

5. Other Required CEQA Topics

5.1 Effects Not Found to be Significant

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15128 requires a brief statement of the reasons why various possible significant effects of a project have been determined not to be significant and, therefore, do not need to be discussed in detail in the EIR. The following provides a discussion regarding the effects of the proposed Project that were found not to be significant.

The Initial Study determined that the proposed Project would result in either no impacts or less-than-significant impacts related to the following resources and issues:

- Air Quality (odor)
- Water Resources
- Mineral Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes
- Fault Rupture
- Ground Shaking
- Seiche & Tsunami Hazards
- Landslide/Mudflow
- Expansive Soils
- Subsidence
- Hydraulic Hazards
- Fire Hazards
- Aviation Hazards
- Hazardous Materials/Waste
- Housing
- Transportation/Circulation
- Water Supply
- Waste Treatment/Disposal
- Flood Control/Drainage
- Law Enforcement/Emergency Services
- Fire Protection
- Education
- Recreation

The following subsections summarize the Ventura County *Initial Study Assessment Guidelines* thresholds and analysis of Project-specific impacts for each resource and issue area based on the Initial Study, which is provided in Appendix A of this EIR. The reasons why various possible significant effects of the Project were determined not to be significant are described below and in the Initial Study. Because these effects are not significant, they are not discussed in detail in this EIR.

5.1.1 Air Quality

Significance Criteria

Any project that creates objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people would result in a significant impact (VCWPD, 2011).

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Explanation of Significance Determination

Construction activities and equipment may create mildly objectionable odors; however, these odors would be temporary, are not considered overly offensive, are of the types of odors regularly experienced by the public, and would not affect a substantial number of people due to the limited number of people located in close proximity to the work areas. Therefore, regional odor impacts from Project construction would not be significant.

5.1.2 Water Resources

5.1.2.1 Groundwater Quantity

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets one of the criteria listed below could result in a significant impact to groundwater quantity (Ventura County, 2011):

- Directly or indirectly decrease either individually or cumulatively, the net quantity of groundwater in a groundwater basin that is overdrafted or creates overdraft conditions.
- In groundwater basins that are not overdrafted, or are not in hydrologic continuity with an overdrafted basin, net groundwater extraction that will individually or cumulatively cause overdrafted conditions.
- Any net increase in groundwater extraction from a groundwater basin and/or hydrologic unit which is not well known or documented but where there is evidence of overdraft based upon declining water levels in a well or wells.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The main source of water for the proposed Project during construction would be a municipal source provided by the City of Oxnard. The City's water supply consists of imported surface water, imported groundwater, and local groundwater. The groundwater in the Project area is managed by the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (GMA), which addresses overdraft concerns and seawater intrusion. Water use associated with the proposed Project would be temporary, limited to the construction and habitat restoration period, and would occur under the management direction of the Fox Canyon GMA. Potential effects associated with groundwater quantity would not be significant.

5.1.2.2 Groundwater Quality

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets one of the criteria listed below could result in a significant impact to groundwater quality (Ventura County, 2011):

- Individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of groundwater and cause groundwater to exceed groundwater quality objectives set by the (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board [LARWQCB]) Basin Plan.
- Cause the quality of groundwater to fail to meet the groundwater quality objectives set by the LARWQCB.
- Propose the use of groundwater in any capacity within two miles of the boundary of a former or current test site for rocket engines.

Explanation of Significance Determination

Groundwater is not expected to be encountered during construction or operation. Compliance with existing standards and regulations for hazardous materials would ensure that if a spill or leak occurs it would not result in contamination. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in groundwater quality degradation or result in violation of a LARWQCB groundwater quality objective.

5.1.2.3 Surface Water Quantity

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets one of the criteria listed below could result in a significant impact to surface water quantity (Ventura County, 2011):

- Increase surface water consumptive use, either individually or cumulatively, in a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), or where non-appropriated surface water is unavailable.
- Increase surface water consumptive use including but not limited to the diversion or dewatering downstream reaches, either individually or cumulatively, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin plan.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project may include use of surface water resources and groundwater resources by nature of the proposed water supply (City of Oxnard) being a blend of these resources; however, this use would be temporary and is not anticipated to result in adverse effects to surface water quantity. The proposed Project would not divert or dewater the Santa Clara River. Impacts to surface water quantity would not be significant.

5.1.2.4 Surface Water Quality

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets one of the criteria listed below could result in a significant impact to surface water quality (Ventura County, 2011):

- Individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of surface water and cause it to exceed water quality objectives contained in Chapter 3 of the three Basin Plans.
- Directly or indirectly cause stormwater quality to exceed water quality objectives or standards in the applicable Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit or any other National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits.

Explanation of Significance Determination

Activities associated with Project construction and operation would need to comply with all existing water quality objectives and Total Maximum Daily Load requirements of the LARWQCB, as described in Initial Study Table C.2-2. By following the above requirements, neither construction nor O&M activities associated with the proposed Project would result in the violation of any water quality objectives designated by the LARWQCB. Impacts to surface water quality would not be significant.

5.1.3 Mineral Resources

5.1.3.1 Aggregate

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets the criteria listed below could result in a significant impact to aggregate resources (Ventura County, 2011):

- Proposed to be located on or immediately adjacent to land zoned Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) overlay zone, or adjacent to a principal access road to an existing aggregate Conditional Use Permit (CUP), and has the potential to hamper or preclude extraction of or access to the aggregate resources.

Explanation of Significance Determination

Although the proposed Project would be located within Mineral Resource Zone 3(a) (areas, judged on the basis of limited available geologic data and fieldwork, to have higher potential as sources of aggregate material suitable for Portland cement concrete than other deposits classified MRZ-3), the proposed improvements would occur to the existing SCR-3 levee, an area that is not actively mined. As such, the proposed Project would not present a new land use that would hamper or preclude the extraction of aggregate resources. In addition, as there are no active permits for mining in the area, the proposed Project would not interrupt active mining activities. Therefore, impacts to aggregate resources would not be significant.

5.1.3.2 Petroleum

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets the criteria listed below could result in a significant impact to aggregate resources (Ventura County, 2011):

- Any land use that is proposed to be located on or immediately adjacent to any known petroleum resource area, or adjacent to a principal access road to an existing petroleum CUP, has the potential to hamper or preclude access to petroleum resources.

Explanation of Significance Determination

Reach 4 of the proposed Project traverses the El Rio Oil Field. The proposed improvements would be limited to the existing levee and would not change the current access to any permitted wells within the Project area, which include CUP-766 (active oil permit). As such, the proposed Project would not present a new land use that would permanently hamper or preclude access to petroleum resources. Therefore, impacts to the permitted oil field would not be significant.

5.1.4 Agricultural Resources

5.1.4.1 Soils

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets or exceeds one of the criteria listed in Initial Study Table C.5-1, which limits the acres of agricultural soils that may be lost by General Plan Land Use Designation and Important

Farmland Inventory Classification, could result in a significant impact to agricultural soils designated Prime/Statewide, Unique, or of Local Importance (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not convert land that is designated or used for agricultural production or activities. Consequently, the proposed Project would not result in a direct and/or indirect loss of agricultural soils. No impact to agricultural soils would occur.

5.1.4.2 Land Use Incompatibility

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets the criteria listed below could result in a significant impact to land use incompatibility (Ventura County, 2011):

- Proposes a non-agricultural structure or use within 300 feet, without vegetative screening, of a common lot boundary line adjacent to classified farmland.
- Proposes a non-agricultural structure or use within 150 feet, with vegetative screening, of a common lot boundary line adjacent to classified farmland.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project improvements would not include a new land use that would present a disruption to or incompatibility with adjacent agricultural lands. Operation of the proposed Project would only introduce temporary impacts of similar scope to current O&M activities, aside from additional vegetation clearing. Therefore, potential conflicts with existing agricultural land uses would be temporary, and impacts to agricultural land uses would not be significant.

5.1.5 Paleontological Resources

Significance Criteria

The geologic formation in which proposed Project would be located can be used to establish the likelihood of paleontological resources being present and their relative importance. Impacts to paleontological resources include (Ventura County, 2011):

- Grading and excavation of fossiliferous rock.
- Increased access opportunities and unauthorized collection of fossil materials.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The artificial fill and geologic units underlying the proposed Project have no to low paleontological sensitivity. Due to the low paleontological importance of the river wash and flood plain deposits, the lack of any known fossils within them, and the zero potential to encounter fossils within the artificial levee fill, no significant paleontological impacts would occur.

5.1.6 Cultural Resources

5.1.6.1 Archaeological

Significance Criteria

The significance of an archaeological resource is materially impaired when a project: (1) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of *historical resources* pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not archaeologically or culturally significant; or (2) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an archaeological resource that convey its archaeological significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Both a records search and on-foot field inspection indicated that no previously recorded archaeological resources that meet eligibility or significance criteria under the CRHR or the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) exist within the boundaries of the proposed Project. Therefore, any proposed improvements or modifications would have no known adverse physical or visual impacts on known archaeological resources. However, the nature of a record search or walkover can only confidently assess the potential for encountering surface cultural resource remains. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2, potential impacts to unknown, buried archaeological resources encountered during construction would not be significant.

CUL-1 **Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological or Historic Resources.** In the event that archaeological or historic resources are found during Project implementation, the on-site supervisor shall contact an approved archaeological consultant immediately. Additionally, the on-site supervisor shall immediately halt all ground-disturbing activities at the discovery site and within 100 feet of it until the discovery has been evaluated by the approved archaeological consultant and all appropriate agencies have been notified. If the discovery is recommended as eligible for listing in the CRHR, mitigation of the impacts may include archaeological data recovery and/or monitoring.

CUL-2 **Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains.** If human remains are encountered during excavations associated with this Project, all work must halt, and the County Coroner must be notified (Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code). The coroner will determine whether the remains are of forensic interest. If the coroner determines that the remains are subject to his or her authority and that the remains are Native American in origin, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will identify the most likely descendant (MLD), who will be responsible for the ultimate disposition of the remains, as required by Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code. The MLD should make his/her recommendations within 48 hours of their notification by the NAHC. This recommendation may include (A) the nondestructive removal and analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American human remains; (B) preservation of Native American human remains and associated items in place; (C) relinquishment of Native American human remains and associated items to the descendants for treatment; or (D) other culturally appropriate treatment.

5.1.6.2 Historical

Significance Criteria

The significance of an historic resource is materially impaired when a project: (1) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the CRHR; (2) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Act or its identification in a historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; (3) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA; or (4) demolition, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of an historical resource would be impaired.

Explanation of Significance Determination

Implementation of the proposed Project would not involve the modification or demolition of any existing structures, other than the SCR-3 levee system. The eligibility of property for the NRHP, CRHR, or Ventura County Landmark designation would not be adversely affected by the proposed Project. Therefore, the proposed improvements would not result in significant physical or visual impacts to known historic archaeological resources. However, a record search and walkover can only confidently assess the potential for encountering surface cultural resource remains; therefore, if unknown, buried historical resources are encountered during construction, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would be implemented to avoid impacts (provided above). As such, impacts to historical resources would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

5.1.7 Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes

Significance Criteria

A proposed project would have a significant environmental impact if it causes a direct or indirect adverse physical change to a coastal beach or sand dune (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Project construction and O&M activities would not occur within the main river channel and, therefore, would not affect sediment within the channel or its transport to the coast. As such, the proposed Project would not create barriers to sand dune replenishment or disturbance of sand dune vegetation. The proposed Project would not directly or indirectly affect coastal beaches and sand dunes.

5.1.8 Fault Rupture

Significance Criteria

A project is potentially at risk with respect to fault rupture if it is located within:

- A State of California designated Alquist-Priolo Special Fault Zone, or
- A County designated Fault Hazard Area. (Ventura County, 2011)

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Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project and its associated components are not located within or cross a State-designated Alquist-Priolo Special Fault Study Zone or County-designated Fault Hazard Area. Additionally, no known active or potentially active faults cross or trend towards the proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts from surface fault rupture would occur along SCR-3.

5.1.9 Ground Shaking

Significance Criteria

A project is potentially susceptible to damage from seismically induced ground shaking if the proposed structure is not built in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Ventura County Building Code. (Ventura County, 2011)

Explanation of Significance Determination

Placement of the new levee fill would be consistent with USACE requirements and the Ventura County Flood Control District Design Manual, which are more relevant to the construction of flood control facilities than the County of Ventura Building Code. Compliance with the design manual and project-specific geotechnical study recommendations would reduce the potential for damage associated with seismically-induced ground shaking. Therefore, although the Project area would have the potential for strong ground shaking in the event of a large regional or local earthquake, impacts would not be significant.

5.1.10 Seiche and Tsunami

Significance Criteria

A project would be subject to potential seiche hazard if it is located within 10 to 20 feet vertical elevation from an enclosed body of water such as a bay, lake, or reservoir. The height of hazard above the water level is dependent on ground motion intensity, duration of shaking, and subsurface topography of the lake or reservoir and surface topography of the shoreline. A project located in a mapped area of tsunami hazard as shown on Ventura County General Plan maps would be considered significant. For most portions of the north and south coastal areas, the tsunami hazard does not extend to areas more than 30 feet above sea level, and along the coastal plain the tsunami hazard extends inland for approximately one mile. (Ventura County, 2011)

Explanation of Significance Determination

The only large enclosed body of water in the general vicinity Project is Lake Casitas, which is located approximately 11.5 miles northwest of the proposed Project. As the proposed Project would not be located in the vicinity of a potential seiche hazard area, no impacts would occur.

The SCR-3 Project components are located at elevations generally greater than 30 feet, are located more than one mile from the coastline, and are not mapped in a tsunami hazard or inundation zone by Ventura County or the California Emergency Management Agency. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impacts associated with tsunamis.

5.1.11 Landslide/Mudslide

Significance Criteria

The threshold for landslide/mudslide hazard is determined by the Public Works Agency Certified Engineering Geologist based on the location of the site or project within, or outside of mapped landslides, potential earthquake induced landslide zones, and geomorphology of hillside terrain (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The Project area is relatively flat to gently sloping, is not included on any landslide or mudflow hazard maps, and no mapped landslides are near the proposed Project. Therefore, the Project would not be subject to landslide hazards such as rock fall, soil creep, soil failures, dry raveling, rotational and transitional slides, slumps, and mudflows. Consequently, there would be no impacts related to landslides or mudslides.

5.1.12 Expansive Soils

Significance Criteria

The determination of a significant soils expansion effect shall be based upon an inquiry of whether a proposed project will expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving soil expansion if it is located within a soils expansive hazard zone, or where soils with an expansion index greater than 20 are present (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Both the levee and the adjacent soils where Project improvements would occur have low to no shrink-swell potential. Therefore, no impacts would occur from expansive soils.

5.1.13 Subsidence

Significance Criteria

The determination of a significant subsidence effect shall be based upon an inquiry of whether a proposed project will expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving subsidence if it is located within a subsidence hazard zone (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Although the proposed Project is located in a subsidence zone, differential subsidence or offset due to crossing the edge of a subsidence zone or area of significantly differing subsidence is not expected. Additionally, the proposed Project would not involve the extraction of oil or gas to contribute to subsidence issues and would not be sensitive to slight changes in surface gradients. Some groundwater extraction may occur but is not anticipated when excavation is required during construction, but this would be temporary and of minimal volume. Impacts related to subsidence would not be significant.

5.1.14 Hydraulic Hazards

5.1.14.1 Non-FEMA

Significance Criteria

Threshold criteria are determined on a case-by-case basis pursuant to a variety of documents, including but not limited to the following: Ventura County ordinances and standards, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act permit requirements, and NPDES permit requirements, which stipulate that project-specific best management practices (BMPs) are implemented to avoid or minimize erosion and sedimentation effects (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations would ensure that Project-specific BMPs are implemented to avoid or minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation. The proposed Project would provide flood protection and public safety in the Project area, thereby reducing existing potential for flooding hazards. Non-FEMA hydraulic hazards associated with erosion and sedimentation would be temporary and not significant.

5.1.14.2 FEMA

Significance Criteria

A proposed development that is located in part or in whole within the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area, but outside of the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodway, would not result in significant impact under FEMA hydraulic hazards when it can be demonstrated that the proposed development can be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable floodplain management standards and measures. A Special Flood Hazard Area is the area subject to a one percent chance of flooding in any given year, as defined on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as Zone A, and a Regulatory Floodway is the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas where floodwaters generally are the deepest, swiftest, and most hazardous, where floodwaters carry debris, potential projectiles and cause erosion, and where there is a high risk of loss of life and property damage. A second criteria is if a proposed development is located in part or in whole within the boundaries of a Regulatory Floodway, a significant impact would occur. (Ventura County, 2011)

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project is not a new development, but rather a series of improvements to existing infrastructure. In addition, the purpose of Project construction is to obtain levee certification from FEMA through a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), a document that officially revises a portion of the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) without the need to physically revise and reprint the entire map panel. Due to the nature of the proposed Project to provide flood hazard protection designed and constructed in accordance with federal, State, and local standards, and the fact that the proposed Project is required for the LOMR and FEMA certification, it is not anticipated that significant adverse effects to FEMA hydraulic hazards would occur as a result of the Project.

5.1.15 Fire Hazards

Significance Criteria

A determination of no impact will be made when a project is not located in a High Fire Hazard Area/Fire Hazard Severity Zone or Hazardous Watershed Fire Area (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not be located within a designated High Fire Hazard Area/Fire Hazard Severity Zone or Hazardous Watershed Fire Area. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no effect related to Fire Hazards.

5.1.16 Aviation Hazards

Significance Criteria

A review of aviation hazards focuses on compliance with the County's Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan and pre-established federal criteria set forth in Federal Aviation Regulation Part 77 (Obstruction Standards), as well as those recommendations for good land-use planning made by State and county governments. Aviation hazards refer to the potential loss of life and/or property due to an aircraft accident, including any action that may cause an increase in the potential for an aircraft incident. (Ventura County, 2011)

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project does not involve any above-ground equipment or structures that could obstruct or interfere with aviation activities or navigable airspace, and would not directly or indirectly result in an increase of persons or structures within the Oxnard Airport land use plan, or within the designated flight path of any civil airport facility. Neither construction nor O&M activities associated with the proposed Project would affect the flight paths or introduce an aviation hazard. The proposed Project would have no impact on Aviation Hazards.

5.1.17 Hazardous Materials

Significance Criteria

A project designed to meet all applicable requirements set forth in relevant underground storage tank, business plan, risk management plan, Certified Unified Program Agency program, and fire code portions of the California Health and Safety Code and the Ventura County Fire Code would not be considered to have a significant impact related to hazardous materials. The methodology for determining hazardous material impacts of a project includes the following (Ventura County, 2011):

- Determine if the project will utilize hazardous materials in a quantity that is subject to regulation by the Environmental Health Division and/or Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD).
- Determine if the project will utilize and require the installation of underground hazardous materials storage tanks.
- Determine if existing underground storage tanks are on-site, and if they are in compliance with the testing and monitoring requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.7 and the California Code of Regulations Title 23, Division 3 Chapter 16. Consult with the Ventura County Environmental Health Division Hazardous Materials Program and determine if any

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enforcement or compliance actions are pending. A site assessment must be completed on active leaking underground fuel tank sites before the application is deemed complete.

- Determine if existing tanks are to be permanently closed.

Explanation of Significance Determination

Implementation of the proposed Project has the potential to cause small-scale hazardous materials spills related to fuels, oils, lubricants, and hydraulic fluids). Although hazardous materials such as diesel fuel or gasoline are necessary to complete the project, large-scale storage of such materials at the Project site would not occur. If a hazardous material spill were to occur, the material(s) would be contained, removed, and treated in accordance with standard VCWPD contract specifications and requirements, as well as federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances. VCWPD would also consult with the Ventura County Environmental Health Division to ensure concerns related to hazardous materials are fully addressed. Furthermore, the proposed Project would not utilize or require the installation of underground hazardous materials storage tanks. The nearest former leaking tank site (2501 Ventura Road) is not located within the Project area. Therefore, no significant impacts related to the use of hazardous materials or disruption of existing underground hazardous materials tanks are anticipated to occur.

5.1.18 Daytime Glare

Significance Criteria

A project is considered to have a significant project-specific glare impact if the project would create a new source of disability glare or discomfort glare for motorists travelling along any road of the County Regional Road Network (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Nighttime lighting would be required during construction if the contractor chooses to work after sunset until 7:00 p.m. during the fall and winter months. Nighttime lighting along major roadways, such as Ventura Road or Victoria Avenue, could result in potential glare affecting motorists or the residences across the street from Reach 4. Mitigation Measure DG-1 would implement standards to avoid this potential impact, reducing impacts to a less-than-significant level. During construction and O&M, vehicles and equipment would be staged in areas that are not immediately adjacent to major roads and, therefore, would not result in a significant source of daytime glare for motorists.

DG-1 **Illumination and Glare.** All nighttime lighting shall be shielded or positioned to avoid direct illumination onto any nearby roads or private homes.

5.1.19 Greenhouse Gases

Significance Criteria

Based upon the Ventura County *Initial Study Assessment Guidelines* (Ventura County, 2011) and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064(h)(3), 15064.4, 15130(b)(1)(B) and (d), and 15183.5, a project would have significant impacts on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if it would:

- Generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or,

- Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.

With respect to quantitative GHG emission thresholds, currently the Ventura County APCD has no formally adopted GHG pollutant thresholds of significance; therefore the California Air Resources Board threshold of 7,000 metric tons CO₂e/year from non-transportation-related GHG sources has been applied to this Project.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would generate GHG emissions during construction from the use of off-road equipment and from on-road construction vehicle trips. The total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions amortized over the life of the project (50 years) were estimated to be 47.5 metric tons per year (see Appendix A – Initial Study Table C.24-1, Summary of Project Greenhouse Gas Emission Estimates), which is below the 7,000 metric tons per year threshold. It is not anticipated this emissions quantity would change appreciably with the project design changes implemented since the time the Initial Study was completed. Furthermore, the proposed Project would be in compliance with all potentially applicable GHG plans, policies, and regulations as shown in Initial Study (Appendix A) Table C.24-2 (Project Consistency with Applicable Plans, Policies, and Regulations for GHG Emissions). The proposed Project would also comply with current California emission reduction strategies that would reduce GHGs as shown in Initial Study (Appendix A) Table C.24-3 (California GHG Reduction Strategies). Therefore, the proposed Project would not have a significant impact on global warming or climate change, would conform to State and local GHG/climate change regulations and policies/strategies, and GHG impacts would not be significant.

5.1.20 Community Character

Significance Criteria

Significant impacts would occur when (Ventura County, 2011):

- A project is inconsistent with any of the policies or development standards relating to community character of the *Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs* or applicable Area Plan; and/or
- A project either individually or cumulatively (when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable probably future projects) would introduce physical development that is incompatible with existing land uses, architectural form or style, site design/layout, or density/parcel sizes within the community in which the project site is located.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The Project site is not located within any County Area Plan. As a flood protection project, the proposed Project would not conflict with the existing development patterns or surrounding land uses. The Project area is designated as Open Space and, according to the County's *Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance*, public works projects are allowed within an Open Space Zone and are exempt from zoning clearance. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with the development standards relating to community character. Construction and O&M of Reaches 1-3 would occur entirely along the existing levee; therefore, the proposed Project would not introduce a physical development that is incompatible with existing land uses, architectural form or style, site design/layout, or density/parcel sizes within the community. Although the river side portion of Reach 4 would introduce a new, taller linear structure

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atop an existing levee, it would be constructed in an area that is currently characterized by residential and commercial development and existing flood control and railroad infrastructure. The flood gate and floodwall would be constructed within the City of Oxnard, adjacent to backyards of single-family homes, and would be compatible with the existing community character. Impacts would not be significant.

5.1.21 Housing

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets one of the following criteria would result in a significant impact related to housing (Ventura County, 2011):

- Eliminate existing dwelling units.
- Introduce a long-term demand for housing by full-time employees.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would neither remove existing housing nor prevent the future construction of homes in the Project area. No impacts to housing demand from the temporary construction work would occur due to the sufficient pool of construction workers available within Ventura County and the Los Angeles Metropolitan region. No increase to existing full-time VCWPD employment is expected from implementation from the proposed Project. No impacts to housing would occur.

5.1.22 Transportation/Circulation

5.1.22.1 Roads and Highways – Safety/Design of Public Roads

Significance Criteria

Projects that comply with the County's road standards are generally considered to have less-than-significant impacts on the safety and design of the public road system (Ventura County, 2011). Any deviation from design standards required by the City of Oxnard and Caltrans would be considered a significant impact.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not require access encroachments or roadway improvements and is not located in a Substandard Impact Area. The proposed Project would comply with the County, City of Oxnard, and Caltrans road standards. Therefore, the proposed Project would not have a significant impact on the safety and design of the public road system.

5.1.22.2 Roads and Highways – Safety/Design of Private Access Roads

Significance Criteria

Private road guidelines are typically applicable to subdivisions of land for residential use and the impacts associated with the safety and design of a private road involve the physical configuration of the road and its conformance with applicable State and local fire guidelines and ordinances (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not require the construction of, or modification to, any private roads. As no private roads are proposed, there would be no impacts relative to the safety and design of private access roads.

5.1.22.3 Roads and Highways – Tactical Access

Significance Criteria

A project would have a significant impact if there is a single access and the access road exceeds 800 feet in length (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Access to the proposed Project is provided from both ends of the County maintenance road in Reaches 1-3, and from either end of a new 15-foot-wide maintenance road on the river side flood wall in Reach 4. Access to the full length of the land side floodwall in Reach 4 would be available directly from N. Ventura Road. As such, the Project would have no impacts relative to tactical access.

5.1.22.4 Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities

Significance Criteria

A project that will cause actual or potential barriers to existing or planned pedestrian/bicycle facilities may have a significant impact. In addition, projects that generate or attract pedestrian/bicycle traffic volumes meeting requirements for protected highway crossings or pedestrian and bicycle facilities may have a significant impacts. (Ventura County, 2011)

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not increase local population and therefore demand for pedestrian/bicycle facilities. The proposed Project would not increase bicycle or pedestrian volumes and, therefore, would not result in a traffic-related safety issue or increase the demand for a protected highway crossing. Furthermore, the proposed Project is compatible with the City of Oxnard's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which includes a multi-use bicycle/pedestrian path along the alignment of the SCR-3 Project. These planned features could potentially generate or attract additional pedestrians and bicyclists to the trail system; however, they are not a component of the proposed Project.

5.1.22.5 Bus Transit

Significance Criteria

A project will normally have a significant impact on bus transit if it would substantially interfere with existing bus transit facilities or routes, or if it would create a substantial demand for bus transit facilities/services (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Project-related construction activity would not impact a transit route because there are no bus routes operating on this segment of N. Ventura Road. The increased ridership demand, if any, would not be substantial and would not result in an adverse impact. Therefore, the proposed Project would not

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Other Required CEQA Topics

interfere with any bus transit facilities or routes, and would not create a substantial demand for bus transit facilities/services. There would be no impacts associated with bus transit.

5.1.22.6 Railroads

Significance Criteria

A project will normally have a significant impact on a railroad if it would substantially interfere with an existing railroad's facilities or operations (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The construction and operation of the proposed Project would not affect train movements or activity. In Reach 4, the floodwall would terminate west of the railroad tracks and fill material would be installed abutting the embankment on the northeast and southwest sides of the railroad tracks, to complete the gap between the floodwall and the railroad embankment (southwest side) and the railroad embankment and any future flood protection measures implemented as part of The Village development (northeast side). This fill material would avoid impacts to the railroad infrastructure by providing sufficient distance between the floodwall/Village improvements and the railroad tracks. Encroachment permits from UPRR would be acquired. As implementation of the proposed Project would not substantially interfere with any existing railroad facilities or operations, no significant impacts would occur.

5.1.22.7 Airports

Significance Criteria

A project could potentially be incompatible with the operation of an airport if it is within the sphere of influence of an airport, and if it includes features such as high buildings, residential units, refineries, churches, or schools (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Although the proposed Project is located within an airport sphere of influence, it does not have any incompatible features or structures that would interfere with aviation activities or navigable airspace. No airport-related impacts would occur.

5.1.22.8 Harbor Facilities

Significance Criteria

A project would have an impact on a harbor if the construction or operation of the project will increase the demand for commercial boat traffic and/or adjacent commercial boat facilities (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project is not located near harbors and implementation would not affect the demand for boat traffic or facilities. No impact would occur.

5.1.23 Water Supply

5.1.23.1 Quality

Significance Criteria

A Project designed to meet all the applicable requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code (Division 104, Part 13, Chapter 4), California Code of Regulations (Title 22, Division 4), Ventura County Building Code (Article 1, Article 6), and Ventura County Ordinance Code (Division 4, Chapter 8) shall not be considered to have a significant impact in the area of water supply quality (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not result in the development of any habitable structures or bathroom facilities and would not require a source of domestic water. Any water associated with portable toilets, including cleaning and maintenance, would be obtained and delivered by the service provider and would have no appreciable effect on water supply quality. No impacts to water supply quality would occur.

5.1.23.2 Quantity

Significance Criteria

The purpose of assessing this issue area is to ensure consistent and complete assessment of any direct and indirect impacts resulting from the *Ventura County General Plan* requirement that each legal parcel requiring a domestic water source have a permanent supply of water for a project (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not introduce a permanent water supply requirement and would not require an ongoing source of domestic water supply. Therefore, no impacts to water supply quantity would occur.

5.1.23.3 Fire Flow

Significance Criteria

A project is considered to have a significant impact associated with fire flow if one of the criteria listed below is met during project construction or operation (Ventura County, 2011).

- It cannot meet the required fire flow as determined by:
 - The Insurance Services Office, Inc. Guide for Determination of Required Fire Flow;
 - The Ventura County Waterworks Manual;
 - VCFPD Fire Code; and
 - Fire Prevention Standard 14.5.1, 14.5.2, 14.5.3.
- If it cannot provide an acceptable mitigation factor, i.e., fire sprinklers to allow for a reduction in the required fire flow.

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Other Required CEQA Topics

- A private water system cannot meet flow, duration, or reliability requirements as defined in the Ventura County Waterworks Manual and VCFPD Fire Code.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The City of Oxnard is considered an acceptable water purveyor for the proposed Project, and the VCFPD would not require plans for a private water system. The Project’s water requirements would be temporary and minimal, limited primarily to dust abatement during the approximately 27-month-long construction period. The proposed Project would result in no impacts associated with fire flow.

5.1.24 Waste Treatment/Disposal

5.1.24.1 Individual Sewage Disposal Systems

Significance Criteria

Compliance with applicable sections of the following documents must be demonstrated to ensure no significant impact (Ventura County, 2011).

- Ventura County Building Code, Articles 1 and 6
- Ventura County Sewer Policy
- Ventura County Ordinance Code, Division 4
- Uniform Plumbing code
- Environmental Health Division Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Technical Information Manual
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plans

Explanation of Significance Determination

During construction, the Project contractor would supply portable toilets for workers and would be responsible for the disposal of generated sewage. Once operational, the proposed Project would not include any toilet facilities or require the construction, modification, or use of any on-site or existing sewage disposal structures or systems. Therefore, no individual sewage disposal system impacts would occur.

5.1.24.2 Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities

Significance Criteria

Any project which would individually or cumulatively generate sewage effluent which would be discharged to and exceed the capacity of an existing facility or ancillary facilities would have a potentially significant impact; however, if the project incorporates conditions and mitigation measures for improvements required by the sewer entity or LARWQCB, there would not be a significant impact (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not affect sewage treatment facility capacity during construction and does not include any on-site sewage disposal facilities for operation, and thus would not generate sewage effluent requiring the generation or use of any new or existing sewer mains or sewage treatment plants. The proposed Project would not be connected to a sewage collection facility. No impacts to sewage collection/treatment facilities would occur.

5.1.24.3 Solid Waste Management

Significance Criteria

Any project that generates solid waste, such that it impairs a landfill's disposal capacity in terms of reducing its useful life to less than 15 years, would have a potentially significant impact on the demand for solid waste disposal capacity in Ventura County (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The amount of non-recyclable waste generated by the construction and operation of the proposed Project would be a relatively small quantity. Therefore, the proposed Project would not have a significant impact on solid waste management and collection.

5.1.24.4 Solid Waste Facilities

Significance Criteria

Solid waste facilities shall be in compliance with the following statutes and regulations and are subject to enforcement by the County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, Environmental Health Division (Ventura County, 2011).

- California Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 13, Chapter 4, Article 7
- California Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 14
- California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 7
- California Code of Regulations, Title 27, Division 2
- California Public Resources Code, Division 30
- Ventura County Ordinance Code, Division 4, Chapter 7

If a project does not involve a solid waste operation or facility, it would have no impact. (Ventura County, 2011)

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project does not involve the construction or operation of solid waste facilities. The proposed Project is anticipated to generate a minimal amount of solid waste material and is not expected to affect the available capacity of waste disposal facilities serving the Project area. No impacts to solid waste facilities would occur.

5.1.25 Flood Control/Drainage

5.1.25.1 Other Facilities/Watercourses

Significance Criteria

The Ventura County Flood Insurance Study and associated maps define Areas of Special Flood Hazard that are subject to the authority of the Ventura County Flood Plain Management Ordinance. The natural channels and facilities not designated within these source documents and the impacts thereon are the focus of review under this guideline. In reviewing a project for impacts, the following are to be given consideration (Ventura County, 2011):

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Other Required CEQA Topics

- The possibility of deposition of sediment and debris materials within existing channels and allied obstruction of flow,
- The capacity of the channel and the potential for overflow during design storm conditions, and
- The potential for increased runoff and the effects on Areas of Special Flood Hazard and regulatory channels both on and off site.

Any increase in flow to and from natural and man-made drainage channels and facilities is required to be considered within the existing framework of grading and building code ordinances, and any project that does not comply with the requirements of such regulations, manuals, and standards is considered as having a potentially significant project and cumulative impact. Impacts to flood control and drainage facilities that are owned and maintained by an entity other than the VCWPD would occur if a project affects the extent of the floodplain, the capacity of a drainage facility or channel, or the velocity of flow within a drainage facility or channel. (Ventura County, 2011)

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would alter existing facilities, including the golf course swale and drainage features that penetrate the existing levee system. These alterations would be necessary to achieve the Project's desired level of flood protection. All proposed Project features/modifications would be designed and implemented to minimize or avoid adverse effects to flood control and drainage facilities. Therefore, potential impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project on flood control and drainage facilities not maintained by VCWPD would not be significant.

5.1.26 Law Enforcement/Emergency Services

Significance Criteria

Projects that increase demand for law enforcement or emergency services may have a significant adverse impact on public safety unless mitigated (Ventura County, 2011). Additionally, a project that directly or indirectly contributes to a population increase or does not include adequate measures to address increased demand would have the potential to impact law enforcement and emergency service personnel and equipment.

Explanation of Significance Determination

During construction, security would be provided by the contractor; therefore, no impacts to law enforcement are anticipated. The proposed Project would not increase the population of the Project area and would not involve development of habitable structures. Therefore, the proposed Project would not cause a change in established officer-to-population ratios.

The floodwall in Reach 4 could create opportunities for homeless camps, which are a known problems along this stretch of the Santa Clara River, because the area behind the river side wall would not be visible from the existing road system and would not likely receive regular law enforcement patrol. The levee security gates can be opened by authorized maintenance personnel and law enforcement, such that any homeless camps would be noticed during regular maintenance or occasional law enforcement patrol. The existence of homeless camps would be reported to the local law enforcement agency immediately. Additionally, "no trespassing" and "private property" signs would be included to deter the homeless or any other unauthorized personnel. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would, therefore, not result in a significant impact on law enforcement and emergency services.

5.1.27 Fire Protection

5.1.27.1 Distance/Response Time

Significance Criteria

The project distance from a full time paid fire department is considered a significant impact if the project is in excess of five (5) miles, measured from the apron of the fire station to the structure or pad of the proposed structure (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The nearest fire station to the proposed Project is City of Oxnard Fire Department Station 4, which is located approximately one mile south of the Project. As the Project is located within five miles of the nearest fire station, no impacts with regard to the distance and response time of fire protection services would occur.

5.1.27.2 Personnel/Equipment/Facilities

Significance Criteria

One firefighter is required for every 3,000 to 4,000 persons, depending on density (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not increase the population of the Project area; consequently, it would not increase the demand for fire protection service personnel, equipment, or facilities. In addition, the proposed Project would not involve any type of development that would require an increase in long-term fire protection service. No impacts with regard to the personnel, equipment, or facilities of fire protection services would occur.

5.1.28 Education

5.1.28.1 Schools

Significance Criteria

Any project that substantially interferes with the operations of an existing school facility would result in a significant impact (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not involve the construction of or removal/displacement of any residences, and would not be located adjacent to any schools; consequently, it would not affect the demand for new or interfere with the operations of existing schools within Ventura County or more specifically within the City of Oxnard. No impacts to schools would occur.

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Other Required CEQA Topics

5.1.28.2 Libraries

Significance Criteria

Any project that meets one of the following criteria would result in a significant impact (Ventura County, 2011):

- Substantially interfere with the operations of an existing public library facility.
- Put additional demands on a public library facility that is currently deemed overcrowded.
- Limit the ability of individuals to access public library facilities by private vehicle or alternative transportation modes.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The proposed Project would not involve the in-migration or removal of any residents, temporarily or permanently, and as such it would not affect the demand for public library facilities. The proposed Project would not interfere with library operations or limit the ability of individuals to access the public library by private vehicle or alternative transportation modes. No impacts to library facilities and services would occur.

5.1.29 Recreation

5.1.29.1 Local Parks/Facilities

Significance Criteria

A project would result in a significant impact if it would cause an increase in the demand for or a decrease in the availability of recreation when measured against the following standard (Ventura County, 2011).

- Local Parks/Facilities - 5 acres of developable land (less than 15% slope) per 1,000 population.

Explanation of Significance Determination

The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide flood protection to the City of Oxnard for the one percent annual chance flood event by implementing improvements to the SCR-3 levee system. As such, construction and operation of the Project would not include a growth-inducing component that would increase the demand for local recreation facilities, or decrease the availability of existing recreation. No impact to local parks/facilities would occur.

5.1.29.2 Regional Parks/Facilities

Significance Criteria

A project would result in a significant impact if it would cause an increase in the demand for recreation when measured against the following standard (Ventura County, 2011).

- Regional Parks/Facilities - 5 acres of developable land per 1,000 population.

In addition, a project will have a significant impact on recreation if it would impede future development of recreation parks/facilities (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide flood protection to the City of Oxnard for the one percent annual chance flood event by implementing improvements to the SCR-3 levee system. Construction and operation of this Project would not induce population growth that would increase the demand for regional recreation facilities. Construction of Option 1B would fill in the drainage swale within the River Ridge Golf Course, which would temporarily disrupt recreation activities at the golf course for approximately one month. In order to avoid interference with the activities at the River Ridge Golf Course, the following mitigation measure is recommended:

REC-1 **Construction Notification.** The VCWPD shall coordinate with the River Ridge Golf Course thirty (30) days prior to the start of construction to minimize disruptions to activities within the golf course.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure REC-1, impacts to the River Ridge Golf Course would not be significant.

5.1.29.3 Regional Trails/Corridors

Significance Criteria

A project would result in a significant impact if it would cause an increase in the demand for recreation when measured against the following standard (Ventura County, 2011).

- Regional Trails/Corridors – 2.5 miles per 1,000 population.

In addition, a project will have a significant impact on recreation if it would impede future development of regional trails/corridors (Ventura County, 2011).

Explanation of Significance Determination

Construction of the flood gate and the portion of the floodwall on the south side of N. Ventura Road may disrupt the existing bike lane located on the south side of N. Ventura Road for approximately six months. This disruption would be temporary, and would not cause a significant long-term impact. In addition, the proposed Project would not induce growth in the area; thus, it would not increase the long-term demand for recreational facilities, including trails and corridors.

The design of Reach 4 would be compatible with the City of Oxnard's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Therefore, the proposed Project would not impede future development of a regional trail. During the operational period, the river side flood wall would limit the community's access to the river and to the informal trail from N. Ventura Road; however, access from the Reach 4 area is already limited since the turnout on the north side of N. Ventura Road is narrow and there is no formal parking available. As such, the river side flood wall would not preclude access from a commonly used access point, and impacts would not be significant. Additionally, once the City of Oxnard completes its Master Plan, O&M activities would temporarily affect trail users, but these impacts would not be significant.

5.1.30 Additional Effects Not Found to be Significant in this EIR

In addition to effects not found to be significant in the Initial Study (Appendix A) prepared for the proposed Project, certain impacts evaluated in this EIR were also determined not to be significant. The reasons why these impacts would not be significant are discussed in the impact analyses presented in Chapter 3. The impacts determined not to be significant in this EIR are listed below.

Air Quality

- Impact AQ-2: Project O&M could violate or substantially contribute to existing or projected violations of applicable air quality standards.
- Impact AQ-4: Project O&M could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in non-attainment pollutants.
- Impact AQ-5: Project construction and O&M could expose the public to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- Impact AQ-6: Project construction and O&M could cause localized nuisance odors.
- Impact AQ-8: Project O&M could cause an increase in the incidence of Valley Fever infections.

Biological Resources

- Impact BIO-2: The Project would cause the loss of foraging habitat for wildlife.
- Impact BIO-15: The Project would interfere with established wildlife migratory corridors.

Scenic Resources

- Impact SR-1: Construction and O&M activities in the Project area would be visible from public viewing locations.

Hazards

- Impact HAZ-1: The Project may be subject to liquefaction-related damage.

Noise and Vibration

- Impact NV-2: O&M activities would result in increased noise levels affecting sensitive noise receptors.
- Impact NV-3: Project construction could result in vibration levels that affect nearby buildings.
- Impact NV-5: O&M activities would result in temporary increases in local vibration levels.

Transportation and Circulation

- Impact TC-1: Traffic generated during Project construction would affect the ICU values and LOS at the study area intersections.
- Impact TC-3: Project construction would result in physical disruptions to traffic flow on the roadways adjacent to the construction zones, such as temporary roadway and/or lane closures.
- Impact TC-4: Project construction would result in temporary traffic impacts at the locations on Ventura Road and Victoria Avenue where the construction vehicles would be entering and exiting these roadways.
- Impact TC-5: O&M of the Project would result in an increase in site-generated traffic volumes.
- Impact TC-6: Flooding would periodically result in a closure of Ventura Road.

Flood Control and Drainage

Impact FC-1: The Project may result in an increase in the base flood elevation for areas across from or downstream of the proposed levee improvements.

5.2 Unavoidable Significant Adverse Effects

The impact analyses in the Chapter 3 of this EIR identified the following impacts associated with the proposed Project that would be significant and avoidable (Class I) if the Project is implemented. These cannot be feasibly reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation.

Scenic Resources

Impact SR-2: Implementation of Reach 4 would alter scenic resources in the Project area by introducing new structures and resulting in the removal of native habitat.

Impact SR-4: Implementation of Reach 4 would obstruct the viewshed of the Santa Clara River in the Project area by introducing new structures and resulting in the removal of native habitat.

Noise and Vibration

Impact NV-1: Project construction could result in noise levels that would disturb sensitive noise receptors, particularly near Reach 4.

Impact NV-4: Project construction could result in vibration levels that are annoying to nearby residents.

5.3 Growth-Inducing Impacts

5.3.1 Introduction

The State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) requires that an EIR include a discussion of ways in which a proposed project could induce economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. The discussion should also identify any way in which a proposed project would remove obstacles to population growth, and discuss the characteristics of a project that may encourage and/or facilitate other activities that, either individually or cumulatively, could significantly affect the environment. CEQA emphasizes that growth in an area should not be considered beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance. The purpose of this discussion is to evaluate the growth-inducing potential of the proposed Project. Further, during the public scoping period, a comment was received requesting that the EIR consider the Project's growth-inducing potential.

5.3.2 Growth-Inducing Potential

In general terms, a project may potentially induce growth in a geographic area if it meets any of the criteria identified below:

- The project removes an impediment to growth, such as through the establishment of an essential public service, or the provision of new access to an area that will facilitate additional growth.

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Other Required CEQA Topics

- The project results in the urbanization of land in a remote location that will induce the growth of undeveloped areas between the project and existing developed areas, commonly referred to as “Leap-Frog Development.”
- Economic expansion or growth occurs in an area in response to the project, such as by means of a substantial change in revenue base or an expansion of employment.
- The project establishes a precedent-setting action, such as approval of a general plan amendment or change in zoning that will serve as a precedent for other similar projects.

Should a proposed project meet any one of these criteria, it may be considered growth inducing. An evaluation of the proposed Project in relation to these criteria is provided below.

Removal of an Impediment to Growth

Growth in an area may result from the removal of physical impediments or restrictions to growth. In this context, physical growth impediments may include nonexistent or inadequate access to an area or the lack or insufficiency of essential public services, such as sewer and water service.

The City of Oxnard is currently served by utilities, including water, sewer, electric, and gas service. The proposed Project would not require the extension of any public service to the Project site or any area currently unserved by such utilities.

Existing flood control facilities are inadequate to safely accommodate severe storm events, and portions of the City of Oxnard are consequently at risk of being re-mapped as located within a FEMA 100-year flood plain. The proposed Project is intended to improve the existing capacity shortage in the flood control system by providing facilities sized to convey the full one percent annual chance (100-year) flood. Thus, with implementation of the proposed Project, it is expected that future FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps would not be revised to include those portions of the City of Oxnard located within the 100-year floodplain protected by the SCR-3 levee system. This would remove a future impediment to growth in those areas currently within the floodplain; however, this area is already fully developed, approved for development, or in the process of seeking development approval. Therefore, while the proposed Project could potentially remove an impediment to growth, it would not be growth inducing under this criterion.

Urbanization of Land in Remote Locations (Leap-Frog Development)

Development can be considered growth inducing when it is not located contiguous to existing urban development and “leaps” over open space areas. The City of Oxnard is a developed area in Ventura County located approximately three miles south of the City of Ventura and seven miles west of the City of Camarillo. The proposed Project consists of upgrades to existing flood control facilities, and would not “leap-frog” over undeveloped areas nor introduce development that is not continuous with existing development. As such, it would not result in additional growth under this criterion.

Economic Growth

The proposed Project consists of upgrades to existing flood control facilities. The Project includes no residential or commercial development. Operation and maintenance of the proposed facilities would not require additional employees. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in increased population or employment in the Project area, and would not be considered growth inducing under this criterion.

Precedent-Setting Action

The proposed Project is a public infrastructure project intended to improve existing flood protection facilities. Project approval and implementation would not set a precedent that would be expected to result in increased growth in the Project area.

5.3.3 Conclusion

The proposed Project would not induce additional growth in the surrounding area.

5.4 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

5.4.1 Introduction

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c) states that use of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of a proposed project may be irreversible if a large commitment of these resources makes their removal, indirect removal, or non-use thereafter unlikely. This section evaluates whether the proposed Project would result in the irretrievable commitment of resources, or would cause irreversible changes in the environment. This section also identifies any irreversible damage that could result from environmental accidents associated with the proposed Project.

5.4.2 Irreversible Commitment of Resources

Implementation of the proposed Project would include construction of structural improvements to the existing SCR-3 levee system to enable it to withstand a one percent annual chance flood event and thereby achieve compliance with FEMA levee certification requirements. The facility would be designed to provide flood protection to properties in the City of Oxnard that would otherwise require flood insurance to protect against a one percent annual chance (100-year) flood event. The proposed Project includes a 6-foot tall, 950-foot long floodwall on the river side of N. Ventura Road. A four- to six-foot high floodwall would be constructed on the land side of N. Ventura Road for approximately 860 feet, then transition to a 40-foot-long earthen embankment abutting and perpendicular to the existing UPRR embankment. A similar 40-foot-long earthen embankment would be constructed on UPRR land northeast of the railroad embankment to tie into the flood protection structure to be constructed by The Village development (Wagon Wheel).

The entire length of the facility depends on which of the two options in Reaches 1-3 are selected for the Project. Option 1A (Full Levee System) adds fill material and riprap along approximately 8,875 feet to raise the existing levee in Reaches 1-3, with one tie-in to the Bailard Landfill. Option 1B (Minimum Levee System), which is the preferred option, adds fill material along approximately 3,575 feet of the existing levee in Reaches 1 and 3 only, with filling of a golf course swale located landward of Reach 2.

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would contribute to the incremental depletion of resources, including renewable and non-renewable resources. Non-renewable resources, such as natural gas, petroleum products, asphalt, petrochemical construction materials, steel, copper, and other metals, rock, sand, and gravel are considered to be commodities that are available in a finite supply. The processes that created these resources occur over a long period. Therefore, replacement of these resources would not occur over the life of the Project. To varying degrees, the aforementioned materials are all readily available and some materials, such as asphalt, sand, and gravel, are abundant.

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Other Required CEQA Topics

Other commodities, such as metals, natural gas, and petroleum products, are also readily available, but they are finite in supply, given the length of time required by the natural process to create them.

The demand for all such resources is expected to increase regardless of whether or not the Project is developed. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) forecasts that the population of Southern California will increase 23 percent between 2008 and 2035 (SCAG, 2012). These increases in population would directly result in the need for more public, commercial, and residential facilities in order to provide the needed services associated with this growth. If not consumed by this Project, these resources would likely be committed to other projects in the region intended to meet this anticipated growth. Furthermore, the investment of resources in the Project would provide a community benefit by improving existing deficiencies in a flood control facility. Mitigation measures have been included in this EIR to reduce and minimize Project-specific and cumulative impacts.

5.4.3 Irreversible Environmental Changes

Irreversible long-term environmental changes associated with the proposed Project would include a change in the visual character of the site, specifically along Reach 4 where a new floodwall would be installed. Design features have been incorporated into the Project that would minimize the effects of the environmental changes associated with the development of the Project to the degree feasible. In addition, the proposed Project would improve existing deficiencies in a flood control facility. As described in Section 5.2 above, implementation of the Project would result in significant unavoidable long-term impacts to scenic resources. No other significant long-term adverse impacts have been identified.

5.4.4 Potential Environmental Damage from Accidents

The proposed Project proposes no uniquely hazardous uses, and its operation would not be expected to cause environmental accidents that would affect other areas. The Project site is located within a seismically active region and would be exposed to ground shaking during a seismic event. However, the proposed flood conveyance facilities would not expose people or other structures to potential significant adverse effects of ground shaking. With regard to accidental spills, the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prepared for the Project would provide BMPs to ensure potential contaminants used during construction (e.g., fuel, lubricants, sealants) would be stored away from areas where they could potentially affect water quality, and would provide measures for managing flows during accidental spills or storm events that would ensure that contaminants are conveyed away from the Santa Clara River. Implementation of the SWPPP requirements would ensure that impacts during construction would not be significant.

5.5 Energy Conservation

In 1975, Assembly Bill 1575 was adopted by the State Legislature, creating the California Energy Commission (CEC) and amending Public Resources Code Section 21100(b)(3) to require EIRs to examine the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy caused by a project. In response, the State Resources Agency created Appendix F of the State CEQA Guidelines to provide guidance on completing this determination. This section includes a discussion of energy conservation to meet the requirements of State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix F.

The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide flood protection to properties in the City of Oxnard that would otherwise require flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program. The

proposed Project would also achieve compliance with FEMA levee certification requirements for a system to withstand a one percent annual chance flood event. Additionally, the proposed Project would be designed to accommodate a planned future bikeway. Flood protection projects typically do not involve the use of fossil fuels, such as natural gas, for generation of electricity. The flood control provided by the Project will safeguard the affected homes and provide additional opportunities for reducing energy costs associated with flood-related repair activities. Additionally, a future bikeway (not part of the Project) would increase opportunities for non-motorized travel including bicycling and walking, thereby reducing travel emissions.

Implementation of the proposed Project would result in the consumption of energy through fuel needed for construction activities. Fuel would be needed for construction vehicles and equipment. Additionally, construction would require the manufacture of new materials, some of which would not be recyclable at the end of the Project's lifetime, and the energy required for the production of these materials would also result in an irretrievable commitment of natural resources. The anticipated equipment, vehicles, and materials required for construction of the proposed Project are detailed in Chapter 2 (Project Description).

Several local policies exist that require energy efficiency measures be employed for projects within each plan's jurisdiction. These include the City of Oxnard General Plan, and the Ventura County General Plan. The VCWPD would improve energy efficiency by demonstrating compliance with these procedures. Furthermore, to meet air quality requirements and save fuel for economic gain, it is to the advantage of VCWPD to implement energy efficiency and fuel use reduction measures for all on-site equipment.

Growth in the general Project area is expected to occur with or without implementation of the proposed Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase energy consumption above what population growth itself would do.

In summary, no increases in inefficiencies or unnecessary energy consumption are expected to occur as a direct or indirect consequence of the proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed beyond the applicable regulations and requirements that already exist.