therefore no mitigation is required.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1. The proposed pipeline alignment extends through the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club, which is situated on the site of the former City of Santa Clara All-purpose landfill. Because of the age of this landfill and lack of records during early operations,

the exact boundaries of the landfill “footprint” could extend beyond the current property boundaries into roadway and utility easements in some areas. Additionally, excavated material could pose a threat of the spread of chemical constituents in the landfill and/or groundwater through stormwater runoff, volatilization of contaminants, or through the loading, transport, and disposal process. It is likely that construction of the pipeline will involve excavation into groundwater, where there is a high likelihood of encountering contamination. This may create waste that is no longer municipal solid waste, as it could be too wet or too contaminated or both, and would need to be treated as a liquid or contaminated waste.

These impacts could be avoided by partially or completely relocating the pipeline outside of the landfill property and footprint such that no impacts to or disturbance of the existing monitoring and control systems and landfill cover will likely occur or be necessary. For the project as proposed, the mitigation measures below will be conducted to avoid and minimize any direct and indirect effects during construction.

- Prior to construction, conduct non-invasive (i.e. geophysical methods) and invasive (i.e. potholing or boring) investigation techniques to confirm the extent and risk of potential impacts associated with existing site conditions.
- Incorporate appropriate construction methods, trench design, and trench monitoring and protection measures into construction plans to minimize the potential for landfill gas migration, air intrusion, groundwater migration, groundwater contact, and construction-derived waste requiring special handling and disposal. Pipeline design will require a licensed engineer with expertise in landfills, compliance with applicable provisions of CCR Title 27 guidance for closed landfill structures and other regulatory requirements, and additional vapor monitoring and protection measures as applicable.
- Abandon groundwater monitoring wells and landfill gas probes along the pipeline alignment, as necessary, and replace at alternative monitoring locations. Perform this work prior to trenching and pipeline construction so that the monitoring network remains active.
- Properly store excavated materials and pumped groundwater and test for possible contamination. If any hazardous substances are found during construction, store, handle transport, and dispose of these materials in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Follow all federal, state, and local reporting requirements regarding the use of hazardous and non-hazardous materials at the project site.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. The project will not have a significant hydrology and water quality impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. The project will not have a significant land use impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. The project will not have a significant impact on mineral resources, therefore no mitigation is required.

XII. NOISE. The project will not have a significant noise impact, therefore no mitigation is required.

- XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.** The project will not have a significant population and housing impact, therefore no mitigation is required.
- XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.** The project will not have a significant impact on public services, therefore no mitigation is required.
- XV. RECREATION.** The project will not have a significant impact on recreation, therefore no mitigation is required.
- XVI. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC.** The project will not have a significant traffic impact, therefore no mitigation is required.
- XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.** The project will not have a significant impact on utilities and service systems, therefore no mitigation is required.
- XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.** The project will not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, be cumulatively considerable, or have a substantial adverse effect on human beings, therefore no mitigation is required.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Before 5:00 p.m. on **March 5, 2012**, any person may:

1. Review the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) as an informational document only;
or
2. Submit written comments regarding the information, analysis, and mitigation measures in the Draft MND. Before the MND is adopted, Planning staff will prepare written responses to any comments, and revise the Draft MND, if necessary, to reflect any concerns raised during the public review period. All written comments will be included as part of the Final MND.

Joseph Horwedel, Director
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

Circulation period, from **February 3, 2012** to **March 5, 2012**.


Deputy

Initial Study

**South Bay Water Recycling
Northern Regional Connector Pipeline**

File No. PP12-015

City of San José

February 1, 2012

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CH ₄	methane
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide-equivalent
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	decibels A-weighted
DPM	diesel particulate matter
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
LEA	Local Enforcement Agency
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NO _x	nitrogen oxide
NRCP	Northern Regional Connector Project
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SBWR	South Bay Water Recycling
SCVWD	Santa Clara Valley Water District
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan
TAC	toxic air contaminate
UBC	Uniform Building Code
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Plant

SECTION 1

Background Information

1.1 Project Title

Northern Regional Connector Pipeline

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113-1905

1.3 Lead Agency Contact Person and Phone Number

Andrew Crabtree, Principal Planner
Planning Division
Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
City of San José
Phone: (408) 535-3555
Email: Andrew.Crabtree@sanjoseca.gov

1.4 Project Location

The 30-inch pipeline would travel north and west along the perimeter of the Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club to Old Mountain View-Alviso Road. On Old Mountain View-Alviso Road, this pipeline would parallel an existing 12-inch South Bay Water Recycling (SBWR) pipeline between Great America Parkway and Patrick Henry Drive. At the end of Old Mountain View-Alviso Road, the pipeline would turn to the south along Lawrence Station Road, then turn west on Elko Drive to cross Lawrence Expressway. Once across Lawrence Expressway, the pipeline would turn to the north on Persian Drive and parallel State Route 237 all the way to the Sunnyvale East Channel. At this location, the pipeline would tie into the existing 24-inch pipeline that travels south on the east bank of the Sunnyvale East Channel.

1.5 Project Sponsor's Name and Address

Eric S. Hansen, P.E.
Capital Planning Program
South Bay Water Recycling
Water Resources
City of San José
(408) 363-4714
Email: eric.hansen@sanjoseca.gov

1.6 General Plan Designation

The portion of the project that crosses through the City of Santa Clara runs through the following General Plan designated areas: parks and recreation, open space, office/research and development, and light industrial. The portion of the project that crosses the City of Sunnyvale runs through the following General Plan designated areas: industry, mobile home residential, and neighborhood commercial.

1.7 Zoning

The portion of the project that crosses through the City of Santa Clara has the following zoning designations: agriculture, public or quasi public and light industrial. The portion of the project that crosses through the City of Sunnyvale has the following zoning designations: MS – industrial and service, and RMH – residential mobile home.

1.8 Description of the Project

1.8.1 Project Overview and Objectives

The Northern Regional Connector Pipeline (NRCP) is a joint project of the SBWR program and the City of Sunnyvale and the City of Santa Clara. The City of San José will serve as the lead agency for the NRCP project. As City of San José participating agencies, the City of Sunnyvale and the City of Santa Clara are responsible agencies. The NRCP would allow the City of Sunnyvale to use up to 100 percent SBWR recycled water for its recycled water system. This 16,000-foot pipeline (Figure 1) would connect to the existing SBWR 30-inch pipeline located at the intersection of Lafayette Street and Tasman Drive. From the point of connection to the SBWR system, this 30-inch pipeline would travel north and west through and along the perimeter of the Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club to Old Mountain View-Alviso Road. On Old Mountain View-Alviso Road, the pipeline would parallel an existing 12-inch SBWR pipeline between Great America Parkway and Patrick Henry Drive. Creek crossings include San Tomas Aquino Creek and Calabazas Creek. Within existing streets, the new pipelines will be constructed using either "cut and cover" method, jack and bore tunneling, or directional drilling technologies. To cross existing creeks or railways, the methods for pipeline construction will either be jack and bore tunneling, directional drilling, or suspending the pipeline from an existing structure. Review and permitting by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) may be required for creek crossings or other areas of the pipeline alignment in the event that work takes place within SCVWD-owned property, easement, or facilities. The bore and jack pits would be located outside of the creeks' top of banks. The bore and jack pits could be located on either the north or south sides of the bridge crossing the creek.

At the end of Old Mountain View-Alviso Road, the pipeline would turn to the south along Lawrence Station Road, then turn west on Elko Drive to cross Lawrence Expressway. Once across Lawrence Expressway, the pipeline would turn to the north on Persian Drive and parallel State Route 237 to the Sunnyvale East Channel. At this location, the pipeline would tie into the existing 24-inch pipeline on the east bank of the Sunnyvale East Channel.

Construction of the majority of the NRCP would occur within existing roadway rights-of-ways, generally using the "cut and cover" method. Depending on existing conditions and in specific locations, the contractor would install the pipeline by bore and jack method in order to avoid existing utilities and sensitive environmental resources. Typical bore and jack construction would include two pits; one on each side of the crossing (entry and receiving pits). The bore machine auger is in 10-foot lengths, and therefore the pit length is the bore machine length plus work room plus multiples of 10-feet. The pits are typically 15 to 25-feet wide. The receiving pit must be big enough to make a tie-in weld and would be no larger than the entry pit. The depth of the pits would be approximately 25-feet. The ground surface would be restored to original or better condition.

Cut and cover construction would require the use of a backhoe or excavator to dig a trench, and the excavated material would be removed or temporarily stored alongside the excavated trench. Trench depth is expected to be up to 12-feet in depth. Approximately 12-inches of bedding material would be placed at the bottom of the trench, and the pipeline would be laid on top of the bedding material and covered with additional backfill material to a depth of approximately 12-inches above the pipe. Next the trench will be backfilled with either the excavated material or backfill material to approximately 12-inches below street level. A new layer of subgrade material would be placed on top of the backfilled material, and asphalt paving would be placed to match the existing street profiles. Excess material excavated from the trench would be disposed of at the contractor's discretion.

Construction would be scheduled between 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Additional hours may be necessary to make up schedule deficiencies or to complete critical construction activities.

1.8.2 Additional Project Approvals Needed

This document is intended to support additional permits and discretionary approvals that might be needed to gain full approval for the project. As part of the project all required permits will be acquired prior to the start of construction. The following permits are expected at this time to be needed to complete the project:

- Encroachment Permits from the City of Santa Clara and the City of Sunnyvale
- Grant Agreement pursuant to Proposition 84
- Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game
- Modifications to existing permits related to the closure of the Santa Clara All Purpose Landfill (if necessary) from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District



Source: HydroScience Engineers, Inc., 11/28/2011.

- LEGEND
- Northern Regional Connector Pipeline
 - Existing Recycled Water Pipelines

FIGURE 1
 Project Location Map
 SBWR Northern Regional Connector Pipeline Project

Environmental Determination

2.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, i.e. involve at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

2.2 Determination

Determination: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Andrew Cubtree

Signature

Division Manager

Title

February 2, 2012

Date

City of San Jose, Planning Division

Agency:

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

3.1 Aesthetics

Aesthetics Checklist

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

3.1.1 Setting

The project site is located within the urbanized areas of both Santa Clara and Sunnyvale city limits and would be constructed entirely underground.

3.1.2 Impacts Analysis

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

NO IMPACT. The project is not located in an area considered as a scenic vista and would have no impact.

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

NO IMPACT. The project is to be constructed underground and upon completion would have no impact on scenic resources.

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

NO IMPACT. During project construction, the portions of project site’s visual character would change to a temporary construction work site. The pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets and would be completely underground. Once completed the project area would be returned to pre-project conditions. Thus, there would be no impact to visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not include any additional lighting and thus would not adversely affect day or nighttime views from the area.

3.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

Agriculture and Forest Resources Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.2.1 Setting

The pipeline would be constructed along developed portions of the City of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale; primarily within street right-of-way, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses.

3.2.2 Impacts Analysis

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

NO IMPACT. The pipeline is not located on or near land designated for agricultural use as defined by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program or the Williamson Act. The project would not be located on agricultural land nor would it convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural use.

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

NO IMPACT. The project is not located on land zoned for agriculture or under a Williamson Act contract. The pipeline runs alongside one parcel designated as agricultural land within the City of Santa Clara. This parcel, located west of San Thomas Aquino creek just south of Old Mountain View – Alviso Road, is used as a retention basin and does not support any farming or agricultural activities.

c. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC section 1220(g)) or timberland (as defined in PRC section 4526)?

NO IMPACT. No forest or timber land is present at the project site or in the project vicinity. No forest land would be affected by the project.

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

NO IMPACT. No forest land is present at the project site or in the project vicinity. No forest land would be affected by the project.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not involve other changes that could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

3.3 Air Quality

Air Quality Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone (O ₃) precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.3.1 Setting

The proposed project is located within the San Francisco Bay Area air basin. Air quality within this basin does not meet all state and federal air quality standards; specifically, the basin is in a non-attainment status for ozone (federal and state) and particulate matter (federal). Construction projects have the potential to generate harmful air pollutants that degrade air quality and increase local exposure. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has published guidelines for evaluating, measuring, and mitigating a project's air quality impacts, including impacts from criteria air pollutants (e.g., ozone, particulate matter) and toxic air contaminants (BAAQMD, 2011)

3.3.2 Impacts Analysis

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. On September 15, 2010, the BAAQMD adopted the final Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan (BAAQMD, 2010a). The Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan serves to meet the requirements of California Clean Air Act to implement “all feasible measures” to reduce ozone, particulate matter, and air toxics. The Clean Air Plan prescribes 55 control measures in five categories: Stationary Source Measures, Mobile Source Measures, Transportation Control Measures, Land Use and Local Impacts Measures, and Energy and Climate Measures. Most of these control measures would not apply to the proposed project, but the following measure is relevant to this pipeline construction project.

- Mobile Source Control Measure C-1: Construction and Farming Equipment. This measure includes providing cash incentives to equipment owners to retrofit equipment with diesel particulate matter filters or upgrade engines. This measure also prescribes working with contractors to encourage the use of renewable alternative fuels in construction equipment.

Construction contractors who install the proposed pipeline have the option of working with the BAAQMD to apply for cash incentives for equipment upgrades, including the use of alternative fuels. On this basis, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan, and the impact would be less than significant.

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

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. Air quality impacts were evaluated following the BAAQMD CEQA Air Quality Guidelines (BAAQMD, 2011). Short-term construction emissions of ozone precursors (oxides of nitrogen [NO_x] and reactive organic gases [ROG]), particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀), and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}) were evaluated. Construction emissions from off-road construction equipment were estimated using the latest version of URBEMIS2007 (version 9.2.4). Emissions from on-road vehicles including the delivery trucks, crew trucks, and workers commute were calculated using the emission factors from EMFAC2007 (version 2.3), modeled for the year 2012 in the Bay Area air basin. The defaults in the URBEMIS2007 program were used to determine the horsepower rating and load factors of the construction equipment.

Modeled emissions would be below BAAQMD thresholds as follows.

- NO_x emissions of 52.49 pounds per day (lb/day) compared to a threshold of 54 lb/day.
- ROG emissions of 5.11 lb/day compared to a threshold of 54 lb/day.
- PM₁₀ (exhaust) emissions of 1.87 lb/day compared to a threshold of 82 lb/day.
- PM_{2.5} (exhaust) emissions of 1.72 lb/day compared to a threshold of 54 lb/day.

The project would have a less-than-significant contribution to air pollution in the San Francisco Bay Area air basin. In addition, the BAAQMD recommends that all construction projects implement best management practices for fugitive dust control. These Basic Construction Mitigation Measures are as follows (BAAQMD, 2011).

- All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day.
- All haul trucks transporting soils, sand, or other loose material offsite shall be covered.
- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power street sweeping is prohibited.

- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible.
- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes. Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator.
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the lead agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. As described above, project construction emissions would be lower than the BAAQMD significance thresholds. Additionally, the construction emissions would be temporary and the maximum daily emissions would occur for only a portion of the construction period. Therefore, since the project would emit pollutants below the thresholds of significance for an individual project, it would not result in a cumulative considerable net increase of non-attainment pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, and the ozone precursors NOx and ROG) and the air quality impact on non-attainment criteria pollutants would be less than significant.

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

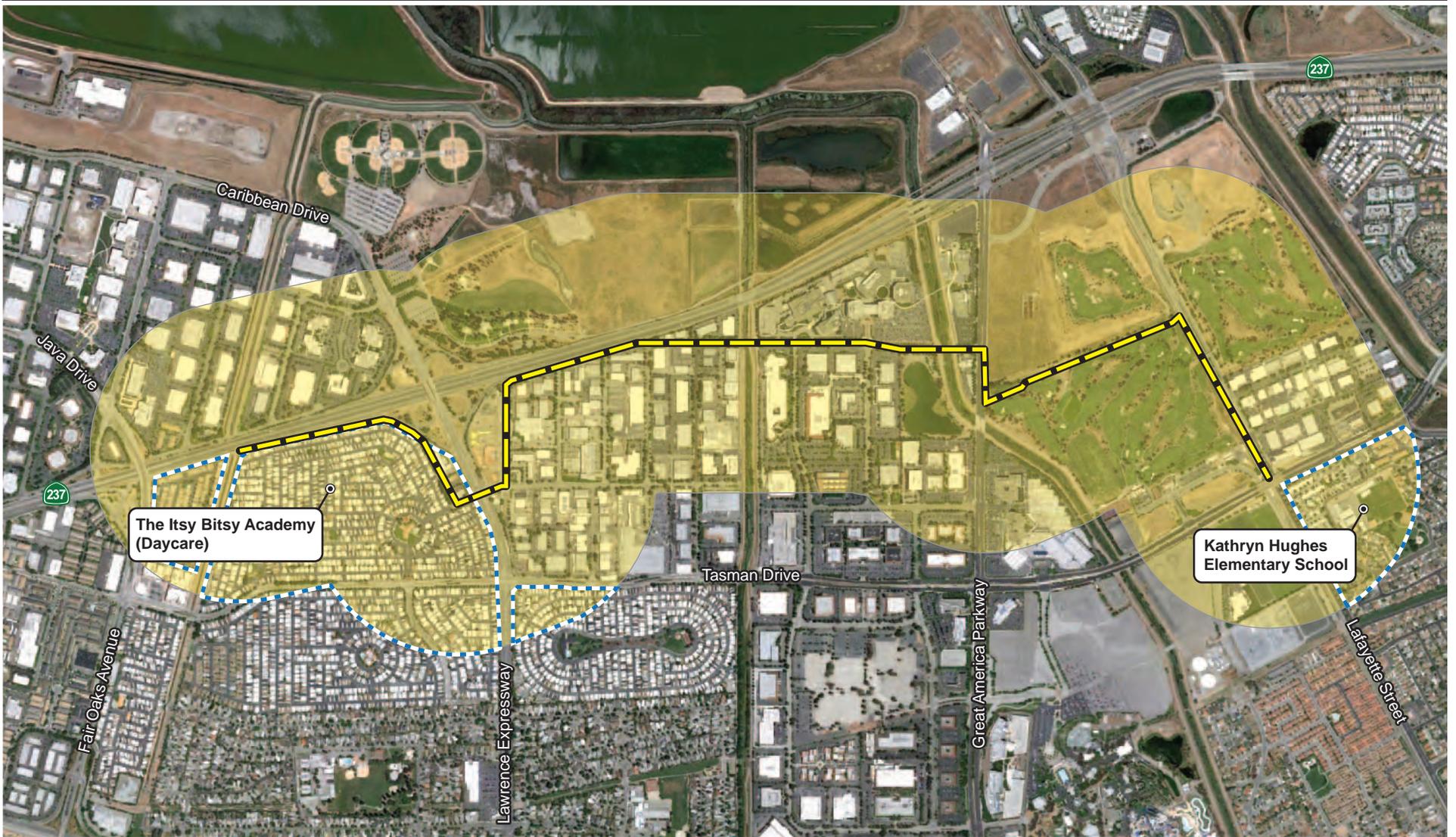
LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. Diesel particulate matter (DPM) and several other toxic air contaminants (TACs) can be emitted from construction activity that uses traditional diesel-powered equipment such as excavators and cranes. Current models and methodologies for conducting health risk assessments are associated with longer-term exposure periods of 9, 40, and 70 years, which do not correlate well with the temporary and highly variable nature of construction activities (BAAQMD, 2011). This results in difficulties with producing accurate estimates of health risk. To assist with initial evaluations of health risk from construction, the BAAQMD developed a screening approach for construction. A screening health risk assessment for the TAC emissions from project construction was conducted using the BAAQMD's Screening Tables for Air Toxics Evaluation during Construction (BAAQMD, 2010b). The screening table lists the minimum distance required between the fence line of a construction site and a nearby sensitive receptor to determine that cancer and non-cancer risks associated with the project are less than significant per the BAAQMD thresholds of significance. By definition, if the distance between the project site and the receptor is greater than what is listed in the screening table for its size, the health risks are expected to be less than the BAAQMD thresholds of significance.

During construction, TAC and PM2.5 emissions would be generated from diesel equipment. The sensitive receptors located nearest the construction site are shown in Figure 2. The project was assumed to have similar construction activities and equipment use as small industrial construction site of about 0.2 acres; therefore, the industrial site scenario in the screening table was used. Based on the screening tables, a minimum offset of 100 meters from the construction site to the nearest sensitive receptor would be needed to demonstrate that impacts would be less than significant. As shown in Figure 2, the nearest sensitive receptors are the homes in Casa de Amigos mobile home park. Within Casa de Amigos, there are approximately 55 rear yards backing onto Persian Drive and approximately 200 mobile homes within 100 meters of the pipeline construction area. Although approximately 200 sensitive receptors could be exposed to increased health risks from the project (primarily as a result of diesel particulate emissions),

these exposures would be very short-term in nature because construction would not be occurring in this area for more than a few weeks. Because of the temporary nature of the exposure to diesel particulates and other TACs, actual impacts are likely to be less than BAAQMD thresholds and therefore less than significant. In addition, the construction contractor is required to follow the Basic Construction Mitigation Measures described above, including minimizing idling times and maintaining equipment in good condition. These measures are likely to contribute to additional reductions in health risks.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would involve the temporary use of vehicles and construction equipment that do not generate significant odors; therefore, no odor impacts would be expected.



LEGEND

-  Northern Regional Connector Pipeline
-  1/4 Mile Buffer Zone
-  Residential Land Use

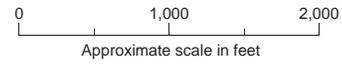


FIGURE 2
 Sensitive Receptors Map
 SBWR Northern Regional Connector Pipeline Project



3.4 Biological Resources

Biological Resources Checklist

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

3.4.1 Setting

The proposed project would occur within the cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale, in Santa Clara County. The pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses. The pipeline would cross one undeveloped area located within the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club. This undeveloped area is on the northern side of the golf course, in an area dominated by ruderal vegetation and non-native grasses. In addition, the pipeline would cross two creeks, San Tomas Aquino Creek and Calabazas Creek. The San Tomas Aquino Creek watershed drains approximately 45 square miles. San Tomas Creek originates in the forested foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains flowing in a northern direction through the cities of Campbell and Santa Clara, into the Guadalupe Slough, and finally into the Lower South San Francisco Bay. The major tributaries to San Tomas Aquino Creek include Saratoga, Wildcat, Smith and Vasona Creeks (SCVURPPP, 2011). The Calabazas Creek watershed encompasses approximately 20 square miles. The headwaters of this 13.3 mile long creek originate from the northeast-facing slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains and flow into the Lower South San Francisco Bay via the Guadalupe Slough. Major tributaries to Calabazas Creek include Prospect, Rodeo,

and Regnart Creeks (SCVURPPP, 2011). Vegetation within these creeks include a variety of wetland and upland habitats including freshwater emergent wetlands within the ordinary high water line, with coyote brush scrub and ruderal vegetation found along the upper banks outside of the ordinary high water line.

3.4.2 Impact Analysis

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. No federally or state threatened, endangered, or rare species listed by the natural resource agencies are known to occur on the site according to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (Figure 3). The majority of the special-status species that occur regionally would be considered absent from the project site due to a lack of suitable habitat. In addition, nesting birds are not expected to be directly affected during construction as the pipeline would be designed to avoid shrubs or trees that could be potential nesting habitat for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). All construction would be conducted outside of the creek channels, thus avoiding all riparian and wetland habitats and their associated species. The majority of the alignment is within developed areas and roadways which do not contain suitable habitat for special-status plant species, thus impacts to special-status plant species are not expected to occur.

During construction near the two creek crossings and the undeveloped area north of the golf course, indirect effects due to increased noise associated with trenching and bore and jack activities may occur during the nesting season for birds protected under the MBTA. To avoid these indirect effects, a pre-construction nesting survey by a qualified biologist will be conducted for the entire project alignment including adjacent areas within the undeveloped area north of the golf course and near the two creeks. If any songbird nests are found within 50 feet of the project alignment or raptor nests within 350 feet of the project alignment, a construction-free buffer zone will be established to avoid indirect effects to the nests. In addition, monitoring by a qualified biologist is required until the nests are no longer active.

The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is known to nest in undeveloped lands within a one mile radius of the proposed project alignment (CNDDDB, 2011; Occurrences #340, 345, 480, and 491). The burrowing owl is a state species of special concern. In Santa Clara County, the burrowing owl is a year-round resident of open, dry grassland. This habitat has been rapidly developed, causing significant declines in the local population. The burrowing owl uses primarily ground squirrel burrows for cover and nesting; it usually does not excavate its own new burrow. It prefers open, flat habitat with short mounds or perch sites. Breeding or nesting generally occurs in spring and summer and usually just one brood is produced. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) considers the nesting season to generally extend from February 1 to August 31. Because of the presence of known nesting habitat north of the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club, the mitigation measures below will be conducted to avoid any direct and indirect effects to burrowing owl during construction.

- To minimize and avoid potential direct and indirect impacts to burrowing owl, pre-construction surveys 7 days prior to any construction activity shall be conducted in areas with suitable habitat found within 500 feet of the pipeline alignment (i.e., the undeveloped lands north of the golf course) to ensure that no individuals that may have established territories will be directly or indirectly affected by the pipeline alignment. All surveys shall be done by a qualified biologist in conformance with CDFG survey protocol for burrowing owl. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed for more than 30 days after the pre-construction survey, the site must be re-surveyed.
- If individuals are found during the pre-construction survey, a qualified biological monitor may be retained to ensure that no direct or indirect impacts occur to burrowing owl during construction activities. All activities shall be limited to the designated construction zone. In addition, any potential habitat adjacent to the construction area shall be temporarily marked and signed to keep construction activities away from these areas and to avoid unnecessary disturbance of existing vegetation and sensitive habitat. The biological monitor may also implement an onsite construction personnel education program at the

beginning of construction activities to provide additional information on working with this special-status species.

- No owls shall be evicted from their burrows during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). Lastly, no owls shall be evicted without prior notice to and approval from the CDFG. During the nesting season, if any burrowing owls are detected within 500 feet of construction activities, a 250-foot construction-free buffer zone between project activities and the occupied burrow will be established by a qualified biologist. In addition, the qualified biologist will consult with CDFG to report the occurrence and comply with avoidance guidelines. Depending on the distance between the nesting burrow and the action area, the onsite biological monitor will observe the burrow and owl activity during construction to determine whether the nesting burrowing owls are being disturbed by project activities. A qualified biologist will consult with CDFG if disturbance is occurring to determine what measures should be implemented to avoid disturbance. In addition, a qualified biologist will consult with CDFG before removing the 250-foot construction-free buffer zone to ensure the pipeline alignment and its associated construction activities avoid all occupied burrows.
- If occupied burrows are found within the construction area during the non-nesting season, owls must be removed to avoid take or indirect impacts. CDFG must be notified and, upon approval, a CDFG-qualified biologist may use passive relocation techniques using one-way doors to exclude owls from re-entering their burrows. Trapping techniques are not advised. One-way doors shall be placed in the burrows to be removed for 48 hours to ensure that the owls have left the burrows before excavation. Once the doors are removed, the burrow shall be excavated by hand carefully. In addition, sections of flexible plastic piping shall be inserted into the burrow during careful excavation to maintain an escape route if owls are still presently in the burrow during excavation. The fully excavated burrow shall be filled to prevent reoccupation.

Because the pipeline will be placed underground along major city streets and developed areas, native habitats known to the region would not be directly or indirectly affected. Using the jack and bore method to place the proposed pipeline under San Tomas Aquino and Calabazas Creeks and working outside of the channel banks would also avoid any effects to riparian or wetland habitats and their associated species presently occurring within the project alignment. With the above avoidance and mitigation measures, temporary construction activities are not expected to result in significant impacts to any special-status species, or to otherwise conflict with laws or regulations protecting these species.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. The construction proposed at the two creek crossings will include bore and jack activities that will occur outside of the creek banks avoiding any disturbance to the creek channel and its associated habitats. Therefore, any riparian or sensitive habitat currently present within San Tomas Aquino Creek and Calabazas Creek would not be affected by the proposed project. All other habitats within and adjacent to the project alignment are either landscaped or highly disturbed. Because there is a low possibility of accidental impacts associated with the bore and jack method (i.e., possible hydrofracture), a Notification for a Streambed Alteration Agreement could be submitted to CDFG, as described under Sections 1600 through 1602 of the CDFG Code. With the Notification for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, the project will follow all avoidance and mitigation measures necessary to compensate for any accidental impacts to subsurface flows at the two creek crossings within the project alignment.

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

NO IMPACT. The construction proposed at the two creek crossings will occur outside of the creek banks avoiding any disturbance to the creek channel and its associated habitats. Therefore, the proposed project will not affect any existing wetland habitats currently present within San Tomas Aquino Creek and Calabazas Creek.

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

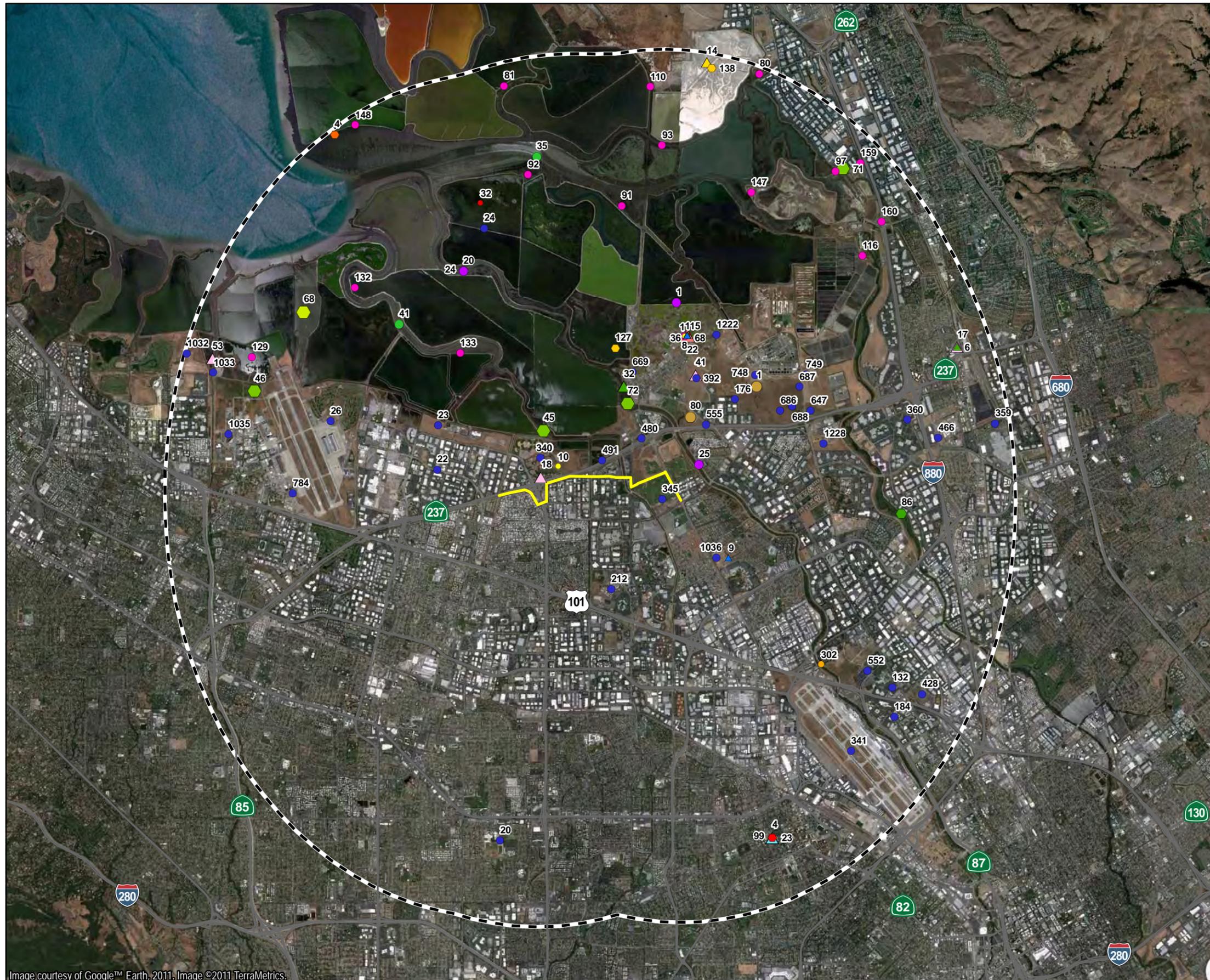
NO IMPACT. The proposed pipeline will be entirely underground at the end of construction. Therefore there will be no barriers that would block any movement of native or migratory wildlife or interrupt any established wildlife corridors. Native wildlife nursery sites are not known within or adjacent to the project site.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The pipeline would be designed to avoid ordinance sized trees and all other biological resources. If an ordinance sized tree cannot be avoided, the project will follow the appropriate city ordinances in place for protecting trees and other associated biological resources.

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

NO IMPACT. The proposed project occurs along developed lands within the city limits of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale and would not conflict with the provisions of conservation plans. The project area is not within the study area of the proposed Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan.



- LEGEND**
- mimic tryonia (=California brackishwater snail)
 - western pond turtle
 - burrowing owl
 - Alameda song sparrow
 - white-tailed kite
 - great blue heron
 - saltmarsh common yellowthroat
 - California least tern
 - western snowy plover
 - northern harrier
 - hoary bat
 - California clapper rail
 - salt-marsh harvest mouse
 - salt-marsh wandering shrew
 - ▲ alkali milk-vetch
 - ▲ Hoover's button-celery
 - ▲ arcuate bush-mallow
 - ▲ Congdon's tarplant
 - ▲ California seablite
 - ▲ Hall's bush-mallow
 - ▲ hairless popcorn-flower
 - ▲ Point Reyes bird's-beak
 - Pipeline
 - Highway
 - ⊞ 5 Mile Buffer

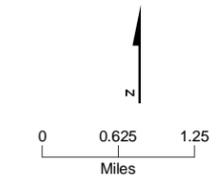


Image courtesy of Google™ Earth, 2011. Image ©2011 TerraMetrics.
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FIGURE 3
 CNDDDB - August 2011
 SBWR Northern Regional Connector Pipeline Project
CH2MHILL.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources Checklist

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

3.5.1 Setting

The proposed project site is within the highly urbanized areas of the City of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. The project would install a new 30-inch pipeline that would be constructed along developed city streets, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses.

3.5.2 Impacts Analysis

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

NO IMPACT. The project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5.

In addition, a review of the 2011 *Historic Properties Directory* for Santa Clara County maintained by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) with the most recent updates of the National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest as well as other evaluations of properties reviewed by the SHPO did not locate any archaeological or historic resources within or adjacent to the proposed alignment including historic districts.

Additional research including reviews of *The California History Plan*, the *California Inventory of Historic Resources; Five Views: An Ethnic Sites Survey for California; The Spanish and Mexican Adobe and Other Buildings in the Nine San Francisco Bay Counties, 1776 to about 1850*; and, various published ethnographic resources for Native American tribelet and village locations were also negative for the proposed alignment.

The City of Santa Clara 2010-2035 General Plan identified no architecturally, historically significant or historic properties within the alignment in the City of Santa Clara. The project would not affect any buildings and structures and would be constructed primarily along developed city streets and would be constructed entirely underground.

A formal search of resources within and adjacent to the proposed pipeline right of way was completed using the California Historical Resources Information System, Northwest Information Center (CHRIS/NWIC). The results from this search indicated that there were no recorded sites within the project area or within a 0.25 miles of the project.

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

NO IMPACT. The project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in Section 15064.5.

A review of archaeological records on file with Basin Research Associates for the cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale lists no recorded archaeological resources within or adjacent to the proposed alignment. A formal search of resources within and adjacent to the proposed pipeline right of way was completed using the California Historical Resources Information System, Northwest Information Center (CHRIS/NWIC).

The project alignment is north of the City of Santa Clara's *Archaeologically Sensitive Boundaries*.

In addition, a review of the 2011 *Historic Properties Directory* for Santa Clara County maintained by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) with the most recent updates of the National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest as well as other evaluations of properties reviewed by the SHPO did not locate any archaeological or historic resources within or adjacent to the proposed alignment.

A field review of the alignment was completed by Mr. Christopher Canzonieri (M.A.) who meets the standards of the Secretary of the Interior for archaeology. In general, the project alignment is located in developed commercial and light industrial areas with buildings, pavement and introduced landscaping obscuring native soil. Surface visibility varied from 30-90 percent in areas devoid of landscaping or pavement. No evidence of prehistoric or historically significant archaeological resources was observed during the survey conducted for the proposed project.

There is a low potential for exposing significant archaeological resources during construction. The project alignment has been subject to previous utility impacts and much of the surrounding area has been previously graded and developed with no archaeological resources exposed during the past 30 years. In the event that archeological resources are exposed during construction, applicable local, state and federal regulations will be followed to identify, evaluate and treat significant cultural resources.

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

NO IMPACT. No impacts to paleontological resources are expected because the project site is already highly disturbed as a result of past activities. Work would be done either in an existing roadway or in areas previously disturbed. Since the project site and much of the surrounding area has been previously graded and developed, these deposits are likely to have a low potential to contain fossil resources, and are thus, considered to have little to no paleontological sensitivity. In the unlikely event that paleontological resources are uncovered during construction of the pipeline all applicable local, state and federal regulation would be followed.

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

NO IMPACT. Human remains have not been previously exposed during prior utility construction. No recorded instances of prehistoric or historic human remains are known within or adjacent to the pipeline alignment based on the records on file or consulted by Basin Research Associates. In the event of an unexpected discovery of human remains, state law will be followed.

3.6 Geology and Soils

Geology and Soils Checklist

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

3.6.1 Setting

The City of Santa Clara is located in the Santa Clara Valley, surrounded by the Santa Cruz Mountains to the southwest and west, the Diablo Mountain Range to the east, and San Francisco Bay to the north. Santa Clara soils are primarily comprised of clays that contain groundwater at shallow depths (less than 25 feet). The project site is located in the highly urbanized area of the cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. The project area terrain is generally flat, with some minor elevation gains around the two creeks. The project site is not located in an area identified as a fault or landslide hazard zone by the County of Santa Clara. The project area is identified as being in the County Liquefaction Hazard Zones. (City of Santa Clara, 2009)

3.6.2 Impacts Analysis

a. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

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

NO IMPACT. The project site is not located within a special study zone under the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Act and is not identified by the County of Santa Clara as being in a County Fault Rupture Hazard Zones.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The project involves the construction of a new 30-inch pipeline that does cross two creeks. In the event of strong seismic ground shaking the new pipeline could be damaged and could leak and discharge into the creeks. The pipeline would be constructed primarily along developed city streets and would be completely underground. Thus there would be no increase in potential impacts.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The project area is identified as being in the County Liquefaction Hazard Zones, and thus the project will be in conformance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) Guidelines for Seismic Zone 4 to avoid or minimize potential damage from seismic shaking, fault rupture, and liquefaction on the site. Due to the fact that the pipeline would be constructed primarily along developed city streets and would be completely underground when completed, there will be a less-than-significant impact.

iv) Landslides?

NO IMPACT. The project location is relatively flat with no potential for landslides or mudflows.

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

NO IMPACT. The project will not expose any additional soil to erosion. The pipeline would be constructed primarily along developed city streets and would be completely underground. Any ground disturbance as a result of the construction process will be returned to pre-project conditions upon completion.

c. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soils that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in an onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soils that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in an onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The pipeline would be constructed primarily along developed city streets, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses. The pipeline would also travel through an existing golf course. Construction activities will be minor and short in duration, and the project area will be returned to pre-project conditions upon completion of the project. The project will utilize the most up to date construction and engineering techniques to ensure safe construction; therefore less-than-significant impact.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The proposed alignments would be designed and constructed in conformance with the UBC Guidelines for Seismic Zone 4 to avoid or minimize potential damage from seismic shaking, fault rupture, and liquefaction on the site. The construction of the pipeline will follow the all applicable regulation governing the installation of underground pipelines; thus less-than-significant impact.

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

NO IMPACT. Not applicable to this project.

3.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Checklist

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

3.7.1 Setting

The proposed project is located within the San Francisco Bay Area air basin. Air quality within this basin does not meet all state and federal air quality standards; specifically, the basin is in a non-attainment status for ozone (federal and state) and particulate matter (federal). Construction projects have the potential to generate harmful air pollutants that degrade air quality and increase local exposure. The BAAQMD has published guidelines for evaluating, measuring, and mitigating a project's air quality impacts, including impacts from criteria air pollutants (e.g., ozone, particulate matter) and toxic air contaminants (BAAQMD, 2011).

Various gases in the earth's atmosphere play an important role in moderating the earth's surface temperature. Solar radiation enters earth's atmosphere from space and a portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth's surface. The earth emits this radiation back toward space, but the properties of the radiation change from high-frequency solar radiation to lower-frequency infrared radiation. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are transparent to solar radiation, but are effective in absorbing infrared radiation. Consequently, radiation that would otherwise escape back into space is retained, resulting in a warming of the earth's atmosphere. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect.

Scientific research to date indicates that some of the observed climate change is a result of increased GHG emissions associated with human activity. Among the GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), O₃, NO_x, and chlorofluorocarbons. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are considered responsible for enhancing the greenhouse effect. GHG emissions contributing to global climate change are attributable, in large part, to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors.

In 2008, California statewide GHG emissions were 474 million metric tons CO₂-equivalent (CO₂e) per year. Transportation contributes the most to the GHG emissions, followed by electric power generation (CARB 2010).

3.7.2 Impact Analysis

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The proposed project would generate greenhouse gases during construction, primarily carbon dioxide from vehicle exhaust. The project is not expected to result in measurable emissions of other greenhouse gases, including methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons,

perfluorocarbons), and sulfur hexafluoride. Project construction would emit 7,360 lbs/day of carbon dioxide (382 metric tons over the construction period), based on emission factors from URBEMIS2007 (version 9.2.4) and truck emission factors from EMFAC2007 (version 2.3).

The BAAQMD does not have a quantitative threshold for greenhouse gases during construction (BAAQMD, 2011). Rather, the guidelines suggest determining impact significance in relation to meeting greenhouse gas reduction strategies. As described below, the project (for recycled water reliability) supports established strategies. For this reason, greenhouse gas emissions would be less than significant.

b. Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The proposed project would not conflict with plans, policies, or regulations intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As described above, construction would emit greenhouse gases at levels below significance thresholds, and no policies apply that specifically related to greenhouse gas emissions during routine construction. The project would improve recycled water supply reliability in the City of Sunnyvale, and would help increase recycled water use in the region. Using local recycled water in place of imported water would greatly reduce energy use, and therefore water recycling is a recognized greenhouse gas reduction strategy (for example, see Climate Change Scoping Plan, Recommended Action W-2). In addition, the City of Sunnyvale is encouraging recycled water system expansion as part of its draft Climate Action Plan (see Reduction Measure WC-1). Water pumping facilities indirectly emit GHGs through electricity consumption. However, the proposed project would reduce the overall electricity consumption and GHG emissions produced by water transport by off-setting the use of potable water with recycled water. This assumes that groundwater uses 905 kilowatt hours of electricity per acre foot of water transported, recycled water uses 370 kilowatt hours per acre foot of water transported, and 231 grams of carbon dioxide is produced per kilowatt hour of electricity used to transport water (SCVWD, 2010). Based on these numbers, approximately 0.12 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions are avoided for each acre-foot of groundwater that is replaced with recycled water. Therefore, a reduction in indirect GHG emissions would occur with the implementation of the proposed project. This is considered a less-than-significant impact, because the proposed project would help implement state and local policies for greenhouse gas reduction.

3.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Hazards and Hazardous Materials Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

the environment?

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e. For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

3.8.1 Setting

The NRC alignment indicated on Figure 4 lies adjacent to and bisects a portion of the closed City of Santa Clara All Purpose Landfill. This approximately 136 acre landfill site was operated as a municipal solid waste disposal facility from 1934 through 1993 and was officially closed following the cessation of disposal operations in September 1993 (Golder, 2009). The landfill has a 4-foot minimum thickness final cover system, which was permitted, designed, and constructed in compliance with applicable regulations at the time of closure (RWQCB, 2004). Portions of the landfill have been converted into a public golf course with the remainder being open space.

The All Purpose Landfill received municipal waste, construction debris, and non-hazardous industrial and commercial waste primarily; and reportedly also received relatively small quantities of hazardous materials including solvents, organic compounds, heavy metals, acids, and bases. Regulatory records indicate that the total volume of material in the landfill is approximately 11 million cubic yards, including the final cover system. The landfill is reported to be from 60 to 80 feet thick and to extend to as much as 25 feet below sea level. (RWQCB, 2004)

The City is the owner of record and is responsible for monitoring and maintenance of the site (CalRecycle, 2011). There are several regulatory agencies involved with the site from a landfill perspective, primarily the County of Santa Clara as the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for CalRecycle, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the BAAQMD. The City of Santa Clara All Purpose Landfill is currently in the postclosure status, which requires monitoring and maintenance in accordance with CCR Title 27 for a minimum of 30 years from the time of closure. Required monitoring and maintenance is contained in CCR Title 27, Chapter 3, Subchapters 4 and 5 which prescribe activities to address site security, grading, erosion, drainage and stormwater control, cover system integrity, settlement, landfill gas, groundwater, leachate, and other site-specific environmental concerns, as applicable. Additionally, groundwater and leachate monitoring, management, and maintenance requirements are set forth in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R2-2002-0008 which were adopted by the San Francisco Bay RWQCB on January 23, 2002.

Groundwater beneath the landfill has been documented to contain chlorinated contaminants (including VOCs) which are believed to emanate from Parcel 4 of the landfill, but contaminants in groundwater, leachate, and surface water have not been documented to have spread beyond the site. Contamination believed to emanate from other sources has also been documented in landfill groundwater monitoring samples. (RWQCB, 2002)

3.8.2 Impacts Analysis

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

public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. Installing the connector is expected to consist of excavating 12 foot deep utility trenches and installing the various bedding, piping, and backfill. Potentially significant hazardous materials impacts associated with these activities include increased risk of explosion or landfill fire hazards from introducing atmospheric air into the subsurface, disruption of landfill infrastructure (e.g., groundwater and landfill gas monitoring wells/probes), disruption of landfill cover integrity, interference with the performance and safety of the landfill gas collection extraction system, disruption of stormwater run-on and runoff control and storage features, and the potential risk of spreading environmental contamination (e.g., the pipe trench and backfill may create a preferential pathway for migration of water or soil gas). Because of the age of this landfill and lack of records during early operations, the exact boundaries of the landfill “footprint” could extend beyond the current property boundaries into roadway and utility easements in some areas. Additionally, excavated material could pose a threat of the spread of chemical constituents in the landfill and/or groundwater through stormwater runoff, volatilization of contaminants, or through the loading, transport, and disposal process. It is likely that construction of the pipeline will involve excavation into groundwater, where there is a high likelihood of encountering contamination. This may create waste that is no longer municipal solid waste, as it could be too wet or too contaminated or both, and would need to be treated as a liquid or contaminated waste.

These impacts could be avoided by partially or completely relocating the pipeline outside of the landfill property and footprint such that no impacts to or disturbance of the existing monitoring and control systems and landfill cover will likely occur or be necessary. For the project as proposed, the mitigation measures below will be conducted to avoid and minimize any direct and indirect effects during construction.

- Prior to construction, conduct non-invasive (i.e. geophysical methods) and invasive (i.e. potholing or boring) investigation techniques to confirm the extent and risk of potential impacts associated with existing site conditions.
- Incorporate appropriate construction methods, trench design, and trench monitoring and protection measures into construction plans to minimize the potential for landfill gas migration, air intrusion, groundwater migration, groundwater contact, and construction-derived waste requiring special handling and disposal. Pipeline design will require a licensed engineer with expertise in landfills, compliance with applicable provisions of CCR Title 27 guidance for closed landfill structures and other regulatory requirements, and additional vapor monitoring and protection measures as applicable.
- Abandon groundwater monitoring wells and landfill gas probes along the pipeline alignment, as necessary, and replace at alternative monitoring locations. Perform this work prior to trenching and pipeline construction so that the monitoring network remains active.
- Properly store excavated materials and pumped groundwater and test for possible contamination. If any hazardous substances are found during construction, store, handle transport, and dispose of these materials in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Follow all federal, state, and local reporting requirements regarding the use of hazardous and non-hazardous materials at the project site.

Any construction or other activity on the landfill property will require regulatory approval and City of Santa Clara approval. At a minimum, notification to the County of Santa Clara (as the LEA) should be completed if construction, staging, or site preparation will encroach upon the edges of the landfill property. If any work will occur on the landfill property, it will require permitting prior to implementation. This permitting will be primarily by the LEA (through consultation with CalRecycle), RWQCB for landfill postclosure plan revisions and postclosure end use approval, and the BAAQMD for potential landfill gas discharges resulting from excavation activities.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED. The nearest school, Kathryn Hughes Elementary School, is located approximately 0.15 miles (790 feet) southeast of the project site. The project is not expected to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste, during operations. With regard to hazards associated with project construction in the landfill area of the project, which is located 0.5 miles from the school, see the discussion and the proposed mitigation measures under “b” above.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT-IMPACT. The project is not located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and is not expected to create a significant hazard to the public or environment. An investigation of the Envirostor database, as known as the Cortese List, did not identify any contaminated sites within the project alignment. (Envirostor 2011).

There are several active cleanup sites listed on the State Water Resources Control Board’s Geotracker system that are located in the vicinity on the project area that can be seen on Figure 5. As the pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets, it would not encounter any of these sites but could encounter soil contamination or contaminated groundwater associated with the sites. Some of the sites that run adjacent to the pipeline have the following potential contaminants of concern listed: other solvents, non-petroleum hydrocarbons, other chlorinated hydrocarbons, trichloroethylene (TCE), vinyl chloride 1, 2-dichlorobenzene, Freon, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), xylene, solvents and some not specified.

Prior to any construction activities, the construction contractor should conduct an initial site investigation to help confirm the absence of contaminated soil or groundwater that may exist within the area to be excavated. Additional investigations may be required based on the results of the initial investigation. Regardless of the results of the investigation, any hazardous materials that are found during construction of the pipeline would be handled in compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding transport, handling, disposal, and storage. All federal, state, and local reporting requirements would be followed regarding the use of hazardous and non-hazardous materials at the project site. (Envirostor 2011).

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

NO IMPACT. The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The project would not result in any safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. Therefore, no impact would result.

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

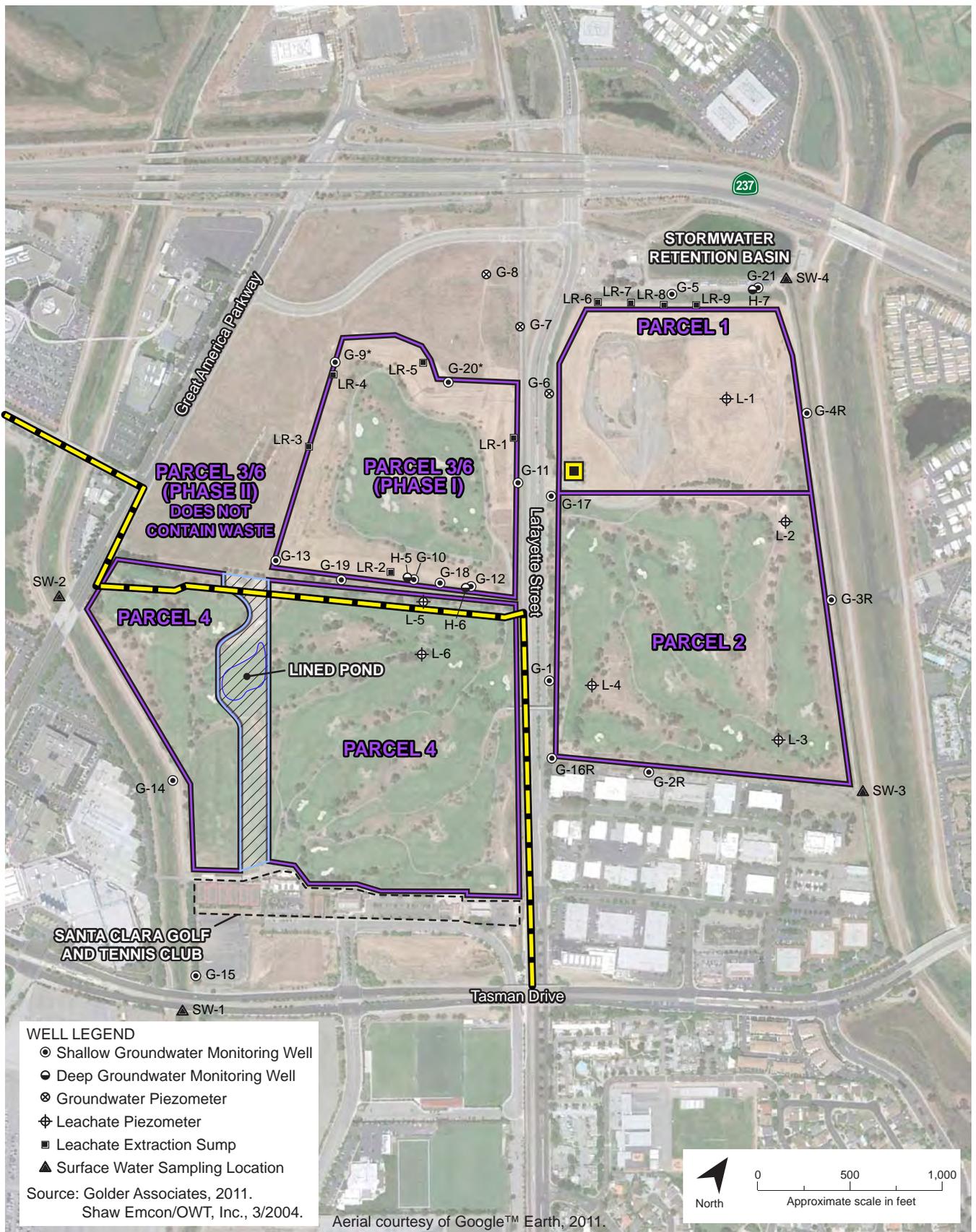
NO IMPACT. There are no private airstrips located within the project vicinity. The proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. Therefore, no impact would result.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will require temporary short-term road closures that will be coordinated with local municipalities.

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

NO IMPACT. Existing conditions would not change with the proposed pipeline connector project . The project site is located within a highly urbanized area of Santa Clara County with no associated wildlands; therefore, no impact.

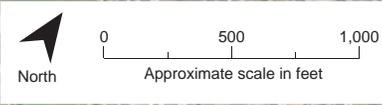


WELL LEGEND

- Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Well
- Deep Groundwater Monitoring Well
- ⊗ Groundwater Piezometer
- ⊕ Leachate Piezometer
- Leachate Extraction Sump
- ▲ Surface Water Sampling Location

Source: Golder Associates, 2011.
Shaw Emcon/OWT, Inc., 3/2004.

Aerial courtesy of Google™ Earth, 2011.



LEGEND

- Northern Regional Connector Pipeline
- Unfilled Property Golf Course Existing Land Use
- Landfill Gas Conversion Facility and Flare

FIGURE 4
Santa Clara All Purpose Landfill Map
SBWR Northern Regional Connector Pipeline Project



LEGEND

-  Northern Regional Connector Pipeline
-  Leaking Underground Tank (LUST) Cleanup Sites
-  Other Cleanup Sites
-  Signifies a Closed Site

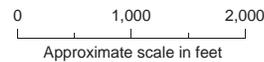


FIGURE 5
Cleanup Sites Map
SBWR Northern Regional Connector Pipeline Project

3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

Hydrology and Water Quality Checklist

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

3.9.1 Setting

The pipeline would cross two creeks, San Tomas Aquino Creek and Calabazas Creek. The San Tomas Aquino Creek watershed drains approximately 45 square miles. San Tomas Creek originates in the forested foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains flowing in a northern direction through the cities of Campbell and Santa Clara, into the Guadalupe Slough, and finally into the Lower South San Francisco Bay. The major tributaries to San Tomas Aquino Creek

include Saratoga, Wildcat, Smith and Vasona Creeks. The Calabazas Creek watershed encompasses approximately 20 square miles. The headwaters of this 13.3 mile long creek originate from the northeast-facing slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains and flow into the Lower South San Francisco Bay via the Guadalupe Slough. Major tributaries to Calabazas Creek include Prospect, Rodeo, and Regnart Creeks (SCVURPPP, 2011).

3.9.2 Impact Analysis

a. **Would the project violate any water quality standards or WDR?**

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. Surface water impacts are anticipated to be related primarily to short-term activities during construction. Construction activity would not include activities, such as grading, that could temporarily increase rates of erosion. Minimal trenching excavation would occur to install an underground recycled water pipeline which would generate minimal soil disturbance and minimally increase the potential for erosion. However, best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to minimize the potential for soil erosion. Construction materials could contaminate runoff or groundwater if not properly stored and used. Compliance with engineering and construction specifications and adhering to proper material handling procedures would ensure effective mitigation of these short-term impacts. Construction activities would be limited to those required for construction of the underground pipeline. Once completed the project area would be returned to pre-project conditions. The project would result in disturbance of more than one acre of soil. Therefore, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be required for construction activities, and would include BMPs to control erosion from disturbed areas and reduce runoff. Water used for dust control and soil compaction during construction would not result in discharge.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not involve the use or extraction of groundwater. The pipeline will be used to supplement the existing water supply in the area for non-potable applications. This would have a positive impact on ground water resources by reducing the demands on the existing water sources which utilizes groundwater as a major source. No changes in existing conditions with respect to groundwater quantity are expected with the substitution of additional recycled water in the groundwater basin.

c,d **Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite? Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite?**

NO IMPACT. No streams or rivers would be impacted by project construction. The project would need to cross two creeks as part of the installation of the new pipeline. In order to avoid any potential harm to sensitive environmental areas in or around stream corridors the project would utilize bore and jack construction. This would include two pits; one on each side of the crossing (entry and receiving pits). By utilizing this method of construction there would be no impact to either of the creeks during construction. Once completed the project area would be returned to pre-project conditions and there would be no change in drainage patterns or susceptibility to flooding. The applicant would comply with existing requirements that govern drainage.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not contribute any additional volume to storm water drainage systems.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. All potential water quality impacts are discussed in "a, c and d" above.

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

NO IMPACT. No housing construction is proposed as a part of the project. Therefore, construction and operation of the project would result in no flood hazard impacts to housing.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would only involve underground utility work which would not impede or redirect flood flows.

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

NO IMPACT. All potential flooding impacts are discussed in “g and h” above.

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

NO IMPACT. People or structures would not be exposed to hazards associated with seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows. The nature of the project precludes any impacts associated with seiche, tsunami, or mud flows.

3.10 Land Use and Planning

Land Use and Planning Checklist

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

3.10.1 Setting

The project site is within the highly urbanized areas of the City of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. The pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses.

3.10.2 Impact Analysis

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

NO IMPACT. The project involves the installation of a 30 inch recycled water pipeline which would be constructed along developed city streets and would be completely underground. It would not divide an established community; therefore there would be no impact.

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

NO IMPACT. Due to the nature of the project it would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation; therefore no impact.

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

NO IMPACT. The proposed project occurs along developed lands within the city limits of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale and would not conflict with the provisions of conservation plans. The project area is not within the study area of the proposed Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan.

3.11 Mineral Resources

Mineral Resources Checklist

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

3.11.1 Setting

The project site is within the highly urbanized areas of the City of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale. The pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses. The project is not located in an area of known mineral resources.

3.11.2 Impact Analysis

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral because there are no existing or proposed mineral resource recovery activities in or around the project area. No known mineral resources occur and the project would not impact or result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource; therefore, no impact would result from construction and operation of the project.

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not result in the loss or availability of a mineral resource recovery site as described in "a." above. No mineral resources have been delineated within the project area. The project area is not located within an established mineral resource zone, and no economically viable mineral deposits are known to be present.

3.12 Noise

Noise Resources Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.12.1 Setting

Current ambient noise levels in the project vicinity are dominated by traffic on State Route 237 and surrounding local roadways. The project area is located in a highly urbanized area of Santa Clara County.

3.12.2 Impact Analysis

3.12.2.1 Short-term Construction Noise Impacts

Noise generated by project construction is expected to vary depending on construction activities. Project construction would occur on weekdays typically from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday in accordance with the cities of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale municipal codes. Project construction would generate noise from using heavy equipment. Construction will not occur on Sundays, holidays or outside of the time frames designated by the local municipal code. Most individual pieces of construction equipment would generate noise levels of 80 to 85 dBA at 50 feet from the source.

a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. Although during the construction of the pipeline, noise levels may temporarily exceed applicable noise standards but due to the short duration of the project, the impacts would be less than significant minimal. There are sensitive receptors located along the pipeline route which include a school, a daycare and three residential neighborhoods. Construction is expected to progress at about 40-60 feet per day and the entire project is expected to be completed within six months. The cities of Santa Clara

and Sunnyvale have conditions governing hours of operation in their individual municipal codes, listed above. There are no additional specific requirements about sensitive receptors in either municipal code. The conditions governing hours of operations will be followed along with any other applicable city or county regulation, thus the impacts would be less than significant.

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The pipeline construction may temporarily expose persons to ground vibrations above ambient levels but due to the short duration of the project they will remain less than significant.

c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

NO IMPACT. There are no noise-producing project features during project operation the only noise impacts would occur during the short construction phase of the project. See the discussion above in part “a” for specifics on construction impacts to sensitive receptors.

d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. As indicated in response to question “b”, construction of the project would include temporary sources of noise that could be perceptible in the immediate vicinity of the activity due to operation of heavy equipment primarily between 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday. This construction phase impact is considered less-than-significant.

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

NO IMPACT. The project is not located within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, this and the fact the project is an underground utility project and would not produce any noise impacts after construction there would be no impact.

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

NO IMPACT. See section “e.” above.

3.13 Population and Housing

Population and Housing Checklist

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

3.13.1 Setting

There are no housing units within the project footprint. The pipeline would be constructed primarily along developed city streets, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses and would not conflict with populations or housing resources.

3.13.2 Impact Analysis

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

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The project would substitute additional recycled water for recycled water already supplied to the area. This substitution allows for decommissioning of existing city supplies of recycled water and will not impact potable water supplies. Because the project does not increase potable water supply or capacity the impact would be considered less than significant.

- b. **Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

NO IMPACT. The pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets, and would not displace any existing housing or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- c. **Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

NO IMPACT. The project would not result in the displacement of any housing or businesses because it will be constructed underground and will not necessitate the movement or demolition of any housing. Construction and operation of the project would not result in the displacement of people, nor would it necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.14 Public Services

Public Services Checklist

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.14.1 Setting

Public services and facilities are provided and maintained by local and county entities including fire, police, and public works.

3.14.2 Impact Analysis

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

a. Fire protection?

NO IMPACT. Construction and operation of the project is not expected to increase the demand for fire protection services in the project area. During construction of the project, emergencies could occur at the project site; however, appropriate notification to local emergency service providers prior to construction would address impacts that could affect emergency response times such as lane closures. The contractor would be required by the city to have a traffic control plan for work performed in the Public Right-of way. Impacts on fire protection would not be significant.

b. Police protection?

NO IMPACT. The project would not increase population and is not anticipated to affect crime rates in the vicinity. Therefore, additional police protection is not needed and there would be no impact.

c. Schools?

NO IMPACT. The project would not generate additional population or students during construction or operation and there would be no impact.

d. Parks?

NO IMPACT. The recycled water pipeline would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities and there would be no impact.

e. Other public facilities?

NO IMPACT. The project would not result in an increase in population during project construction or operation; therefore, the project would not affect other government services or public facilities.

3.15 Recreation

Recreation Checklist

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

3.15.1 Setting

Existing recreational facilities in the project area include multiuse trails along San Tomas Aquino Creek and Calabazas Creek. The project also crosses the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club.

3.15.2 Impact Analysis

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

NO IMPACT. The project would not result in an increase of recreational facility users in the area and would not eliminate existing park space. The project would not impact demand on neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities.

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

NO IMPACT. The project does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

3.16 Transportation/Traffic

Transportation/Traffic Checklist

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?



3.16.1 Setting

The project will involve construction in the existing roadway, in both the City of Santa Clara and the City of Sunnyvale.

3.16.2 Impact Analysis

- a. **Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?**

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. Before the start of construction, a traffic management plan would be prepared for the pipeline retrofits along with the required encroachment permits from appropriate municipalities. The City of Sunnyvale has temporary traffic control guidelines and the City of Santa Clara has standard specifications for public works construction that would be followed. Construction activities would temporarily generate additional traffic along roadways in the vicinity of the project site due to workers and materials deliveries. The increase in vehicle trips during construction is considered minimal. Local street capacity would not be affected and traffic and pedestrian impacts are not anticipated; thus less than significant impact.

- b. **Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?**

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. Construction traffic would not degrade the existing level of service on the roadways in the vicinity of the project. Construction traffic is estimated to be 30 trips per day. Construction closures and traffic would be minimal and short in duration, with construction expected to take less than six months; thus less-than-significant impact.

- c. **Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?**

NO IMPACT. The project would have no impact on air traffic patterns.

- d. **Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

NO IMPACT. The project would not include or exacerbate dangerous design features or incompatible uses.

- e. **Result in inadequate emergency access?**

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. Construction of the pipelines would be short in duration, less than six months. The project would not result in inadequate emergency access. Before the start of construction, a traffic management plan would be prepared for the pipeline retrofits along with the required encroachment permits from appropriate municipalities. The City of Sunnyvale has temporary traffic control guidelines and the City of Santa Clara has standard specifications for public works construction that would be followed. By following the aforementioned city standards a less than significant impact to emergency access is expected.

- f. **Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?**

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. The project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation supporting alternative transportation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project, there would be temporary street closures as the project moves along resulting in less than significant impacts.

3.17 Utilities and Service Systems

Utilities and Service Systems Checklist

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.17.1 Setting

The existing pipeline transports recycled water from the Sunnyvale WPCP. The NRCP would supply recycled water from the City of San José and the SBWR program and allow for the shutdown of the Sunnyvale supply. The new line would have greater capacity and would supply higher quality recycled water for use in the area.

3.17.2 Impact Analysis

a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB?

NO IMPACT. The project will not increase wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB as the recycled water will be used for irrigation, cooling towers and similar uses. Any indoor use of recycled water will go back to the respective treatment plant, but this will not impact wastewater treatment requirements because the recycled water is replacing potable water that would otherwise have require treatment.

b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

NO IMPACT. Water for project construction would not require treatment. Therefore, no new or expanded water treatment facilities would be required during project construction. No wastewater facilities would be used for the project and expansion would not be required. As a result, project construction and operation would result in no impact.

c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

NO IMPACT. Existing storm water drainage facilities would be utilized and no expansion of existing facilities would be necessary. No additional runoff is anticipated from the presently developed project area however, therefore the project would result in no impact.

d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

NO IMPACT. During construction, water would be required primarily for dust suppression, and would also be used for soil compaction. Water required for construction will be obtained from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Construction water volumes would be minimal and would not require new or expanded entitlements.

During project operation, no new or expanded entitlements to provide potable water would be required to construct or operate the project as the project is a recycled water pipeline. Therefore, the project would result in no impact to potable water supply.

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

NO IMPACT. The project is the installation of a new 30-inch recycled water pipeline and thus would not impact wastewater treatment facilities. See discussion under "a" above.

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

NO IMPACT. During construction of the project, a small amount of construction waste would be generated, which would be recycled to the extent possible. When completed the project will not have any solid waste disposal needs as it is a recycled water pipeline; thus no impact.

g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

NO IMPACT. The project may require disposal of construction debris, some of which could be contaminated. Debris from construction would be disposed of in a lawful manner consistent with federal, state, and local regulations. Construction waste is accepted at local disposal facilities and recycling is encouraged.

There will be no solid waste from this project after the project is completed. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

3.18 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Mandatory Findings of Significance Checklist

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

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

NO IMPACT. The pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets, with surrounding residential, office park, and recreational land uses. The pipeline would be entirely underground at the end of construction. Therefore there would be no potential to degrade the quality of the environment or cause substantial reductions in the habitat of a fish, plant or wildlife species, thus no impact.

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

NO IMPACT. The pipeline would be constructed along developed city streets and would be completely underground. Recycled water is utilized to replace the use of imported potable water in the South Bay area. The initial project considered cumulative and growth inducing impacts and concluded that the project would not result in any cumulative. The NRCF project would not result in any potentially significant impacts as project will underground.

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

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. As indicated throughout this Initial Study, impacts on all environmental resources were deemed to result in either 'no impact,' a 'less-than-significant impact,' or 'less than significant with mitigation incorporation.' As a result, the project with proposed mitigation measures would not create environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not required

SECTION 4

List of Preparers

4.1 CH2M HILL

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Janet Goodrich, Hazardous Materials and Groundwater

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4.2 Basin Research Associates

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SECTION 5

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