



Figure 1, Project Map

Construction of the pipelines follows the “cut and cover” method. This method involves excavating an open trench to accommodate the size of the pipe, laying the pipeline, and replacing and compacting soil to refill the trench. The trench is then restored to original or better condition. The crossing of San Tomas Expressway would use the bore and jack method. The method involves excavating a pit on either side of the area to be crossed. The pipeline is then installed by tunneling between the two pits.

The additional users will help fulfill the Program’s goal of diverting an additional 20 million gallons per day of effluent from discharge into the South San Francisco Bay to beneficial uses in the Program area.

The proposed recycled water users are consistent with those described in the 1992 EIR and 1996 EIS. Operation of the pipelines would be the same as described in previous environmental documents and would be similar to operation of the existing potable water distribution system, with the addition of safeguards for use of recycled water. Signs would be posted to notify the public of areas where recycled water is being used. Pipelines and taps supplying recycled water at user sites would be identified.

Construction is anticipated to occur in 2010.

Findings

Reclamation has adopted the addendum to the EIR and Supplemental EA that was prepared by the City on October 15, 2009. Based on the addendum, the Division of Planning of the Mid-Pacific Region of Reclamation, has found that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for carrying out the Proposed Action.

The following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant:

1. *Geology and seismicity.* The project area does not cross a fault line, and is in a level area not subject to landslides. The Proposed Action will comply with measures identified in the Design Guidance Manual for the project. The measures include: seismic design features, protection measures for areas with high liquefaction potential, and measures to protect the pipeline against corrosive and expansive soils. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on geology and seismicity.
2. *Surface water hydrology and water quality.* No aboveground facilities are proposed in flood prone areas. The project area is not subject to standing waves, tsunamis or mudflows, and does not involve the construction of levees or dams. The use of recycled water was analyzed in previous environmental documentation and is approved for use in landscape irrigation. The Proposed Action includes the following measures: monitoring and management of recycled water quality, control of irrigation to avoid runoff from excessive irrigation, and preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on surface water hydrology and water quality.
3. *Groundwater hydrology and water quality.* The Proposed Action does not involve the extraction or use of groundwater and would not cause land subsidence. The Proposed Action would convey recycled water and would not affect groundwater levels or gradients. The project will include the following measures: protect groundwater during construction, and implementation of a Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.

With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on groundwater hydrology and water quality.

4. *Land use.* The land use in the project area consists primarily of light and heavy industrial areas. The project area is fully developed. Construction impacts would be temporary and would not alter or change land use patterns. The Proposed Action would have no effect on land use.

5. *Air quality.* The project area is made up of light and heavy industrial areas. There are no sensitive receptors such as residential, schools, or hospitals along the pipeline corridors. Construction of the pipelines would be of short duration. During construction, there would be a minor increase in emissions from vehicles and equipment, and dust during excavation. Project operations would not generate new emissions. No significant odors are anticipated with the project. The Proposed Action will comply with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's basic control measures for construction-related air quality impacts. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on air quality.

6. *Traffic.* Prior to construction, a Traffic Management Plan will be submitted to the City of Santa Clara. The Proposed Action will include the following measures: time of day restrictions on construction, temporary detours for areas requiring lane closures, bike lane and pedestrian alternative routes outside the construction zone. To avoid impacts to San Tomas Expressway, the pipeline will be installed under the expressway using the bore and jack (tunneling) method. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on traffic.

7. *Biological resources.* The project area is highly developed and urbanized. Construction will remain within existing public rights of way and previously disturbed areas. To avoid the physical disturbance of San Tomas Aquino Creek, the pipeline for this portion would be attached to the existing bridge. The California Natural Diversity Database was reviewed and there were no records for special-status plant or animal species within the project area. The Proposed Action would have no effect on biological resources.

8. *Hazardous materials.* Prior to construction, a Phase I Site Assessment will be prepared for the pipeline corridors. During construction, there is potential for release of fuels or motor oil. The Proposed Action will comply with previously described mitigation measures. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on hazardous materials.

9. *Public health.* Previous environmental documentation determined that the use of recycled water for industrial and irrigation uses does not pose significant public health risks. The Proposed Action will comply with previously identified measures, including Regional Water Quality Control Board general requirements and Title 22 requirements for water reclamation. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on public health.

10. *Noise.* The Proposed Action would cause a minor, temporary increase in noise in the project area. However, land use adjacent to the pipeline corridors is primarily light and heavy industry; these areas are not sensitive noise receptors. The Proposed Action would be of short duration, have limited hours of construction, and implement noise control measures. There will be no noise impact from operations. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on noise.
11. *Public services and utilities.* The Proposed Action could cause a minor increase in the need for police and fire services due to construction along public areas. Prior to construction, notification to appropriate public emergency services and utilities would be provided. Furthermore, measures will be implemented to ensure that no disruption occurs to utility lines in the project area. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on public services and utilities.
12. *Visual resources.* During construction, there would be a minor, temporary change in the visual character along the pipeline corridors. Construction equipment and personnel would be present during installation of the pipeline. The pipelines would be buried, and any road surfaces or walkways disturbed would be returned to pre-construction condition. At the San Tomas Aquino Creek crossing, the pipeline will be attached to the north side of the existing bridge and will be painted a neutral color. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on visual resources.
13. *Historic and archeological resources.* Construction of the recycled water pipeline will include excavation to a depth of up to 9 feet. To avoid potential impacts to historic and archeological resources, an Area of Potential Effect was identified, a records search was performed, and a field survey was conducted by Basin Research Associates. On December 1, 2009, the Bureau of Reclamation submitted a report titled, *Historic Property Survey/Finding of Effect South Bay Water Recycling*, to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence on the finding "No Historic Properties Affected" under 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). On December 14, 2009, SHPO responded and concurred with the finding. The Proposed Action includes commitments that address any unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources or human remains during construction. The Proposed Action will have no significant impact on historic and archeological resources.
14. *Recreation.* Other than a bicycle path located along San Tomas Aquino Creek, there is no developed recreation within the project area. Mitigation for the impacts to the bicycle path will be addressed in the Traffic Management Plan. The Proposed Action will have less than a significant impact on recreation.
15. *Indian Trust Assets.* There are no Indian Trust Assets within the project area. The Proposed Action will have no effect on Indian Trust Assets.

16. *Socioeconomics*. The Proposed Action would supply recycled water to customers. The project would have a limited duration and its not anticipated to cause a change in housing or employment patterns. Temporary construction workers needed for the project would most likely come from nearby communities. The Proposed Action will have no effect on socioeconomics.

17. *Environmental justice*. The pipeline corridors are located primarily in commercial, light and heavy industrial areas. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect any minority or low-income populations. The Proposed Action will have no effect on environmental justice.

18. *Cumulative effects*. The Proposed Action is short term in duration and will have no cumulative effects.