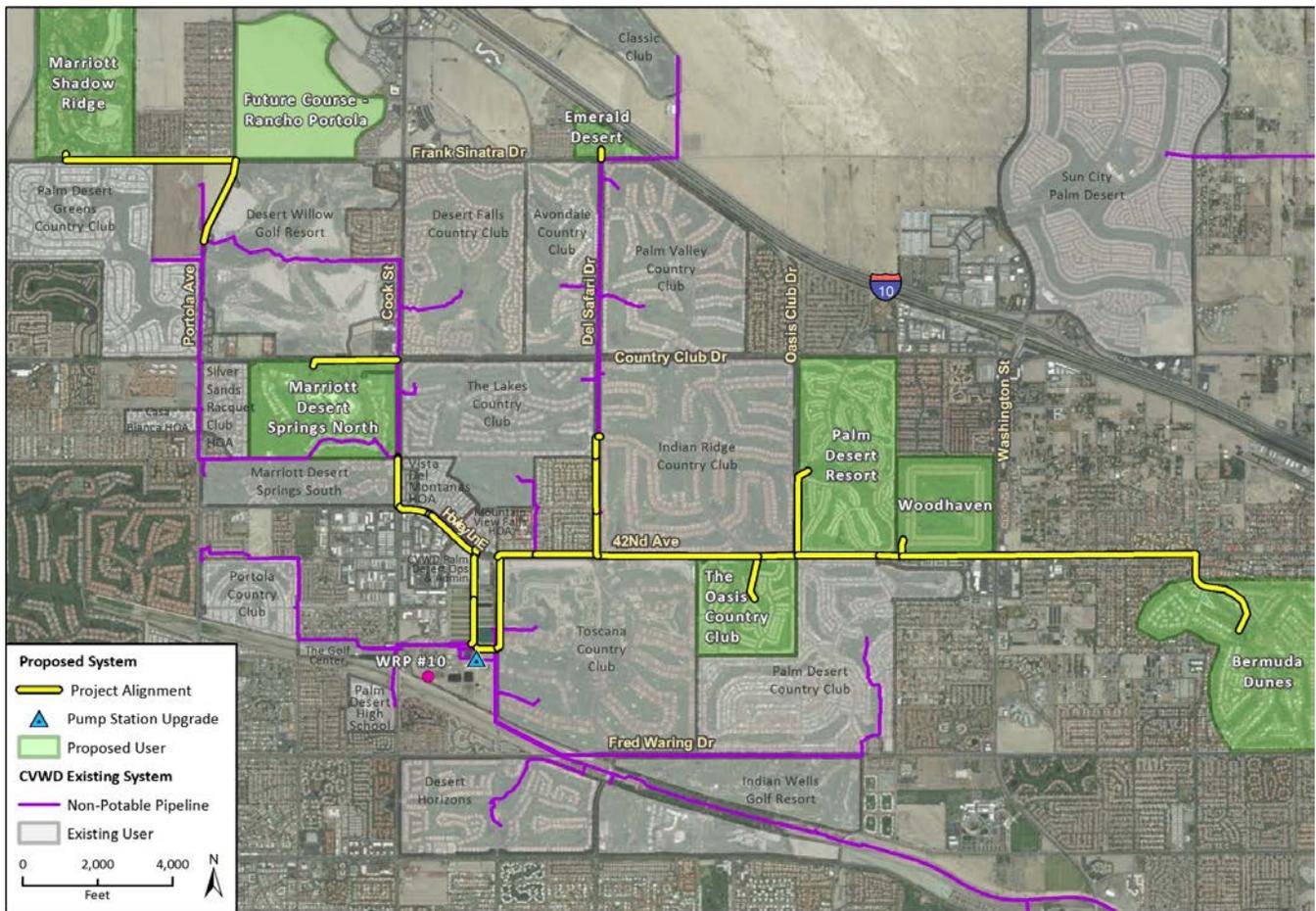




National Environmental Policy Act Finding of No Significant Impact

WRP-10 Non-Potable Water System Expansion, Phase 1 Coachella Valley Water District, Riverside County, California



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Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

**National Environmental Policy Act
Finding of No Significant Impact**

No. 20-SCAO-017-FONSI

WRP-10 Non-Potable Water System Expansion
Phase 1 Short Term Expansion
2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project
Riverside County, California

The Bureau of Reclamation has approved a feasibility study for the WRP-10 Non-Potable Water System Expansion in Riverside County, California. The project will expand an existing non-potable water system to increase delivery of recycled water and untreated canal water for golf course and country club irrigation in the Coachella Valley. The non-potable water will replace current groundwater pumping.

Installation of the WRP-10 Non-Potable Water System Expansion is planned in 2 phases. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has applied for financial assistance under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, as amended by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. The funds will be used to design and construct Phase 1: the “Short Term Expansion” or “2017/18 Non-Potable Water Project.”

Based on our review of the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the 2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project, California State Clearinghouse No. 2018051031, we have determined that the financial assistance does not constitute a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Recommended: _____ Date: _____
Doug McPherson, Environmental Protection Specialist

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____
Meghan Thiemann, Regional Title XVI Coordinator

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Jack E. Simes, Jr., (Acting) Area Manager
Southern California Area Office

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BACKGROUND

CVWD owns and operates five active wastewater reclamation plants (WRPs) which treat 20 million gallons per day (mgd). WRP-10, located in the City of Palm Desert, produces 9.1 mgd and can also deliver raw canal water from the Mid-Valley Pipeline to non-potable customers. The WRP-10 Non-Potable Water System Expansion Project will expand the existing non-potable water system in two phases to add customers who currently irrigate with groundwater or potable water from CVWD.

A feasibility study report was approved by the Director of Policy and Administration on April 4, 2019, finding that the report meets the requirements of Title XVI (section 1604) of Public Law 102-575, as amended. CVWD applied for financial assistance under Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-19-F018, WaterSMART: Title XVI WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects for Fiscal Year 2019.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Recycled water produced at WRP-10 exceeds non-potable demands during winter months. Unused recycled water is disposed through onsite percolation ponds. Project objectives are to enhance the sustainability of groundwater supplies, eliminate land disposal of secondary treated wastewater, and maximize delivery of recycled water to non-potable customers for irrigation. Increased recycled water use will reduce groundwater pumped for irrigation and imported water needed for groundwater recharge.

AUTHORITY

The funding opportunity announcement was issued under the Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, authorized in 1992 by Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, as amended (43 United States Code 390h), including amendments in Title II, Subtitle J of the WIIN Act, Public Law 114-322. Through the Title XVI Program, the Bureau of Reclamation provides financial and technical assistance to local water agencies for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects.

The WIIN Act was enacted in December of 2016 to address water resources infrastructure critical to the Nation's economic growth, health, and competitiveness. Section 4009(c) of Subtitle J of the WIIN Act amended the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. Prior to the WIIN Act, funding for water recycling project construction could only be provided for congressionally authorized Title XVI projects. The WIIN Act amendments allow new water recycling projects to be eligible for Federal funding if the feasibility study is approved under Title XVI.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The WRP-10 Non-Potable Water System Expansion project will expand the existing non-potable water system in two phases to incorporate 20 additional customers who currently irrigate their golf courses or country clubs with groundwater or potable water from CVWD. The project will allow full distribution of 12,400 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water produced at WRP-10 at build out. Including blended canal water, WRP-10 will ultimately distribute 20,600 AFY of non-potable water.

The Phase 1, Short-term Expansion, 2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project will install 9.5 miles of non-potable water pipeline segments, connect 9 new non-potable water customers, and replace 1 pump station. The Phase 1 project has independent utility whether Phase 2 is built or not.

ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

NEPA requires review of a proposed Federal action to determine its impact on the human environment. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations direct Federal agencies to cooperate with State and local agencies to the fullest extent possible to reduce duplication between NEPA and State and local requirements (40 CFR 1506.2). Department of Interior regulations for implementing NEPA encourage tiering of environmental documents and provide for adoption of existing environmental documents if, upon evaluation by a responsible official, it is found to comply with relevant provisions of the CEQ regulations.

CVWD prepared an initial study for the 2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project. The initial study included federal cross-cutters¹ to support NEPA compliance. Reclamation staff reviewed the initial study and concluded that it adequately identifies and discloses the reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of the action. We adopt the document in accordance with regulations for implementing NEPA promulgated by the CEQ at 40 CFR 1506.3 and by the Department of the Interior at 43 CFR 46.320(a).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The initial study concluded that the project will not result in any significant adverse impacts. Mitigation measures were adopted for biological resources, hazards/hazardous materials, and transportation/traffic impacts. On August 14, 2018, the CVWD Board of Directors certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration, finding that no environmental impact is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the 2017-18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project. Notice of Determination was filed at the California State Clearinghouse on August 20, 2018, to complete the CEQA process.

OTHER FEDERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Clean Air Act

The project is in the Salton Sea Air Basin, designated severe non-attainment for 1997 and 2008 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards and serious non-attainment for 10-micron particulate matter. Air quality models indicate that construction-phase and operational emissions will not exceed federal General Conformity *de minimis* thresholds. No conformity determination is required.

Endangered Species Act

A federal endangered plant species, Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus*), is located within sandy undisturbed lands outside the disturbance footprint of the project. All trenching near this population will occur within paved areas and these plants will not be affected.

No other federal listed plant or animal species or critical habitat areas were identified. Most of the project will be installed within existing paved roadways or previously disturbed areas. Coachella fringe toed lizard is unlikely to occur within the action area. No critical habitat is designated within the action area.

National Historic Preservation Act

No properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the Area of Potential Effect.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Nesting bird habitat is present within and adjacent to the project area, within landscape trees. Project-related activities will occur outside of the bird breeding season to the extent practicable. If initial ground disturbance and vegetation/tree trimming or removal is required during the nesting season, the project could impact nesting birds through increased injury or mortality or disruption of normal adult behaviors resulting in abandonment or harm to eggs and nestlings. Construction within the vicinity of nesting birds may also indirectly impact individuals with construction noise and dust. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires biological monitoring to avoid impacts to nesting bird species.

Farmland Protection Policy Act

The project corridor is not currently in agricultural production and does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

¹ Cross-cutting federal authorities are the requirements of other federal laws and Executive Orders that apply in federal financial assistance programs. The Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board negotiated a "CEQA-Plus" process for the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund. The Southern California Area Office imitates this process.

Wetlands and Floodplains

No wetlands will be disturbed. The project is not located within a 100-year Flood Hazard Area. Pipelines will be located underground and will not interfere with floodplain management or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding. WRP-10 is on the north side of the Whitewater River flood control channel, mapped Zone A on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The Zone A designation is contained within the flood control channel.

Water Resources

The project is part of a larger effort by CVWD under the *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan* to reduce golf course groundwater pumping in the Palm Desert area through source substitution. By decreasing demand for groundwater, the project will result in a net positive effect.

No adverse impacts to water quality were identified in association with the use of non-potable water for golf course irrigation. The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, including those in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin*.

Clean Water Act

Construction activities resulting in ground disturbance of one acre or more are subject to the permitting requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) *General Permit for Stormwater Discharges associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities* (Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ). The Construction General Permit requires preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) before construction begins.

The project site does not support federally protected wetlands defined by Clean Water Act Section 404.

Socioeconomic Resources

The project will not have significant social or economic effects. The project will not induce population growth. No housing or people will be displaced. No communities will be divided. No effects to public health and safety were identified.

Environmental Justice

The initial study concluded proposed project would therefore not result in any disproportionately high impacts on minority or low-income communities. The City of Palm Desert is not considered low income or disadvantaged. No impacts relevant to Environmental Justice were identified. Disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects are not anticipated.

Indian Trust Assets

No Indian trust assets were identified in the project area.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

No Wild & Scenic Rivers or waterways listed on the National Rivers Inventory are involved.

Coastal Zone Management Act

The project area is located approximately 70 miles east of the California Coastal Zone Boundary.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act

The federal expenditure will not encourage development or modification of coastal barriers. The project is not within any units of the Coastal Barrier Resources System. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act applies on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Great Lakes coasts. No system units are located along the Pacific coast.

Sole Source Aquifers

The Indio sub-basin is not an EPA-designated sole source aquifer.

AGENCY CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) submitted a finding of “*No Historic Properties Affected*” to the SHPO. By letter dated February 27, 2020 (ref: EPA_2020_0224_001), the SHPO did not object. The SWRCB acted under delegated authority from the Environmental Protection Agency to issue Clean Water Act State Revolving Funds (CWSRF No. 8470-110).

Fish and Wildlife Service

Consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required. The project will have no effect on listed species or critical habitats.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Mitigation measures adopted by the CVWD Board of Directors are attached. The mitigations are self-imposed by the CVWD and are considered ameliorative design elements per 43 CFR 46.130(b). No additional environmental commitments are required by the Bureau of Reclamation.

REFERENCES

Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the 2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project, Rincon Consultants, Inc., August 2018.

<https://www.cvwd.org/400/201718-Non-Potable-Water-Connections-Pro>

ATTACHMENTS

1. SHPO concurrence letter
2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, *Director*

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

February 27, 2020

In reply refer to: EPA_2020_0224_001

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Wendy Pierce
Senior Environmental Planner
Division of Financial Assistance
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Section 106 consultation for proposed Non-Potable Water Connections Project City of Palm Desert and Bermuda Dunes, Riverside County, California (CWSRF No. 8470-110).

Dear Ms. Pierce:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is initiating consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated the administration of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to states, including California. Issuance of CWSRF funds by the State Water Board is considered equivalent to a federal action, thereby necessitating compliance with Section 106. The State Water Board is requesting SHPO review and comments on their finding of effect.

The State Water Board is considering issuing funds to the Coachella Valley Water District (Applicant) for their proposed Non-Potable Water Connections Project (undertaking) in the City of Palm Desert and Bermuda Dunes, Riverside County, California. The proposed undertaking will construct 9.4 miles of non-potable water (NPW) pipeline segments and connections to provide irrigation water for users who currently use groundwater or Coachella Valle Water District (CVWD) supplied potable water for irrigation. The undertaking will also replace an existing pump station.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of 9.4 miles of non-potable pipeline installed within public right-of-way and private property with connections to seven golf courses, an RV resort, and one future planned development. Construction also includes the replacement of a pump station. The APE includes all areas that will be

impacted by construction, including staging areas. Ground disturbance for the pipeline trench is expected to be 5 feet wide with a maximum depth of 8 feet deep.

Along with your letter, you submitted the following documents:

- *Coachella Valley Water District Non-Potable Connections Project: Cultural Resources Study*. Prepared by Rincon Consultants, Inc. (April 2018).

Efforts to identify historic properties that might be affected by the undertaking included a records search, pedestrian survey, and Native American consultation conducted by the applicant's consultant. Some of the tribes expressed initial concern but after reviewing the cultural resource report their concerns were addressed.

No cultural resources were identified within the APE.

The State Water Board has determined that a finding of *no historic properties affected* for the proposed undertaking is most appropriate. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), **I do not object** to a finding of *no historic properties affected*.

Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the State Water Board may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. If you require further information, please contact Jeffrey Delsescaux at (916) 445-7016 or Jeffrey.Delsescaux@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Coachella Valley Water District
 2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	Action Required	When Monitoring to Occur	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible Agency/Party	Compliance Verification			
					Initial	Date	Comments	
Biological Resources								
BIO-1	<p>Nesting Birds. Project-related activities should occur outside of the bird breeding season (typically February 1 to August 31) to the extent practicable. If construction occurs within the bird breeding season (January 1 through September 15), then no more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal, a nesting bird and raptor pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the disturbance footprint plus a 300-foot buffer (500-foot for raptors), where practicable. If the proposed project is phased, a subsequent pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey may be required prior to each phase of construction within the project site.</p> <p>Pre-construction nesting bird and raptor surveys shall be conducted during the time of day when birds are active and should be of sufficient duration to reliably conclude presence/absence of nesting birds and raptors onsite and within the designated vicinity.</p> <p>If nests are found, their locations shall be flagged. An appropriate avoidance buffer ranging in size from 25 to 50 feet for song birds, and up to 500 feet for raptors depending upon the species and the proposed work activity, shall be determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFW, and demarcated with bright orange construction fencing or other suitable flagging. Active nests shall be monitored at a minimum of once per week until it has been determined that the nest is no longer being used by either the young or adults. No ground disturbance shall occur within this buffer until the qualified biologist confirms that the breeding/nesting is completed and all the</p>	<p>Although the nesting season typically occurs between February 1 and August 31, nesting has been detected as early as January 1 and as late as September 15. If project construction commences between January 1 and September 15, verify that a nesting bird and raptor survey has been performed by a qualified biologist no more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal. If an active nest is encountered, confirm that the proper setbacks and buffers are established and maintained.</p>	<p>Prior to start of construction</p> <p>Prior to start of each new construction phase, if applicable</p>	<p>Once</p> <p>Periodically, prior to start of each new construction phase, if applicable</p>	CVWD			

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	Action Required	When Monitoring to Occur	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible Agency/Party	Compliance Verification		
					Initial	Date	Comments
	young have fledged. If project activities must occur within the buffer, they shall be conducted at the discretion of the qualified biologist in consultation with CDFW. If no nesting birds are observed during pre-construction surveys, no further actions would be necessary.						
Cultural Resources¹							
CR-1	Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources. If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area shall be halted and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If necessary, the evaluation may require preparation of a treatment plan and archaeological testing for California Register of Historical Resources eligibility. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA and cannot be avoided by the project, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation and archaeological monitoring may be warranted to mitigate any significant impacts to cultural resources.	If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, immediately halt work and contact a qualified archaeologist to evaluate the find.	During ground-disturbing construction activities.	Continuously throughout ground-disturbing construction activities.	CVWD Construction Inspector		
Hazards and Hazardous Materials							
HAZ-1	Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan. Before construction begins, the construction contractor shall submit to CVWD for review and approval a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan (HMMSCP) that includes a project-specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations. The HMMSCP shall establish policies and procedures consistent with applicable codes and regulations, including but not limited to the California Building and Fire Codes, as well United	Review and approval of a HMMSCP submitted by the construction contractor and verification that the construction contractor trained construction staff, as appropriate, on implementation	Prior to start of construction	Once	CVWD		

Coachella Valley Water District
 2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	Action Required	When Monitoring to Occur	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible Agency/Party	Compliance Verification			
					Initial	Date	Comments	
	States Department of Labor OSHA and California OSHA regulations. The HMMSCP shall articulate hazardous materials handling practices to prevent the accidental spill or release of hazardous materials.	procedures.						
Transportation/Traffic								
TRA-1	Emergency Service Providers. The Project Manager shall notify emergency service providers (fire and police departments within a 0.5 mile radius of the alignment) with construction contact names, locations, schedules, and traffic plans, if applicable, prior to the start of construction.	Confirm that fire and police departments within 0.5 mile of the project alignment have been provided with appropriate contact information and traffic plans.	Prior to start of construction	Once	CVWD			
TRA-2	Traffic Control Plan. To mitigate temporary traffic disruption and ensure public safety, the construction contractor will prepare a traffic control plan for construction areas located in or near roadways whose traffic volumes exceed Riverside County Levels of Service or the affected city's criteria. The construction contractors will provide the traffic control plans to CVWD's Construction Inspector.	Verification that a traffic control plan for the construction areas located in or near roadways which exceed Riverside County Levels of Service or the affected City criteria have been prepared.	Prior to start of construction	Once	CVWD Construction Inspector			
TRA-3	High Volume Intersections. High volume intersections (those in which traffic volumes exceed city or county levels of service criteria) will be avoided if possible and identified in the Traffic Control Plan.	Verification that the traffic control plan includes measures to avoid high-volume intersections where possible.	Prior to start of construction	Once	CVWD			
TRA-4	Notification of Construction to Service Providers and Educational Institutions. Fourteen days prior to commencement of project construction, construction notifications will be sent to police departments, fire departments, hospitals, and schools located within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site so	Verification that service providers and educational institutions located within 0.5 mile of the project site have been notified of the planned	Prior to start of construction	Once	CVWD			

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	Action Required	When Monitoring to Occur	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible Agency/Party	Compliance Verification		
					Initial	Date	Comments
that detour routes for emergency responses can be planned for the construction period.	construction so that detour routes, if necessary, can be planned.						

1: CR-1 is a recommended best management practice to further reduce the severity of an already less-than-significant impact.

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