Borrego Water District
P.O. Box 1870, Borrego Springs, California 92004
Phone: (760) 767-5806 Fax: (760) 767-5994

October 23, 2009

CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Form
(Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G Rev. 10/04)

Borrego Water District Sewer Lift Station

1. Project Number(s)/Environmental Log Number/Title:

2. Lead agency name and address:
   Borrego Water District
   P.O. Box 1870
   Borrego Springs, CA 92004

3. a. Contact: Richard S. Williamson, P.E., R.L.S.
   b. Phone number: (760) 767-5806
   c. E-mail: rich@borregowd.org

4. Project location:
   The proposed project is situated in the existing Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, located on 2929 Borrego Valley Road, in the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs, County of San Diego. The site is assigned Assessor's Parcel Number 199-100-23-00. The legal description of the project parcel is Lot "A" as shown on Borrego Springs Park Unit No. 1, recorded as Map No. 5242. The location of the project can also be described as a portion of the northeastern quarter of Section 9, Township 11 South, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

   Thomas Brothers Map Coordinates: Page 1058-1079, grid C-4
   (2008 San Diego County Edition)

5. Project Applicant name and address:
   Borrego Water District
   P.O. Box 1870
   Borrego Springs, California 92004

6. General Plan Designation: Specific Plan Area
   Community Plan: Borrego Springs
   Land Use Designation: Specific Plan Area
   Regional Land Use:
   Density: Per Specific Plan – 0.77 dwelling units/acre

7. Zoning: Specific Plan
   Use Regulation: Utility Facility
   Minimum Lot Size: N/A
   Special Area Regulation: N/A

8. Description of project:

The proposed project consists of a sewer lift station, identified as Lift Station No. 1, to be situated in a southern portion of the existing Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant property. The treatment plant is presently operated and maintained by the Borrego Water District. Station No. 1 and associated improvements will help enhance the sewer system reliability in the surrounding area by replacing the operations of two existing pump stations with those of a single efficient system in a better suited location. The proposed project involves necessary improvements to bring the proposed lift station into proper operating condition. The proposed improvements are as follows:

- Construction of one wet well and sewer lift station
- Construction of one back-up power generator on an 8-ft by 10-ft pad
- Installation of one 12” PVC sewer main (Approximately 190 linear feet)
- Installation of one 18” PVC sewer main (Approximately 113 linear feet)
- Installation of one 10” PVC sewer force main (Approximately 283 linear feet)
- Installation of one 2” sewer pipe (Approximately 81 linear feet)
- Installation of one 6” sewer lateral (Approximately 60 linear feet)
- Construction of 4 sewer man holes
- Installation of one electrical power line (Approximately 30 linear feet)

The project will also involve the abandonment of two existing lift stations and their associated equipment pursuant to the California Plumbing Code, Section 722.0, 2007 edition.

- Abandonment of one existing Community Services Lift Station per CPC Section 722.0, 2007 edition
- Abandonment of one existing Town Center Sewer Lift Station per CPC Section 722.0, 2007 edition
- Abandonment of sewer lines associated with existing lift stations (Approximately 250 linear feet).

Sewer lift stations provide an important function to the efficient collection and conveyance of sanitary waste in the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs. Lift Station No. 1 will be used to thrust wastewater from a lower to a higher elevation. Wastewater is then conveyed via a force main for the subsequent portion of its alignment. With flows of approximately 345,600 gallons per day, Lift Station No. 1 will have the capacity to serve approximately 1,700 homes. The two existing stations that are proposed to be abandoned currently have a capacity serve approximately 600 homes with their combined flows of approximately 10,000 gallons per day.

The two existing stations that will be replaced – Town Center Sewer Lift Station and Community Services Lift Station – represent unsuitable placement in consideration of the planned growth in the surrounding area. The Town Center Sewer Lift Station is located approximately 200 feet southeast of the proposed project. This facility partially encroaches onto the Borrego Valley Road right-of-way. The pump station is situated underground, but several auxiliary components are found above ground and

their close proximity to the roadway makes them a potential obstruction to any future road improvements or a potential traffic safety hazard due the vehicular circulation. Furthermore, this sewer utility is not visually screened or physically buffered from the surrounding areas.

The Community Services Sewer Lift Station is located 90 feet south of the proposed Station No. 1. This station is also not visually or physically buffered from the surrounding uses. Moreover, its mechanical equipment is nearly obsolete.

The mentioned stations will be properly removed per CPC Sec. 722.0, 2007 edition. The hired contractor will remove all sanitary waste from all pipes and man holes from the abandoned stations. The lift station pumps, controls, and interior piping, will be salvaged and delivered to the Borrego Water District Maintenance Yard. Furthermore, the top sections (5 feet minimum) of the existing lift stations will be removed and the remainder pipe inlets and outlets will be filled with 2-sack cement slurry and back filled with sand.

The proposed lift station and supporting equipment will be situated primarily underground, approximately 21 feet below surface elevation. The lift station will operate on two 20 horse-power submersible electric motors, also located below surface elevation. The station's only components to be located above ground include a 4-foot vent pipe and the access point lid. The proposed project will also include the construction of an 8' by 10' pad for the placement of a back-up power generator approximately 40 feet northwest of Lift Station No. 1. This facility will serve as an alternative electricity supply in the event of power interruption from the primary supply. The generator and pad will be constructed to manufacturer's specifications and situated west of an existing building in the central area of the treatment plant.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):

The project site currently serves as a wastewater treatment plant with adequate space to accommodate the proposed sewer lift station. Land north of this site is presently undeveloped and forms part of the Specific Plan land use designation pursuant to the San Diego County General Plan. Areas to the east include Borrego Valley Road, followed by partially disturbed vacant land designated for low density residential development. Partially disturbed undeveloped land is found to the south and corresponds to a Specific Plan General Plan designation. Furthermore, land to the west includes a golf course, followed by single family residential uses.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

Permit Type/Action	Agency

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project and involve at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or a "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ **Aesthetics**	☐ **Agriculture Resources**	☐ **Air Quality**
☐ **Biological Resources**	☐ **Cultural Resources**	☐ **Geology & Soils**
☐ **Hazards & Haz. Materials**	☐ **Hydrology & Water Quality**	☐ **Land Use & Planning**
☐ **Mineral Resources**	☐ **Noise**	☐ **Population & Housing**
☐ **Public Services**	☐ **Recreation**	☐ **Transportation /Traffic**
☐ **Utilities & Service Systems**	☐ **Mandatory Findings of Significance**	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ On the basis of this Initial Study the ***(Lead Agency Name)*** finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared

☒ On the basis of this Initial Study the ***Borrego Water District*** finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, the ***(Lead Agency Name)*** finds that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____ Title _____

INSTRUCTIONS ON EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS – Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The Borrego Springs community is recognized for having scenic views of surrounding mountains and desert landscapes. According to the San Diego County EIR, an important scenic resource in this unincorporated community includes the Anza-Borrego State Park, a protected area that encircles the Borrego Valley.

The proposed lift station will be located primarily underground and enclosed in the existing Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, minimizing any aesthetic disruption to the vicinity. The boundary of this existing 6-acre plant is demarcated by a 6-foot fence and buffered from surrounding land by an earthen berm that is 25 feet in width and 5 feet in height. The berm is landscaped with vegetation, primarily oleander plants, which further screen the visibility of existing and proposed facilities already contained in this site. Aided by these physical buffers outlining the treatment plant perimeter, the visual presence of the lift station from surrounding views is expected to be minimal.

The proposed facility will replace two existing pump stations: the Community Services District Lift Station and the Town Center Lift Station. Both existing utilities are unscreened and therefore visible from Borrego Valley Road and other surrounding areas. Improvements associated with project implementation include the proper abandonment of these utilities, thus reducing their existing aesthetic impact. The aesthetic effect of the proposed project is anticipated to be positive when considering the screened project location and associated reduction of existing visual impacts from existing utilities. The proposed sewer lift station is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse change on a scenic vista or result in cumulative impacts. The project will be in general compliance with the County General Plan community design guidelines and the Zoning Code. The aesthetic impacts resulting from project implementation are expected to be less than significant.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the San Diego County EIR, State Scenic Highways are those corridors that are either officially designated as State Scenic Highways by the California Department of Transportation, or are eligible for such designation. The status of a State Scenic Highway changes from “eligible” to “officially designated” when the local jurisdiction adopts a scenic corridor protection program, applies to Caltrans for a scenic highway designation, and receives notification from Caltrans that the corridor has been

designated. The proposed project is not located in the vicinity of any State eligible or officially designated scenic highways. The nearest corridor with such designation is a segment of State Route 78 through the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This State designated corridor is located approximately 7.5 miles to the south and the proposed lift station will not be found within the corridor's composite viewshed.

The proposed pump station will be contained in the existing wastewater treatment plant, which has ample capacity to accommodate additional service utilities and is visually and physically buffered from surrounding land. No scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings are found on the property or within the immediate vicinity. No impacts to scenic resources, individual or cumulative, are anticipated to result from the proposed project.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed sewer lift station will be located within the confines of the existing Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plan. As previously discussed, this facility is visually buffered from surrounding areas with an earthen berm and vegetation, making the existing equipment and structures less visible from its surroundings. Areas surrounding the proposed site include undeveloped land to the north, east, and south. The land west of the wastewater treatment plant includes a golf course and residential development. The proposed utility will be minimally visible from its surroundings, preventing the potential degradation to the surrounding visual character or quality.

Project implementation is not expected to impact the visual character of the project site's vicinity primarily due to its placement within the existing treatment plant. Contrastingly, the project will help improve the area's visual character condition by discontinuing the use of two existing lift stations. Project implementation is expected to result in a a less than significant impact.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:
The project will not involve any form of lighting or utilize materials with highly reflective properties that could potentially generate daytime or nighttime glare. The proposed facility will be primarily situated underground and is expected to be minimally visible from the surrounding land. Additionally, the project is not located within a "Zone A" of the Palomar Mountain or Mount Laguna observatories. The project will not generate new sources of light pollution that could contribute to glare and sky glow and adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. No impact impacts related to light or glare are expected to result from the proposed project.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Local Importance (Important Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, or other agricultural resources to non-agricultural use?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project will not involve the disturbance or conversion of any designated farmland or other form of agricultural resource. The project site that will contain the sewer lift station is currently an active wastewater treatment plant. Pursuant to the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), the project site is categorized as Urban and Built-up Land. Per the FMMP, this category of land not considered important farmland. *It is used for residential, industrial, commercial, construction, institutional, public administration, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.* Additionally, the areas surrounding the project are not categorized as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local or Statewide Importance. The majority of Borrego Springs' agricultural resources are found approximately 4 miles to the north, further reducing the potential farmland conversion resulting from the project. No impacts related to farmland conversion are anticipated to result from the project.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Within a one-mile radius of the project, no portion of land is recognized or designated as an agricultural preserve, agricultural commodity or is under a Williamson Act Contract. According to the County's General Plan Update Draft EIR, the project site and immediate surroundings is not recognized for having prime agricultural soils or other characteristics that would make this land optimal for agricultural or farming operations. The proposed sewer lift station will be contained in an existing wastewater treatment plant, minimizing the potential disturbance to land outside the project site. The project will not impact or remove land from the County's agricultural zoning or preserve. As related to existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract, less than significant impacts are anticipated.

c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Important Farmland or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Proposed improvements to the area's sewer system do not represent a new or discrete land use. The project not anticipated to create cumulative impacts and is not expected to compromise or potentially result in conversion of Important Farmland or other form of land use. Rather, these improvements are expected to benefit existing or planned land uses in the area, none of which include agricultural resources or recognized farmland. As related to the conversion or compromise of farmland, the project is expected to result in less than significant impacts.

III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project is situated in a northeastern portion of the San Diego Air Basin, a district with boundaries that are contiguous with those of San Diego County. The mentioned air basin is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB). The San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) represents this region's active plan to achieve State ozone standards through a series of emissions reduction strategies. As discussed in the San Diego County General Plan Update Draft EIR, projects that propose development that is consistent with the growth anticipated by the City and County general plans are considered consistent with the RAQS and SIP. Conversely, projects that propose development at levels greater than anticipated in planning documents would be in conflict with the RAQS.

The existing County General Plan designates residential and specific plan uses for the area surrounding the project. Though only a percentage of the planned residential and specific plan development has actually occurred, the existing sewer system necessitates operation improvements. The proposed sewer lift station is expected to improve the sewer service and align it with the needs of existing and entitled development in this area. This is partially achieved by discontinuing the use of two existing obsolete sewer lift stations and combining their operations into the single proposed utility component. A result of the proposed improvements is an overall reduction of energy use and disturbance associated with the existing facilities. This is achieved by incorporating a more efficient system in a better suited location. The proposed lift station will not generate air emissions that could degrade the surrounding area's air quality. Further discussion on the project's less than significant impact related to objectionable odors is available in Sections **III – d)** and **III – e)**.

Emissions resulting from project construction are expected to be temporary, minimal and primarily reduced to the area encompassed by the existing wastewater treatment facility, which has ample stabilized surface area to accommodate construction activity. The project does not represent development levels beyond what is established in the County General Plan nor is it expected to induce growth. The project will not obstruct implementation of the San Diego RAQS or State Implementation Plan; therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed lift station will utilize two 20 horse-power electric motors located approximately 20 feet below surface. The use of electric power to operate this facility significantly reduces the potential combustion emissions resulting from project operations. The utility will not involve fuel combustion, waste disposal, cleaning and surface coating processes, or other operations that could potentially lead the project to reach or exceed the quantitative screening-level thresholds (SLTs) for air pollutants. The project is not expected to generate air emissions that could violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Temporary emissions related to construction activities will occur on a local scale and temporary basis.

To address the temporary construction impacts, a focused estimate was conducted utilizing the URBEMIS 2007 for Windows version 9.2.4 modeling software. Quantities were derived for a future project consisting of 0.40 acres of construction related disturbance. Air quality modeling works with a set of project-specific details on construction and operations, or with a set of industry-standard assumptions based on the type, location and corresponding air quality district. Construction activities of this facility are projected to begin in December of 2009 (Winter season). The duration of primary construction activities is anticipated to be one month. The number and composition of construction machinery and equipment is also based on assumptions corresponding to the type and size of this development.

Construction Emission Estimates (lbs/day mitigated)							
	PM 10	**PM 2.5**	**NOX**	**SO2**	**CO**	**VOC**	**C02**
Winter Season Emissions	0.90	0.82	10.49	0.1	8.90	<75	1,102*
Screening-Level Thresholds	100	55	250	N/A	550	75	N/A
Threshold exceeded?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

**Note: CO2 emissions are projected only for the construction days requiring the use of heavy equipment for longer than 4 hours. According to Urbemis results, the amount of C02 produced per select construction days are equivalent to an average of 1.35 tons of CO2 per year. Project construction activities are anticipated to last approximately one month.*

Screening-Level Thresholds: San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use 2007g

Construction Phase Assumptions for URBEMIS Model:

Demolition Phase – Abandonment of existing sewer lift stations and select areas of Borrego Valley Rd –

(Includes removal of associated equipment).

Trenching Phase – Trenching associated with the installation of proposed lift station and associated equipment.

Paving Phase – Re-paving of disturbed segment of Borrego Valley Road.

Construction Phase – Construction of wet well and back up power generator pad. No buildings will be constructed.

Based on the estimates resulting from the URBEMIS software, the project will not surpass the screening-level criteria established by the San Diego Air Pollution District Rule 20.2 during construction and operations of the proposed project. However, it is important to consider that air pollutant emissions associated with construction activities are difficult to accurately quantify since the type and amount of equipment used is not known with a reasonable level of certainty. Strategic construction scheduling will help minimize air pollution impacts.

Construction scheduling recommendations area as follows:

- Construction schedules should be carefully coordinated to ensure that only the necessary equipment is in operation and on-site.

- The construction schedule should incorporate considerations to minimize the disturbed area at any given time.

Another important air quality consideration is related to emissions from the project that may contribute to greenhouse gases (GHGs) and therefore to global climate change. An individual project cannot generate enough GHG emissions to individually influence global climate change. Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere come from both natural and human activities. GHG emissions produced from natural sources serve as an agent to warm the Earth's surface. Human-produced GHG emissions (i.e., emissions from electricity production and vehicles) have also been shown to elevate the concentration of emissions levels in the atmosphere above normal standards. These gases have varying atmospheric lifetimes in which they serve as a potential contributor to increased heat insulation and poor air quality. Examples of GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides (NOX), chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, O3, and aerosols.

As described in the County General Plan Update Draft EIR, the County has taken the initiative to regulate sources of air pollution within its jurisdiction that are sources of GHG emissions through implementation of AB 32 and SB 375. AB 32 requires the CARB to prepare a Scoping Plan to achieve reductions in GHG emissions in California. SB 375 requires metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to include strategies for sustainable communities, as defined, in their regional transportation plans (RTPs) for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to align planning for transportation and housing, and create specified incentives for the implementation of the strategies. As a part of SB 375, CARB is required to establish GHG emission reduction targets for each region (as opposed to individual cities or households) and to review the region's determination that its plan achieves those targets. The County will be working with SANDAG in developing the new RTP expected to be complete by 2011, to ensure the goals of SB 375 are met for our region.

Timeline of Future GHG Regulations:

- On or before January 1, 2010, the CARB shall adopt regulations to implement the early action GHG emission reduction measures;
- On or before January 1, 2011, the CARB shall adopt quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable emission reduction measures by regulation that will achieve the statewide
- GHG emissions limit by 2020, to become operative on January 1, 2012, at the latest.
- The emission reduction measures may include direct emission reduction measures, alternative compliance mechanisms, and potential monetary and nonmonetary incentives that reduce GHG emissions from any sources or categories of sources that CARB finds necessary to achieve the statewide GHG emissions limit; and

- The CARB shall monitor compliance with and enforce any emission reduction measure adopted pursuant to AB 32.

Although there are presently no adopted thresholds against which the proposed sewer lift station can be evaluated in determining impact significance, project operations are not anticipated to result in a considerable incremental contribution to greenhouse gases or climate change or in a violation of related air quality standards. Contrastingly, the proposed utility improvements will result in a more efficient wastewater collection and conveyance system. By replacing two existing lift stations, the single project will result in an overall reduction in energy resources and area of disturbance.

The project has the potential to result in minimal construction-related impacts on greenhouse gas emissions. These impacts include diesel exhaust emissions from the construction equipment, emissions from the commute vehicles of construction workers, exhaust emissions from vehicles transportation construction materials and particulate emissions during site clearing and excavation. The proposed project construction activities would generate up to 1,102 pounds of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) per day in which heavy construction equipment is used for more than 4 hours; however, not every day in the construction period will involve the use of heavy construction equipment since manual installation represents a substantial amount of the projected construction time period. When these considerations are integrated into the emissions projections, along with the anticipated construction period, the project emissions are equivalent to 1.35 tons of C02 per year. The CARB interim GHG significance threshold for stationary sector projects is 7,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions per year for projects which meet specified construction and transportation performance standards. By comparison the SCAQMD interim GHG significance threshold for permitting activities related to industrial projects is 10,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions per year (including construction emissions amortized over 30 years and added to operational GHG emissions). The project is not anticipated to violate the interim or future adopted air quality standards for C02 emissions. Moreover, the project is considered small in scale since it is anticipated to disturb less than one-half acre for a period of approximately one month. With the incorporated mitigation measure contained in this section, less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from project construction and operations.

Mitigation Measure:

The construction specifications shall require that the idling of construction equipment on-site while not in use is not permitted for periods longer than five minutes.

c) Result in 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)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District and General Plan Update EIR, air quality in the County does not meet State and federal health standards for ozone (O3) or the State standard for respirable particulate matter. The precursors to O3 are identified as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx), both of which are by-products of combustion. The proposed sewer lift station operations will not involve fuel combustion or the use of fuel-powered motor vehicles and other equipment that could generate ozone precursor pollutant emissions or could result

in their cumulative considerable net increase. The proposed project is not expected to induce a significant increase in service or maintenance vehicle miles traveled since the proposed sewer lift station is located in an existing Borrego Water District facility which is already part of the maintenance and inspection route. Project implementation will result in the abandonment of two existing lift stations. This consolidation of operations into a single site will reduce the overall energy consumption and area of disturbance necessary to conduct the local sewer service operations.

Less than significant impacts to air quality during the construction of a project may occur on a local scale. Construction impacts may include airborne dust from grading, trenching, dirt hauling as well as gaseous emissions from equipment, delivery, and dirt hauling trucks and employee vehicles. Project construction will involve the disturbance of approximately 19,000 square feet, of which 9,000 square feet will be outside the Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant property boundary.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the County's General Plan Update EIR Air Quality Technical Appendix, sensitive receptors in the County are identified as residences, schools, hospitals, day care centers, resident care centers and other facilities that may house individuals that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality.

The project site is situated within the confines of an existing wastewater treatment plant. As previously described, the project site is primarily surrounded by undeveloped land. The only existing development in the surrounding area is a partially developed Golf Course Community located to the west. In this community, the closest residence to the project site is found approximately 1,000 feet away.

It is not expected that future development would place any residential structures adjacent to or near the enclosed wastewater treatment facility or proposed lift station.

As mentioned, impacts related to project construction will be temporary, localized and minimal. A majority of project construction activities will be buffered from surrounding land uses by the existing fence, earthen berm and landscape vegetation. Additionally, this activity will be found at least 1,000 feet from the nearest existing residence, reducing the potential air quality disturbance to nearby areas.

The proposed lift station will be powered by electricity, located underground and is not expected to generate noise or air emissions. Though operations throughout the life of the project will not involve any form of fuel combustion, they can potentially emit hydrogen sulfide (H2S). Hydrogen sulfide tends to be released from bacterial breakdown of organic matter. According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), sources of this substance include volcanic eruptions, natural gas, and hot springs as well as industrial and food processing activities. Additionally, bacteria from a person's mouth and gastrointestinal tract can produce this substance. Hydrogen Sulfide can be in the form of a liquid or gas with the odor characteristics of rotten eggs. The exposure of this substance to humans can create discomfort and irritation, but it has not been known to cause cancer.

The proposed improvements and project functions are inherently associated with sanitary waste, which

tends to produce hydrogen sulfide because it contains bacterial breakdown of organic matter. The function of the proposed project is to lift this wastewater from a lower elevation to a higher elevation so that the waste can be conveyed by force main along the rest of its trajectory. The lift work is produced by one of two 20-horse power electric motors to be situated approximately 20 feet below surface elevation. Customary to this form of sewer infrastructure, the proposed station will include a 4-foot vent pipe to prevent the buildup of hydrogen sulfide in the shaft. To minimize the generation of hydrogen sulfide, the project incorporates electric motors designed to reduce the release of this gas, minimizing the impacts.

As mentioned, the nearest residence to this station is approximately 1,000 feet to the west. Future development is not anticipated to place sensitive receptors, such as residences, closer than 400 feet from the site due to the existing easements and designated areas of open space surrounding the site. At this distance from the lift station, any minimal emissions of hydrogen sulfide are anticipated to dissipate, especially considering the west-to-east prevailing wind patterns in the Borrego Valley. The project will result in an overall reduction in emissions by allowing for two existing pump station sites, which are also known sources of hydrogen sulfide emissions, to be discontinued. The proposed improvements represent a location farther away from potential development than the existing sites. Less than significant impacts are expected to result from project implementation.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As referenced in the San Diego County General Plan Update Draft EIR, a project can generate a significant impact-related to objectionable odors if it would result in the emissions of any material which causes nuisance to a considerable number of persons or endangers the comfort, health or safety of any person. Common sources of objectionable odors recognized by the San Diego AQMD include landfills, agricultural operations, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting, dairies, fiberglass molding and, wastewater treatment plants. The San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is the primary agency for ensuring air quality and enforcing County odor policies. Odor impacts to air quality are subject to APCD Rule 51, which prohibit activities that could cause nuisance odors.

As previously mentioned, the proposed project forms part of an existing wastewater treatment plant, a type of facility that is generally recognized as a potential source of objectionable odors. However, the existing wastewater treatment plant equipment contains industry standard odor control mechanisms to minimize any associated impacts. The proposed sewer lift station also has the generalized potential to generate objectionable odors, specifically associated with hydrogen sulfide emissions. These emissions are characterized by their objectionable odor, characteristic of rotten eggs according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The lift station will be powered by two electric motors designed to minimize the release of hydrogen sulfide. Any release of this substance is anticipated to dissipate before being detected in residential areas, none of which are closer than 1,000 feet from the site. Furthermore, Lift Station No. 1 will be contained in a fenced facility closed to the public and buffered from surrounding uses. These barriers prevent any person from the public from reaching a location less than 100 feet from the lift station.

Borrego Water District personnel will come into closer contact with the lift station due to routine maintenance procedures. The Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) establishes an acceptable ceiling limit for hydrogen sulfide at 20 parts per one million parts of air in the work place. Furthermore, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NOISH) recommends a 10-minute ceiling limit of 10 parts of hydrogen sulfide per one million parts of air in the workplace. With the established recommendations in place, Borrego Water District staff is not anticipated to be exposed to substantial levels of objectionable odors. Nevertheless, any staff working in the treatment plant and near the lift station will follow existing BWD safety procedures to prevent health incidents.

In consideration of the project location and existing restrictions to public access, the project is not anticipated to expose a substantial number of people to objectionable odors. Less than significant impacts are expected to result from the project.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or indirectly 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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project is situated in a southern portion of the Borrego Springs Community. Land surrounding the project includes residential development to the west and undeveloped land to the north, east and south. Pursuant to the existing County General Plan land use designations, this area is projected to accommodate future low density residential and specific plan development.

According to the Aggregated Vegetation Map of San Diego County, found in the General Plan Update Draft EIR, the project site is recognized as "*Urban, Disturbed Habitat, Agriculture, Eucalyptus Woodland*" vegetation category. This land category also encompasses the majority of Borrego Spring's developed areas north, south and west of the project site. Because this vegetation category is aggregate in nature, the *Agriculture* and *Eucalyptus Woodland* description are not representative of the project site and surrounding area conditions. The *Urban* and *Disturbed Habitat vegetation* are more representative of the project site. According to the mentioned source, this land includes residential, commercial and industrial development, as well as non-native vegetation. Furthermore, this disturbed land is found to provide little habitat for native species and the contained vegetation has a high predominance of invasive and/or weedy species. The undeveloped land east of the project site is recognized as being part of the Desert Scrub vegetation community while the Mesquite Bosque areas approximately 1 mile to the southeast are recognized as Riparian Forest.

The proposed project will not result in the modification of any habitat that could adversely affect any species, sensitive or special status. The physical project disturbance will occur under the *Urban, Disturbed Habitat, Agriculture, Eucalyptus Woodland* vegetation category area, which is not considered a habitat area to any candidate, sensitive or special status species. Specifically, installation of the proposed pump station will be confined to the existing wastewater treatment plant, which is presently disturbed and is physically and visually buffered from surrounding land. Removal of the two existing lift stations will restore their current location to pre-construction conditions. Less than significant impacts

are expected to result from project implementation.

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 US Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed sewer lift station will not be located in a portion of land associated with any vegetation community or habitat area. According to Appendix C – Biological Resources Tables, in the San Diego County General Plan Update Draft EIR, the vegetation category to which the project site belongs does not contain any potential Special Status plant or wildlife species. Additionally, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Information Systems database does not identify any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community in the immediate surroundings. The project is not expected to conflict with sensitive natural communities as found in local or regional plans; therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project will be located within the confines of the Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant. The existing treatment plant incorporates various design mechanisms to prevent any accidental release or contamination from the site. These include a 6-foot chain link security fence outlining the 6-acre site boundary. In a centralized 4-acre portion of this plant, an earthen berm of 25 feet in width and 5 feet in height is in place to offer additional containment of operations equipment, buildings, emergency power sources and emergency percolation basins. Furthermore, this earthen berm contains landscaping vegetation, creating a form of barrier that shields the views of this site from surrounding areas.

The proposed project will be situated in the mentioned 4-acre centralized portion of this treatment plant. This site is not within close proximity to any stream or river and the project is not anticipated to result in a hydrological interruption or other disturbance to any wetlands, marsh, vernal pool or coastal feature. Contrastingly, the project reduces the overall impact created by existing sewer system conditions by discontinuing the use of two existing lift stations – which are outside of the existing wastewater treatment property – and consolidating their operations in the mentioned wastewater treatment plant. Project implementation will not result in the disturbance of any federally protected wetlands, including, but not limited to marshes, vernal pools or coastal resources. Less than significant impacts are anticipated from this project.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project site is completely disturbed. The project does not represent a new or differing development pattern than the present land use conditions. As mentioned, the project site forms part of an existing wastewater treatment plant, a facility that is physically and visually buffered from the surrounding developed and vacant land. This 6-acre site is not recognized as a native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species corridor. Rather, it is considered part of the developed areas in this unincorporated community.

The project will not impede with any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species corridor, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites. Contrastingly, the project works to minimize the existing level of disturbance by allowing Borrego Water District to discontinue the use of two existing pump stations found nearby and outside of the berm mentioned above. The operations of these existing facilities will be combined into the proposed lift station, reducing the overall energy consumption and disturbance area of the existing sewer system conditions. Less than significant impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

e) Conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The County of San Diego is participating in the process of developing the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), a multi-agency effort to comprehensively protect sensitive and special status species in the County's diverse ecological regions. The MSCP encompasses a large geographic extent is divided into three Plan Areas: the North, South and East County. The proposed project forms part of the East County Plan Area, which covers the largest extent out of the three plan areas. The East County Plan area is bounded by Riverside County to the north, Imperial County to the east, Baja California Norte, Mexico to the south, and the Peninsular Mountain range to the west. The County of San Diego is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game to identify the sensitive plant, mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile and invertebrate species subject to protection. The MSCP will ensure compliance with the state and federal Endangered Species Act, and the state Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act.

At the time that this document was prepared, only select draft maps and documents were available MSCP for the East Area Plan. The draft cover species list for the East County Plan area includes 60 plant, mammal, bird, invertebrate, and amphibian and reptile species. According to this list and

corresponding draft map (Version 2.2), the project forms part of the Developed Lands category, placing it outside any protected or focused conservation area. Furthermore, the site is found outside the Pre-Approved Mitigation area corresponding to this Plan. The project will not conflict with any existing or developing habitat or natural communities conservation plan set forth to protect the local and regional biological resources. The project is anticipated to result in less than significant impacts.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The Borrego Valley and associated community is considered to have a historic legacy dating back to the early Cahuilla and Kumeyaay Native Indian inhabitants. Subsequent discovery and inhabitation by Spanish explorers further established the Borrego Valley as a significant area along a historic Southern California route. The Borrego Valley community and surrounding Anza-Borrego Park have since represented an important natural and cultural resource to the Southern California region. According to the Borrego Springs Draft Community Plan, the Valley's only recognized historic resource is the old Borrego Town site, an area located approximately 2 miles southeast of the project site. This location is also identified in the San Diego County General Plan Update EIR as a Historic Address.

The project and surrounding areas do not contain any historical resources pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines definition of this term. The areas surrounding the project do not include objects, buildings, structures, sites, areas, places, records or manuscripts which may be considered historically significant. The project site is surrounded by partially disturbed vacant land to the north, east, and south. Additionally, land to the west is encompassed by the Borrego Country Club residential community. The proposed project forms part of a Specific Plan land use designation pursuant to the County General Plan. The sewer lift station will be contained in an existing wastewater treatment facility operated by the Borrego Water District. Construction of the proposed facility will allow the Borrego Water District to discontinue the use of two existing pump stations currently found outside the mentioned wastewater treatment plant. Following proper procedure, these stations will be disassembled and their components properly disposed of. This process will result in an overall increase in sewer system efficiency as well as a reduction in energy consumption and area of disturbance associated with the existing system.

The project will involve temporary disturbance outside the existing wastewater treatment plant and across Borrego Valley Road. This process is necessary to construct a 10-inch sewer main line running perpendicular to Borrego Valley Road. As previously discussed, these impacts will be temporary and localized on a previously disturbed area not containing or located near any recognized historic resource. The proposed project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse effect on any of the community's historic resources. Less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from project implementation.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The County of San Diego is recognized for having a long cultural history beginning approximately 10,000 years ago. Recognition of the County's archeological resources is categorized by cultural periods of prehistory and history. The Pre-Contact Background period is associated with the Native American occupation. The Early Period/Archaic period is recognized as the time frame from 10,000 to 1,300 years ago. This period is associated with the San Dieguito, La Jolla and Pauma tradition complexes in the hunting and gathering societies. The time frame from 1,300 years ago to historic (Spanish) contact is recognized as the Late Period. According to the County General Plan Update Draft EIR, the County's archeological sites are kept confidential in order to protect these resources from theft or violation.

The proposed project will be located in a completely disturbed area currently used as a wastewater treatment facility surrounded by disturbed land or existing development. The pump station will be located below surface at an approximate depth of 22 feet. The construction and operation of this facility will allow for Borrego Water District to discontinue the use of two existing lift stations found within 300 feet of the proposed lift station. The project will require temporary disturbance outside the lift station to construct a new 10-inch line. This process will require localized and temporary trenching across previously disturbed areas, including Borrego Valley Road. Less than significant impacts are expected.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique geologic feature?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Geomorphic or geologic regions are areas that contain particular assemblages of land forms, geology, and fossils. According to the County's Geographic Information Systems records on geology, the project site is found in a Quaternary Alluvium area, which is part of the Salton Trough Region geomorphic province. In this geomorphic province, fossil discoveries have generally been made in areas with natural outcrops of exposed sedimentary rocks. The proposed project will occur in a previously disturbed area with no salient geologic features surrounding it within a quarter-mile radius. Project construction will involve temporary and localized disturbances, including excavation to a minimal extent. The project is not anticipated to directly or indirectly destroy any unique geologic feature, resulting in less than significant impacts.

d) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation ☐ No Impact

Incorporated

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the General Plan Update Draft EIR, paleontological resources are recognized as remains and/or traces of prehistoric life (exclusive of human remains, artifacts or features) that include the localities where fossils are collected and the sedimentary rock formations in which they were formed. These resources generally regarded as being older than 10,000 years and can include marine shells, bones and teeth of fish, reptiles and mammals.

The County of San Diego has established a scale of sensitivity areas according to geologic formations and resource potential. The sensitivity of paleontological resources is mapped for this County in categories ranging from “No Potential” to “High Potential”. Potential sensitivity is directly correlated with the potential for an area to have paleontological resources. According to this source, a majority of the Borrego Springs community is determined to have low paleontological sensitivity. This level of sensitivity is assigned to relatively young geologic formations. These areas are unlikely to produce unique fossil remains. Being located in an area categorized as having low potential to contain paleontological resources, coupled with the level of disturbance that has occurred on the project site due to the existing wastewater treatment plant and lift stations, the proposed project is not anticipated to directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site. Less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from project implementation.

e) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The County’s rich history of past human occupations and their associated customs or beliefs have yielded evidence of human remains through various portions of unincorporated territory. While some formal and informal burial sites have been unearthed and their cultural significance studied, others are believed to be present but undiscovered. The community of Borrego Springs has been inhabited by Native Indian, Spanish, Mexican and American cultures, representing a variety of beliefs and customs related to human burial. Borrego Springs does not have a formal cemetery according to the Community Plan. The closest formal burial sites to this community are found in Brawley, Indio and Escondido. This indicates that any human interment occurring in Borrego Springs would have been informal, or located outside a cemetery. However, the town’s historic centers and Indian Reservations are more likely to contain these sites, both areas are at a considerable distance from the site.

The proposed project will occur in a previously disturbed area currently serving for a similar purpose, which is the management of sanitary waste. The surrounding land uses include existing residential development and partially disturbed undeveloped land designated to accommodate future residential growth. The areas identified for project-related excavation are considered completely disturbed by past improvements and operations.

The California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5, requires that in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site, or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlay adjacent remains, until the County Coroner has examined the remains. If the coroner determines the

remains to be those of Native American, or has reason to believe that they are those of Native American, the coroner shall contact by telephone within 24 hours the Native American Heritage Commission. In addition, any person who willingly mutilates or disinters, wantonly disturbs, or willfully removes any human remains in or from any location other than a dedicated cemetery without authority is guilty of a misdemeanor. The proposed sewer lift station is not anticipated to disturb any human remains, including those found outside formal cemeteries. Project implementation is expected to result in less than significant impacts.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:

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.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The Southern California region is recognized for prominent faulting and seismicity primarily associated with the “Big Bend” of the San Andreas Fault Zone, which separates the North American and Pacific plates. The County of San Diego is traversed by the San Andreas Fault system and other fault lines recognized as part of the County Special Study Zones. This series of southeast-trending fault line segments has a greater presence in the northeast areas of the County.

Borrego Springs contains a typical southeast-trending fault line pattern that primarily affects the northeast portion of the community boundary. The proposed project will be located in a relatively central portion of the community boundary, but south of most existing development. According to the Alquist-Priolo Fault Zoning Map referenced in the County Draft General Plan Update and associated EIR, the project is approximately 3.5 miles from the nearest fault zone. Furthermore, the project is approximately 1.5 miles east of the nearest County Special Study Fault Zone.

According to the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance – Geologic Hazards, a proposed project would result in a significant impact from fault rupture if it placed structures for human occupancy within 50 feet of an Alquist-Priolo or County Special Study Zone Fault. Furthermore, the County identifies land uses which are prohibited from being constructed in an Alquist-Priolo Zone. As mentioned, the project is located at least 1.5 miles from the nearest fault zone, placing all project activity at a substantial distance from recognized faulting. The proposed project will not involve human occupancy or buildings. The lift station will incorporate standard design features that include proper bracing and anchorage to protect subsurface structures and equipment from being adversely affected by the known fault line activity. Less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from this project.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Ground shaking is considered the most common effect of earthquakes, often producing the majority of damage to people and constructed improvements. As discussed in Section *VI – i*, the project is found approximately 1.5 miles east of the nearest County Special Study Zone and approximately 3.5 miles from the nearest Alquist-Priolo Zone. According to the Faults and Near Source Shaking Zones map, found in the Draft General Plan Update, the project occurs within the 15-Kilometer (9.5-Mile) seismic shaking buffer zone, an area identified as having a minimized impact compared to areas closer in distance to known fault lines.

Seismic ground shaking is considered to be potentially significant in all areas of the unincorporated County and in the Southern California region. The proposed lift station will incorporate standard design features to ensure project endurance from the effects of seismic ground shaking. The 6-acre wastewater treatment facility that will accommodate the proposed project incorporates safety design features to guard the surrounding land from accidental release. This is achieved through the use of a 25-foot wide earthen berm as well as emergency equipment and two percolation basins. These features significantly minimize the effects of potential existing equipment failure, such as that associated with ground shaking. Additionally, the Lift Station No. 1 incorporates safety features to prevent service interruption. These include a stalwart wet well design, a back-up power source and an alternate electric motor. Furthermore, the project reduces risks related to existing seismic ground shaking by discontinuing the use of two existing pump stations which are more exposed to surrounding land uses and have a higher potential for accidental release. The proposed lift station will minimize exposure of people or structures to potential impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking. The project is anticipated to result in a less than significant impact.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The County General Plan Update Draft EIR describes liquefaction as primarily occurring in saturated, loose, fine to medium-grained soils in areas where the groundwater table is generally 50 feet or less below surface elevation. Such sediments can loose strength and behave like a liquid when disturbed by seismic ground shaking activity. The adverse effects of liquefaction include loss of bearing strength, lateral spreading, ground oscillation, flotation and settlement. According to the aforementioned source, liquefaction does not historically occur in the County. However, the potential for occurrence is more prevalent in the eastern unincorporated areas of the County. According to the General Plan Update Draft EIR map of Potential Liquefaction Areas, a majority of Borrego Springs is considered to be in a potential liquefaction area. The demarcation of liquefaction-susceptible areas is generally consistent with the quaternary alluvium soil areas that encompass a majority of Borrego Valley. Additionally the Borrego Sink is recognized as a likely area for potential liquefaction hazard.

Engineering design features, including the equipment placement and support, will work to reduce impacts from the potential effects of liquefaction. The project location and limitations to public access minimize the exposure of structures or people resulting from this natural phenomenon. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

iv. Landslides?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the most recent Landslide Susceptibility map, developed for the General Plan Update in May of 2009 with the incorporation of USGS and HAZUS information resources, the project site is found outside of the areas with “moderate” or “high” landslide susceptibility. The project site is not located near areas with significant slope gradients, such as those that generate the potential for landslide activity. Furthermore, the proposed project will not involve human occupation or any structures. No impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Topsoil generally consists of the first 6 inches below ground surface and is considered important part of the natural environment due to its purveyance of nutrients and organic matter to plant life. Top soil erodes when it is washed or blown away.

According to the County of San Diego Soil Survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the project site and associated improvements will be situated in *Mecca sandy loam, saline, 0 to 2 percent slopes* and in *Indio silt loam, saline, 0 to 2 percent slopes* soils. The proposed project and associated improvements occur on soils completely disturbed by the Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, improvements to Borrego Valley Road and vehicular traffic. Temporary project construction will involve a mostly temporary disturbance area of approximately 19,000 square feet; however, the majority of this area corresponds to stabilized areas, such as Borrego Valley Road or asphalt-covered areas within the wastewater treatment facility. Project-related trenching will further disturb soils of a specified sector of land; however, this area does not extend further into any undisturbed desert environment. Erosion control measures will be incorporated to minimize soil erosion during the construction phase. Exposed areas will be stabilized following construction activities with improvements, watering and use of polymer as needed. The proposed lift station will be situated in an area protected from wind and water by existing compacted earthen berm. No cumulative effects are anticipated to be induced by the project. With the implementation of erosion control measures, less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from the project.

Mitigation Measure:
The project contractor shall ensure that during off-site construction activities, erosion control Best Management Practices are implemented.

c) Be located on a geologic unit of soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project is situated in a portion of Borrego Valley characterized by a southeast-trending drainage pattern, creating soil conditions similar to those of an alluvial area. The County's GIS records on geology identify the project site and surrounding areas as part of the quaternary alluvium. Additionally, the U.S.D.A. soils report indicates that the areas encompassed by the project primarily consist of *mecca sandy loam saline*. In reference to U.S.D.A. findings, the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Impacts – Geologic Hazards identifies the project site soils as hydric soils. These are found to be formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding. According maps from the same source, the project site forms part of an area that is susceptible to liquefaction. Furthermore, the project is also found approximately 2 miles northwest of an area recognized for having expansive soils.

Though the project occurs in an area susceptible to liquefaction, the site is not located near a known fault line nor is not considered unstable. Previous site improvements related to construction of the wastewater treatment plant include grading, soil compaction and formation of an earthen berm along the perimeter of central sector of the site. The project will work with these previously engineered design efforts for improved safety considerations. Additionally, the proposed project will incorporate safety features that include proper bracing equipment support pursuant to the Uniform Building Code, Chapter 23 – Guidelines for Seismic Restraints of Mechanical Systems and Plumbing Systems. The project will not expose people or structures to the effects of soil instability. Less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from the project.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project is not located on expansive soils. The closest area with such conditions is found approximately 2 mile northeast of the project. This area of Borrego Springs generally corresponds to the Mesquite Bosque/Borrego Sink. The proposed project and associated improvements will not involve human inhabitation, nor will it place humans or habitable structures in the potential expansive soils risk. Less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from project implementation.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project will not involve human inhabitation. The existing wastewater treatment plant presently contains an operations building, which contains office space as well as a restroom.

The proposed lift station will improve upon the existing on-site wastewater collection and conveyance system. Project implementation will result in a direct reduction in energy consumption and area of disturbance due to the abandonment of two existing lift stations, which are currently not in optimal operating condition. The proposed wastewater lift station system flows will have a capacity to serve approximately 1,700 homes. Alternative waste disposal systems are not necessary in this portion of Borrego Springs. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or waste or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project will involve the conveyance of wastewater at a flow capacity of approximately 345,600 gallons per day. Borrego Water District staff will be required to follow the procedures established in the lift station operations and maintenance manual prepared for this facility. This resource will describe the operational and design parameters; maintenance tasks and precautions; and emergency procedures in abnormal operating conditions for the facility. The proper use and consideration of this manual will ensure that the lift station and supporting equipment work in a safe manner. The project does not represent a risk of hazardous materials release as a result of a reasonably foreseeable accident. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project will incorporate industry standards and guidelines so that all project equipment is properly installed. The plumbing and electrical system will contain bracing and anchorage for sufficient support. Additionally, a Maintenance and Operations Manual developed for this project will dictate routine maintenance and precaution tasks as well as procedures during abnormal or emergency events. The project location within the existing wastewater treatment facility, coupled with routine maintenance operations, will minimize the risk of accidental wastewater release. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project is not located within a one-quarter mile distance of an existing or proposed school. The nearest school site is located approximately 1 mile to the north. The proposed project will not emit or involve the handling of hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials. The lift station will convey sanitary waste and improve the sewer system conditions in the surrounding area. The pump station will have flow capacity of approximately 345,600 gallons of wastewater per day and serve a maximum of 1,700 homes. As previously discussed, the project will occur within the confines of the existing Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant. Less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from project implementation.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites complied pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or is otherwise known to have been subject to a release of hazardous substances and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Pursuant to California State Waterboard Geotracker and Envirostor public records, the proposed sewer lift station is not located near a Leaking Underground Fuel Tank cleanup site, or an underground storage tank system (UST). Additionally, the site is not within close proximity to a spill, leak, investigation or cleanup site. The closest recognized site to the project found on Palm Canyon Drive, is

approximately 1.5 miles to the north.

The sewer improvements associated with the proposed lift station will not expand the area of disturbance or involve a substantial expansion of sewer collection or conveyance utilities. Proposed Lift Station No.1 will be situated in an existing wastewater treatment facility that is improved with a compacted earthen berm as an accidental release prevention mechanism. The project will replace two existing pump stations: the Town Center Lift Station and the Community Services District Sewer Lift Station. The proposed project will not expose persons, including Borrego Water District employees, existing or future residents, to sites known to have been subject to a release of hazardous substances. The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or environment. Employees will adhere to industry handling regulations. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The San Diego County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) promotes the compatibility of airports with their surrounding land uses. The Airport Land Use Commission establishes policies applicable to land use compatibility planning in the vicinity of airports throughout the region. The Plan includes compatibility criteria and maps for the influence areas of individual airports. Through assistance, coordination and review of existing and proposed airport facilities, the San Diego County ALUC works to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare.

The proposed project is located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Borrego Valley Airport, a 200-acre facility owned and operated by the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works. According to the San Diego County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), the project site is found within Review Area 2. Pursuant to the mentioned source, Review Area 2 consists of locations found in the airspace protection and/or overflight areas. Because Review Area 2 represents land that is at a greater distance from the airport facility compared to those in Review Area 1, land use restrictions are less inclusive and primarily related to height of proposed structures. Pursuant to ALUCP Policy 1.6.2(a)(2), the proposed project is not subject to ALUC review because it will not involve structures or objects of significant height (100 feet); generate electrical or visual hazards; cause the attraction of birds or wildlife; or be located in a high terrain zone. Furthermore, the project will not involve human inhabitation. The proposed sewer lift station is not anticipated to result in a safety hazard to residents or workers in the project area related to airports. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As discussed in the previous section, the project is found approximately 1.5 miles from The Borrego Valley Airport, a public facility. The sewer lift station will be found in Review Area 2 pursuant to the County's Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan and will not be subject to ALUC review because of its distance and small scale of proposed structures. The project is not anticipated to result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area, resulting in a less than significant impact.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:
As referenced in the San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance - Emergency Response Plans, the Operational Area Emergency Plan (OAEP) describes a comprehensive emergency management system for a planned response to disaster situations, including natural disasters, technological, and nuclear-related incidents. The plan defines responsibilities, establishes an emergency organization, defines lines of communications, and is intended to be a framework preparedness document for all jurisdictions in the operational area. Additional emergency response plans in the region include the San Diego County Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Response Plan as well as specific elements and procedures of the OAEP. According to the same source, a project would have a significant impact if it would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency plan or emergency evacuation plan. The proposed lift station will not involve additional buildings, structures, or human occupancy. The proposed lift station and associated improvements will not interfere with the County's Operational Area Emergency Plan or impair its implementation because they work to increase the efficiency, capacity and safety of the sanitary waste collection and conveyance system in the surrounding area. No impacts are anticipated to result from the project.

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 residence are intermixed with wildlands?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the County Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map found in the San Diego County General Plan Update Draft EIR, the project site occurs within Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Moderate Fire Hazard Zone. However, the project site is not recognized as part of the Wildland/Urban Interface Areas. Additionally, the San Diego County GIS database on Fire Burn History, which contains records from

1910 to 2007, does not show significant fire events in the vicinity of the project. The closest fire event to the project site occurred in 1980 and was named the "Hellhole Fire." This incident affected nearly 769 acres in a portion of the Anza-Borrego State Park located four miles west of the project site.

The proposed project site is surrounded by partially disturbed undeveloped land to the north, vacant land to the east and south, and residential uses to the west. The project will occupy a portion of the Wastewater Treatment Facility that is part of the Borrego Country Club Specific Plan Area. Though the area occupied by this project is not located in a *High* County Fire Hazard Severity Zone or in a wildland fire interface area, the area is intermixed with these susceptible zones. Development patterns in the Borrego Valley have caused a mixture of areas with varying fire hazard susceptibility. The project will not involve construction of any structures, including those that would accommodate human occupancy. Contrastingly, the project will improve upon the sanitary waste collection system operations by replacing two pump stations and consolidating their operations in a single, safeguarded site. The project will not expose residents or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

The following sections summarize the project's consistency with applicable emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

i. OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY PLAN:

The proposed project will not involve land use actions or sewer operations that could impede with the policy implementation of the existing or future Operational Area Emergency Plan. The existing conditions of the project site and the lift station design will work to minimize public health and safety hazards. The proposed project will consistent with the existing emergency response plan.

ii. SAN DIEGO COUNTY NUCLEAR POWER STATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Not applicable

iii. OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY ELEMENT

Not applicable

iv. EMERGENCY WATER CONTINGENCIES ANNEX AND ENERGY SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

The project will not interfere with the Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Emergency Shortage Response Plan because the proposed sewer lift station and associated improvements will not involve the significant alteration of water or energy infrastructure.

v. DAM EVACUATION PLAN

Not applicable

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The existing water quality standards for water treatment facilities work to minimize impacts to surface water and groundwater resources from contaminants, sediments, hydrocarbons and other substances related to development activities. Standards, strategies and policies exist at every level of government to ensure the public safety, health and welfare of communities as related to water quality.

The proposed is included within Anza-Borrego Watershed, an area that covers approximately 180 square miles and the majority of the Borrego Valley. The project site is not directly affected or located near any creek or river, but the general project vicinity contains minor southeast-trending drainage patterns. The site is located approximately 3 miles north of the Borrego Valley Sink, a riparian area of Borrego Valley that accepts natural flows from surrounding higher elevations, generally from the north and west. Additionally, the project is situated above the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin, Borrego Springs single source of water.

The proposed sewer lift station will not involve or result in the discharge of waste or pollutants that could affect any surface water or groundwater resources. Any form of accidental spill or release of wastewater will be contained within the wastewater treatment plant bermed area, which includes two emergency percolation basins. However, maintenance tasks, precautions and emergency procedures in abnormal operating conditions for the facility will be provided to Borrego Water District maintenance staff as part of the Maintenance and Operations Manual prepared for this project. The proper use and consideration of this manual will ensure that the lift station and supporting equipment function in a safe manner, minimizing the potential for accidental spill or release of wastewater.

The sewer lift station will improve upon the existing sewer system by increasing the efficiency of wastewater collection and conveyance operations. Associated project improvements involve the abandonment of two existing pump stations found near the Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant and outside of the facility's protective berm. Abandonment will be conducted pursuant to Section 722.0 of the Californian Plumbing Code, 2007 Edition. This process involves the careful removal of all sanitary waste and related sewer equipment. Abandoned areas are cleaned, backfilled with cement and sand and properly sealed to eliminate any residual contamination.

The County General Plan Update Draft EIR recognizes the potential impacts resulting from project construction activities. Demolition, clearing, grading, excavation, stockpiling, concrete pouring, painting and asphalt surfacing are recognized as construction activities that could create short-term impacts to surface water and groundwater quality. The project will disturb approximately 19,000 square feet, of which the majority has been disturbed due to previous improvements. Project construction activities will not involve demolition, grading, significant concrete pouring or painting. The project will result in excavation for pipeline installation, but this construction activity involves a minimal area. The project will not require the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan because the temporary project disturbance will not surpass one acre; however, erosion Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into improvement plans. BMPs such as a gravel bag berm will be utilized during offsite abandonment activities, especially during rainy season, which occurs during the winter months.

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)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed sewer lift station will not involve the extraction or use of groundwater. The proposed improvements are associated with the conveyance of wastewater. The project will not interfere with groundwater recharge. No impacts to groundwater supplies are anticipated to result from the project.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project will occur in a previously improved area comprising a wastewater treatment plant. The plant is improved to accommodate an operations building, multiple sedimentation and aeration tanks as well as two emergency percolation basins. Moreover, the 4-acre facility is encircled with a decomposed granite surface followed by a compacted earthen berm of 5 feet in height. The project site does not contain any natural or man-made drainage patterns. The predominant drainage patterns in the Borrego Springs valley occur from the northwest to the southeast.

The project will not substantially alter any drainage pattern in the project site or surrounding area. Temporary construction activities are anticipated to disturb less than one half-acre (19,000 square feet) and the majority of this disturbance will occur within the existing wastewater treatment plant. The existing berm protects the site from storm water drainage flows generally originating from the northwest. The demolition and abandonment of two existing sewer lift stations will restore and stabilize off-site areas. A less than significant impact is expected to result from project implementation.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As previously described, the project site is not traversed by any drainage patterns. As a result, the project will not disturb such features. The proposed improvements are relatively small in scale and are not anticipated to substantially increase the amount of surface runoff because the project will result in minimal increase in impervious surfaces and demolition of two lift stations. Less than significant impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed project.

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As referenced in the County General Plan Update Draft EIR, drainage facilities including storm drains, culverts, inlets, channels, curbs and roads are designated to prevent flooding by collecting stormwater runoff and directing flows to either the natural drainage course and/or away from urban development. If drainage facilities are not adequately designed, built, or properly maintained, the capacity of the existing facilities can be exceeded resulting in flooding and increased sources of polluted runoff.

The proposed project will not involve any discharge into the local stormwater facilities and will not substantially alter any land forms or increase the area impervious surfaces. Temporary construction activities will disturb less than one half-acre and will not require the implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The project is not anticipated to create or contribute runoff water that could exceed the capacity of existing stormwater drainage systems or produce substantial amounts of polluted runoff. Less than significant impacts are expected to result from project implementation.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed sewer lift station is geared to increase the efficiency of the wastewater collection and conveyance system. These improvements enhance the environmental sensitivity of sewer operations by minimizing the potential for wastewater blockage and overflows. As previously discussed, these enhancements are achieved with a superior wet well design, higher efficiency motors and more durable auxiliary equipment, to replace the operations of aging pump stations located nearby. Furthermore, the proposed project location is a previously improved area buffered from its surroundings.

The project's temporary construction activities will occur in a localized area that is less than 19,000 square feet. The project and construction site are not found near a water resource that could become

compromised by the project. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

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 delineation map?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FIRM Panel 06073C0975F, the project site and surrounding areas are designated as part of a Flood Zone A. According to FEMA, Zone A is assigned to areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance-flood event. Additionally, the County General Plan Update Draft EIR identifies the project site and majority of Borrego Springs as being part of the 100-year flood plain. This area's flooding susceptibility is greatly attributed to the southeast-trending drainage patterns that originate from the mountainous areas and canyons to the west and northwest. Despite the recognized flood risks associated with this greater area, the project will not involve any form of housing or structures to accommodate human occupation. The project site is situated inside the Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, a facility that is safeguarded from the surrounding environment, including potential flood risks, with a compacted earthen berm. No impact is anticipated to result from the project.

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project will involve improvements that include the installation of pipelines, construction of 4 sewer man holes, and a single wet well where the sewer pumps will be situated. These improvements will primarily occur within the confines of the existing wastewater treatment plant, a site that is presently safeguarded from flooding or inundation with an earthen berm that is 25 feet in width and 5 feet in height. The project will not involve the construction of above-ground structures such as those which could impede or redirect flood flows in the area. No impact to flood flows is expected to result from the proposed project.

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project will not involve the construction of new structures or residences, which could possibly expose people to flood risks or risks associated with levee or dam failure. The project improvements will relocate lift station to an area protected by an earthen berm. Furthermore, the project is not located near any dam or levee structure that could pose a failure risk. No impact is anticipated to result from this project.

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project site is not located along a coastal area or near any body of water, eliminating the potential risk of inundation by sieche and tsunami events. Furthermore, the project is not found near steep slopes, substantially reducing the risk of mud or debris flows. The proposed project will not expose structures or people to the mentioned risk, resulting in no related impacts.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING -- Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The community of Borrego Springs forms part of the Desert Subregion, which is the largest in the County. Borrego Valley closely represents this sub region's geographical and population center. The community's full-time population is estimated at 2,700 residents while the seasonal population is estimated 2,000 residents. The unincorporated community occupies approximately 42.5 square miles and contains 2,300 dwelling units.

The proposed project site is designated as a Specific Plan Area according to the County General Plan Land Use Map. The project is primarily surrounded by land planned for residential growth but the majority is undeveloped. At General Plan buildout, the project site is envisioned to be surrounded by low density residential development.

	General Plan	**Zoning**	**Current Land Use**

North:	SPA – Specific Plan Area	Open Space Specific Plan	Vacant
South	SPA – Specific Plan Area Residential 1 du/acre	Specific Plan	Vacant
East:	Residential – 1 du/acre	Residential Single	Vacant
West:	SPA – Specific Plan Area	Specific Plan Open Space	Residential, Open Space

The project is proposed within the confines of an existing wastewater treatment facility serving the southern portion of Borrego Springs. No expansion of this facility is proposed as part of this project. The project will not involve a major land use action, such as a road or large facility, which could disconnect a community. Contrastingly, the project improvements reduce the area disturbed by the local sewer system by discontinuing the use of two existing pump stations found outside the treatment plant boundary and consolidating those operations in the proposed Station No. 1. These improvements will not physically divide an established community or future residential growth in the surrounding area. No impact is expected to result from this project.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The lift station is not expected to conflict with the existing County plans and related development regulations, including the general plan land use designation or zoning ordinance. The proposed utility and related improvements will not differ from the existing uses. The project will not conflict with the established policies established in the San Diego County General Plan, Borrego Springs Community Plan, Regional Transportation Plan or Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. On the contrary, the Borrego Springs Community Plan has identified the need to the improve sewer collection system and minimize the use of septic systems. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As discussed in the Biological Resources section of this document, the County of San Diego is participating in the process of developing the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), a multi-agency effort to comprehensively protect sensitive and special status species in the County's diverse ecological regions. The MSCP encompasses a large geographic extent is divided into three Plan Areas: the North, South and East County. The proposed project forms part of the East County Plan Area, which covers the largest extent out of the three plan areas. The East County Plan area is bounded by Riverside County to the north, Imperial County to the east, Baja California Norte, Mexico to the south, and the Peninsular Mountain range to the west. The County of San Diego is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game to identify the sensitive plant, mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile and invertebrate species subject to protection. The MSCP will ensure compliance with the state and federal Endangered Species Act, and the state Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act.

At the time that this document was prepared, only select draft maps and documents were available MSCP for the East Area Plan. The draft cover species list for the East County Plan area includes 60 plant, mammal, bird, invertebrate, and amphibian and reptile species. According to this list and corresponding draft map (Version 2.2), the project forms part of the Developed Lands category, placing it outside any protected or focused conservation area. Furthermore, the site is found outside the Pre-Approved Mitigation area corresponding to this Plan. The project will not conflict with the development or implementation of this habitat conservation plan or other natural community plan. The project is anticipated to result in less than significant impacts.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Mineral resources, including the geologic environments, mapped resource zones and active quarries, are recognized for helping serve various public, commercial, scientific, and recreational purposes. In 1982, a western portion of the County was classified into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) with the intent to recognize the mineral potential of this land in consideration of future land use actions. The classified lands became recognized as the Western County Production-Consumption Zone. The unstudied remaining lands to the east are referred to as uncategorized zones.

According to the County General Plan Draft EIR, the project site and a majority of the Borrego Springs community is underlain by Quaternary Alluvium. This geologic environment has the generalized potential to contain mineral resources. The project site is also found outside the Western County Production Consumption Zone, so no mineral resource zones are recognized in this area. According to the map of Existing Mineral Resources in San Diego County, the nearest existing mineral resource site to the project is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the project. The site is identified as an active sand and gravel quarry.

The project will not adversely affect or interfere with a known mineral resource in Borrego Springs. Project operations, including construction activities, will require excavation in a localized area less than

one half-acre, but none of these activities are found near a known mineral resource. The Quaternary Alluvium that underlies a majority of the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs has a possible but undetermined potential to contain mineral resources; however, considering the existing and planned residential development in the areas surrounding the project, mineral extraction is not anticipated to take place in this portion of Borrego Springs. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan or other land use plan?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the County General Plan Update and Draft EIR, the project site is not located in a categorized mineral resource zone or site. The project site and a large portion of Borrego Springs is underlain by Quaternary Alluvium, a geologic environment with the generalized potential to contain mineral resources. According to the County General Plan, the proposed project designated as a Specific Plan Area while surrounding land is planned for low density residential development. In consideration of existing and proposed residential development, mineral extraction activities would be considered incompatible and therefore infeasible in this portion of Borrego Springs.

The project will be situated in a previously improved site with existing sewer infrastructure and equipment, including sewer man holes, lift stations and associated underground pipe line. The project will involve temporary disturbance activities, but will not result in the substantial land form alterations or expansion of existing sewer utilities. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result on mineral resources and recovery sites.

XI. NOISE -- Would the project result in:

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As referenced in the County General Plan and associated EIR, noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. Sound pressure magnitude is measured and quantified using a logarithmic ratio of pressures, the scales of which provide the level of sound in decibels (db). To account for the pitch of sound and an average human response to such sounds, a unit of measure called an A-weighed sound pressure (dbA) is used. A given level of noise may be more or less tolerable depending on the duration of exposure and the time of day during which the noise is experienced. For example, noise that occurs at night tends to be more disturbing than that which occurs during the day. Because of this fact, several measures of noise exposure, or indices, consider both the magnitude of the noise level and the time of day at which it occurs. The most commonly used indices for measuring community noise levels are the

Equivalent Energy Level (Leq), and the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL).

Leq, the Equivalent Energy Level, is the average acoustical or sound energy content of noise, measured during a prescribed period, such as 1 minute, 15 minutes, 1 hour, or 8 hours. It is the decibel sound level that contains an equal amount of energy as a fluctuating sound level over a given period of time.

CNEL, Community Noise Equivalent Level, is the average equivalent A-weighted sound level over a 24-hour period. This measurement applies weights to noise levels during evening and nighttime hours to compensate for the increased disturbance response of people at those times. CNEL is the equivalent sound level for a 24-hour period with a +5 dBA weighting applied to all sound occurring between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and a +10 dBA weighting applied to all sound occurring between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

The project site is surrounded by land that is primarily planned for future single-family residential development. The existing usage of land surrounding the project to the north, east and south is undeveloped. The only form of existing development in the project vicinity is the Borrego Country Club, located to the west. This golf course community contains approximately 77 constructed single-family residences as well as resort amenities that include a hotel. These existing residences represent less than half of the entitled and recorded lots in this community. Moreover, the nearest residential structure in this community to the project site is approximately 1,000 feet to the west. The existing noise conditions in the area are characteristic of a typical residential or resort community.

The project will contain two 20-horse-power electric motors, one of which is considered an alternate. These motors will be contained in the project wet well at approximately 20 feet below surface elevation. The wet well will be closed with a metal lid and access to the subsurface equipment will be periodic and limited to Borrego Springs Water district staff. Additionally, project improvements will involve the installation of a back-up power generator, which will only be activated in case of a power outage or other event that results in electrical power interruption. The pump station motors and back-up power generators are not anticipated to create excessive noise levels. The existing berm, surrounding vegetation and surface characteristics will attenuate the minimal amount of noise generated from the site.

General Plan – Noise Element

The Noise Element in the County General Plan is guided by the goal to protect the residents and quality of life from the impacts of noise and noise-generating uses such as traffic, construction and industrial uses. The Noise Element also involves the effort of minimizing conflicts between noise and land use. According to Table N-1, Noise Compatibility Guidelines, single-family residential land uses have a maximum acceptable exterior and interior noise standard of 65 CNEL and 45 CNEL respectively. The proposed project will result in temporary construction-related noise impacts. However, these activities will take place approximately 1,000 feet from the nearest residence and during the daytime. The distance between temporary construction activities and the nearest sensitive receptors will minimize construction noise and prevent exposure of residents to any excessive noise levels.

Operations throughout the lifetime of the project are also anticipated to be less than significant and consistent with the established General Plan Noise Standards. Any noise generated by the operation of pump station motors is not anticipated to disturb the surrounding areas, primarily because this equipment will be located underground in a wet well with a closed access point. Contrastingly, the single pump station will reduce the overall noise in the surrounding area by replacing two existing sewer lift stations. Vehicle trips associated with maintenance activities are expected to be the same as existing conditions. The project will not involve a land use action that could result in the generation of additional vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled above those of existing conditions. The project will not expose persons to excessive noise levels and is not anticipated to generate noise near or above the established standards. In reference to the Noise Element of the County General Plan a less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

Noise Ordinance – Section 36.404

Section 36.404 of the San Diego County Noise Ordinance establishes sound level limits for zones ranging from low density residential to commercial and industrial. The proposed project site and adjoining land is zoned Specific Plan (S88) and Residential – Single (RS1). Pursuant to the mentioned ordinance, the residential zones have a sound level limit of 50 dbA from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm and 45 dbA from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am. The proposed project is not anticipated to reach or exceed the established sound limits. Furthermore, the proposed project will not involve unlawful activities pursuant to this ordinance.

Noise Ordinance – Section 36 – 410

Section 36 – 410 regulates impulsive noise levels associated with construction equipment. In residential zones, such as those that surround the project, the maximum impulsive sound level is 82 dbA for 25 (15 minutes) percent of the measurement period, which is established as one hour. The equipment used in this project's temporary construction activities is not anticipated to exceed 82 weighted decibels because the project will not involve demolition, significant earth movement, rock crushing or other major construction operations.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Groundborne vibration is the periodic movement of mass over time and is described in terms of frequency and amplitude. Unlike sound, there is no standard for measuring and reporting amplitude. Vibration is described by units of velocity, or inches per second, and discussed in decibel units (dB) to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration. The human perception threshold for vibration is around 65 Vdb, however human response is usually not significant unless vibration exceeds 70 Vdb. Structural damage may occur given sufficient frequency and intensity, however, such damage is rarely associated with construction related vibration impacts. In general, effects of groundborne vibration to nearby sensitive receptors are limited to movement of building floors, windows and objects rattling, and rumbling sounds, which result in annoyance.

Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will involve the operation of two 20-horse-power electric motors situated approximately 20 feet below surface elevation. Additionally, the project will involve a back-up power generator situated above surface and adjacent to an existing wastewater treatment plant operations building. These utilities will not cause groundborne vibrations that could potentially disturb any existing or future residential zones. Presently, the nearest residence to the project site is found 1,000 feet to the west. At general plan buildout, future development would not place homes closer than 400 feet from the existing wastewater treatment plant. Furthermore, the site's existing berm, ground compaction, ground surface conditions and existing vegetation are factors that will attenuate groundborne vibrations.

The project's construction activities will include trenching, demolition of a small section of the street, as well as hand installation and assembly of project-related equipment.

The use of construction equipment will not occur during the prohibited hours, which are 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM or on Sundays or a holiday. The project will not involve significant earth movement, rock crushing or other large-scale construction operation. Less than significant impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The existing noise levels in the project site and surrounding area are characteristic of those in a very low-density residential community. According to the existing General Plan and General Plan Update, all areas surrounding the project are designated for Specific Plan or Residential land uses. However, an approximated 75 percent of the land surrounding the project site within a one-mile radius is presently undeveloped. As a result of these existing conditions, any form of development taking place in this part of Borrego Springs has the potential to create a permanent increase in ambient noise levels. However, determination of whether or not these increases are substantial is based on project-specific factors.

Proposed Lift Station No. 1 is not anticipated to generate a substantial increase in permanent noise levels because the project will not involve the use of heavy noise-generating equipment or will induce an increase in traffic noise. The lift station's 20-horse power electric motors will be situated inside the proposed wet well and below surface elevation. The aforementioned back up power generator is proposed for safety considerations and will only operate in the event of power interruption. However, any temporary use of this back up equipment and any resulting noise will attenuated by the project site conditions. Moreover, project will not induce a substantial increase in vehicle trips or vehicle miles traveled because the existing wastewater treatment plant is presently part of the Borrego Water District's maintenance route. The proposed project is not anticipated to induce a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above those that already increase, resulting in a less than significant impact.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Project construction activities are anticipated to temporarily disturb less than one half-acre of land, most of which is associated with the installation of sewer piping. Project-related demolition, grading, earth-moving and wet well construction activities are small in scale. These operations will create a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity; however, this increase is not anticipated to be substantial. This temporary noise increase is not anticipated to disturb the local population because the project is largely surrounded by undeveloped land and the nearest residences to the project are found

approximately 1,000 feet to the west. A less than significant impact is forecasted to result from the project's temporary construction activities.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project is located approximately 2 miles southwest of Borrego Valley Airport. According to the Borrego Valley Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, adopted in December of 2006, the project is identified as part of Review Area 2. In this zone of the Compatibility Plan, restrictions on development, land use and other activities are minimal due to the determination that such areas are minimally exposed to potential airport hazards and impacts. The project site is found outside the airport noise impact zones, indicating that the project area is exposed to less than 50 db CNEL based on future average airport operations. Persons working in the project area will not be exposed to excessive noise levels, resulting in a less than significant 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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project is not situated near an existing private air strip. The only airport facility present in Borrego Springs is the Borrego Valley airport, a County-owned facility located 2 miles northeast of the project. People working in the project area will not be exposed to excessive noise levels from such sources. No impact is anticipated.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:

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)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the Draft Borrego Springs Community Plan, part of the County General Plan Update, Borrego Springs has an estimated permanent population of 2,700 persons and a seasonal population of an additional 2,000 persons. This population currently counts on 2,300 dwelling units, but this number is expected to increase as a result of the increased desirability of Borrego Springs as a retirement community.

Proposed Lift Station No. 1 and associated improvements will enhance the efficiency and reliability of this community's wastewater collection and conveyance system. The existing pump stations that will be replaced have a capacity to serve approximately 600 homes. Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will have the capacity to serve approximately 1,700 from a single location. The project will not only result in an increase in flow capacity, but also in the improvements to equipment, sewer piping and motors. These needed utility improvements will ensure that sewer operations are efficiently prolonged and will minimize the likelihood of sewer service interruptions. The project is not forecasted to induce a growth in population. Rather, the project will align the sewer system with the service needs of existing and entitled development in the surrounding areas. Project implementation will not require a land use action, such that could facilitate housing construction or population growth. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed sewer lift station will not involve improvements or actions that could potentially displace existing housing. Furthermore, the project will not alter the land use and zoning designations of the project site and surrounding areas in a manner that could hinder or prevent future housing development. No impact is anticipated to result from the project.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project will not displace any number of people, resulting in the necessity for construction of replacement housing. The proposed sewer lift station will be situated in an existing wastewater treatment plant and will not alter the land use, housing or population conditions in surrounding areas. No impact is anticipated to result from this project.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES - Would the project:

a) 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 service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i. Fire protection?
ii. Police protection?
iii. Schools?
iv. Parks?
v. Other public facilities?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project is located within the Borrego Springs community boundary, an area with a permanent population of approximately 2,700 persons. Fire protection to the project area is provided by the Borrego Springs Fire Protection District. Police protection to the community is provided by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and by the California Highway Patrol. School services to the project area are provided by the Borrego Springs Unified School District. Borrego Springs's only community park is the "Christmas Circle" located at the crossroads of Borrego Springs Road and Palm Canyon Drive. Moreover, an additional 25 acres of land throughout multiple portions of the community have already been dedicated to become future parks or open space.

The proposed sewer improvements will not involve or induce a growth in population or housing such that would require a substantial increase in fire protection, police protection, schools, parks and other services. Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will be enclosed in the Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, a facility that is fenced and securely gated to prevent public access. Furthermore, the project will not result in adverse physical impacts to existing or proposed governmental facilities that would provide public services to the community. No impact is anticipated.

XIV. RECREATION – Would the project:

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Borrego Springs presently does not have a community park. According to the San Diego County GIS records on parks and open space, the unincorporated community contains two park dedications amounting to approximately 25 acres. Borrego Springs also contains a 300-acre site dedicated for open space in an eastern portion of the community. Additionally, the community is encircled by the Anza-Borrego State Park, an important resource that contains multiple trails, a visitor's center and other

recreational facilities. The proposed project will not increase the use of existing or proposed parks or recreational facilities in the community, such that could result in their accelerated physical deterioration. No impact is anticipated.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project does not include recreational facilities or will require the construction of expansion of recreational facilities. Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will improve sewer operations to align them with the existing community needs. These actions will not alter any existing recreational activities. No impact to recreational facilities is anticipated.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The Borrego Springs Community Plan, developed as part of the County General Plan Update, describes Borrego Springs as a tranquil community with few traffic lights and street lights to accommodate the local traffic. However, because this community is situated at a point along an important route connecting western San Diego County and Imperial County, traffic volume is heavier along two community roadways. Palm Canyon Drive is a major east-west trending road with 19,400 average daily trips (ADT). This traffic load is primarily associated with non-local traffic. With 14,100 average daily trips, Borrego Springs Road is also well trafficked compared to streets handling local traffic. With the exception of these previously mentioned roadways, Borrego Springs' street system accommodates local traffic levels characteristic of a rural community.

The community's circulation network is comprised of local streets, rural light collectors and collector roads. The proposed project is located on 2929 Borrego Valley Road, a designated collector road according to the Circulation Element of the County General Plan. The project will not include residential development or other primary land uses that could increase traffic levels along Borrego Valley Road. Only Borrego Water District (BWD) employees and permitted staff will access the site for maintenance-related purposes; however, the additional vehicle trips will not be substantial because routine visits to the wastewater treatment plant already take place. Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will not require more maintenance visits beyond those that attend existing operations. Routine maintenance visits to the lift station are not anticipated to occur on daily basis. The proposed utility improvements are not anticipated to result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips or the volume to

capacity ratio on roads. Construction-related equipment, worker travel and materials delivery trips will take place on a temporary basis. The time span of primary construction activities is anticipated to last approximately one month. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

Mitigation Measure:
The project contractor shall ensure that a proper traffic control plan is implemented during the temporary lane closures on Borrego Valley Road to ensure safety in circulation and construction activities.

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency and/or as identified by the County of San Diego Transportation Impact Fee Program for designated roads or highways?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project will not involve the development of residential, commercial or industrial land uses. Proposed improvements to the local wastewater collection and conveyance system will not induce an individual or cumulative increase in traffic that could exceed a level of service standard established by the County. Moreover, the proposed lift station is not subject to the County of San Diego Transportation Impact Fee Program because it does not involve residential, commercial or industrial land use development. A less than significant impact to the local traffic level of services is anticipated to result from project implementation.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project is located approximately 2 miles southwest of Borrego Valley Airport. Pursuant to the Borrego Valley Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the project site forms part of Review Area 2. Review Area 2 is subject to minimal land use and activity restrictions due to the considerable distance from the airport. Furthermore, the site is found outside this Airport Compatibility Plan's adjusted safety zone, traffic pattern envelope and the landing and departure accident risk areas. The proposed sewer lift station will not alter air traffic patterns or involve structures or operations that could result in a substantial safety risk. No impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project will not result in permanent alterations to the existing road infrastructure or its increased use in a way that could augment the hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. As mentioned, Borrego Valley Road is recognized as a collector road pursuant to the Circulation Element of the County General Plan. The two-lane road has a right-of-way of 100 feet according to the County's GIS records on transportation. Project improvements will involve the installation of one 12-inch PVC sewer main and one 10-inch sewer force main across this roadway to reach the existing sewer pipeline east of the project site.

The temporary construction activities will result in a partial closure of Borrego Valley Road for an estimated period of 16 days. Traffic along this collector road will be guided a traffic control plan that establishes the circulation patterns and signage during construction activities. Clear signage indicating the temporary lane closures will be posted in anticipation to the construction site. Alternating routes to the local traffic include Palm Canyon Drive, Di Giorgio Road and Tilting T Drive. The temporary impacts to traffic resulting from lane closures are not anticipated to increase the circulation hazard levels, resulting in a less than significant impact.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project site is the existing Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant and has one vehicular access point on Borrego Valley Road via a gated entrance. This site was previously improved to accommodate BWD vehicles entering the plant for maintenance operations. The existing gated entrance to the proposed sewer lift station is approximately 26 feet wide, allowing for adequate emergency access. The proposed improvements will not alter the existing accessibility to this site, resulting in inadequate emergency access.

The project will involve the temporary closure of one lane on Borrego Valley Road for installation of sewer utilities for an estimated period of 16 days. During this phase of construction, vehicular flow will be temporarily impaired. Emergency response and law enforcement vehicles will not be impeded from traveling along Borrego Valley Road. With the proceeding mitigation measure, a less than significant impact to emergency access is anticipated to result from the proposed project.

Mitigation Measure:
The project contractor shall ensure that the traffic control plan for temporary lane closures on Borrego Valley Road considers adequate options for circulation of emergency response vehicles.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The existing wastewater treatment plant where the proposed lift station will be situated contains a portion of asphalt surfacing where services vehicles temporarily park during routine visits. The proposed project will not induce a substantial increase in vehicle trips or will require additional parking accommodations. Routine visits to the project site for inspection and maintenance purposes only require parking accommodations on a temporary basis and not for a substantial number of vehicles. No impact related to parking inadequacy is anticipated to result from the project.

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed sewer lift station will not increase the number of vehicle trips in the local area or will conflict alternative transportation plans and infrastructure. No impact is anticipated.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will improve the local wastewater collection and conveyance system operations in form of capacity and conditions of equipment. The project will replace two existing sewer lift stations with combined flow rate of approximately 100,000 gallons per day and a capacity to serve approximately 600 homes. Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will increase this system's capacity flow rate to 345,600 gallons per day, which will result in an ability to serve approximately 1,700 homes. These improvements will result in a better alignment between the sewer service and existing demand in this portion of the Borrego Springs. Additionally, the proposed project will improve upon the condition of sewer infrastructure by replacing portions of existing sewer pipeline. These improvements will not produce an increased demand for wastewater treatment facilities or will result in a violation of treatment standards set forth by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The project will involve the abandonment of the Community Services District Lift Station and the Town Center Lift Station. The sewer operations of these utilities will be replaced with the increased capacity of proposed Lift Station No. 1. Alterations to the route and flow rate of the sewer transmission system will not directly result in wastewater discharge or will affect the service reliability. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The proposed project will help improve upon the local wastewater and conveyance system. Proposed Lift Station No. 1 will be located in the Borrego Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant to utilize the existing infrastructure and not generate a need for facility expansion. Wastewater flows reaching Lift Station No. 1 will be conveyed into a force main pipeline along the rest of their trajectory. Lift Station No. 1 will increase the wastewater flow rate capacity of the current system from 100,000 gallons per day to 345,600 gallons per day. However, these improvements are not considered a substantial expansion of a wastewater treatment facility. Contrastingly, the project will reduce the existing impacts associated with two sewer lift stations by replacing them with the operations of a single pump station in a better suited location. The mentioned location will become more centralized and safeguarded. A less than significant impact is anticipated.

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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The project will not result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or will create an increased demand for storm water drainage infrastructure. The project will utilize a portion of space in the previously improved wastewater treatment plant to accommodate the proposed improvements. The project will not include construction of housing or other buildings that would require use of stormwater drainage infrastructure. A less than significant impact is anticipated.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation ☒ No Impact

Incorporated

Discussion/Explanation:
The project will not involve development that would require an additional supply of water. Water services in the project area are provided by the Borrego Water District. No expanded entitlements are needed in relation to water supplies. No impact is anticipated to result from the project.

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 providers existing commitments?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation ☐ No Impact

Incorporated

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the General Plan Update EIR, unincorporated areas of San Diego County – including Borrego Springs – are forecasted to experience a growth in population and housing in the coming decades. Whereas this growth is a natural anticipation in most Southern California communities, Borrego Water District is anticipated to undergo the highest percentage in forecasted population and housing growth. In 2004, Borrego Water District contained 1,300 housing units and an estimated population of 2,006. It is estimated that the General Plan Update implementation would result in 13,832 housing units and a population of 21,342. This growth represents a 964 percent increase in housing units and population.

The proposed project will enhance the sewer system operations in the southern portion of Borrego Springs through an increase in wastewater flow capacity and various utility improvements. These improvements will not increase the projected demand for wastewater treatment, but rather align the services with existing and forecasted development in the surrounding areas. As previously described, the project is surrounded by land that is largely undeveloped, but designated for low density residential development pursuant to the existing General Plan and General Plan Update. The proposed improvements are necessary to adequately serve the anticipated growth in housing and population. In respect to wastewater treatment services, the project is anticipated to result in a less than significant impact.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation ☒ No Impact

Incorporated

Discussion/Explanation:
According to the County General Plan Update, waste management services in Borrego Springs are provided by Allied Waste Services. Borrego Springs contains one land fill of approximately 40 acres with a permitted capacity of 50 tons of waste per day in accordance its permit established in 1973. The facility operates on a limited schedule and there are not plans for expansion of this facility.

The proposed sewer lift station will not increase the demand for waste disposal needs or other services

that would affect capacity of the local landfill. The proposed abandonment of two existing pump stations will require the proper removal of pipeline and obsolete equipment; however, this material will be transported to the Borrego Water District maintenance yard. The project will not result in impacts to the community's waste disposal services or land fill capacity.

g) Comply with Federal, State, and Local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

According to the General Plan Update Draft EIR, the San Diego Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) has the primary responsibility of ensuring proper operation and closure of solid waste facilities and disposal sites in San Diego County, excluding the City of San Diego. The proposed sewer lift station is not anticipated to generate solid waste or conflict with the existing operations, inspection, permitting of these facilities established under the LEA. No impact is anticipated to result from project implementation.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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, substantially 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?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As described within this document, the project will not substantially impact habitat, wildlife populations, plant or animal community or the range of rare or endangered species. A less than significant impact is anticipated to result from the project.

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)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Project impacts are primarily short-term and related to construction activities. No cumulative considerable impacts are anticipated.

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

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

As discussed throughout this document, the project will result in improvements to the capacity and reliability of this area's wastewater collection and conveyance system to the existing and potentially future population. The project will not have environmental effects that will directly or indirectly cause substantially adverse effects on human beings.

XVIII. REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

All references to Federal, State and local regulation are available on the Internet. For Federal regulation refer to http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/ . For State regulations refer to www.leginfo.ca.gov . For County regulation refer to www.amlegal.com . All other references are available upon request.

AESTHETICS

California Street and Highways Code [California Street and Highways Code, Section 260-283. (http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/)

California Scenic Highway Program, California Streets and Highways Code, Section 260-283. (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/scpr.htm)

County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use. The Zoning Ordinance of San Diego County. Sections 5200-5299; 5700-5799; 5900-5910, 6322-6326. ((www.co.san-diego.ca.us)

County of San Diego, Board Policy I-73: Hillside Development Policy. (www.co.san-diego.ca.us)

County of San Diego, Board Policy I-104: Policy and Procedures for Preparation of Community Design Guidelines, Section 396.10 of the County Administrative Code and Section 5750 et seq. of the County Zoning Ordinance. (www.co.san-diego.ca.us)

County of San Diego, General Plan, Scenic Highway Element VI and Scenic Highway Program. (ceres.ca.gov)

County of San Diego Light Pollution Code, Title 5, Division 9 (Sections 59.101-59.115 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances) as added by Ordinance No 6900, effective January 18, 1985, and amended July 17, 1986 by Ordinance No. 7155. (www.amlegal.com)

County of San Diego Wireless Communications Ordinance [San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances. (www.amlegal.com)

Design Review Guidelines for the Communities of San Diego County. (Alpine, Bonsall, Fallbrook, Julian, Lakeside, Ramona, Spring Valley, Sweetwater, Valley Center).

Federal Communications Commission, Telecommunications Act of 1996 [Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. LA. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996). (http://www.fcc.gov/Reports/tcom1996.txt)

Institution of Lighting Engineers, Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Light Pollution, Warwickshire, UK, 2000 (http://www.dark-skies.org/ile-gd-e.htm)

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US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Visual Impact Assessment for Highway Projects.

US Department of Transportation, National Highway System Act of 1995 [Title III, Section 304. Design Criteria for the National Highway System. (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/nhsdatoc.html)

AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

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California Department of Conservation, Office of Land Conversion, "California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model Instruction Manual," 1997. (www.consrv.ca.gov)

California Farmland Conservancy Program, 1996. (www.consrv.ca.gov)

California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act, 1965. (www.ceres.ca.gov , www.consrv.ca.gov)

California Right to Farm Act, as amended 1996. (www.qp.gov.bc.ca)

County of San Diego Agricultural Enterprises and Consumer Information Ordinance, 1994, Title 6, Division 3, Ch. 4. Sections 63.401-63.408. (www.amlegal.com)

County of San Diego, Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures, "2002 Crop Statistics and Annual Report," 2002. (www.sdcounty.ca.gov)

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service LESA System. (www.nrcs.usda.gov , www.swcs.org).

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey for the San Diego Area, California. 1973. (soils.usda.gov)

AIR QUALITY

CEQA Air Quality Analysis Guidance Handbook, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Revised November 1993. (www.aqmd.gov)

County of San Diego Air Pollution Control District's Rules and Regulations, updated August 2003. (www.co.san-diego.ca.us)

Federal Clean Air Act US Code; Title 42; Chapter 85 Subchapter 1. (www4.law.cornell.edu)

BIOLOGY

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Community Conservation Planning Process Guidelines. CDFG and California Resources Agency, Sacramento, California. 1993. (www.dfg.ca.gov)

County of San Diego, An Ordinance Amending the San Diego County Code to Establish a Process for Issuance of the Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat Loss Permits and Declaring the Urgency Thereof to Take Effect

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NORTH

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SOURCE: SAN DIEGO COUNTY GIS, BSWD

BORREGO WATER DISTRICT SEWER LIFT STATION
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBIT

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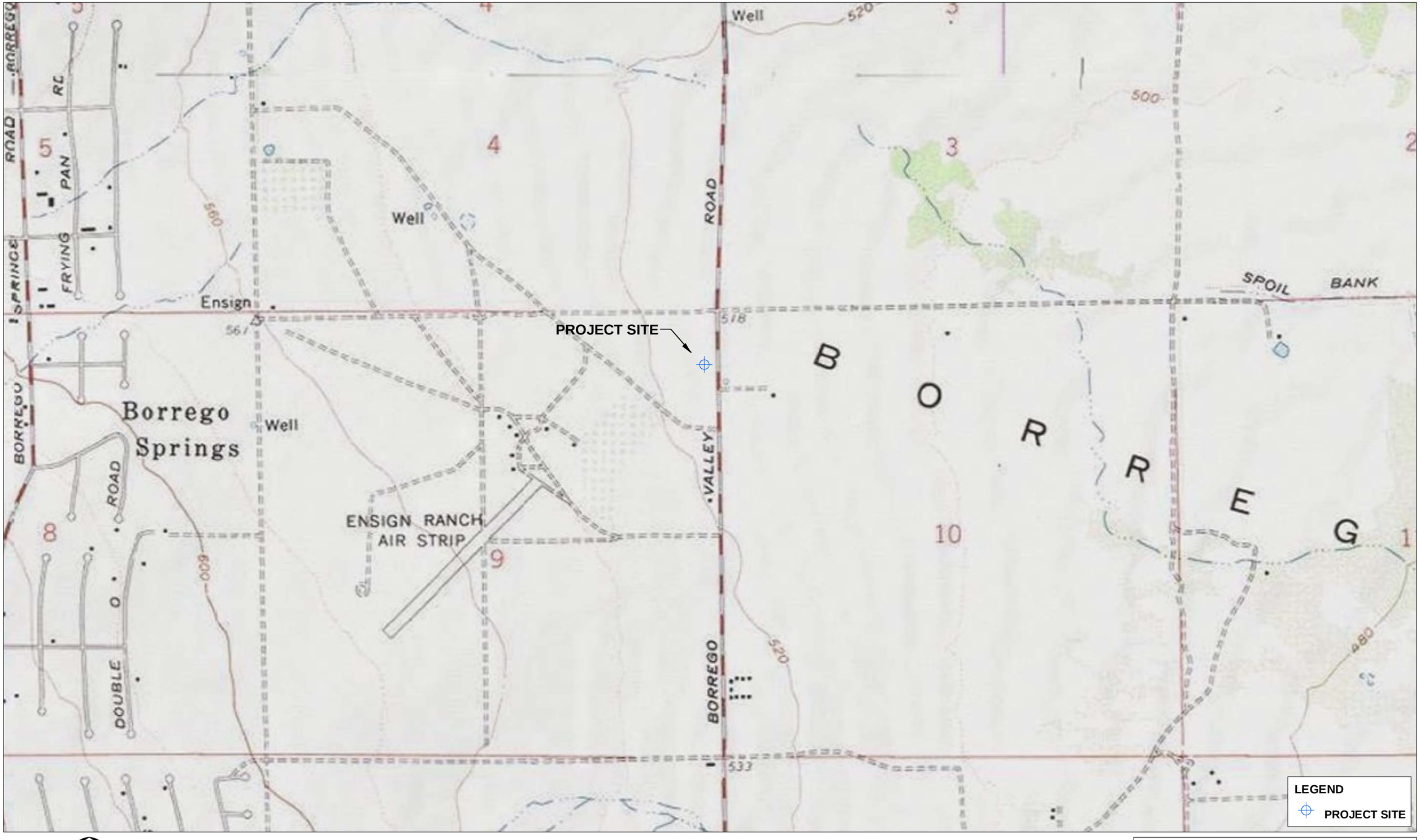

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SOURCE: SAN DIEGO COUNTY GIS, BSWD, USGS
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BORREGO WATER DISTRICT SEWER LIFT STATION
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY EXHIBIT

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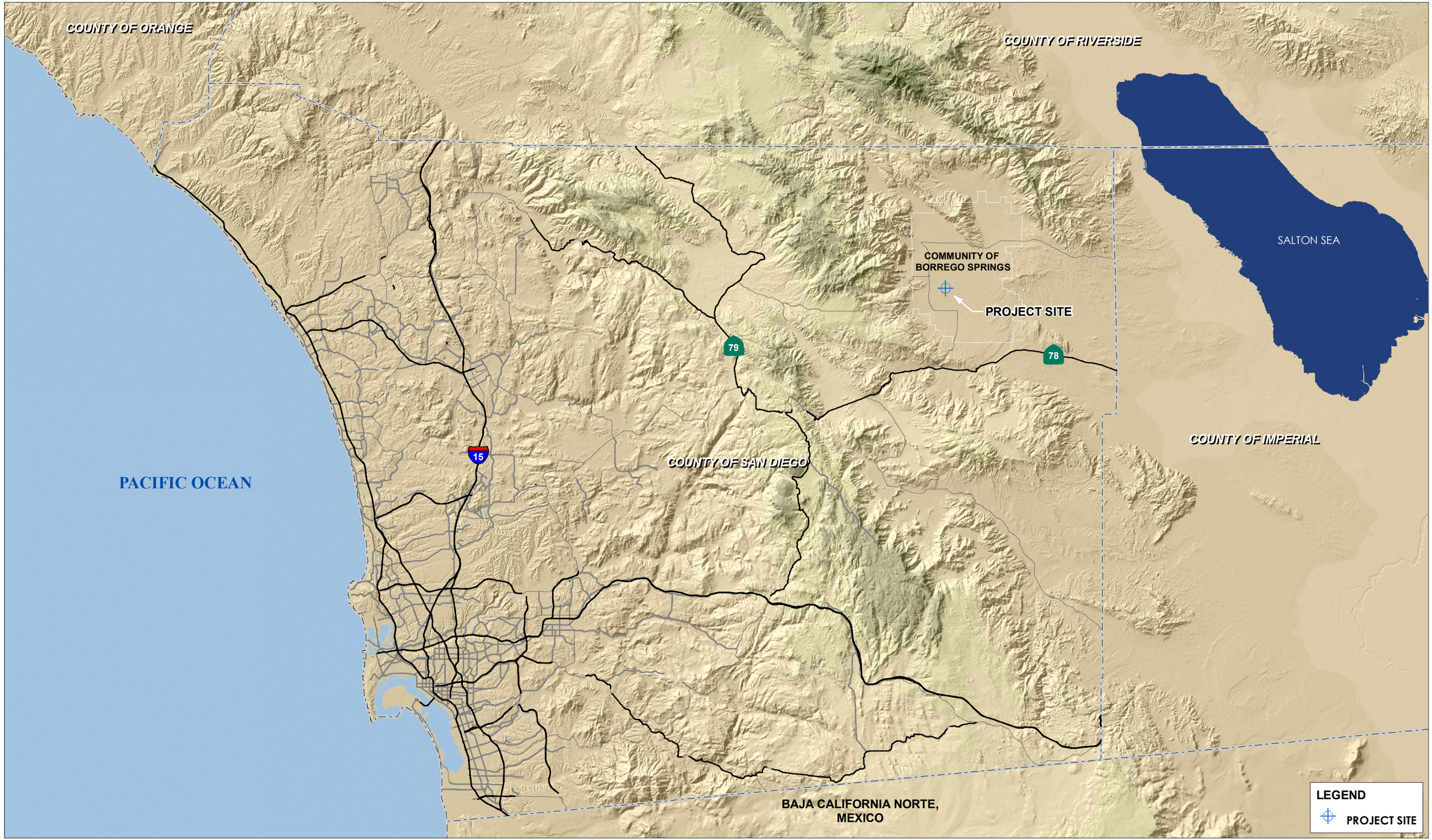

NORTH

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SOURCE: SAN DIEGO COUNTY GIS, BSWD

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