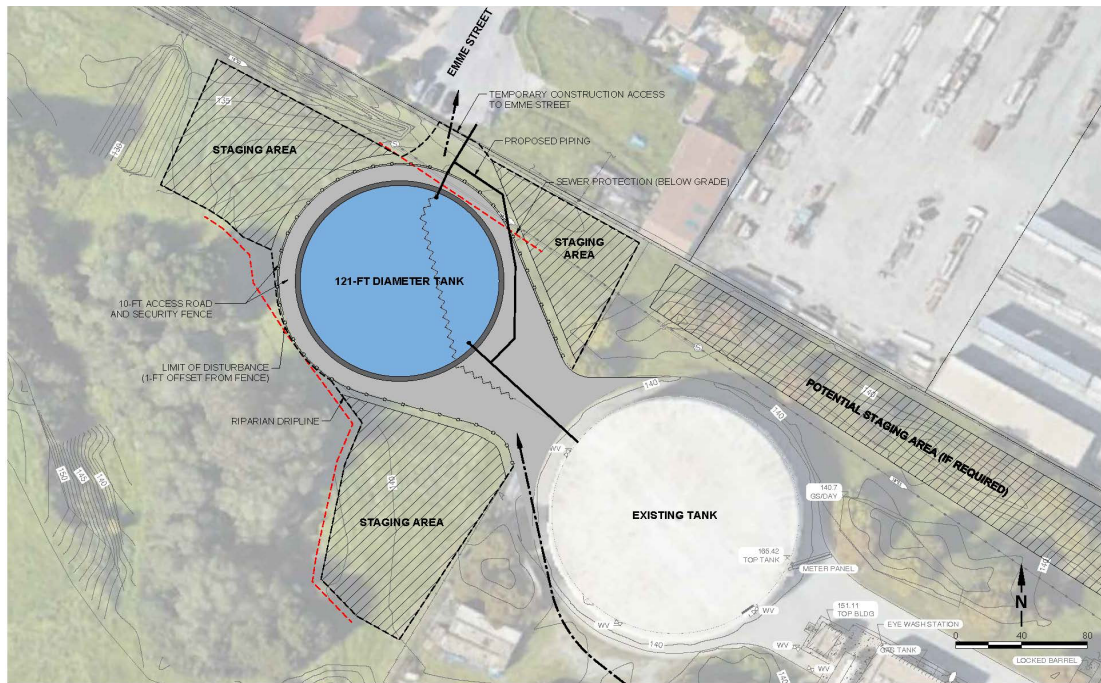


# City of Watsonville

## Zone 2 Water Reservoir and Booster Pump Station Modification Project



## Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared by:



**SMB Environmental, Inc.**

**February 2023**

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Chapter 1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Project Location and Background .....	1-1
1.2 Goal and Objective and Purpose and Need .....	1-5
1.3 Potential Funding Sources .....	1-5
1.4 Purpose of this Document.....	1-5
1.5 Document Organization and Review Process .....	1-5
<b>Chapter 2 Proposed Project Description and Alternatives .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Proposed Project Description .....	2-1
2.2 Construction Considerations .....	2-1
2.3 Operational Considerations .....	2-5
2.4 Responsible Agencies, Permits and Approvals .....	2-5
2.5 No Project Alternative .....	2-5
<b>Chapter 3 Environmental Review and Consequences.....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Aesthetics .....	3-2
3.2 Agricultural Resources .....	3-4
3.3 Air Quality .....	3-5
3.4 Biological Resources .....	3-10
3.5 Cultural Resources .....	3-27
3.6 Geology and Soils .....	3-32
3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	3-34
3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality .....	3-39
3.9 Land Use and Planning.....	3-42
3.10 Mineral Resources .....	3-43
3.11 Noise .....	3-44
3.12 Population and Housing .....	3-47
3.13 Public Services .....	3-48
3.14 Recreation.....	3-49
3.15 Socioeconomics .....	3-50
3.16 Traffic and Transportation .....	3-51
3.17 Tribal Cultural Resources .....	3-54
3.18 Utilities and Service Systems.....	3-57
3.19 Wildfire .....	3-59
3.20 Mandatory Findings of Significance .....	3-61
<b>Chapter 4 Determination .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
<b>Chapter 5 Bibliography .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>

### **List of Tables**

Table 1: Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Authorizations.....	2-7
Table 2: Proposed Project Construction Emissions.....	3-7
Table 3: Potential for Special Status Species to Occur in Project Vicinity.....	3-14

### **List of Figures**

Figure 1: General Location Map.....	1-2
Figure 2: City of Watsonville Water Service Area.....	1-3
Figure 3: Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Location.....	1-4
Figure 4: Proposed Water Storage Tank Layout.....	2-2
Figure 5: Proposed Construction Access Road Layout.....	2-3
Figure 6: Special Status Species in Project Vicinity Map.....	3-11
Figure 7: Location of 2021 Santa Cruz Tarplant Sighting within Project Area.....	3-13

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Letter of Approval from the FAA .....	A-1
Appendix B: Air Quality Emissions Calculations .....	B-1
Appendix C: Special Status Species Lists.....	C-1
Appendix D: AB 52 Outreach.....	D-1

## **List of Abbreviations**

ABWF	average base wastewater flow
ACP	asbestos cement pipe
ADWF	average dry weather flow
ARB	Air Resources Board
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Basin	Bay Area Air Basin
BWF	base wastewater flow
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Cal EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal/OSHA	State of California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CALTRANS	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Clean Air Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CEQA- Plus	California Environmental Quality Act, Plus Federal Requirements
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CGS	California Geological Survey
City	City of Watsonville
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society's
County	Santa Cruz County
CWA	Federal Clean Water Act
dBA	Outdoor Ambient Sound levels
DPM	Diesel particulate matter
DTSC	Department of Toxics Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EA	Environmental Assessment



EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
gpd	gallons per day
gpm	gallons per minute
GWI	groundwater infiltration
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HOA	homeowner's association
I/I	infiltration/inflow
ISA	International Society of Arboriculture Standards
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
Leq	Equivalent Sound Level
LU	Landscape Unit
mgd	million gallons per day
MH	manhole
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone 4
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
ND	Negative Declaration
NEPA	National Environmental Quality Act
NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrous Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OHWM	Ordinary High-Water Mark
PDR	preliminary design report
psi	pounds per square inch
PWWF	Peak wet weather flow
RCP	reinforced concrete pipe

ROG	reactive organic gases
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCT	Santa Cruz Tarplant
SR	State Route
SRF	State Revolving Funds
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zones
TSP	Total Suspended Particles
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WOUS	Waters of the United States
WOS	Waters of the State
WMP	Water Master Plan
WVI	Watsonville Municipal Airport

## **Chapter 1 Introduction**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this document is an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that addresses the potential environmental impacts of the City of Watsonville's proposed Zone 2 Water Reservoir and Booster Pump Station Modification Project (Proposed Project). The City is the CEQA Lead Agency.

The purpose of this document is to provide project-level CEQA environmental analysis of the City's Proposed Project to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. What follows is a review and analysis of the major state and federal environmental issues that may be a factor as a result in the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project. For this analysis, we have reviewed prior and relevant existing environmental documentation and have used a modified CEQA environmental checklist to assess the potential impacts on endangered/threatened species, public health or safety, natural resources, regulated waters, and cultural resources, among others to include and address specific issues associated with CEQA requirements. Based on our experience with evaluating these kinds of projects in California, most of the potential environmental issues appear to be short-term/temporary impacts due to construction activities, which can be avoided and/or mitigated to less-than-significant levels. For any potentially significant impact(s) identified, we have identified appropriate mitigation measures and strategies to attempt to avoid and/or reduce those impacts to less-than-significant levels. The information developed is designed to assist the City determine what the major potential environmental impacts are to comply with CEQA requirements.

### **1.1 Project Location and Background**

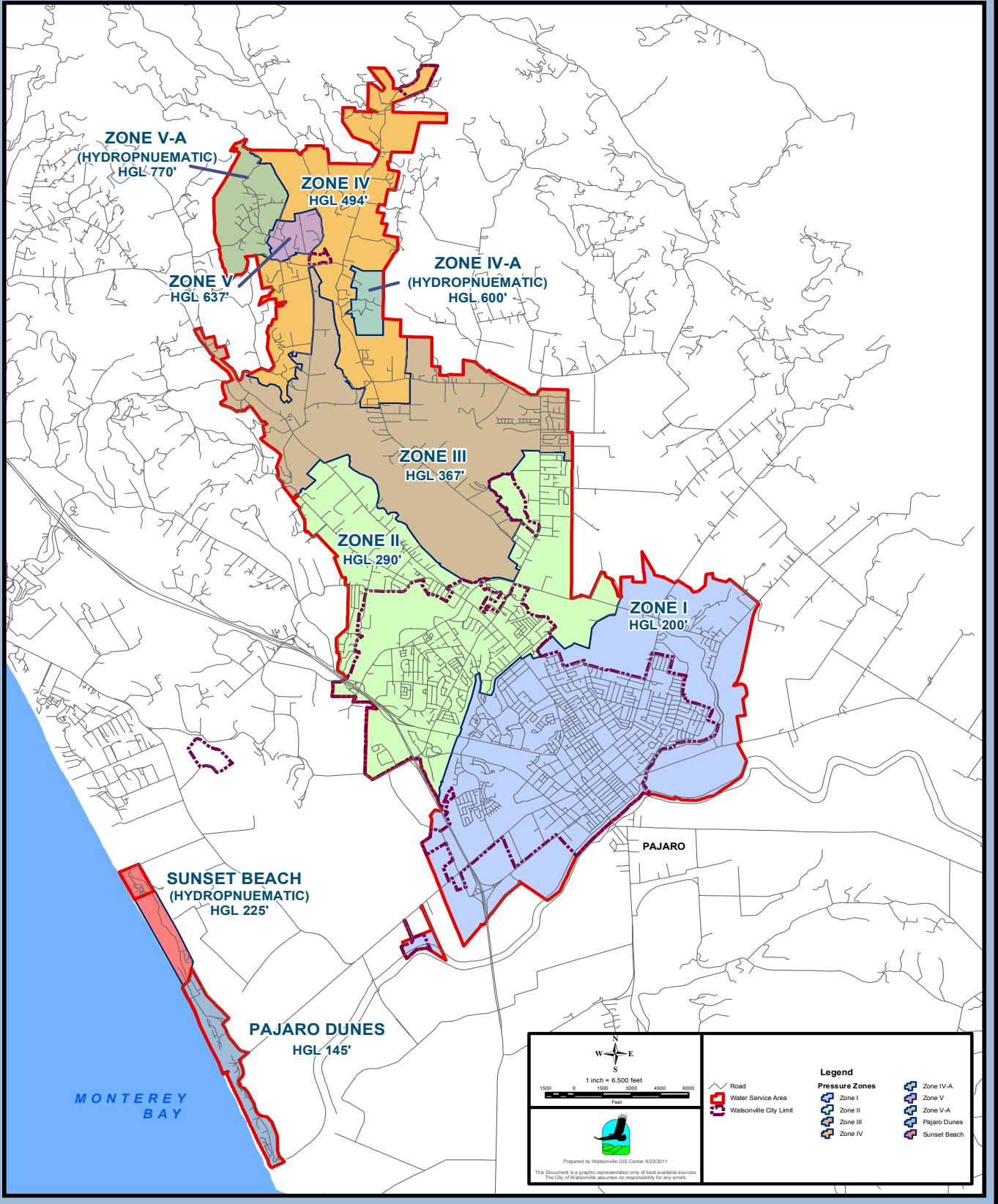
As shown in Figure 1, the City is located along the Monterey Bay between the City of Santa Cruz and the City of Monterey, in the County of Santa Cruz. The City lies in the heart of the Pajaro Valley, surrounded by prime agricultural land and wetlands. Figure 2 shows the location of the Proposed Project, adjacent to the City's Existing Zone 2 Water Storage Tank and the City of Watsonville Airport.

Water is an integral component throughout the region's environs. Five small lakes are located near the City's northern and eastern boundaries. The City is bounded by Corralitos Creek to the north, Salisipuedes Creek to the east, and the Pajaro River to the south. The Pajaro River forms the boundary between the Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Several small creeks and sloughs meander through the City and extend to the south and west of Highway 1, which form what is referred to as the Watsonville Slough System. The water system originated in 1877 when water was piped from the Corralitos area to a reservoir on Whiskey Hill (now Freedom Reservoir on Freedom Boulevard). The water system served the small community of Watsonville, under the name of the Watsonville Water and Light Company, until the City acquired it in 1927. In 1931 a slow sand filtration plant, the Corralitos Filter Plant (CFP), was constructed in Corralitos to filter the raw water coming from the Corralitos and Browns Creeks. By 1979, the water system had grown to closely represent its current state. It consisted of eight pressure zones, ten wells, eight storage facilities, over 100-miles of pipeline, and the CFP.

Today and as shown on Figure 3, the City's WSA is larger than the City limits, extending into the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. The service area consists of nine (9) hydraulic pressure zones, fourteen (14) wells, eight (8) reservoirs and water storage facilities, nine (9) booster stations, over 177 miles



# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 2**

**City of Watsonville Water Service Area**





of pipelines, and the CFP. Today, the City's regional water system delivers to a population of approximately 66,000 customers.

## **1.2 Goal and Objective and Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply.

## **1.3 Potential Funding Sources**

Many successful water supply reliability projects receive funding assistance in the form of low-interest loans and in some instances, grants are available to reduce the financial burden of initial capital and implementation costs. Funding programs are offered at times through the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), and/or the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The City is seeking to obtain funding from DWR. As a result, the City will be the CEQA Lead Agency and DWR would be a Responsible Agency under CEQA for its potential funding role. Due to the proximity to the City of Watsonville's Airport, the Proposed Project could be subject to portions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to satisfy the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). To date, the FAA has determined that the Proposed Project does not need to undergo NEPA environmental review and has granted the City permission for the Proposed Project, as demonstrated in the letter of approval in Appendix A. Nevertheless, this document has been prepared to adhere to critical portions of the federal environmental regulations in NEPA, including the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the General Conformity Rule for the Clean Air Act (CAA), among others. Collectively, these requirements are referred to as a CEQA-Plus documentation.

## **1.4 Purpose of this Document**

The purpose of this document is to provide a project-level environmental review for the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project. For this analysis, we have reviewed prior and relevant existing environmental documentation and have used a modified CEQA environmental checklist to assess the potential impacts on endangered/threatened species, public health or safety, natural resources, regulated waters, and cultural resources, among others to include and address specific issues associated with CEQA-Plus requirements.

## **1.5 Document Organization and Review Process**

This document is intended to provide a preliminary environmental investigation of the Proposed Project to determine if it may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. This document is organized into the following chapters:

- Chapter 1, Introduction. Chapter 1 describes the background, goals and objectives of the Proposed Project, and document contents.
- Chapter 2, Proposed Project Description and Alternatives. Chapter 2 describes the major components of the Proposed Project and describes the No Project Alternative.



- Chapter 3, Environmental Review and Consequences. Chapter 3 discusses the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Project. Each resource section of a modified CEQA checklist is followed by a discussion of each potential impact listed in that section. It also presents corresponding mitigation measures proposed to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level. This checklist has been modified to include additional topics to meet CEQA requirements.
- Chapter 4, Determination. Chapter 4 provides the proposed determination as a result of this IS/MND.
- Chapter 5, Bibliography. Chapter 5 provides a list of reference materials and persons consulted during the preparation of the environmental issues and constraints evaluation.

This document will be available for a 30-day public review period, during which written comments may be submitted to the following address:

Beau Kayser, Water Division Manager  
City of Watsonville  
250 Main Street  
Watsonville, CA 95076

Beau.Kayser@cityofwatsonville.org  
Phone: (831) 768-3193

Responses to written comments received by the end of the 30-day public review period will be prepared and included in the final document to be considered by the City prior to taking any discretionary decision/action on the Proposed Project.



## **Chapter 2 Proposed Project Description and Alternatives**

This chapter provides a detailed description of Proposed Project including a discussion of the construction and operational considerations as well as potential approvals and permits that may be necessary. In addition, this section also describes the No Project Alternative.

### **2.1 Proposed Project Description**

As discussed in Chapter 1, the purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply.

As shown in Figure 4, the City's Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a new up to 3 million-gallon (MG) 36.5-foot high and up to 121-foot diameter concrete above ground water storage tank at the site of the Watsonville Municipal Airport. The new tank will be sited next and adjacent to the City's existing 3 (MG) water storage tank and will provide the necessary back-up and emergency storage in the event of a catastrophic event such as an earthquake, drought or failure of the existing tank. The City's existing approximately 32-foot high 150-foot diameter steel tank is nearing the end of its useful life and based on 2014 and 2019 inspections is suffering from internal corrosion. As a result, the existing storage tank will soon need to be rehabilitated and/or replaced and the City cannot risk taking the existing tank out of service until a/the new tank is constructed. As a result, this Proposed Project is not to provide water supply for growth, but instead to continue to provide the City's existing customers with safe and reliable water supply.

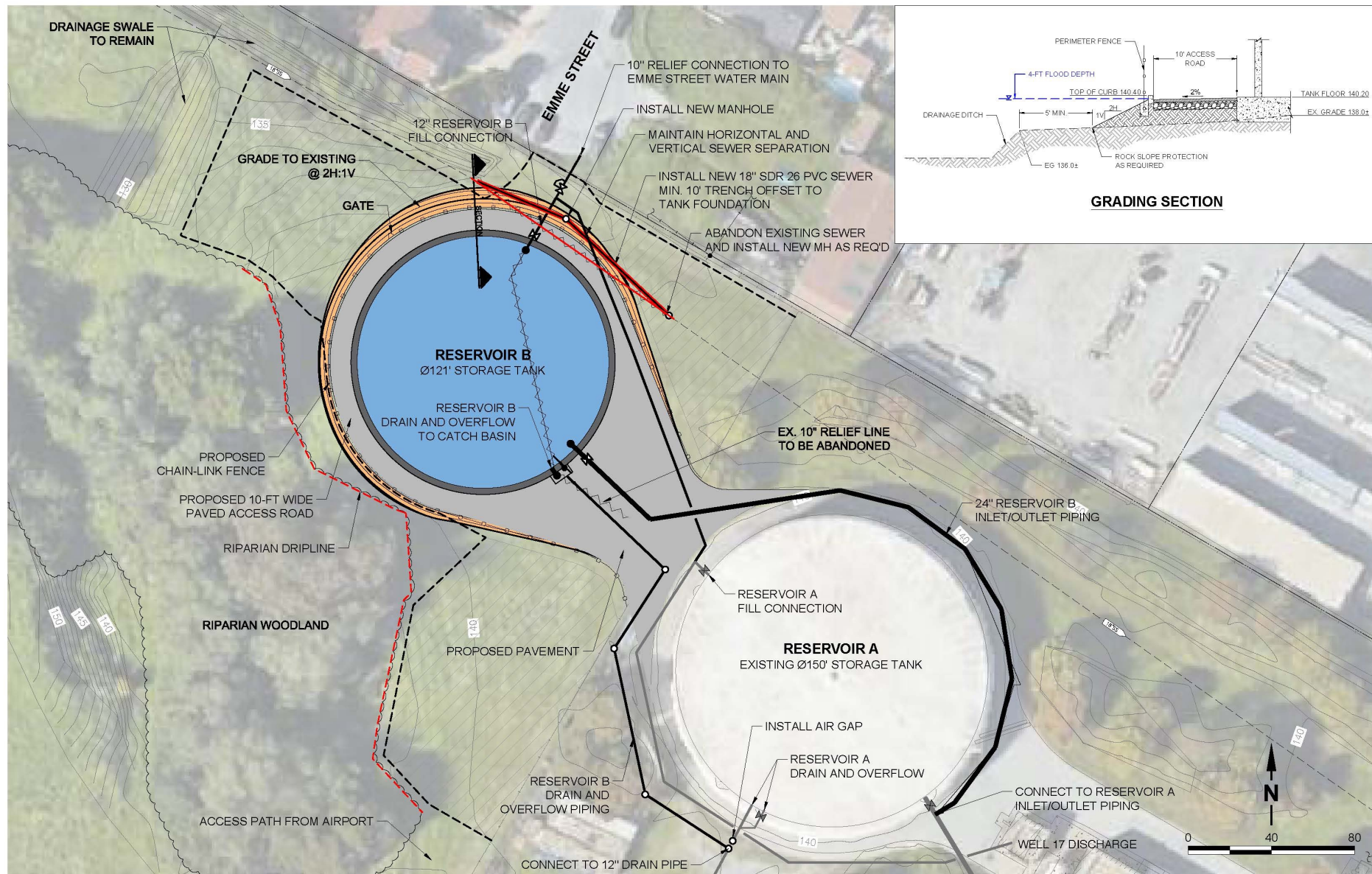
The new tank will be approximately 5-feet higher than the existing tank due to the need to have a smaller diameter footprint in order to remain within the existing site constraints, including to avoid encroaching in on the riparian/wetlands area immediate to the east of the proposed site and an existing sewer pipeline to the west the proposed site.

As shown in Figure 5, the Proposed Project would include the construction of a new rock-based construction access road from Burchell Avenue that will likely become paved and become a permanent access road once construction is finished. During construction, temporary access will be required and provided to the Site from Emme Street to the west, but once constructed there will not be any permanent access/gate.

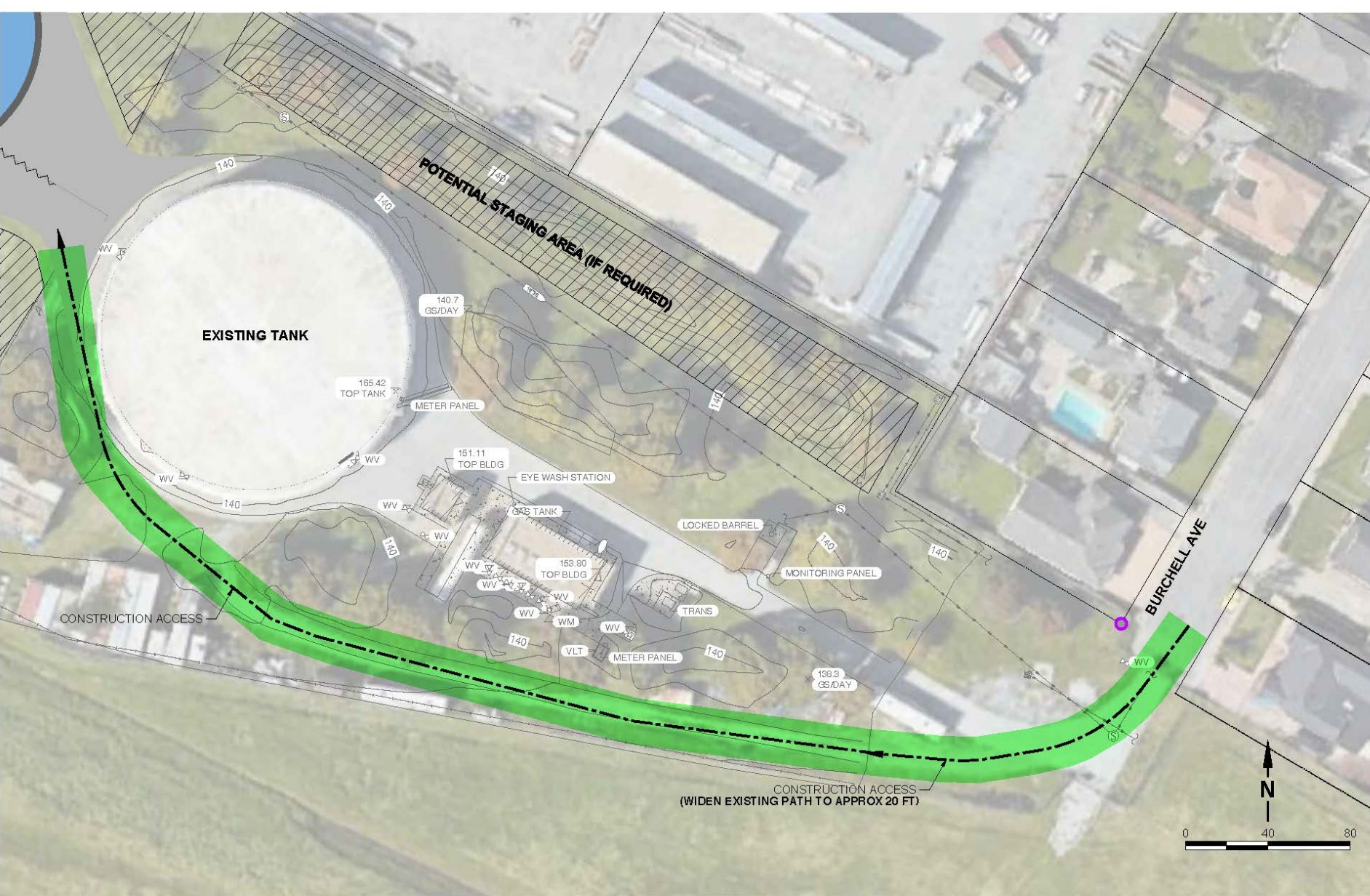
Also as shown in Figures 4 and 5, there will be several temporary staging areas on the project site as needed during construction. Once constructed, these areas will be returned to existing conditions. Also note that the entire site will be fenced and not allow public access or access to or from the Airport property.

### **2.2 Construction Considerations**

Construction of the Proposed Project is expected to begin in the winter of 2023 or the spring/summer of 2024 and take approximately 12 months (i.e., Approximately 6 months of heavy activity and 12 months overall) and would include grading activities.







**Figure 5**  
**Proposed Construction Access Road Layout**

Construction work will typically be done within normal working hours, weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and possibly on Saturdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., if required. The Proposed Project would be constructed entirely on City owned property next to an existing water tank and would be of similar look, color, and size. Any damages to existing access roadways and fencing roadways during construction will be returned to the pre-construction condition or better.

Construction activities for this kind of project will typically occur with periodic activity peaks, requiring brief periods of significant effort followed by longer periods of reduced activities. In order to characterize and analyze potential construction impacts, City has assumed that the project would be constructed by a crew of 10-15 temporary construction workers. However, specific details may change or vary slightly. Staging areas for storage of construction equipment, and other materials would be placed at locations as shown on Figures 2 and 3.

Grading activities would be necessary for construction of the Proposed Project. Excavated materials resulting from site preparation would either be used on-site during construction or disposed of at a fill area authorized by the City's Public Works Department. It is not anticipated that any soils would be imported for this project. Additional truck trips would be necessary to deliver materials, equipment, and concrete to the site. During peak excavation and earthwork activities, the Proposed Project could generate up to 10 round-trip truck trips per day. In support of these activities and for the assumptions for this document, the types of equipment that may be used at any one-time during construction may include, but not limited to:

- Grader
- Crane
- Dozer
- Compactor
- Excavator
- Trencher/boring machine
- End and bottom dump truck
- Front-end loader
- Water truck
- Flat-bed delivery truck
- Forklift
- Compressor/jack hammer
- Asphalt paver & roller
- Street sweeper

It is recognized that details of the construction activities and methods may change slightly as the specific details will be developed during final design and by the selected contractor. However, this description provides sufficient information to base the conclusions to probable environmental issues, constraints, and/or impacts associated with construction activities for this kind of project. This and other details of the Project Description, construction, and operational aspects will need to be finalized to ensure that actual

environmental impacts can be fully assessed and appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures can be implemented to avoid and/or reduce any impacts to less than significant levels.

## 2.3 Operational Considerations

Once constructed, the City will operate both reservoirs as needed to provide the City's customers with a reliable water supply and until the existing reservoir runs out of its useful life. The City will then either decide to demolish the existing tank or leave in place, which may require additional and supplemental environmental review. Once the Proposed Project is constructed, there will not be any need to have any additional permanent workers or employees to operate the two tanks.

## 2.4 Responsible Agencies, Permits and Approvals

Table 1 below summarizes the potential permits and/or approvals that may be required prior to construction of the Proposed Project. Additional local approvals and permits may also be required.

Table 1 Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Authorizations for Project Facilities	
Agency	Type of Approval
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activities</li></ul>
California Division of Drinking Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recommendations for Drinking Water Requirements</li></ul>
County of Santa Cruz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Encroachment Permits – County Roads</li></ul>
California Division of Occupational Safety and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Construction activities in compliance with CAL/OSHA safety requirements</li></ul>
Federal Aviation Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Airport Facilities Construction Approval</li></ul>
Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Authority to Construct</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Permit to Operate</li></ul>

## 2.5 No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, the City's Proposed Project would not be constructed and therefore impacts as a result of this specific Proposed Project as described here within this document would not be encountered. For this analysis, it is assumed that the existing baseline condition and the future No Project condition are the same. This No Project Alternative assumes that none of the Proposed Project facilities would be constructed. As a result, the Proposed Project is compared with the No Project Alternative.

## Chapter 3 Environmental Review and Consequences

This chapter evaluates the potential for the Proposed Project to have a significant effect on the environment. Using the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form as presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines as a framework, the checklist identifies the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project pursuant to CEQA. This document compares the Proposed Project against the No Project Alternative as is required by CEQA.

### Environmental Impact Designations

For this checklist, the following designations are used to distinguish between levels of significance of potential impacts to each resource area:

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant according to the threshold criteria identified for the resource, even after mitigation strategies are applied and/or an adverse effect that could be significant and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any resultant potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR/EIS may need to be prepared to meet CEQA requirements.

**Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant, but can be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the application of identified mitigation strategies that have not already been incorporated into the Proposed Project description.

**Less-than-Significant Impact.** Potential adverse environmental consequences have been identified. However, they are not so adverse as to meet the significance threshold criteria for that resource. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact.** No adverse environmental consequences have been identified for the resource or the consequences are negligible or undetectable. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

### Environmental Resources Evaluated

The following are the key environmental resources that were evaluated in this document.

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

### 3.1 Aesthetics

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

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not located in and/or near any designated scenic vistas. As a result, no long-term or permanent impacts are anticipated and no specific mitigation measures are required.
- (b) **No Impact.** As stated above, the Proposed Project is not located in or near any designated scenic vistas and would not damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings or would be located within or visible from a designated state scenic highway. As a result, no long-term or permanent impacts are anticipated and no specific mitigation measures are required.
- (c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would be located adjacent to an existing water storage tank of the approximate size and style as the proposed new water storage tank. In addition, the Proposed Project is located adjacent to the City's Watsonville Municipal Airport and a residential neighborhood. Visual conditions during construction activities would include various types of construction equipment, materials staging areas, construction-force parking areas, construction fencing, and construction-related debris. Although this would represent a temporary visual condition and would be mostly limited to the site itself, it could be considered an unsightly condition for nearer residential receptors. Although temporary, such conditions represent an impact on visual quality of the Project Area. However, with implementation of the mitigation measure below, the Proposed Project's construction-related impacts would be further reduced to less-than-significant levels.

**Mitigation Measure AES-1: Implement Visual Construction Best Management Practices.** The City and/or its contractor shall remove construction debris and dispose of it at a licensed facility on a daily basis. In the event daily disposal is not determined to be practical, it must be stored on site as far from residential receptors as feasible and be

screened from view. The contractor would also be required to remove any debris, mud or other soils from the site that was deposited on public roadways by construction-related traffic. Construction equipment and crew parking areas are to be staged in an orderly manner and as far as possible from existing residences. Site conditions are to be left in a clean and orderly manner at the end of each working day.

Once constructed, the Proposed Project would be above ground and would be visible alongside the existing water storage tank. As this is an existing condition, the addition of a new storage tank in the same location would not be considered a new visual impact over the existing baseline condition(s). With the implementation of the following mitigation measures, any impacts would be considered to be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measure AES-2: Implement Architectural Features into Facility Design.**

The City and/or its contractor shall design construct the new tank to match the visual characteristics of the existing water storage tank as much as feasible, including painting or coloring the new concrete structure in white or tan colors to match the existing tank and to blend in with the community and surroundings.

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, any potentially significant visual impacts could be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

- (d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would not be constructed during nighttime hours and therefore would not have any intensive lighting or glare. However, the Proposed Project would require additional lighting for security and safety as the existing water storage tank and facilities have. This could create a new source of substantial light or glare that could adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Therefore, the following mitigation measures are proposed.

**Mitigation Measure AES-3: Respectful and Effective Lighting.** To ensure that the project's exterior lighting does not spill over onto the adjacent uses including the adjacent airport operations and residential areas, all exterior light fixtures on the new tank (if any), shall be shielded or directed away from adjoining uses. Outdoor light intensity shall be limited to that necessary for adequate security and safety and be activated by motion sensors - as appropriate. All outside lighting shall be directed to prevent spillage onto adjacent properties and shall be shown on the site plans and elevations.

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, any potentially significant visual impacts could be reduced to less-than-significant levels.



## 3.2 Agricultural Resources

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Proposed Project:</b>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- (a) **No Impact.** The construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. The Proposed Project would not be located on any existing agricultural fields or farmlands. As a result, the Proposed Project would not convert any farmland to non-agricultural usage. No mitigation is required or necessary.
- (b) **No Impact.** The construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. As stated above, the Proposed Project would not be located on any existing agricultural fields or farmlands. As a result, the Proposed Project would not conflict with agricultural practices and/or a Williamson Act Contract. No mitigation is required or necessary.
- (c) **No Impact.** As mentioned above, the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not involve changes to the existing agricultural environment, and which, due to their location or nature, would not result in the conversion of farmland or agricultural practices to non-agricultural use. No mitigation is required or necessary.

### 3.3 Air Quality

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Proposed Project:</b>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with an application plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Discussion

- (a) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) (formally known as the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District), the regional agency empowered to regulate air pollutant emissions from stationary sources in the Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. MBARD regulates air quality through its permit authority over most types of stationary emission sources and through its planning and review process. Construction and/or operation of the Proposed project/Action would not conflict, violate, and/or obstruct with MBARD's Air Quality Plan. The Proposed Project would not accommodate population growth because the Project is essentially a replacement project of the existing storage capacity (i.e., two tanks matching existing capacity lost). Any impacts are considered to be less-than-significant. No mitigation is required or necessary.

- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Project site is located in the North Central Coast Air Basin. This Basin is currently designated “non-attainment” for the state ozone and PM<sub>10</sub> but is in attainment or unclassified for all other state and federal standards.

The MBARD is required to produce plans for complying with ambient air quality standards in its jurisdiction every 3 years. As MBARD's contribution to the California State implementation Plan (SIP), three local plans have been prepared: (1) the 2008 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for achieving the 2006 California O<sub>3</sub> standard; (2) the 2007 Federal Maintenance Plan, for maintaining the 1997 federal O<sub>3</sub> standard; and (3) the 2005 Particulate Matter Plan, for particulate matter made in response to Senate Bill 656. Consistency determinations with the AQMP are used by the MBARD to address a project's cumulative impact on regional air quality. Projects that are not consistent with the AQMP are not accommodated in the AQMP, and will have a significant cumulative impact on regional air quality unless emissions are entirely offset. Consistency of direct emissions associated with equipment or process operations of a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility subject to MBARD permit authority is determined by assessing whether the emission source complies with all applicable MBARD rules and regulations, including emission offset and emission control requirements; and/or whether or not project emissions are accommodated in the AQMP.

MBARD has established quantitative significance thresholds for both construction and operational phases of a project. Construction activities (e.g., excavation, grading, on-site vehicles) that would directly generate 82 pounds per day or more of PM<sub>10</sub> would have a significant impact on local air quality when they are located nearby and upwind of sensitive receptors. Also, the potential screening-level threshold is for projects that would affect 2.2 to 8.1 acres per day, depending on the level of earthmoving (grading/excavation) that is contemplated.

According to MBARD, projects using typical construction equipment such as dump trucks, scrapers, bulldozers, compactors and front-end loaders that temporarily emit precursors of ozone (i.e., VOC or NOX), are accommodated in the emission inventories of state- and federally-required air plans, and would not have a significant impact on the attainment and maintenance of ozone AAQS (MBARD, 2008). Therefore, emissions of these criteria pollutants during construction that uses typical equipment would not cause or substantially contribute to the violation of other state or national AAQS.

Construction activities for the Proposed Project would begin in the winter of 2023 or the spring/summer of 2024 and take approximately 12 months (i.e., Approximately 6 months of heavy activity and 12 months overall) and would include grading activities. However, construction activities would not result in affecting more than 1.0 acres per day. Overall construction work would require the use of various types of mostly diesel-powered equipment, including bulldozers, wheel loaders, excavators, and various kinds of trucks.

Construction activities typically result in emissions of particulate matter, usually in the form of fugitive dust from activities such as trenching and grading. Emissions of particulate matter vary day-to-day, depending on the level and type of activity, silt content of the soil, and the prevailing weather. Estimated construction emissions for the construction of the Proposed project were generated by using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's URBEMIS Construction Emissions Model. (Note that this model was used because it has been ideal for estimating

construction projects like this). The URBEMIS Construction Emissions Model is a Microsoft Excel worksheet available to assess the emissions of linear construction projects. The estimated construction equipment fleet-mix and the acreage and soil volume are put into the URBEMIS model in order to determine potential emissions. See Appendix B and Table 2 below.

As shown in Table 2, the Proposed Project's construction emissions would not exceed MBARD's daily and/or annual significance thresholds.

MBARD's approach to analyses of construction impacts (as noted in their CEQA Guidelines) is to emphasize implementation of effective and comprehensive basic construction control measures rather than detailed quantification of emissions. With implementation of the mitigation measures below, the Proposed Project's construction-related impacts would be further reduced to less-than-significant levels.

<b>Table 2</b>					
<b>Estimated Proposed Project Construction Emissions</b>					
<b>Construction Phase</b>	<b>Construction Emissions (lbs/day)</b>				
	<b>ROG</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub>*</b>
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.9	8.9	7.8	1.3	0.5
Grading/Excavation	4.5	42.9	40.9	2.9	1.9
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	3.7	34.5	33.3	2.5	1.6
Paving	1.4	15.4	13.4	0.7	0.6
<b>Maximum (lbs/day)**</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Total Tons Project/ Year</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>MBARD's Thresholds of Significance</b>					
Pounds per Day	137	550	137	82	82
Tons per Project/Year	25	100	25	15	15
<b>Potentially Significant Impact?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated. MBARD does not have specific threshold for PM<sub>2.5</sub></li> </ul>					

**Mitigation Measure AIR-1: Basic Construction Mitigation Measures Recommended for ALL Proposed Construction Projects.** During all phases of construction and as appropriate, the following procedures shall be implemented:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily. Frequency should be based on the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure.
- Prohibit all grading activities during periods of high wind (over 15 mph).
- Apply chemical soil stabilizers on inactive construction areas (disturbed lands within construction projects that are unused for at least four consecutive days).
- Apply non-toxic binders (e.g., latex acrylic copolymer) to exposed areas after cut and fill operations and hydro seed area.
- Haul trucks shall maintain at least 2'0" of freeboard.
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials.

- Plant tree windbreaks on the windward perimeter of construction projects if adjacent to open land.
- Plant vegetative ground cover in disturbed areas as soon as possible.
- Cover inactive storage piles.
- Install wheel washers at the entrance to construction sites for all exiting trucks.
- Pave all roads on construction sites.
- Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.
- Post a publicly visible sign which specifies the telephone number and person to contact regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond to complaints and take corrective action within 48 hours. The phone number of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District shall be visible to ensure compliance with Rule 402 (Nuisance).
- Limit the area under construction at any one time.
- Limit the pieces of equipment used at any one time.
- Minimize the use of diesel-powered equipment (i.e., wheeled tractor, wheeled loader, roller) by using gasoline-powered equipment to reduce NOx emissions.
- Limit the hours of operation for heavy-duty equipment.
- Undertake project during non-zone season (November 1 – April 30).
- Off-site mitigation

Once operational, emission sources resulting from project operations would be associated with primarily regular maintenance and inspection work. Operational impacts for the Proposed Project, even if detectable, would be well below MBARD's thresholds identified above and would likely be considered less-than-significant. With respect to project conformity with the federal Clean Air Act, the Proposed Project's potential emissions are well below minimum thresholds and are below the area's inventory specified for each criteria pollutant designated non-attainment or maintenance for the North Central Coast Air Basin. As such, further general conformity analysis would not likely be required.

- (c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** As stated above, the entire San Francisco Bay Area is currently designated "non-attainment" for the state PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards, and the state 1-hour ozone standard. The Bay Area is in "attainment" or "unclassified" with respect to the other ambient air quality standards. The MBARD is active in establishing and enforcing air pollution control rules and regulations in order to attain all state and federal ambient air quality standards and to minimize public exposure to airborne toxins and nuisance odors. Air emissions would be generated during construction of the Proposed Project, which could increase criteria air pollutants, including PM<sub>10</sub>. However, construction activities would be temporary and would incorporate the implementation of **Mitigation Measure AIR-1** as identified above.

As mentioned above, upon completion of construction activities, emission sources resulting from Project operations would be associated with regular maintenance and inspection work and would be essentially the same as existing conditions. Given the limited number of trips that would be required, only limited emissions would be generated; these emissions would be expected to be well below MBARD's guidelines. See Table 2 above. As such, the Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutants, and the impacts would be even less-than-significant with implementation of **Mitigation Measure AIR-1** as identified above.

- (d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Diesel emissions would result both from diesel-powered construction vehicles and any diesel trucks associated with project operation. Diesel particulate matter (DPM) has been classified by the California Air Resources Board as a toxic air contaminant for the cancer risk associated with long-term (i.e., 70 years) exposure to DPM. Given that construction would occur for a limited amount of time and that only a limited number of diesel trucks would be associated with operation of the project, localized exposure to DPM would be minimal. As a result, the cancer risks from the project associated with diesel emissions over a 70-year lifetime are very small. Therefore, the impacts related to DPM would be less-than-significant. Likewise, as noted above, the Proposed Project would not result in substantial emissions of any criteria air pollutants either during construction or operation. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors, including residents in the project vicinity, to substantial pollutant concentrations. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measure AIR-1**, impacts to sensitive receptors would be further reduced and considered to be less-than-significant. No additional mitigation measures are required.
- (e) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** During construction of the Proposed Project, the various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment in use on-site could create minor odors. These odors are not likely to be noticeable beyond the immediate area and, in addition, would be temporary and short-lived in nature. Once constructed, the operations of the Proposed Project would not result in any odor issues. Therefore, odor impacts would be less-than-significant. No specific mitigation measures are required.
- (f) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** MBARD does not have an adopted threshold of significance for construction and/or operational-related GHG emissions for projects like this. Operation of the Proposed Project is not expected to generate any significant amounts of GHG emissions. During construction of the Proposed Project, the various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment in use on-site could generate greenhouse gas emissions. However, the Proposed Project would not exceed the thresholds for NO<sub>x</sub>, which is an indicator for generating GHG emissions. MBARD's approach to analyses of construction impacts as noted in their CEQA Guidelines is to emphasize implementation of effective and comprehensive basic construction control measures rather than detailed quantification of emissions. As a result, with implementation of **Mitigation Measure AIR-1**, any potential to generate greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. No additional mitigation measures are required.
- (g) **No Impact.** The construction and/or the operation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with an application plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. No mitigation is necessary or required.

### 3.4 Biological Resources

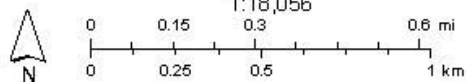
	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Proposed Project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified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

#### Discussion

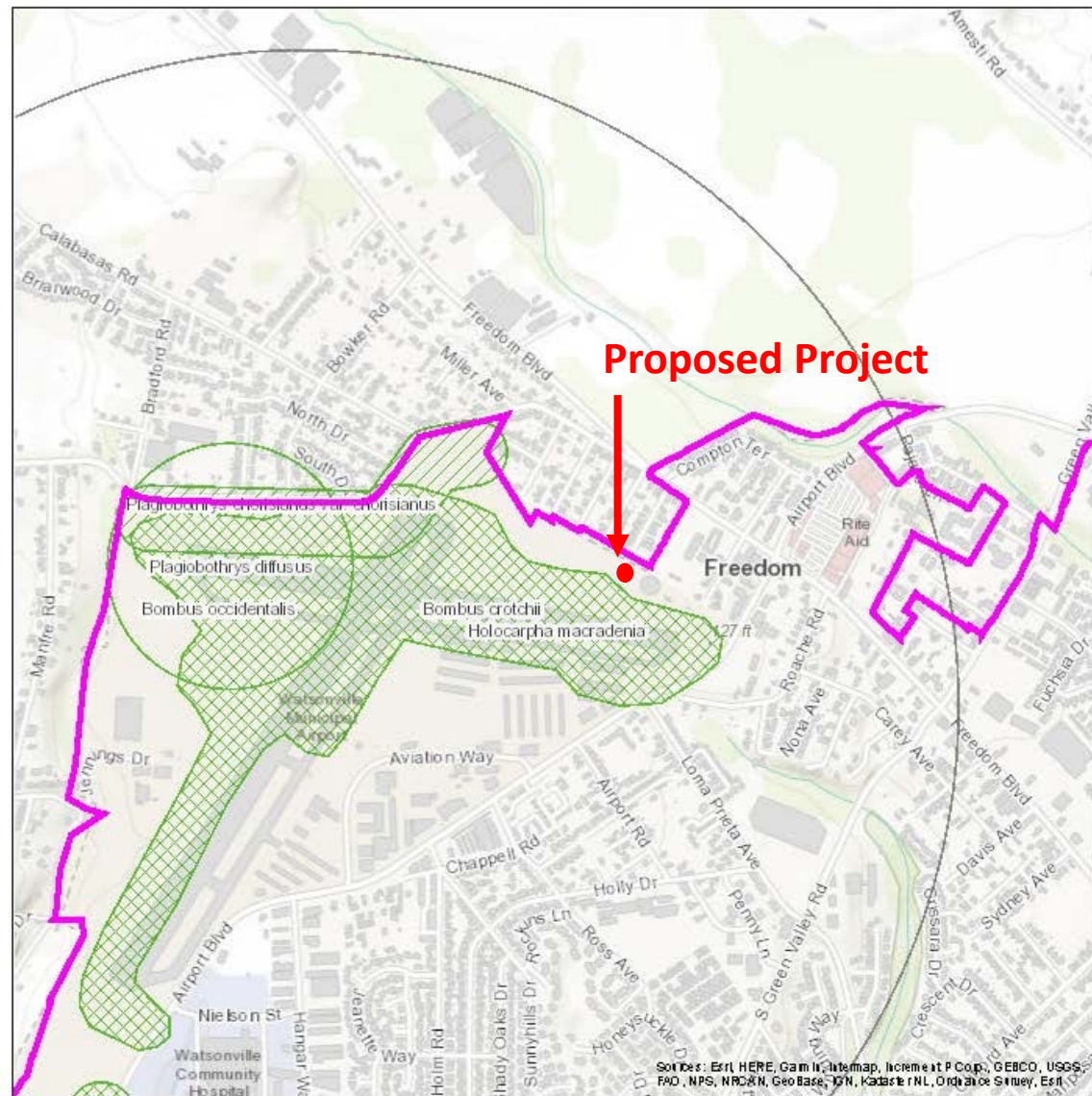
As shown in Appendix C, a record search of CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and USFWS' Species List was conducted for the area within a five-mile radius of the Project area to identify previously reported occurrences of state and federal special-status plants and animals. Figure 6 shows the location of known state and federal listed special-status species within the Project Area.

**California Natural Diversity  
Database (CNDDB) Commercial  
[ds85]**

- Plant (80m)
- Plant (specific)
- Plant (non-specific)
- Plant (circular)
- Animal (80m)
- Animal (specific)
- Animal (non-specific)
- Animal (circular)
- Terrestrial Comm. (80m)
- Terrestrial Comm. (specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (non-specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (circular)
- Aquatic Comm. (80m)
- Aquatic Comm. (specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (non-specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (circular)
- Multiple (80m)
- Multiple (specific)
- Multiple (non-specific)
- Multiple (circular)
- Sensitive EO's (Commercial only)



October 5, 2022



Sources: ERI, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri, DeLorme, Swire, etc.

Author: [stuart@smbeenvironmental.com](mailto:stuart@smbeenvironmental.com)  
Printed from: <http://blor.dig.ca.gov>



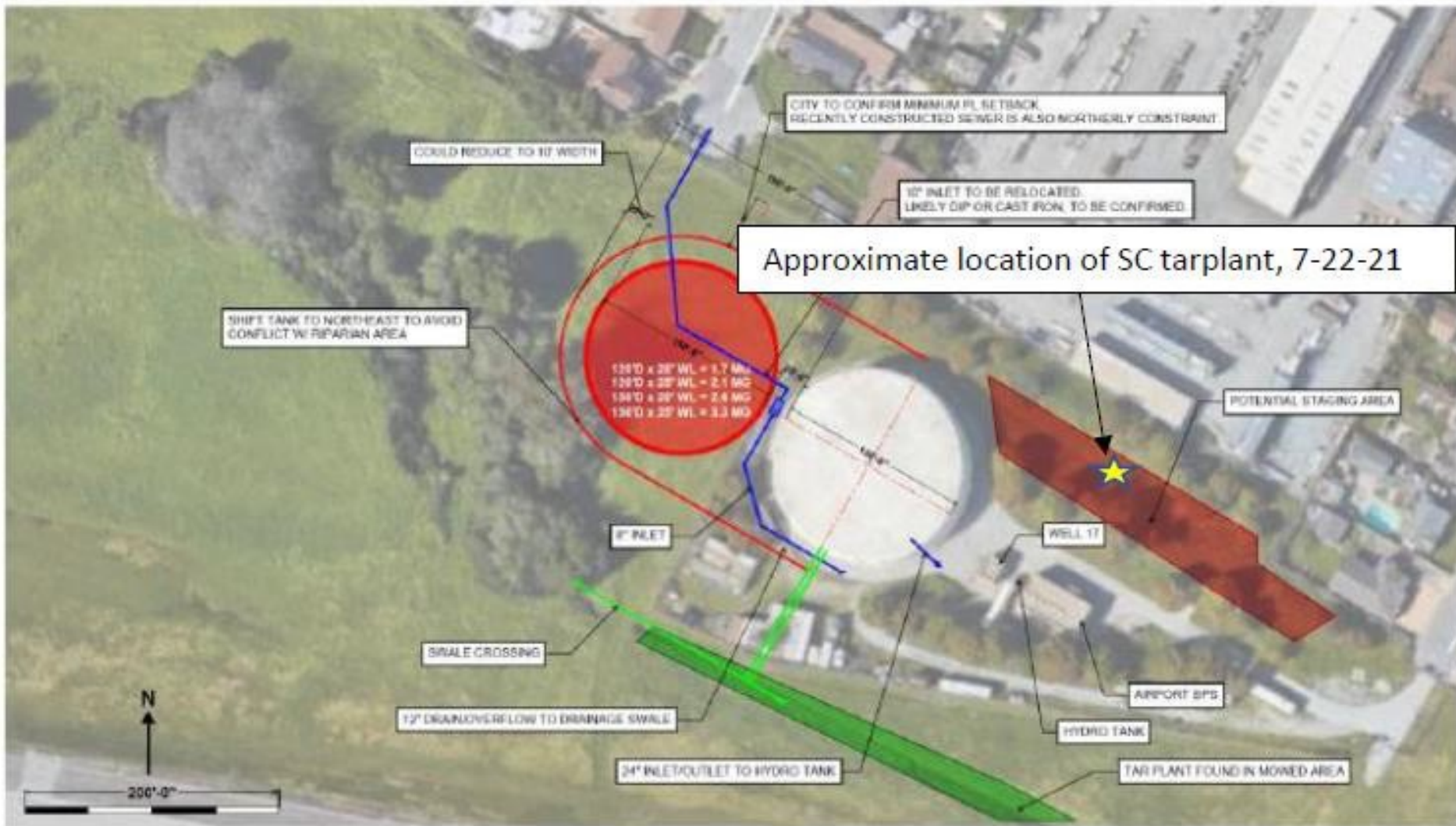
The Proposed Reservoir Site is located within lands managed as part of the Watsonville Airport, within the City of Watsonville. The site is adjacent to an existing City-owned/operated reservoir, residential land uses, and undeveloped airport lands. The site is accessed from a gate at the end of Burchell Avenue. The footprint of the Proposed Project supports grassland. A riparian woodland is located along the southern edge of the site. As shown on Figure 6, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has designated critical habitat for Santa Cruz Tarplant (SCT) and encompasses most of the airport property, including the proposed reservoir site. The grassland at the proposed reservoir site is considered potential habitat for this species due to the presence of primary constituent elements (PCE's) for the species. These constituents include soils associated with coastal prairie species, plant communities that support associated coastal prairie species, and the close proximity of known occurrences of the species. While the Proposed Reservoir Site has not been documented as supporting individuals of SCT over multi-year surveys, since 2001, the area has been and is currently mapped as critical habitat for SCT species.

In April and July, 2021, a biological field surveys were conducted during the blooming/identification of most annual/biennial plant species. One special status plant species (SCT) was documented during the survey. This one individual SCT plant was observed within the Proposed Project's staging area, as depicted on Figure 7. No other special status plant species were found on site. On July 28, 2022, the area was re-surveyed and no special status plant species were found in the Project Area, including the one SCT plant found in 2021. It appears that no seed from the one plant observed in 2021 germinated to produce plants in 2022.

The occurrence of the one (1) 2021 SCT plant within the Proposed Project area suggests that the grassland in/around the Zone 2 Reservoir Project Area could support viable SCT seed in the soil seedbank. The process of salvaging, stockpiling, and replacing the upper 1-2 inches of topsoil may be conducive to SCT seed germination. Areas temporarily disturbed by construction could provide bare ground/openings that are conducive to germination and growth of SCT. In addition, seeds from the nearby SCT population within other Watsonville Airport areas could be transported to the Zone 2 Reservoir construction area by animals and/or equipment and the seed could find suitable growing conditions in areas temporarily disturbed by construction.

- (a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The construction of the Proposed Project could have a temporary, but substantial adverse effect, either directly or through disturbances to several by CDFW and USFWS. Table 3 below provides a list of the potential for special status species to occur within the Project Study area. As a result, the following mitigation measures and procedures are proposed to reduce any impacts to less-than-significant levels:

**Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Conduct A Pre-construction Survey for Special Status Wildlife Species.** A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for state and federal special status plant and wildlife species (including SCT) no more than 10-days prior to construction. A combination of visual and trapping surveys may be performed with authorization from CDFW and/or USFWS. If a wildlife special species is found near any proposed construction areas, impacts on individuals and their habitat shall be avoided to the extent feasible. If occupied habitat can be avoided, an exclusion zone shall be established around the habitat and temporary suitable/authorized fencing shall be installed around the buffer area with "Sensitive Habitat Area" signs posted and clearly visible on



**Table 3**  
**Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area**

Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
<b>Plants</b>				
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i> Marsh Sandwort	FE	Native to the west coast of North America in <u>California</u> , where it is known from only a few remaining occurrences in the <u>Central Coast of California</u> region.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Arctostaphylos andersonii</i> Anderson's manzanita	List 1B.2	Limited in geography to the <u>Santa Cruz Mountains of California</u> . It grows in openings in <u>redwood</u> forests, usually below 700 meters (2300 feet) elevation.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i> ssp. <i>hookeri</i> Hooker's manzanita	List 1B.2	Endemic to California where its range is from the Coastal San Francisco Bay to the Central Coast.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Arctostaphylos pajaroensis</i> Pajaro manzanita	List 1B.1	Endemic to <u>California</u> , where it is known mainly from <u>Monterey County</u> . Historical occurrences have been noted in Santa Cruz County and far western <u>San Benito County</u> — these may no longer exist. Most of the extant populations are located in the hills south of the <u>Pajaro River Valley</u> . It is a member of the <u>chaparral</u> plant community.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>congdonii</i> Congdon's tarplant	List 1B.1	Seasonal wetlands on heavy clay, saline, or alkaline soils in grasslands and disturbed sites; typically growing in colonies, most common in areas that retain water for a longer period of time and in areas that have a lower density of competing non-native annual grasses.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>pungens</i> Monterey Spineflower	FT List 1B.2	Grows mainly in <u>coastal</u> habitat and that of the hills and mountains overlooking the coastline.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>robusta</i> robust spineflower	FE List 1B.1	Endemic to the central coast of California in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Marin counties.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.

**Table 3**  
**Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area**

Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
Erysimum ammophilum Sand-loving wallflower	List 1B.2	It is <a href="#">endemic</a> to <a href="#">California</a> , where it is an uncommon beach-dwelling wildflower. It is known from dunes and bluffs near <a href="#">Monterey Bay</a> , the coastline of <a href="#">San Diego County</a> , and parts of the <a href="#">Channel Islands</a> .	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria Monterey Gilia	FE, ST, List 1B.2	Endemic to <a href="#">California</a> , where its distribution spans the central coast and <a href="#">coastal</a> mountains, as well as the <a href="#">Channel Islands</a> .	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
Holocarpha macradenia Santa Cruz Tarplant	FT, SE List 1B.1	Likes to inhabit terraced locations of coastal or valley <a href="#">prairie grasslands</a> with underlying sandy <a href="#">clay</a> soils. Its characteristic habitat is in the <a href="#">California coastal prairie</a> ecosystem, which may be the oldest stable <a href="#">ecosystem</a> of the <a href="#">temperate</a> world dating from about 600,000 years ago.	<b>Present. Suitable habitat for this species does occur in or around the Study Area.</b>	<b>Conduct Preconstruction Survey for the species. Fence off and avoid if possible. Coordinate with USFWS and CDFW as appropriate.</b>
Horkelia cuneata var. sericea Kellogg's horkelia	List 1B.1	Habitat includes old dunes, coastal sandhills, or sandy or gravelly openings in closed-cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, or coastal scrub, gen < 200 m.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
Monolopia gracilens Woodland woollythreads	List 1B.2	It is endemic to California, where it is known from the mountains of the San Francisco Bay Area and ranges just to the south. It grows in grassland, chaparral, woodland, and other habitat, often on serpentine soils.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
Pedicularis dudleyi Dudley's lousewort	List 1B.2	Endemic to Central California, where it is known from about ten scattered occurrences along the coast and in the coastal mountain ranges.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.

Table 3 Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area				
Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus Choris' popcornflower	List 1B.2	Habitat includes vernal wet swales, vernal pools, and saturated soils of herbaceous-plant dominated cliffs and marsh edges along the coast; set in coastal prairie and openings and meadows in oak woodland or mixed-evergreen forest; < 650 m.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Plagiobothrys diffusus</i> San Francisco popcorn flower	List 1B.1	Annual herb that is believed to be extinct.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<b>Mammals</b>				
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American Badger	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Requires friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat is present in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> San Joaquin Kit Fox	FE	Requires dens for shelter, protection and reproduction, a habitat's soil type is important. Loose-textured soils are preferable, but modification of the burrows of other animals facilitates denning in other soil types.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat is present in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<b>Birds</b>				
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored Blackbird	SSC	Usually nests over or near freshwater in dense cattails, tules, or thickets of willow, blackberry, wild rose or other tall herbs.	<b>Moderate. Proposed construction could extend into the breeding/nesting season (February 1 and August 31).</b>	<b>If construction does occur within the breeding/nesting season (February 1 and August 31) conduct pre-construction surveys.</b>
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> Marbled Murrelet	FT	It nests in old-growth <a href="#">forests</a> or on the ground at higher latitudes where trees cannot grow.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i> Western Snowy Plover	FT	scurries across sandy habitats as inconspicuously as a puff of sea foam blown by the wind. These pale brown shorebirds are highlighted with a black or brown partial collar and a short black bill. They are	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.



**Table 3**  
**Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area**

Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
		hardy survivors that forage for invertebrates on ocean beaches and in desolate salt flats and alkaline lakes. Snowy Plovers make nearly invisible nests on beaches, where they are easily disturbed by humans, dogs, and beach vehicles.		
Empidonax traillii extimus Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	FE	As their name implies, occupy areas with willows or other shrubs near standing or running water. But in the Pacific Northwest, they may also breed in drier scrubby areas. In winter, they use shrubby clearings, pastures, and woodland edges often near water.	<b>Moderate. Proposed construction could extend into the breeding/nesting season (February 1 and August 31).</b>	<b>If construction does occur within the breeding/nesting season (February 1 and August 31) conduct pre-construction surveys.</b>
<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> <i>California Least tern</i>	FE	The breeding colonies are not dense and may appear along either marine or estuarine shores, or on sandbar islands in large rivers, in areas free from humans or predators.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is not present in the Study Area.	As a precautionary measure, pre-construction breeding bird surveys should be conducted for any activities occurring between February 1 <sup>st</sup> and August 31. <sup>st</sup>
Vireo bellii pusillus Least Bell's Vireo	FE	The northernmost reported sighting in recent years is of a nesting pair of least Bell's vireos near <a href="#">Gilroy</a> in <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a> in 1997. Roughly half of the current least Bell's vireo population occurs on drainages within <a href="#">Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton</a> in San Diego County, particularly in the lower <a href="#">Santa Margarita River</a> .	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
Riparia riparia bank swallow	ST	Live in low areas along rivers, streams, ocean coasts, and reservoirs. Their territories usually include vertical cliffs or banks where they nest in colonies of 10 to 2,000 nests.	<b>Moderate. Proposed construction could extend into the breeding/nesting season (February 1 and August 31).</b>	<b>If construction does occur within the breeding/nesting season (February 1 and August 31) conduct pre-construction surveys.</b>

**Table 3**  
**Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area**

Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
<b>Amphibians</b>				
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> California Tiger Salamander	FT, SSC	Inhabits annual grass habitat and mammal burrows. Seasonal ponds and vernal pools crucial to breeding.	Unlikely. Annual grassland habitat is limited in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i> Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander	FE, SE	Most of this salamander's adult life is spent in upland <a href="#">coast live oak</a> forest in small animal burrows during the long dry season (May to October) in coastal California. Once winter rains have soaked the soil and filled ephemeral streams, both males and females migrate up to 2 km to breeding ponds that exist only in winter	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Aneides niger</i> Santa Cruz black salamander	SSC	The black salamander is found in forested areas and grassland in the coastal ranges of south western United States mostly at elevations below 600 meters (2,000 ft) but occasionally up to 1,700 meters (5,600 ft).	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Anniella pulchra</i> northern California legless lizard	SSC	Can be found in a large part of the state. The <a href="#">U.S. Forest Service</a> said the lizards can be found from Antioch to Baja California, Mexico, in elevations up to 6,000 feet. Wildlife officials also said the legless lizards can be found at the <a href="#">Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge</a> in California, which stretches 367 acres along the Central Coast.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Clemmys marmorata</i> Western Pond Turtle	SSC	Occurs in perennial ponds, lakes, rivers and streams with suitable basking habitat (mud banks, mats of floating vegetation, partially submerged logs) and submerged shelter.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.

Table 3 Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area				
Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
Dicamptodon ensatus California giant salamander	SSC	Natural habitats are temperate <a href="#">forests</a> , <a href="#">rivers</a> , freshwater <a href="#">lakes</a> , and freshwater <a href="#">marshes</a> in northern California.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i> California Red-legged Frog	FT, SSC	Associated with quiet perennial to intermittent ponds, stream pools and wetlands. Prefers shorelines with extensive vegetation. Documented to disperse through upland habitats after rains.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Rana boylei</i> Foothill yellow-legged frog	FSC, SCT, SSC	Occur in the Coast Ranges from the <a href="#">Santiam River</a> in <a href="#">Marion County, Oregon</a> south to the <a href="#">San Gabriel River</a> in <a href="#">Los Angeles County</a> and along the west slopes of the Sierra/Cascade mountain ranges in most of central and northern California.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<b>Fish</b>				
Eucyclogobius newberryi Tidewater Goby	FE	Inhabits lagoons formed by streams running into the sea, as well as semi-closed estuaries.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> Delta smelt	FT	Found in large, main channels and open areas of the Bay. Occur from tidal freshwater reaches of the Delta west to eastern San Pablo Bay.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 8 steelhead - central California coast DPS	FT	Drainages of San Francisco and San Pablo bays, central Calif. Coastal rivers.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is not present in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 9 steelhead - south-central California coast DPS	FT	Drainages of San Francisco and San Pablo bays, central Calif. Coastal rivers.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is not present in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species
<b>Reptiles</b>				
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i> San. Francisco Giant garter snake	FE, SSC	Generally, inhabits marshes, sloughs, ponds, slow moving streams, ditches, and rice fields which have water from early spring through mid-fall, emergent vegetation, open areas and	Unlikely. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.



Table 3 Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area				
Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
		high ground for hibernation and escape cover.		
<b>Insects</b>				
<i>Bombus caliginosus</i> obscure bumble bee	None	Has three basic habitat requirements: suitable nesting sites for the colonies, nectar and pollen from floral resources available throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for the queens.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	None	Has three basic habitat requirements: suitable nesting sites for the colonies, nectar and pollen from floral resources available throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for the queens.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i> western bumble bee	None	Has three basic habitat requirements: suitable nesting sites for the colonies, nectar and pollen from floral resources available throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for the queens.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i> Monarch - California overwintering population	SC	In both caterpillar and butterfly form, monarchs are aposematic, warding off predators with a bright display of contrasting colors to warn potential predators of their undesirable taste and poisonous characteristics. One monarch researcher emphasizes that predation on eggs, larvae or adults is natural, since monarchs are part of the food chain, thus people should not take steps to kill predators of monarchs.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.	No further actions are recommended for this species.
Key to status codes: FE Federal Endangered				

Table 3 Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur in the Proposed Project Study Area				
Species	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence	Recommendations
FT Federal Threatened FC Federal Candidate FD Federal De-listed FP Federal Proposed FPD Federal Proposed for De-listing FPT Federal Proposed Threatened FSC Federal Species of Concern NMFS Species under the Jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service BCC USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern RP Sensitive species included in a USFWS Recovery Plan or Draft Recovery Plan SE State Endangered SC State Candidate ST State Threatened SR State Rare SP State Proposed SSC CDFW Species of Special Concern Draft SSC 4 April 2000 Draft CDFG Species of Special Concern CFP CDFW Fully Protected Animal WBWG Western Bat Working Group High Priority species SLC Species of Local Concern List 1A CNPS List 1A: Plants presumed extinct in California List 1B CNPS List 1B: Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere List 2 CNPS List 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere List 3 CNPS List 3: Plants about which CNPS needs more information (a review list)				

the outside of the fence. If avoidance is not possible and the species is determined to be present in work areas, the qualified biologist with prior approval from CDFW and/or USFWS may capture the wildlife special status species prior to construction activities and relocate them to nearby, suitable habitat a minimum of 300-feet from the work area. Exclusion fencing shall then be installed if feasible to prevent them from reentering the work area. For the duration of work in these areas, the biologist should conduct regular follow-up visits to monitor effectiveness.

**Mitigation Measure Bio-2: Santa Cruz Tar Plant Procedures.** The following measures are recommended to avoid and minimize potential impacts to SCT during construction of the Zone 2 Reservoir Project:

- **Qualified Botanist/Biologist for SCT Surveys.** The City will submit the name and credentials of the botanist/ to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) who will conduct pre-construction surveys and other activities specified for SCT. No project activities will begin until the City receives approval from the USFWS and CDFW that the botanist/biologist is qualified to conduct the work.
- **Avoid Known SCT Occurrence(s).** The Zone 2 Reservoir Project plans shall be revised to avoid direct impact to all known SCT. A 100-foot buffer shall be established around all SCT plant(s) as documented in the 2021 survey, or in subsequent surveys if construction is delayed.

- **Pre-Construction Surveys for SCT.** If construction is delayed past summer 2023, a USFWS and CDFW approved botanist/biologist shall re-survey the Zone 2 Reservoir construction corridor (including access routes and staging areas) for SCT plants. The survey shall be conducted in the summer prior to construction during the blooming period of the SCT (i.e., July/August), as evidenced by the presence of blooming SCT plants within known colonies on the Watsonville Airport property. The objective of the survey is to determine the presence/absence of above-ground SCT plants within the construction corridor. If construction is delayed past another SCT growing season, the survey shall be repeated the following summer. If SCT plants are found in the project area, project construction within 100 feet of the SCT plant(s) will be halted and if impacts cannot be avoided and the take of the species may occur, the USFWS and CDFW will be contacted and consultation with the USFWS under the Federal ESA and CDFW under the California ESA will be conducted. If no SCT plants are found, construction can proceed and no consultation is required.
- **Worker Training on SCT and Habitat.** Prior to commencement of project activities, the USFWS/CDFW approved botanist/biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel. The training will include the means to identify SCT and its habitat, and avoidance measures to be implemented should a SCT plant be encountered during the construction period.
- **Salvaged and Stockpiled Soil.** The top 1-2 inches of the soil within all grassland areas to be impacted for the Zone 2 Reservoir Project shall be stripped and stockpiled in order to preserve the potential SCT seed bank. Prior to soil salvage, the City will mow the grassland within the construction corridor to a maximum 2-3-inch grass height. Cut material will be raked and removed from the site. Soil salvage will scrape off the upper 1-2 inches of topsoil and deposit this soil within a designated salvage area. This area will be fenced and the area posted as a 'Designated SCT Soil Salvage Area'; no other soil shall be stockpiled at this location. After construction, the stockpiled soil will be replaced on the top of all temporarily disturbed areas to a depth of 1-2 inches. The soil will be lightly compacted; the replaced topsoil will be left bare or very lightly seeded for temporary erosion control using cereal barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). The City will designate an additional SCT soil receiver site for the remainder of the stockpiled soil.

The additional SCT soil receiver site shall be located in a previously-disturbed area that does not currently support SCT or any primary constituent elements (PCE's) for the species. USFWS and CDFW will pre-approve the soil receiver site prior to construction. The stockpiled soil will be lightly placed on the upper 1-2 inches of the receiver site and lightly compacted. The replaced topsoil will be left bare or very lightly seeded for temporary erosion control using cereal barley (*Hordeum vulgare*).

- **Designated Construction Corridor:** A 6-foot-high chain link fence shall be erected 15-feet away from the construction area, access route and staging areas. No vehicles, equipment or construction material will be permitted outside the construction corridor. Equipment, construction material stockpiles and vehicles will only be permitted to be stored in the paved area of the Watsonville Water Well No. 17 site.
- **Post-Construction Monitoring for SCT:** The City will engage the services of a qualified botanist to survey the temporarily-disturbed construction areas and the SCT soil receiver site to determine if SCT have colonized any areas subject to temporary disturbance and/or soil stockpile placement. The potential emergence of any SCT within temporarily disturbed areas and the SCT soil receiver site will be monitored in the summer-blooming period for SCT in the two summers following completion of construction. If SCT is detected within these areas a report of findings will be sent to CDFW and USFWS. A CNDDDB Field Survey Form will be completed and submitted to CDFW. If no SCT are found, a memo will be sent to CDFW and USFWS.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Conduct Bird Breeding and Nesting Surveys.** For construction activities that occur between February 1 and August 31, preconstruction breeding and nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to and within 10 days of any initial ground-disturbance activities. Surveys shall be conducted within all suitable nesting habitat within 250-feet of the activity. All active, non-status passerine nests identified at that time shall be protected by a 50-foot radius minimum exclusion zone. Active raptor or special-status species nests shall be protected by a buffer with a minimum radius of 200-feet. CDFW and USFWS recommend that a minimum 500-foot exclusion buffer be established around active special status species nests. The following considerations apply to this mitigation measure:

- Survey results are valid for 14-days from the survey date. Should ground disturbance commence later than 14-days from the survey date, surveys should be repeated. If no breeding birds are encountered, then work may proceed as planned.
- Exclusion zone sizes may vary, depending on habitat characteristics and species, and are generally larger for raptors and colonial nesting birds. Each exclusion zone would remain in place until the nest is abandoned or all young have fledged.
- The non-breeding season is defined as September 1 to January 31. During this period, breeding is not occurring and surveys are not required. However, if nesting birds are encountered during work activities in the non-breeding season, disturbance activities within a minimum of 50-feet of the nest should be postponed until the nest is abandoned or young birds have fledged.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Environmental Awareness Training.** All construction personnel shall be given environmental awareness training by the Proposed Project's environmental inspector or biological monitor before the start of construction. The training will familiarize all construction personnel with the federally listed species that may occur

in the Project Area, their habitats, general provisions and protections afforded by the Endangered Species Act, measures to be implemented to protect these species, and the project boundaries. This training will be provided to any new worker before they are authorized to perform project work. As part of the environmental awareness training, construction personnel will be notified that no dogs or any other pets under control of construction personnel will be allowed in the Project Area, and that no firearms will be permitted in the Project Area, unless carried by authorized security personnel or law enforcement.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Biological Monitor.** A CDFW and/or USFWS-approved Biological Monitor will be present on-site for all construction activities that occur within 100-feet of any identified suitable habitats for state and/or federally listed species that may be present during the construction of the Proposed Project. The City will submit the Biological Monitor's qualifications to the CDFW and the USFWS for approval 30-days prior to project construction. The Biological Monitor will ensure that all applicable avoidance and minimization measures are implemented during project construction. The Biological Monitor will also ensure that all vehicles entering the site are free of debris that may harbor organisms that could be introduced to the site, such as vegetation or mud from other areas.

The Biological Monitor will oversee construction activities to ensure that no state or federally listed species and/or their habitats experience unintended effects. The Biological Monitor will have the authority to stop any work activities that could result in unintended adverse effects to covered species and/or their habitats.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Staging Areas and Access Routes.** When working on habitats that support state and/or federally listed species, disturbance to existing grades and vegetation will be limited to the actual site of the Proposed Project and necessary access routes. Placement of all roads, staging areas, and other facilities will avoid and limit disturbance-sensitive habitats (e.g., riparian habitat, suitable habitats) as much as possible. All staging and material storage areas, including the locations where equipment and vehicles are parked overnight, will be placed outside of the flood zone of a watercourse, away from riparian habitat or wetland habitat, and away from any other sensitive habitats. When possible, staging and access areas will be situated in areas that are previously disturbed, such as developed areas, paved areas, parking lots, areas with bare ground or gravel, and areas clear of vegetation.

The implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts associated with the Proposed Project to a level of less-than-significant. No additional mitigation measures are required.

Once constructed, the entire Proposed Project would not have an adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW and USFWS. As a result, no long-term or permanent impacts are anticipated and no specific mitigation measures are required.

- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The construction and operation of the Proposed Project would stay outside of the dripline of the trees to the riparian area to the southwest and therefore would not 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 CDFW or USFWS, including Waters of the U.S and Waters of the State. However, the following construction mitigation measures are proposed to ensure protection of the riparian area to the southwest.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Clean Water Act Permitting and California Fish and Game Code Compliance.** If construction requires encroachment into the riparian area and as required by law, the City shall obtain relevant CWA permits (e.g., Sections 401 and 404), and a California Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement prior to implementation of work within Waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State (WOUS/WOS). All conditions identified in the permits will be implemented as part of the Proposed Project.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Protection of Riparian Habitats and Vernal Pools.** Prior to implementation of staging and construction or ground-disturbing activities, the City or its contractor shall install protective fencing around all riparian areas and vernal pools that could potentially be affected by Project activities. At no point will fencing be moved or removed during construction. No Project activities will be implemented within the protective fencing. No riparian vegetation will be removed as part of the Project.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Water Quality Best Management Practices.** Prior to commencement of ground disturbing activities, the City, or its contractor, shall comply with applicable State Water Resources Control Board regulations for Construction and Municipal Stormwater Projects.

The implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts associated with the Proposed Project to a level of less-than-significant. No additional mitigation measures are required.

- (c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The construction and operation of the Proposed Project would stay outside of the dripline of the trees to the riparian area to the southwest. This riparian area is not considered a wetland and/or a Waters of the U.S., but could be considered a Waters of the State. However, the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would stay outside of the dripline of the trees to the riparian area to the southwest. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not 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. In addition, construction **Mitigation Measures BIO-7 through BIO-9** above would also further ensure protection of the riparian area to the southwest.
- (d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** There are numerous mature trees adjacent to the Proposed Project construction activities. Mature trees can serve as perching or nesting sites for migratory birds, and their removal can adversely affect breeding behavior. These species may occur within the area, which are protected under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Fish and Wildlife Code, and/or the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 as migratory



insectivorous birds and as such are protected by state and federal regulations. As a result, the potential exists that construction activities could adversely affect special status bird species if they happen to be nesting in the mature trees and/or blackberry bushes adjacent to the Proposed Project site. Many special status bird species are sensitive to loud construction noise. Such activities could cause nest abandonment or destruction of individual active nests. Because all special status bird species and their nests are protected under 3503.5 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code, construction of the Proposed Project could result in a significant impact to these species if they happen to be nesting in one or some of these mature trees and/or blackberry bushes adjacent to the Project area. However, with the implementation of **Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-3**, these potential impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

- (e) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not expected to conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. No trees are expected to be removed. Therefore, there is no impact, and no mitigation measures are required.
- (f) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, there is no impact, and no mitigation measures are required.

### 3.5 Cultural Resources

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

### Discussion

On April 20, 2021 the Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University returned record search (20-1781), which requested known cultural resources and previous studies within the project parcel and a 1/4-mile radius around it. No cultural resources are known within the project area or the search radius. Four previous studies have examined part or all of the project area, but none of them have identified cultural resources.

In addition, a pedestrian archeological survey was conducted of the Project area on April 16, 2021. The project APE is on heavily modified landscape, surrounded by residential areas cut through by narrow riparian preserves. The site of the new tank is on a levelled flat covered at the time of the survey with dense grasses and wildflowers, bounded to the south by a shallow marsh, on the north by a gully to catch runoff from the nearby developments.

The Project area lies within the Central Coast cultural province of California, which extends from Coyote Narrows in the north to San Luis Obispo in the south, and from the Coast Ranges to the Pacific Ocean. This region is dominated by the rugged, north-south trending Coast Ranges, with rocky shorelines and small interior valleys, with large coastal plains found only along Monterey Bay and at Morro Bay. The Central Coast has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years, with some evidence for human settlement as early as 12-13,000 years ago (Jones et al. 2007:125).

The archaeological chronology of the Central Coast falls into six periods, each with distinct material cultures and artifact assemblages (Milliken and Bennyhoff 1993; Hildebrandt and Mikkelsen 1993):

- Palaeo-Indian (pre-8000 BC)
- Millingstone/Early Archaic (8000-3500 BC)
- Early (3500-600 BC)
- Middle (600 BC-1000 AD)
- Middle/late transition (1000-1250AD)
- Late (1250-1769AD)

Across these periods, three cultural complexes can be detected over the whole Central Coast region. Archaeologists call these the Millingstone culture, the Hunting Culture, and the Late culture complexes (Jones et al. 2007:135; Jones and Furneau 2002:213; Milliken et al. 2009:72-74).

The earliest Central Coast cultural complex begins in the Archaic Period and is called the Millingstone Culture. Millingstone was coastal-focused, persisted from approximately 8000-3500 BC, and takes its name from the “large numbers of well-made handstones and/or millingslabs, crude core and cobble-core tools, and less abundant flake tools and large side-notched projectile points” found consistently at archaeological sites from this period (Jones et al. 2007:136).

The period from approximately 3000 BC to 1000 AD (spanning the Early and Middle periods) is called the Hunting Culture due to the dramatic increase in stemmed and notched projectile points and flaked tool technology. Dramatic social changes are also evident: many new settlements were established, the interior ranges were occupied, and settlement and population density increased. Long-distance trade networks were established, bringing obsidian from sources in Napa and the eastern Sierra Nevada to the Central Coast. Grave goods show evidence of prestige and inherited social role, leading archaeologists to suggest that “the Hunting Culture seems to mark societies with incipient cultural complexity during a period of relative cultural stasis” (Jones et al. 2007: 139).

The Late Period also saw a turn away from the coast toward the interior, with coastal sites abandoned and new sites appearing in the interior hills and valleys. An increase in settlement numbers can be observed between 1000 and 1500 AD (Jones et al. 2007:140; Milliken et al. 2009:74). These changes coincide with the Medieval Climate Anomaly (800-1350 AD), a warm and very dry period that caused major droughts in the Central Coast area and may have caused an ecological crisis for people in the area, forcing them to find new and broader sources of food (Jones and Ferneau 2002:205).

Habitation sites in the Late Period are typically small middens near clusters of bedrock mortars, reflecting an increased reliance on acorns for food. The material culture of the period is also different, with Desert side-notched and Cottonwood projectile points, bead drills, bedrock mortars, hopper mortars, steatite disk beads, and new types of shell beads being introduced. There is substantial continuity of sites from around 1250 AD to the arrival of the Spanish in 1769, suggesting that the tribal communities known from historic and ethnographic sources originated in the Late Period (Jones et al. 2007:140).

At contact with the Spanish, the Cajastac local tribe lived in or near the project area, with a large village somewhere between Aptos and Corralitos; they may have been a subgroup of the larger Aptos tribe. The Cajastac spoke the Mutsun dialect of the Ohlone language group, which was spoken in the Santa

Clara valley south of Coyote Narrows and in the watershed of the Pajaro river, including the modern towns of Gilroy, Castroville, San Juan Bautista, Watsonville, and Hollister and surrounding hills (Milliken 2002:31; Milliken et al. 2009:33; Golla 2007:75). 67 members of the Cajastac group were baptized at Mission Santa Cruz in the 1790s (Milliken 1995).

Freedom Boulevard was established as the main road between Aptos and Watsonville by 1889 (Hatch 1889), and the land in and near the project area was subdivided into small rural plots by that time. The 1912 USGS map shows a line of houses along Freedom Boulevard, with the village of Freedom having been developed by that time. In 1931, an aerial photograph shows the project area in orchards, which was the predominant land use in the area north of Freedom. The Watsonville airport was constructed in the 1940s on more or less its current alignment; by 1948 aerial photos and USGS maps show that suburban development had displaced most of the orchards along Freedom Boulevard (USGS 1948, 1954). The current water storage tank was constructed in the 1980s.

Little ground is visible in the western part of the APE, where the new tank will be constructed; what is visible is apparently slopewash and redistributed soils from the recent sewer installation and the bioswale to the west. The eastern portion of the APE, where the old tank is sited, has a built landscape north of the access road, with lawn-covered hummocks planted with non-native trees. The area south of the access road and utility buildings is dedicated to a large boneyard where various stores of equipment and portable buildings and other ephemera are piled along the fence bordering the runway. A new sewer line has recently been installed along the north edge of the APE, and the exposed soils are yellow-brown compact clay. Although some native Oat grass is present in the field, most of the growth appears to be invasive grasses and wildflowers, while the riparian areas are predominantly willow, alder and oak, bounded by poison oak and blackberries.

Soil in the project APE is yellowish brown clay loam or sandy clay loam. No cultural resources were observed during the survey.

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. No listed or historical properties exist within the Proposed Project Area. As a result, there is no impact associated with the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project and no specific mitigation is required.
- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** No known significant archaeological resources are known to exist within the Project area. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not likely to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of unique archaeological resources. Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not have any effect on archeological resources. Nevertheless, there is a slight chance that construction activities of the Proposed Project could result in accidentally discovering unique archaeological resources during construction. However, to further reduce this less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

**Mitigation Measure CR-1: Halt Work if Cultural Resources are Discovered.** In the event that any prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, all work within 100-feet of the resources shall be halted and after notification, the City shall consult with a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. If any find is determined to be significant (CEQA Guidelines

15064.5[a][3] or as unique archaeological resources per Section 21083.2 of the California Public Resources Code), representatives of the City and a qualified archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate course of action. In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist in order to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the lead agency shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) shall be instituted. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is carried out.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measure, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to archeological resources.

- (c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Paleontological resources are the fossilized evidence of past life found in the geologic record. Despite the tremendous volume of sedimentary rock deposits preserved worldwide, and the enormous number of organisms that have lived through time, preservation of plant or animal remains as fossils is an extremely rare occurrence. Because of the infrequency of fossil preservation, fossils – particularly vertebrate fossils – are considered to be nonrenewable resources. Because of their rarity, and the scientific information they can provide, fossils are highly significant records of ancient life.

No known significant paleontological resources exist within the Project area. Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not have any effect on paleontological resources. Also, because the Proposed Project would result in minimal, if any, excavation in bedrock conditions, significant paleontological discovery would be unlikely. However, fossil discoveries can be made even in areas of supposed low sensitivity. In the event a paleontological resource is encountered during project activities, implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant.

**Mitigation Measure CR-2: Stop Work if Paleontological Resources are Discovered.** If paleontological resources, such as fossilized bone, teeth, shell, tracks, trails, casts, molds, or impressions are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work will stop in that area and within 100-feet of the find until a qualified paleontologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with the City.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measure, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to unique paleontological or geological resources.

- (d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** There are no known burial sites within the project area. Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not have any effect on human remains. Nonetheless, the possibility exists that subsurface construction activities may encounter undiscovered human remains. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce this potentially significant impact to a level of less-than-significant.

**Mitigation Measure CR-3: Halt Work if Human Remains are Found.** If human remains are encountered during excavation activities conducted for the Proposed Project, all work in the adjacent area shall stop immediately and the Santa Cruz County Coroner's office shall be notified. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American in origin, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified and will identify the Most Likely Descendent, who will be consulted for recommendations for treatment of the discovered human remains and any associated burial goods.



### 3.6 Geology and Soils

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

#### Discussion

- a) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not expose people to substantial adverse risks of loss, injury, or death since the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures. The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss and injury due to a seismic event. Therefore, construction

and operation of the Proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact. No mitigation is required or necessary.

- b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The operation of the Proposed Project would not result in any excavation and earthmoving that would cause erosion or loss of topsoil. Construction activities would involve excavation, moving, filling, and the temporary stockpiling of soil. Earthwork associated with development construction could expose soils to erosion. As a result, the following mitigation is proposed as a precautionary measure:

**Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Erosion and Sedimentation Prevention Procedures.** The City, or its contractor, shall comply with applicable State Water Resources Control Board regulations for Construction and Municipal Stormwater Projects.

With the incorporation of this mitigation measure, any resulting impacts would be considered to be less-than-significant.

- (c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project is not located in an area that has moderate to high liquefaction potential. However, the soil in the area may have a high susceptibility to liquefaction during seismic shaking due in part to the size and weight of a full reservoir. Lateral spreading, often associated with liquefaction, is less likely because there are no steep banks or hard ground bordering the Proposed Project area, but could still potentially be a hazard. As a result, the following mitigation is proposed as a precautionary measure:

**Mitigation Measure GEO-2: Conduct Geotechnical Investigation.** The City shall conduct a design-level geotechnical study/investigation to project implementation to determine proper design and construction methods, including design of any soil remediation measures as required to reduce hazards caused by landslides, liquefaction, and/or lateral spreading.

With the incorporation of this mitigation measure, any resulting impacts would be considered to be less-than-significant.

- (d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project could be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). However, with the incorporation of **Mitigation Measures GEO-2** above, any impacts would be less-than-significant.
- (e) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no adverse effects to soil resources are expected. No mitigation is required.

### 3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Proposed Project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Operation of the Proposed Project would not involve the routine transportation, use, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous materials. However,

construction of the Proposed Project could temporarily increase the transport of materials generally regarded as hazardous materials that are used in construction activities. It is anticipated that limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluids, paint, and other similarly related materials would be brought onto the project site, used, and stored during the construction period. The types and quantities of materials to be used could pose a significant risk to the public and/or the environment. In addition, construction of the Proposed Project could result in the exposure of construction workers and residents to potentially contaminated soils. As a result, the following mitigation measures are proposed:

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Store, Handle, Use Hazardous Materials in Accordance with Applicable Laws.** The City shall ensure that all construction-related and operational hazardous materials and hazardous wastes shall be stored, handled, and used in a manner consistent with relevant and applicable federal, state, and local laws. In addition, construction-related and operational hazardous materials and hazardous wastes shall be staged and stored away from stream channels and steep banks to keep these materials a safe distance from near-by residents and prevent them from entering surface waters in the event of an accidental release.

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Properly Dispose of Contaminated Soil and/or Groundwater.** If contaminated soil and/or groundwater is encountered or if suspected contamination is encountered during project construction, work shall be halted in the area, and the type and extent of the contamination shall be identified. A contingency plan to dispose of any contaminated soil or groundwater will be developed through consultation with appropriate regulatory agencies.

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Equipment Inspection and Maintenance.** The City shall ensure that well-maintained equipment will be used to perform the work, and except in the case of a failure or breakdown, equipment maintenance will be performed off-site. Equipment will be inspected daily by the operator for leaks or spills. If leaks or spills are encountered, the source of the leak will be identified, leaked material will be cleaned up, and the cleaning materials will be collected and properly disposed. Spills, leaks, and other problems of a similar nature will be resolved immediately to prevent unnecessary effects on state and federally listed species and their habitats. A plan for the emergency cleanup of any spills of fuel or other material will be available on site, and adequate materials for spill cleanup will be maintained on site.

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-4: Fueling Activities.** The City will protect state and federally listed species and their habitats from pollution due to fuels, oils, lubricants, and other harmful materials. Vehicles and equipment that are used during the Proposed Project will be fueled and serviced in a manner that will not affect federally listed species or their habitats. Machinery and equipment used will be serviced, fueled, and maintained on uplands in a “safe” area (i.e., outside of sensitive habitats) and will be located outside of suitable habitats for federally listed species, to prevent contamination. Fueling equipment and vehicles will be kept more than 200-feet away from aquatic habitats (i.e., waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State), and more than 100-feet away from suitable terrestrial

habitats for federally listed species. Exceptions to this distance requirement may be allowed for large cranes, pile drivers, and drill rigs, if they cannot be easily moved. The City will establish a temporary fuel containment basin if these buffers cannot be maintained. Fueling will be conducted in accordance with procedures to be developed in a Spill Prevention and Pollution Control Plan.

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-5: Equipment Staging.** The City shall ensure that no staging of construction materials, equipment, tools, buildings, trailers, or restroom facilities will occur in a floodplain during flood season, even if staging is only temporary.

With the incorporation of these mitigation measures, any resulting impacts would be considered to be less-than-significant.

- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The operation of the Proposed Project would not create an additional significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. However, as with all construction activities, the potential exists for accidents to occur, which could result in the release of hazardous materials into the environment. With the incorporation of **Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 through HAZ-5** identified above, potential impacts are considered to be less-than-significant.
- (c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not located within a quarter-mile of an existing or proposed school and therefore would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within a quarter-mile of an existing or proposed school. No Mitigation is required or necessary.
- (d) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not located on a site that is known to be included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and therefore would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. As a result, no impact is expected, and no specific mitigation is required.
- (e) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project is located within two-miles of a public airport. As shown on Figure 3, the Proposed Project is located at and on the northeast corner City of Watsonville's Municipal Airport. As a result, the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project could adversely affect the airport and/or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. However, the Proposed Project would be located in Zone 5 – Sideline Zone of the Airport's Safety Compatibility Zone and is considered to be a moderate risk level where the percentage of accidents are in the 3 to 5 percent range and primarily due to aircraft losing directional control and veering off the side of the runway during take offs or landings. and/or arrival. As a result, and as shown in Appendix A, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provided a letter stating that they do not object to the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project Storage with the following conditions or mitigation measures:

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-6: Comply with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-2.** The City and its contractors shall comply with all relevant sections of the FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-2, which sets forth guidelines for operational safety on airports during construction, including the development of an Airport Construction and Phasing Plan that must be provided to and approved of by the Airport Manager/Airport Traffic Control Tower folks prior to construction. The City shall coordinate all associated construction activities with the Airport Manager/Airport Traffic Control Tower within 5 business days prior to the initiation of construction activities.

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-7: Comply with FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-1M.** The City and its contractors shall comply with all relevant sections of the FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-1M, which sets forth guidelines for obstruction marking and lighting. The Proposed Project will exceed the RWY 09/27 Part 77 Transitional surface and therefore, the structure must be lighted with red obstruction lights in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-1, Obstruction Marking and Lighting, Chapters 4, 5, and 12. Copy of the current AC 70/7460-1 can be viewed and/or downloaded with red obstruction lights in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-1, Obstruction Marking and Lighting, Chapters 4, 5, and 12. Copy of the current AC 70/7460-1 can be viewed and/or downloaded at:

[https://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/advisory\\_circulars/index.cfm/go/document.current/documentNumber/70\\_7460-1](https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars/index.cfm/go/document.current/documentNumber/70_7460-1).

A separate notice shall be filed with the FAA if any of the construction equipment such as temporary cranes, whose working limits would exceed the height and lateral dimensions of the current Proposed Project.

With the incorporation of these mitigation measures, any resulting impacts would be considered to be less-than-significant.

- (f) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project is located within two-miles of a public airport. As shown in Figure 3, the Proposed Project is located at and on the northeast corner City of Watsonville's Municipal Airport. As a result, the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project could adversely affect the airport and/or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. However, with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure HAZ-6 and HAZ-7** above, any impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.
- (g) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. As a result, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- (h) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Operation of the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. However, the potential exists that construction activities could cause a fire, especially in a drought situation or in the dry season. Specifically, a records search of the California Department of



Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Severity mapping system regards the Proposed Project Area to be in an area of low risk to wildfires. However, during the summer, there is potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires which could set dry grasses on fire during construction activities. With the incorporation of the following mitigation measure, any potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measure HAZ-8: Fire Prevention and Control.** The City shall comply with all federal, state, county and local fire regulations pertaining to burning permits and the prevention of uncontrolled fires. As appropriate, the following measures shall be implemented to prevent fire hazards and control of fires:

- The City shall develop and implement a fire prevention and suppression plan for the Proposed Project for those activities that have a risk of starting a wildfire.
- A list of relevant fire authorities and their designated representative to contact shall be maintained on site by City and/or construction personnel.
- Adequate firefighting equipment shall be available on site in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements.
- The level of fire hazard shall be posted at the construction office (where visible for workers) and workers shall be made aware of the hazard level and related implications.
- The City or its contractor shall have sufficient fire suppression equipment to handle any possible fire emergency that could be caused by the Proposed project's construction activities. As appropriate, this shall include, although not be limited to, water trucks; portable water pumps; chemical fire extinguishers; hand tools such as shovels, axes, and chain saws. Specifically, the City or its contractor shall supply and maintain in working order an adequate supply of fire extinguishers for each crew engaged in potentially combustible work such as welding, cutting, and grinding.
- All equipment shall be equipped with spark arrestors.
- In the event of a fire, the City or its contractor shall immediately use resources necessary to contain the fire. The City or contractor shall then notify local emergency response personnel.
- Any and all tree-clearing activities (if any) are to be carried out in accordance with local rules and regulations for the prevention of forest fires.
- Burning shall be prohibited.
- Flammable wastes shall be removed from the construction site on a regular basis.
- Flammable materials kept on the construction site must be stored in approved containers away from ignition sources.
- Smoking shall be prohibited on the construction site, except at designated safe areas with proper cigarette disposal containers.

### 3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

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

j) Inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

☐☐☐☒

### **Discussion**

- (a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Excavation, grading, and construction activities associated with the Proposed Project could violate water quality as those activities would expose and disturb soils, resulting in potential increases in erosion and siltation in the Project area. Construction during inclement weather could result in increases in erosion, siltation, and water quality issues. Generally, excavation, grading, paving, and other construction activities would expose disturbed and loosened soils to erosion by wind and runoff. Construction activities could therefore result in increased erosion and siltation, including nutrient loading and increasing the total suspended solids concentration. Erosion and siltation from construction have the potential to impact drainages and the adjacent riparian area to the west, therefore posing a potentially significant impact to water quality. With the incorporation of the following mitigation measures, any potential impacts to water quality as a result of construction are reduced to less-than-significant levels.

#### **Mitigation Measure HWQ-1: Implement Construction Best Management Practices.**

The City, or its contractor, shall comply with applicable State Water Resources Control Board regulations for Construction and Municipal Stormwater Projects.

Once constructed, the entire Proposed Project would be would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. As a result, no long-term or permanent impacts are anticipated, and no specific mitigation measures are required.

- (b) **No Impact.** Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not use groundwater supplies nor interfere with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Shallow groundwater in the project area is not used as a source for drinking water. The Proposed Project would not increase groundwater demand. During construction, dewatering is anticipated to be of limited duration and would only affect the local, shallow aquifer. Groundwater in deeper aquifers used for municipal water supplies would not be affected by construction dewatering within utility trenches, if required. Therefore, the project would not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.
- (c) **No Impact.** Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not 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 that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.
- (d) **No Impact.** Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not 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 that would result in flooding on- or off-site. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.
- (e) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not result in any new significant impervious surfaces and would not create new or significant areas of low permeability. No significant additional runoff would be generated by the Proposed Project that would exceed the

capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No significant impacts would occur and no mitigation is necessary.

- (f) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would not substantially affect water quality. As discussed earlier, the construction of the Proposed Project could result in minor, temporary, and highly localized soil erosion and siltation issues. However, with the incorporation of **Mitigation Measure HWQ-1** above, potential impacts to water quality would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.
- (g) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. No impact is expected and no mitigation is required or necessary.
- (h) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not place exposed structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flows causing flooding. No impact is expected and no mitigation is required or necessary.
- (i) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam. No impact is expected, and no mitigation is required or necessary.
- (j) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving a seiche or tsunami. In addition, the Proposed Project area is essentially level, with minimal to no potential hazards from mudflows. No impact is expected, and no mitigation is required or necessary.

### 3.9 Land Use and Planning

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

#### Discussion

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not physically divide an established community. The Proposed Project would be constructed within the City's existing water storage tank and pumping plant site which is adjacent to the City of Watsonville Airport. The Proposed Project would not result in a disruption, physical division, or isolation of existing residential or open space areas. As a result, no impact is expected and no mitigation is required or necessary.
- (b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- (c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. No impacts are expected and no mitigation is required or necessary.

### 3.10 Mineral Resources

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

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project site is not located on a site that is identified as a significant source of mineral resources. Specifically, the Proposed Project is not located in an area identified as containing mineral resources classified MRZ-2 by the State Geologist that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. The Proposed Project would not affect any sources of significant mineral resources. As a result, the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources; therefore, no impact is expected. No mitigation is required.
- (b) **No Impact.** As discussed in (a) above, the Proposed Project would be unlikely to result in the loss of availability of a mineral resource deposit that has been identified as a mineral resource of value. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

### 3.11 Noise

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

### **Discussion**

- (a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Construction work will typically be done within normal working hours, weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and possibly on Saturdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., if required. The Proposed Project has the potential to generate noise during the construction phase through the use of equipment and construction vehicle trips. Construction of the Proposed Project would generate temporary and intermittent noise. Noise levels would fluctuate depending on the particular type, number, and duration of use of various pieces of construction equipment. Back-up beepers associated with trucks and equipment used for material loading and unloading at the staging areas would generate significantly increased noise levels over the ambient noise environment in order to be discernable and protect construction worker safety as required by OSHA (29 CFR 1926.601 and 29 CFR 1926.602). Residences and/or businesses in the vicinity of the staging areas would thus be exposed to these elevated noise levels.



Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would be temporary in nature and related noise impacts would be short-term. However, since construction activities could substantially increase ambient noise levels at noise-sensitive locations such as the residential neighborhood to the north, construction noise could result in potentially significant, albeit temporary, impacts to sensitive receptors. Compliance with the City and County noise ordinances and implementation of the following mitigation measures is expected to reduce impacts related to construction noise, to a less-than-significant level. The following mitigation measures are proposed:

**Mitigation Measure NOI-1: Limit Construction Hours.** Construction activities will be limited to the least noise-sensitive times and will comply with the City's noise ordinances. Construction, alteration, and other related activities shall be allowed on weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and on Saturdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Construction activities shall not exceed the outdoor ambient sound level (dBA) of 75 dBA.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-2: Locate Staging Areas away from Sensitive Receptors.** The City's construction specification shall require that the contractor select staging areas as far as feasibly possible from sensitive receptors.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-3: Maintain Mufflers on Equipment.** The City's construction specifications shall require the contractor to maintain all construction equipment with manufacturer's specified noise-muffling devices.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-4: Idling Prohibition and Enforcement.** The City shall prohibit and enforce unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines. In practice, this would mean turning off equipment if it will not be used for five or more minutes.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-5: Equipment Location and Shielding.** Locate all stationary noise-generating construction equipment such as air compressors and standby power generators as far as possible from homes and businesses.

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, noise impacts as a result of construction-related activities of the Proposed Project would be considered less-than-significant.

Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not create any new sources of operational noise. Therefore, operation of the storage tank would not result in any significant noise impacts. No mitigation is required.

- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Operation of the Proposed Project would not result in exposing people to or generating excessive groundborne vibration or noise impacts. Construction of the Proposed Project could likely result in minor and temporary increases in groundborne vibration or noise. However, construction activities would be temporary. With the incorporation of **Mitigation Measures NOI-1 through NOI-5**, impacts associated with the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.
- (c) **No Impact.** The operation of the Proposed Project would not increase noise in and around the Project area. Once constructed, the operation of the Proposed Project would not result in any

increased noise. The Proposed Project would not cause a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the Project. Therefore, no impacts would occur and no mitigation is required.

- (d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Project construction activities may lead to a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measures NOI-1 through NOI-5**, impacts resulting in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.
- (e) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project is located within two-miles of a public airport. As shown in Figure 3, the Proposed Project is located at and on the northeast corner City of Watsonville's Municipal Airport. As a result, the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project could adversely affect the airport and/or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. However, with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure HAZ-6 and HAZ-7** above, any impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.
- (f) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project is located within two-miles of a public airport. As shown in Figure 3, the Proposed Project is located at and on the northeast corner City of Watsonville's Municipal Airport. As a result, the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project could adversely affect the airport and/or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. However, with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure HAZ-6 and HAZ-7** above, any impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.

## 3.12 Population and Housing

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

### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not affect additional population growth either directly or indirectly. In addition, construction, operation, and maintenance would not result in any substantial increase in numbers of permanent workers/employees. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- (b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not result in displacing substantial numbers of existing housing or necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Construction of the Proposed Project would avoid the need to demolish any existing houses and would not affect any other housing structures. As a result, the Proposed Project would not displace existing housing, and therefore, no impacts are anticipated.
- (c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Construction of the Proposed Project would not result in the demolition of existing housing and other housing structures. As a result, the Proposed Project would not displace people from their homes. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.

### 3.13 Public Services

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Project:</b>				
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 objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The City's existing approximately 32-foot high 150-foot diameter steel tank is nearing the end of its useful life and based on 2014 and 2019 inspections is suffering from internal corrosion. As a result, the existing storage tank will soon need to be rehabilitated and/or replaced and the City cannot risk taking the existing tank out of service until a/the new tank is constructed. As a result, this Proposed Project is not to provide water supply for growth, but instead to continue to provide the City's existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not generate population growth and the operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not be labor intensive, requiring significant numbers of temporary workers to relocate to the area. In addition, the Proposed Project would not increase the demand for the kinds of public services that would support new residents, such as schools, parks, fire, police, or other public facilities. As a result, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.

### 3.14 Recreation

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

### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project will not contribute to population growth. The City's existing approximately 32-foot high 150-foot diameter steel tank is nearing the end of its useful life and based on 2014 and 2019 inspections is suffering from internal corrosion. As a result, the existing storage tank will soon need to be rehabilitated and/or replaced and the City cannot risk taking the existing tank out of service until a/the new tank is constructed. As a result, this Proposed Project is not to provide water supply for growth, but instead to continue to provide the City's existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not 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. As a result, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- (b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project will not contribute to population growth. T The City's existing approximately 32-foot high 150-foot diameter steel tank is nearing the end of its useful life and based on 2014 and 2019 inspections is suffering from internal corrosion. As a result, the existing storage tank will soon need to be rehabilitated and/or replaced and the City cannot risk taking the existing tank out of service until a/the new tank is constructed. As a result, this Proposed Project is not to provide water supply for growth, but instead to continue to provide the City's existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not 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. As a result, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.

### 3.15 Socioeconomics

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Project:</b>				
a) Result in any adverse socioeconomic effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) policies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Affect Indian Trust Assets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not have any adverse socioeconomic effects. The City is pursuing several funding mechanisms that would include applying for state and federal grants and loans to help reduce the cost of the project. In addition, the City would repay any loans by its existing rate structure for replacement projects. Any additional project costs would not adversely affect any minority or low-income populations and/or adversely alter the socioeconomic conditions of populations that reside within the City. As a result, the Proposed Project would not have any adverse socioeconomic effects.
- (b) **No Impact.** Executive Order 12898 requires each federal agency to achieve environmental justice as part of its mission, by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects of its programs, policies, and activities or minority populations and low-income populations of the United States. The Proposed Project does not propose any features that would result in disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effects, have any physical effects on minority or low-income populations, and/or alter socioeconomic conditions of populations that reside or work within the City and vicinity.
- (c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not have any adverse effects on Indian Trust Assets (ITA). ITAs are legal interests in property or rights held by the United States for Indian Tribes or individuals. Trust status originates from rights imparted by treaties, statutes, or executive orders. Examples of ITAs are lands, including reservations and public domain allotments, minerals, water rights, hunting and fishing rights, or other natural resources, money or claims. Assets can be real property, physical assets, or intangible property rights. ITAs cannot be sold, leased, or otherwise alienated without federal approval. ITAs do not include things in which a tribe or individuals have no legal interest such as off-reservation sacred lands or archaeological sites in which a tribe has no legal property interest. No ITAs have been identified within the Proposed Project site. As a result, the Proposed would have no adverse effects on ITAs.

### 3.16 Traffic and Transportation

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Proposed Project:</b>				
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, vehicle miles traveled, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in vehicle miles traveled, traffic levels or a change in location which results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Construction would temporarily disrupt transportation and circulation patterns in the vicinity of the project, thus disrupting local vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic along the haul routes. Although construction-generated traffic would be temporary during peak excavation and earthwork activities, average daily truck trips would not likely exceed 10 round-trip truck trips per day. The primary impacts from the movement of trucks would include short-term and intermittent lessening of roadway capacities due to slower movements and larger turning radii of the trucks compared to passenger vehicles and temporary lane closures and possible detours during certain times. The following mitigation measures are proposed:



**Mitigation Measure TRA-1: Prepare and Implement Traffic Control Plan.** As is consistent with existing policy, the City shall require the contractor to prepare and implement effective traffic control plans to show specific methods for maintaining traffic flows. Examples of traffic control measures to be considered include: 1) use of flaggers to maintain alternating one-way traffic while working on one-half of the street; 2) use of advance construction signs and other public notices to alert drivers of activity in the area; 3) use of “positive guidance” detour signing on alternate access streets to minimize inconvenience to the driving public; 4) provisions for emergency access and passage; and 5) designated areas for construction worker parking.

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, potential temporary impacts are considered to be less-than-significant.

Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not have any long-term impacts to traffic and transportation.

- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** As discussed above in (a), construction activities of the Proposed Project may result in increased vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled. This could temporarily exceed, either individually or cumulatively, existing level of service standards. However, the Proposed Project would not result in any long-term degradation in operating conditions, vehicle miles traveled, and/or level of service on any Project roadways. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** impacts associated with any increased vehicle miles would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.
- (c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not involve use of air transit, nor is it expected to cause any change in air traffic patterns. No impact is expected and no mitigation is required.
- (d) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not propose to make changes to roadways that would create road hazards (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or alter design features developed to mitigate such hazards. No impacts are expected and no mitigation is required.
- (e) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would have temporary effects on traffic flow, due to added truck traffic during construction that could result in delays for emergency vehicle access in the vicinity of the project. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** would require the contractor to establish methods for maintaining traffic flow in the project vicinity and minimizing disruption to emergency vehicle access to land uses along the truck route and/or pipeline alignment. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** would also ensure potential impacts associated with temporary effects on emergency access would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.
- (f) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** Project-related construction activities would require additional parking for workers and equipment on a temporary basis. However, sufficient space exists within the construction easement and/or staging areas to accommodate parking needs for construction workers and equipment. As a result, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- (g) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would be short term and would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting

alternative transportation. Also once constructed, the Proposed Project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Any short-term effects would be considered less-than-significant.

### 3.17 Tribal Cultural Resources

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
--	---	--	---	----------------------

**Would the Proposed Project:**

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
  - i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
  - ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

☐
         
 ☒
         
 ☐
         
 ☐

**Discussion**

- a) **Less-than-Significant with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known tribal cultural resource, as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is either: (1) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k); and/or (2) is a resource determined by the City or its archeological consultant, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence,

to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1.

As documented in Appendix D, on August 9, 2021, a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), requesting a listing of local Native American tribes in the area and any information regarding sacred lands within the area in order to be compliant with Assembly Bill 52 (AB52). On September 8, 2021, NAHC sent the City a list of the Native American Tribes to request a government-to-government consultation to determine the potential of the Proposed Project to affect Tribal Cultural Resources. On September 27, 2021, the City sent a government-to-government letter to each Native American Tribe requesting consultation regarding how the Proposed Project could potentially affect any known tribal cultural resources. To date, none of the tribes have responded and the 30-day AB-52 consultation has been completed.

In addition, and as documented in Section 3.5 - Cultural Resources, on March 19, 2020, a records search was conducted by staff at the Northwest Information Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California (NWIC No: 19-1600). The record search included the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE) and a 0.50-mile radius outside the project boundaries. The record search included current inventories of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California State Historic Landmarks, and the California Points of Historical Interest. However, due to the sensitive nature of the information, this information is not available to the general public and is on a need-to-know basis. As a result, this public document will only summarize those resources and findings.

In addition, a pedestrian archeological survey was conducted of the Project area on April 16, 2021. All open areas were inspected for cultural evidence such as historic structures, artifacts, and features; and indicators of prehistoric archaeological deposits like midden soil, flaked lithics, groundstone, and shell. No cultural resources were observed during the survey.

As a result, there are no tribal cultural resources that are known to exist within the Project area. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not likely to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of known or unique tribal cultural resources. Nevertheless, there is always a chance that construction activities of the Proposed Project could result in accidentally discovering unique tribal cultural resources. However, to further reduce this less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented along with and in combination with the **Mitigation Measures: CR-1, CR-2, and CR-3** as identified in Section 3.5 - Cultural Resources:

**Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Halt Work if Tribal Cultural Resources are Discovered.**

In the event that any tribal cultural resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, all work within 100-feet of the resources shall be halted and after notification, the City shall consult with a qualified archaeologist and local tribes to assess the significance of the find. If any find is determined to be significant as a unique tribal cultural resource, the City shall treat the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including to, but not limited to, the following:

- Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource;

- Protecting the traditional use of the resource; and
- Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.

In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist and/or the appropriate tribe in order to mitigate impacts to any tribal cultural resources find, the City shall determine whether avoidance is feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) shall be instituted and coordinated with the appropriate tribe(s). Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation measures for tribal cultural resources or other unique archaeological resources are carried out.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measure, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to tribal cultural resources.

### 3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

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

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- (b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not 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. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.

- (c) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of additional off-site storm water drainage facilities. The new drainage system would tie into the existing drainage system of the existing water tank or the Freedom Sewer pipeline that runs adjacent to the existing storage tank to the north. This would be a less than significant impact. Therefore, no impacts are expected, and no mitigation is required.
- (d) **No Impact.** No new or expanded water supplies or entitlements are needed or required under or as a result of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts are expected, and no mitigation is required.
- (e) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not increase the demand for wastewater treatment. No impacts are expected, and no mitigation is required.
- (f) **No Impact.** Construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not generate a significant amount of solid wastes. No impacts are expected to existing landfills, and no mitigation is required.
- (g) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project will comply with all relevant federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts, and no mitigation is required.



### 3.19 Wildfire

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>Would the Proposed Project:</b>				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or utilities) that may exacerbate fire risks or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Operation of the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. However, the potential exists that construction activities could cause a fire, especially in a drought situation or in the dry season. Specifically, a records search of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Severity mapping system regards the Proposed Project Area to be in an area of low to moderate risk to wildfires. As a result, there is potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. With the incorporation of **Mitigation Measure HAZ-8: Fire Prevention and Control** (above on Page 3-41) any potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.
- (c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or utilities) that may exacerbate fire risks or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Therefore, no impacts are expected, and no mitigation is required.

- (d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

### 3.20 Mandatory Findings of Significance

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

#### **Discussion**

- (a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** With the incorporation of the previously identified mitigation measures, the Proposed Project will not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Any impacts from the Proposed Project in these areas are considered here to be less-than-significant with the implementation and incorporation of the above-mentioned mitigation measures.
- (b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** No direct project-specific significant effects were identified that could not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Mitigation Measures incorporated herein mitigate any potential contribution to cumulative (as well as direct) impacts

associated with these environmental issues. Therefore, the Proposed Project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

- (c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** As a result of mitigation included in this environmental document, the Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse effects to humans, either directly or indirectly.

## Chapter 4 Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Reservoir and Booster Pump Station Modification Project:

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



Signature

Beau Kayser

Printed Name

February 17, 2023

Date

Water Division Manager

Title

## Chapter 5 Bibliography

Detailed below are the primary sources consulted and reviewed during the preparation of this environmental document.

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Fire Severity Mapping*. October 2022.
- California Natural Diversity Database. 2022. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb>
- California Department of Toxic Substances. *Envirostor database and GIS System*. 2022
- City of Watsonville. General Plan. 2005.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency. *100-Year Flood Zone Maps*. 2022.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list database and Wetland Tracker. 2022.  
<http://www.fws.gov/>

# Appendix A

---

Letter of Approval from the FAA



# Federal Aviation Administration

December 13, 2022

TO: City of Watsonville  
Attn: Rayvon Williams  
100 Aviation Way  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
rayvon.williams@cityofwatsonville.org

CC: CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
275 MAIN ST  
WATSONVILLE, CA 95076  
rwilliams@ci.watsonville.ca.us

CC: Watsonville Municipal Airport  
Attn: Samuel Rosas  
100 Aviation Way  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
sam.rosas@cityofwatsonville.org

RE: (See attached Table 1 for referenced case(s))  
\*\*FINAL DETERMINATION\*\*

Table 1 - Letter Referenced Case(s)

ASN	Prior ASN	Location	Latitude (NAD83)	Longitude (NAD83)	AGL (Feet)	AMSL (Feet)
2022-AWP-3756-NRA	2020-AWP-5628-NRA	WATSONVILLE,CA	36-56-17.89N	121-46-55.35W	177	317
2022-AWP-3757-NRA	2020-AWP-5629-NRA	WATSONVILLE,CA	36-56-17.32N	121-46-54.04W	177	317
2022-AWP-3758-NRA	2020-AWP-5630-NRA	WATSONVILLE,CA	36-56-16.22N	121-46-54.86W	177	317
2022-AWP-3759-NRA	2020-AWP-5631-NRA	WATSONVILLE,CA	36-56-16.84N	121-46-56.01W	177	317

Description: The City of Watsonville is proposing to construct an additional water storage tank to an existing water storage tank on the northeast corner of the airport. The four listed coordinates is the foot print of the new tank to be constructed. The new tank will be tied into the existing water storage tank.

We do not object with conditions to the construction described in this proposal provided:

You comply with the requirements set forth in FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-2, "Operational Safety on Airports During Construction."

The proponent is required to coordinate all associated activities with the Airport Manager/Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) 5 business days prior to the beginning of the project.

This determination is subject to review if disruption to FAA Operations should occur.

As a condition to this Determination, the structure is marked and/or lighted in accordance with (Buildings, Structures, Antennas, etc.) Chapters 4 and 5 of Advisory Circular 70/7460-1M, Obstruction Marking and Lighting.

Any failure or malfunction that lasts more than thirty (30) minutes and affects a top light or flashing obstruction light, regardless of its position, should be reported immediately to (877) 487-6867 so a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) can be issued. As soon as the normal operation is restored, notify the same number.



For current Advisory Circulars go to [www.oeaaa.faa.gov](http://www.oeaaa.faa.gov)

A separate notice to the FAA is required for any construction equipment, such as temporary cranes, whose working limits would exceed the height and lateral dimensions of your proposal.

This determination does not constitute FAA approval or disapproval of the physical development involved in the proposal. It is a determination with respect to the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft and with respect to the safety of persons and property on the ground.

In making this determination, the FAA has considered matters such as the effects the proposal would have on existing or planned traffic patterns of neighboring airports, the effects it would have on the existing airspace structure and projected programs of the FAA, the effects it would have on the safety of persons and property on the ground, and the effects that existing or proposed manmade objects (on file with the FAA), and known natural objects within the affected area would have on the airport proposal.

This determination expires on June 13, 2024 unless:

(a) extended, revised or terminated by the issuing office.

(b) the construction is subject to the licensing authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and an application for a construction permit has been filed, as required by the FCC, within 6 months of the date of this determination. In such case, the determination expires on the date prescribed by the FCC for the completion of construction, or the date the FCC denies the application.

NOTE: Request for extension of the effective period of this determination must be obtained at least 15 days prior to expiration date specified in this letter.

If you have any questions concerning this determination contact Lloyd E. Lewis (424) 405-7316 [lloyd.e.lewis@faa.gov](mailto:lloyd.e.lewis@faa.gov). On any future correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to Aeronautical Study Number 2022-AWP-3757-NRA.

Lloyd E. Lewis

DivUser

**Signature Control No: 547026201-564753915**

# Appendix B

---

## Air Quality Emissions Calculations

## Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.5.1

Emission Estimates for -> City of Watsonville - Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Prc														
Project Phases (English Units)	ROG (lbs/day)	CO (lbs/day)	NOx (lbs/day)	PM10 (lbs/day)	Exhaust	PM10 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust	PM10 (lbs/day)	PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Exhaust	PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust	PM2.5 (lbs/day)	CO2 (lbs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.9	8.9	7.8	1.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,835.7
Grading/Excavation	4.5	42.9	40.9	2.9	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.9	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	9,275.7
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	3.7	34.5	33.3	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.6	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	7,193.3
Paving	1.4	15.4	12.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	-	0.6	0.6	-	-	-	-	2,968.7
Maximum (pounds/day)	4.5	42.9	40.9	2.9	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.9	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	9,275.7
Total (tons/construction project)	0.4	4.3	4.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	905.1
Notes: Project Start Year -> 2023														
Project Length (months) -> 12														
Total Project Area (acres) -> 3														
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) -> 0														
Total Soil Imported/Exported (yd³/day)-> 4														
PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.														
Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns H and I. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column J are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns K and L.														

Emission Estimates for -> City of Watsonville - Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Prc														
Project Phases (Metric Units)	ROG (kgs/day)	CO (kgs/day)	NOx (kgs/day)	PM10 (kgs/day)	Exhaust	PM10 (kgs/day)	Fugitive Dust	PM10 (kgs/day)	PM2.5 (kgs/day)	Exhaust	PM2.5 (kgs/day)	Fugitive Dust	PM2.5 (kgs/day)	CO2 (kgs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.4	4.0	3.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	834.4
Grading/Excavation	2.0	19.5	18.6	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	4,216.2
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	1.7	15.7	15.2	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3,269.7
Paving	0.6	7.0	5.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-	1,349.4
Maximum (kilograms/day)	2.0	19.5	18.6	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	4,216.2
Total (megagrams/construction project)	0.4	3.9	3.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	821.0
Notes: Project Start Year -> 2023														
Project Length (months) -> 12														
Total Project Area (hectares) -> 1														
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (hectares) -> 0														
Total Soil Imported/Exported (meters³/day)-> 3														
PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.														
Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns H and I. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column J are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns K and L.														

# Appendix C

---

## Special Status Species Lists



# Selected Elements by Scientific Name

## California Department of Fish and Wildlife

### California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad</span>(Watsonville West (3612187))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b><i>Accipiter cooperii</i></b> Cooper's hawk	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S4	WL
<b><i>Agelaius tricolor</i></b> tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S1S2	SSC
<b><i>Ambystoma californiense pop. 1</i></b> California tiger salamander - central California DPS	AAAAA01181	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3T3	S3	WL
<b><i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i></b> Santa Cruz long-toed salamander	AAAAA01082	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1T2	S1S2	FP
<b><i>Aneides niger</i></b> Santa Cruz black salamander	AAAAD01070	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
<b><i>Anniella pulchra</i></b> Northern California legless lizard	ARACC01020	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
<b><i>Arctostaphylos andersonii</i></b> Anderson's manzanita	PDERI04030	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Arctostaphylos hookeri ssp. hookeri</i></b> Hooker's manzanita	PDERI040J1	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Arctostaphylos pajaroensis</i></b> Pajaro manzanita	PDERI04100	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
<b><i>Bombus caliginosus</i></b> obscure bumble bee	IIHYM24380	None	None	G2G3	S1S2	
<b><i>Bombus crotchii</i></b> Crotch bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	None	G2	S1S2	
<b><i>Bombus occidentalis</i></b> western bumble bee	IIHYM24250	None	None	G2G3	S1	
<b><i>Central Dune Scrub</i></b> Central Dune Scrub	CTT21320CA	None	None	G2	S2.2	
<b><i>Centromadia parryi ssp. congdonii</i></b> Congdon's tarplant	PDAST4R0P1	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
<b><i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i></b> western snowy plover	ABNNB03031	Threatened	None	G3T3	S2	SSC
<b><i>Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens</i></b> Monterey spineflower	PDPGN040M2	Threatened	None	G2T2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Chorizanthe robusta var. robusta</i></b> robust spineflower	PDPGN040Q2	Endangered	None	G2T1	S1	1B.1
<b><i>Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh</i></b> Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	CTT52410CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
<b><i>Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1</i></b> monarch - California overwintering population	IILEPP2012	Candidate	None	G4T1T2	S2	
<b><i>Dicamptodon ensatus</i></b> California giant salamander	AAAAH01020	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC



Selected Elements by Scientific Name  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b><i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i></b> Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	AMAFD03042	None	None	G4T1	S1	
<b><i>Emys marmorata</i></b> western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
<b><i>Erysimum ammophilum</i></b> sand-loving wallflower	PDBRA16010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i></b> tidewater goby	AFCQN04010	Endangered	None	G3	S3	
<b><i>Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria</i></b> Monterey gilia	PDPLM041P2	Endangered	Threatened	G3G4T2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Holocarpha macradenia</i></b> Santa Cruz tarplant	PDAST4X020	Threatened	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b><i>Horkelia cuneata var. sericea</i></b> Kellogg's horkelia	PDROS0W043	None	None	G4T1?	S1?	1B.1
<b><i>Lavinia exilicauda harengus</i></b> Monterey hitch	AFCJB19013	None	None	G4T3	S3	SSC
<b><i>Monolopia gracilens</i></b> woodland woollythreads	PDAST6G010	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<b><i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 8</i></b> steelhead - central California coast DPS	AFCHA0209G	Threatened	None	G5T2T3Q	S2S3	
<b><i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 9</i></b> steelhead - south-central California coast DPS	AFCHA0209H	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
<b><i>Pedicularis dudleyi</i></b> Dudley's lousewort	PDSCR1K180	None	Rare	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus</i></b> Choris' popcornflower	PDBOR0V061	None	None	G3T1Q	S1	1B.2
<b><i>Plagiobothrys diffusus</i></b> San Francisco popcornflower	PDBOR0V080	None	Endangered	G1Q	S1	1B.1
<b><i>Rana boylei pop. 4</i></b> foothill yellow-legged frog - central coast DPS	AAABH01054	Proposed Threatened	Endangered	G3T2	S2	
<b><i>Rana draytonii</i></b> California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
<b><i>Riparia riparia</i></b> bank swallow	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S2	
<b><i>Taxidea taxus</i></b> American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 38



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003-7726  
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958  
Email Address: [FW8VenturaSection7@FWS.Gov](mailto:FW8VenturaSection7@FWS.Gov)



In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2023-0001311  
Project Name: Zone 2 Reservoir Project

October 05, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project\*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a

written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[\*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the

---



human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office**

2493 Portola Road, Suite B

Ventura, CA 93003-7726

(805) 644-1766

---

## Project Summary

Project Code: 2023-0001311

Project Name: Zone 2 Reservoir Project

Project Type: New Constr - Above Ground

Project Description: Construct a new 3 million gallon reservoir tank.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@36.9376813,-121.7814697,1378821,14z>



Counties: Santa Cruz County, California

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 17 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
San Joaquin Kit Fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2873">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2873</a>	Endangered

---

## Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> Population: U.S.A. only, except where listed as an experimental population There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193</a>	Endangered
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104</a>	Endangered
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945</a>	Endangered
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> Population: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA) There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467</a>	Threatened
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749</a>	Endangered
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i> Population: Pacific Coast population DPS-U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA), Mexico (within 50 miles of Pacific coast) There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8035">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8035</a>	Threatened
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</a>	Threatened

## Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
San Francisco Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5956">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5956</a>	Endangered

## Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891</a>	Threatened
California Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> Population: U.S.A. (Central CA DPS) There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076</a>	Threatened
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i> Population: Central Coast Distinct Population Segment (Central Coast DPS) No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	Proposed Threatened

## Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Tidewater Goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/57">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/57</a>	Endangered

## Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Marsh Sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229</a>	Endangered
Monterey Spineflower <i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>pungens</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/396">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/396</a>	Threatened
Santa Cruz Tarplant <i>Holocarpha macradenia</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6832">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6832</a>	Threatened

## Critical habitats

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Santa Cruz Tarplant <i>Holcarpha macradenia</i> <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6832#crithab">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6832#crithab</a>	Final

## **IPaC User Contact Information**

Agency: Watsonville city

Name: Steve Brown

Address: 225 nunzia ct

City: roseville

State: CA

Zip: 95661

Email: [steve@smbenvironmental.com](mailto:steve@smbenvironmental.com)

Phone: 9165172189

---



# Appendix D

---

## AB 52 Outreach



August 9, 2021

Native American Heritage Commission  
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

**Subject: Sacred Land Files and Native American Contact List Request for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

To Whom It May Concern:

SMB Environmental, Inc. (SMB) is assisting the City of Watsonville (City) with its proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The City's Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a new 3 million-gallon (MG) 35-foot high and 121-foot diameter above ground water storage tank at the site of the Watsonville Municipal Airport. The project location is within the Watsonville West Quad - Section 31 Township 11 South Range 2 East. Please see attached request form.

We would appreciate your checking the Sacred Lands Files and report to us if there are any culturally sensitive areas within the immediate project vicinity. We would also like to receive a list of Native American organizations that may have knowledge in the area and we will attempt to contact them to solicit their written input/concerns about the Proposed Project.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If any questions, please feel free to contact me at 916-517-2189 or at [steve@smbenvironmental.com](mailto:steve@smbenvironmental.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SJB", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Brown  
Principal



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

September 8, 2021

CHAIRPERSON  
**Laura Miranda**  
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
Chumash

SECRETARY  
**Merri Lopez-Keifer**  
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
**Russell Attebery**  
Karuk

COMMISSIONER  
**William Mungary**  
Paiute/White Mountain  
Apache

COMMISSIONER  
**Julie Tumamait-Stenslie**  
Chumash

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER  
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Christina Snider**  
Pomo

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
[NAHC.ca.gov](http://NAHC.ca.gov)

Steve Brown  
**SMB Environmental**

Via Email to: [steve@smbenvironmental.com](mailto:steve@smbenvironmental.com)

Cc: Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Tribe

**Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project, Santa Cruz County**

Dear Mr. Brown:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

*Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.*

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was positive. Please contact the Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen Tribe on the attached list for more information.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: [Katy.Sanchez@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Katy.Sanchez@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Katy Sanchez  
*Associate Environmental Planner*

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contacts List  
September 8, 2021**

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Valentin Lopez, Chairperson P.O. Box 5272 Galt, CA 95632 vlopez@amahmutsun.org (916) 743-5833	Ohlone/Costanoan North Valley Yokuts	Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the SF Bay Area Monica Arellano, Vice Chairwoman 20885 Redwood Road, Suite 232 Castro Valley, CA 94546 marellano@muwekma.org (408) 205-9714	Ohlone / Costanoan
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista Irene Zwielerlein, Chairperson 3030 Soda Bay Road Lakeport, CA 95453 amahmutsuntribal@gmail.com (650) 851-7489 Cell (650) 332-1526 Fax	Ohlone/Costanoan	Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson 1179 Rock Haven Ct. Salinas, CA 93906 kwood8934@aol.com (831) 443-9702	Foothill Yokuts Mono Wuksache
Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen-Mutsen Tribe Patrick Orozco, Chairman 644 Peartree Drive Watsonville, CA 95076 yanapvoic97@gmail.com (831) 728-8471	Ohlone/Costanoan		
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan Kanyon Sayers-Roods 1615 Pearson Court San Jose, CA 95122 408-673-0626	Ohlone/Costanoan		
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan Ann Marie Sayers, Chairperson P.O. Box 28 Hollister, CA 95024 (831) 637-4238	Ohlone/Costanoan		

## **Letters to the Tribes**



# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

September 27, 2021

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band  
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson  
1179 Rock Haven Ct.  
Salinas, CA 93906  
[kwood8934@aol.com](mailto:kwood8934@aol.com)  
(831) 443-9702

**Subject: Request for Section 106 Native American (Section 106) and Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

Dear Kenneth Woodrow:

Pursuant towards compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Register [CFR] Part 800) as well as the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for tribal cultural resources, the City of Watsonville (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Please see attached Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted about the Proposed Project and provided the City with a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of tribal and/or cultural resources in the Project Area as part of the Section 106 and AB52 requirements. As a result, we are requesting that you please provide us with any information you may have about cultural resources or sites in the Project Area so that we can determine ways to protect those sites, including archeological sites and other locations of special value to Native Americans.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If we do not receive a request from you (or your organization) within 30 days, we will assume that you do not want to have a formal consultation and agree that the Proposed Project would not have any impacts to known Tribal Cultural Resources that you are aware of. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Cotten of my staff at [kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org) or at (831) 768-3100.

Sincerely,

Christian Di Renzo  
Director of Public Works & Utilities





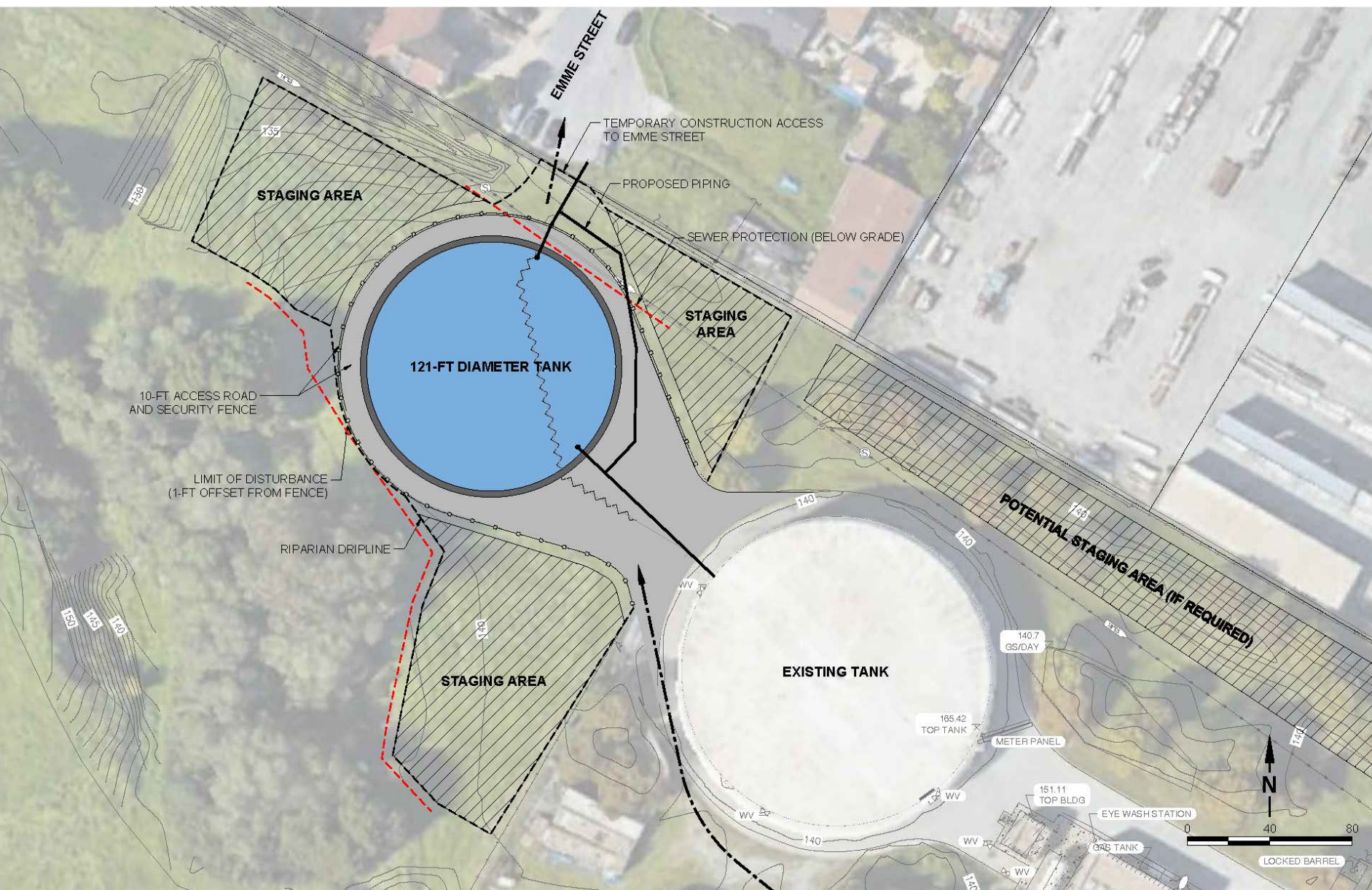


# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



Figure 2

City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Layout**





# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

September 27, 2021

Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the SF Bay Area  
Monica Arellano, Vice Chairwoman  
20885 Redwood Road, Suite 232  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
[marellano@muwekma.org](mailto:marellano@muwekma.org)  
(408) 205-9714

**Subject: Request for Section 106 Native American (Section 106) and Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

Dear Monica Arellano:

Pursuant towards compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Register [CFR] Part 800) as well as the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for tribal cultural resources, the City of Watsonville (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Please see attached Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted about the Proposed Project and provided the City with a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of tribal and/or cultural resources in the Project Area as part of the Section 106 and AB52 requirements. As a result, we are requesting that you please provide us with any information you may have about cultural resources or sites in the Project Area so that we can determine ways to protect those sites, including archeological sites and other locations of special value to Native Americans.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If we do not receive a request from you (or your organization) within 30 days, we will assume that you do not want to have a formal consultation and agree that the Proposed Project would not have any impacts to known Tribal Cultural Resources that you are aware of. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Cotten of my staff at [kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org) or at (831) 768-3100.

Sincerely,

Christian Di Renzo  
Director of Public Works & Utilities





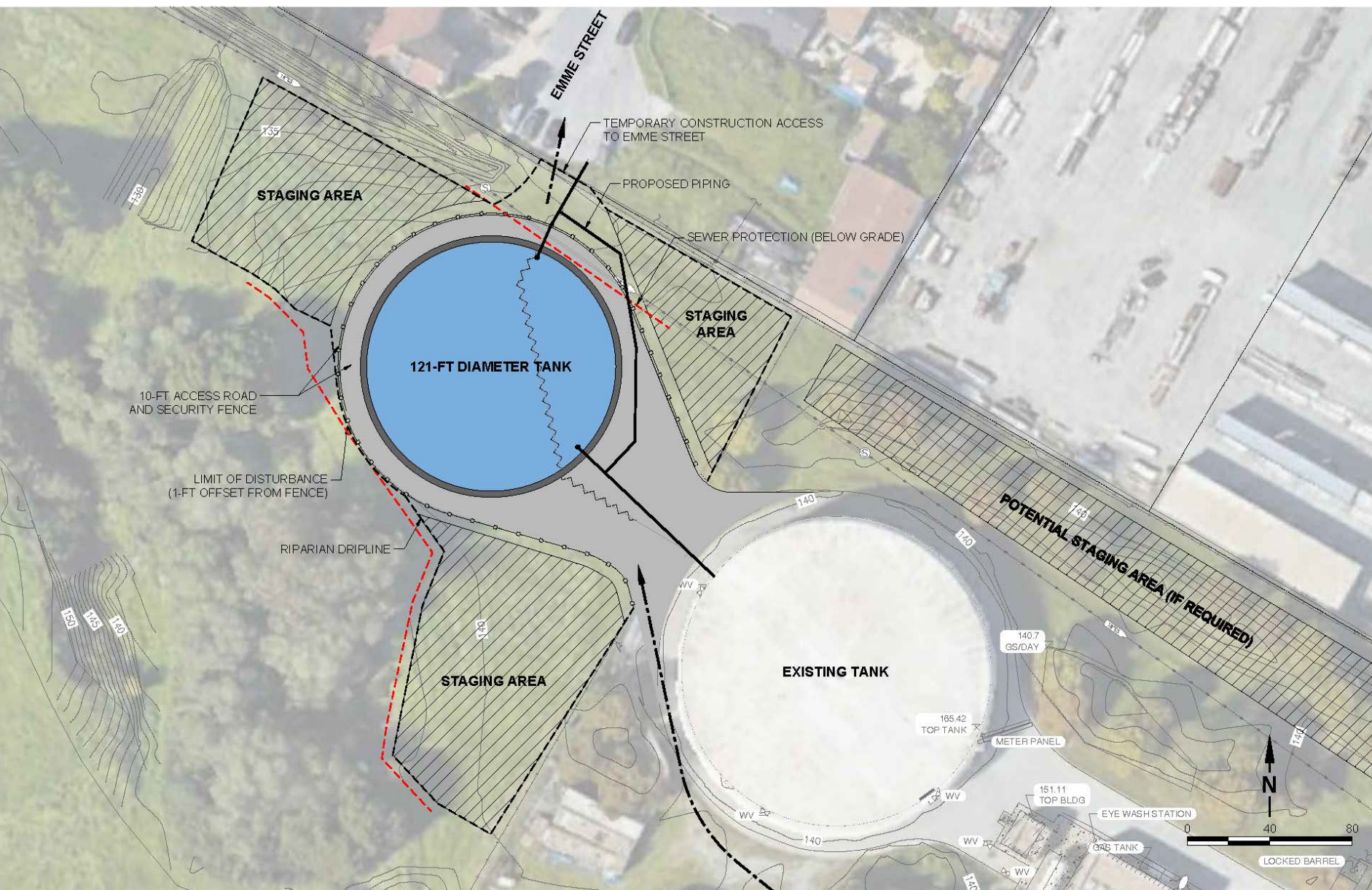


# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



Figure 2

City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Layout**





# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

September 27, 2021

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan  
Ann Marie Sayers, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 28  
Hollister, CA 95025  
(831) 637-4238

**Subject: Request for Section 106 Native American (Section 106) and Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

Dear Ann Marie Sayers:

Pursuant towards compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Register [CFR] Part 800) as well as the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for tribal cultural resources, the City of Watsonville (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Please see attached Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted about the Proposed Project and provided the City with a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of tribal and/or cultural resources in the Project Area as part of the Section 106 and AB52 requirements. As a result, we are requesting that you please provide us with any information you may have about cultural resources or sites in the Project Area so that we can determine ways to protect those sites, including archeological sites and other locations of special value to Native Americans.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If we do not receive a request from you (or your organization) within 30 days, we will assume that you do not want to have a formal consultation and agree that the Proposed Project would not have any impacts to known Tribal Cultural Resources that you are aware of. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Cotten of my staff at [kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org) or at (831) 768-3100.

Sincerely,

Christian Di Renzo  
Director of Public Works & Utilities





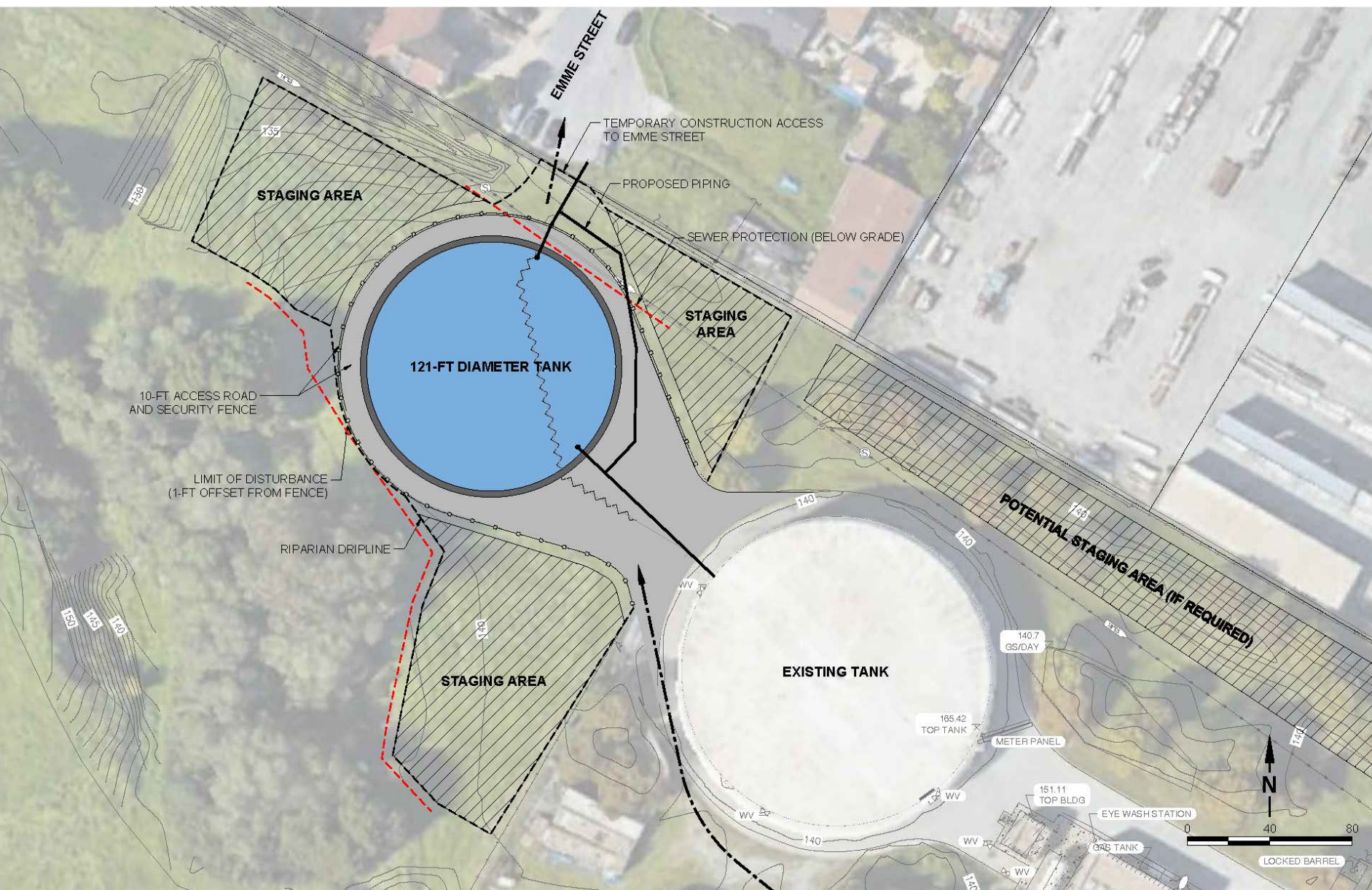


# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



Figure 2

City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Layout**





# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

September 27, 2021

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan  
Kanyon Sayers-Roods  
1615 Pearson Court  
San Jose, CA 95122  
408-673-0626

**Subject: Request for Section 106 Native American (Section 106) and Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

Dear Kanyon Sayers-Roods:

Pursuant towards compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Register [CFR] Part 800) as well as the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for tribal cultural resources, the City of Watsonville (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Please see attached Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted about the Proposed Project and provided the City with a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of tribal and/or cultural resources in the Project Area as part of the Section 106 and AB52 requirements. As a result, we are requesting that you please provide us with any information you may have about cultural resources or sites in the Project Area so that we can determine ways to protect those sites, including archeological sites and other locations of special value to Native Americans.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If we do not receive a request from you (or your organization) within 30 days, we will assume that you do not want to have a formal consultation and agree that the Proposed Project would not have any impacts to known Tribal Cultural Resources that you are aware of. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Cotten of my staff at [kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org) or at (831) 768-3100.

Sincerely,

Christian Di Renzo  
Director of Public Works & Utilities





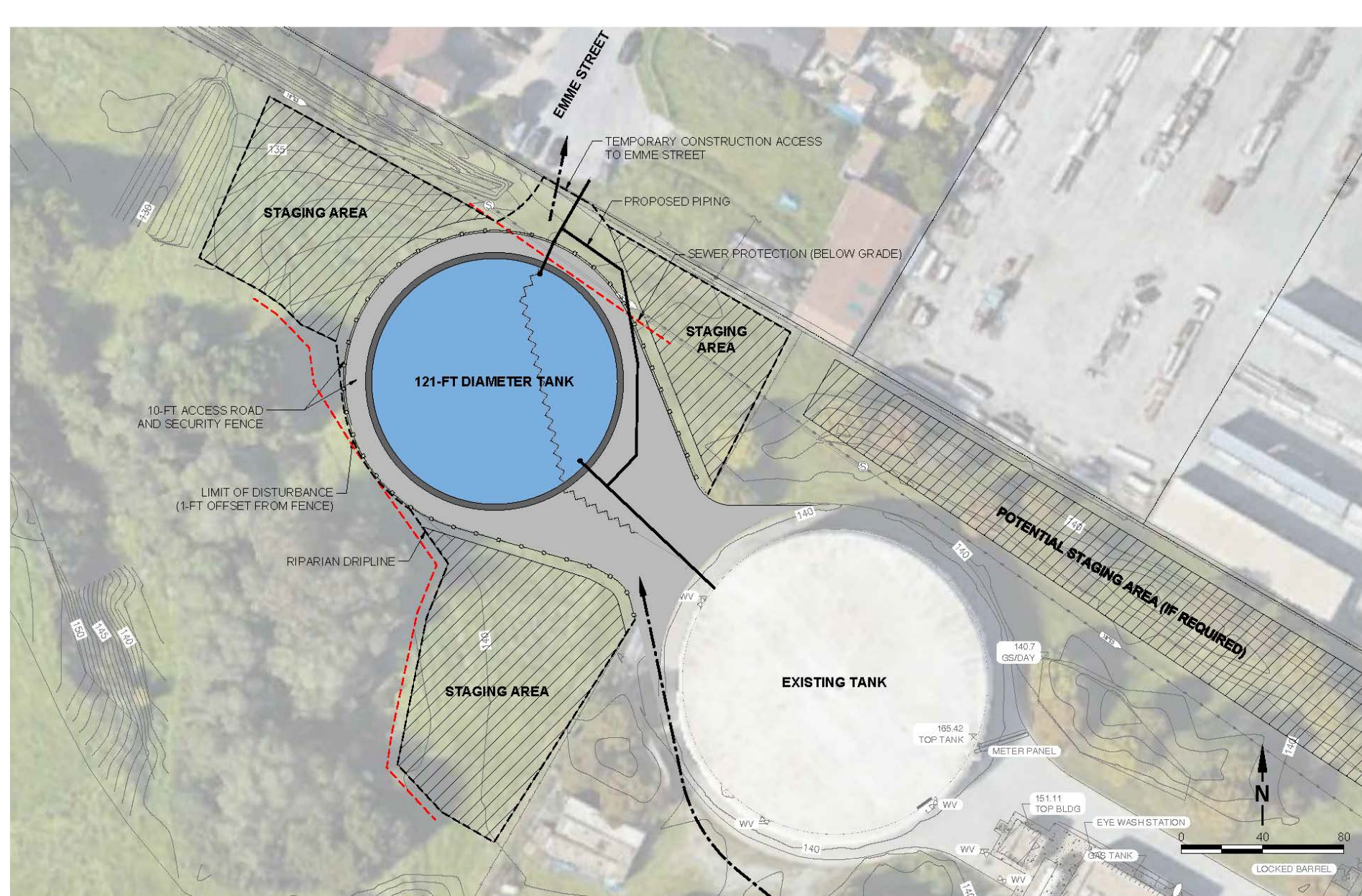


# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



Figure 2

City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Layout**





# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

September 27, 2021

Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen-Mutsen Tribe  
Patrick Orozco, Chairman  
644 Peartree Drive  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
[yanapvoic97@gmail.com](mailto:yanapvoic97@gmail.com)  
(831) 728-8471

**Subject: Request for Section 106 Native American (Section 106) and Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

Dear Mr. Orozco:

Pursuant towards compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Register [CFR] Part 800) as well as the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for tribal cultural resources, the City of Watsonville (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Please see attached Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted about the Proposed Project and provided the City with a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of tribal and/or cultural resources in the Project Area as part of the Section 106 and AB52 requirements. As a result, we are requesting that you please provide us with any information you may have about cultural resources or sites in the Project Area so that we can determine ways to protect those sites, including archeological sites and other locations of special value to Native Americans.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If we do not receive a request from you (or your organization) within 30 days, we will assume that you do not want to have a formal consultation and agree that the Proposed Project would not have any impacts to known Tribal Cultural Resources that you are aware of. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Cotten of my staff at [kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org) or at (831) 768-3100.

Sincerely,

Christian Di Renzo  
Director of Public Works & Utilities





**Figure 1**  
**Zone 2 (Airport) Reservoir Vicinity Map**

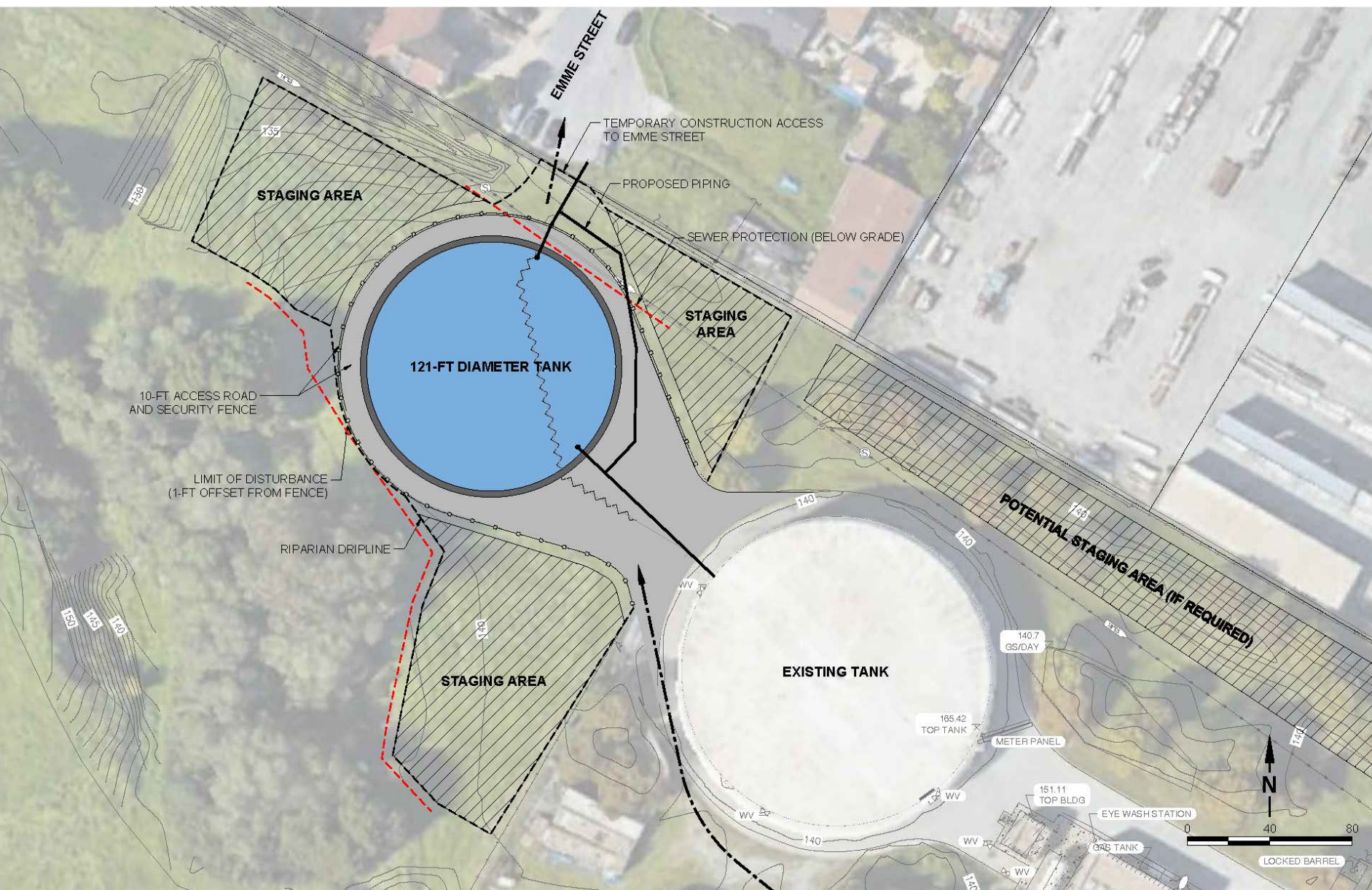


# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



Figure 2

City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Layout**





# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

September 27, 2021

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band  
Valentin Lopez, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 5272  
Galt, CA 95632  
[vlopez@amahmutsun.org](mailto:vlopez@amahmutsun.org)  
(916) 743-5833

**Subject: Request for Section 106 Native American (Section 106) and Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

Dear Mr. Lopez:

Pursuant towards compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Register [CFR] Part 800) as well as the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for tribal cultural resources, the City of Watsonville (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Please see attached Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted about the Proposed Project and provided the City with a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of tribal and/or cultural resources in the Project Area as part of the Section 106 and AB52 requirements. As a result, we are requesting that you please provide us with any information you may have about cultural resources or sites in the Project Area so that we can determine ways to protect those sites, including archeological sites and other locations of special value to Native Americans.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If we do not receive a request from you (or your organization) within 30 days, we will assume that you do not want to have a formal consultation and agree that the Proposed Project would not have any impacts to known Tribal Cultural Resources that you are aware of. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Cotten of my staff at [kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org) or at (831) 768-3100.

Sincerely,

Christian Di Renzo  
Director of Public Works & Utilities





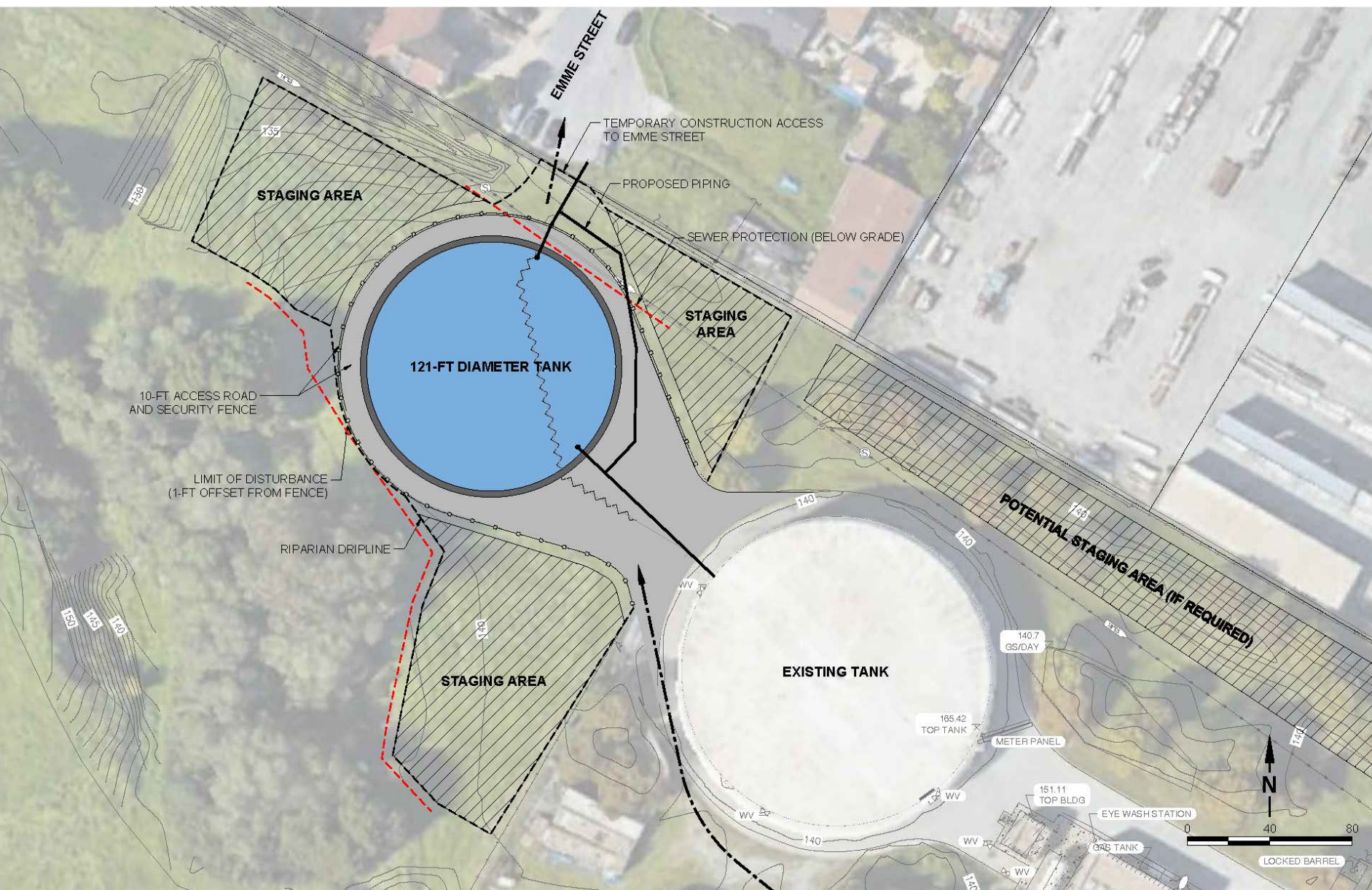


# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



Figure 2

City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Layout**





# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

September 27, 2021

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista  
Irene Zwierlein, Chairperson  
3030 Soda Bay Road  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
[amahmutsuntribal@gmail.com](mailto:amahmutsuntribal@gmail.com)  
(650) 851-7489 Cell  
(650) 332-1526 Fax

**Subject: Request for Section 106 Native American (Section 106) and Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for the City of Watsonville's Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project**

Dear Ms. Zwierlein:

Pursuant towards compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Register [CFR] Part 800) as well as the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) for tribal cultural resources, the City of Watsonville (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Zone 2 Water Storage Tank Reliability Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage capacity for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply. Please see attached Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted about the Proposed Project and provided the City with a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of tribal and/or cultural resources in the Project Area as part of the Section 106 and AB52 requirements. As a result, we are requesting that you please provide us with any information you may have about cultural resources or sites in the Project Area so that we can determine ways to protect those sites, including archeological sites and other locations of special value to Native Americans.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If we do not receive a request from you (or your organization) within 30 days, we will assume that you do not want to have a formal consultation and agree that the Proposed Project would not have any impacts to known Tribal Cultural Resources that you are aware of. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Cotten of my staff at [kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:kurtis.cotten@cityofwatsonville.org) or at (831) 768-3100.

Sincerely,

Christian Di Renzo  
Director of Public Works & Utilities





**ZONE 2 RESERVOIR B SITE**

**ZONE 2 RESERVOIR A**

**WATSONVILLE  
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

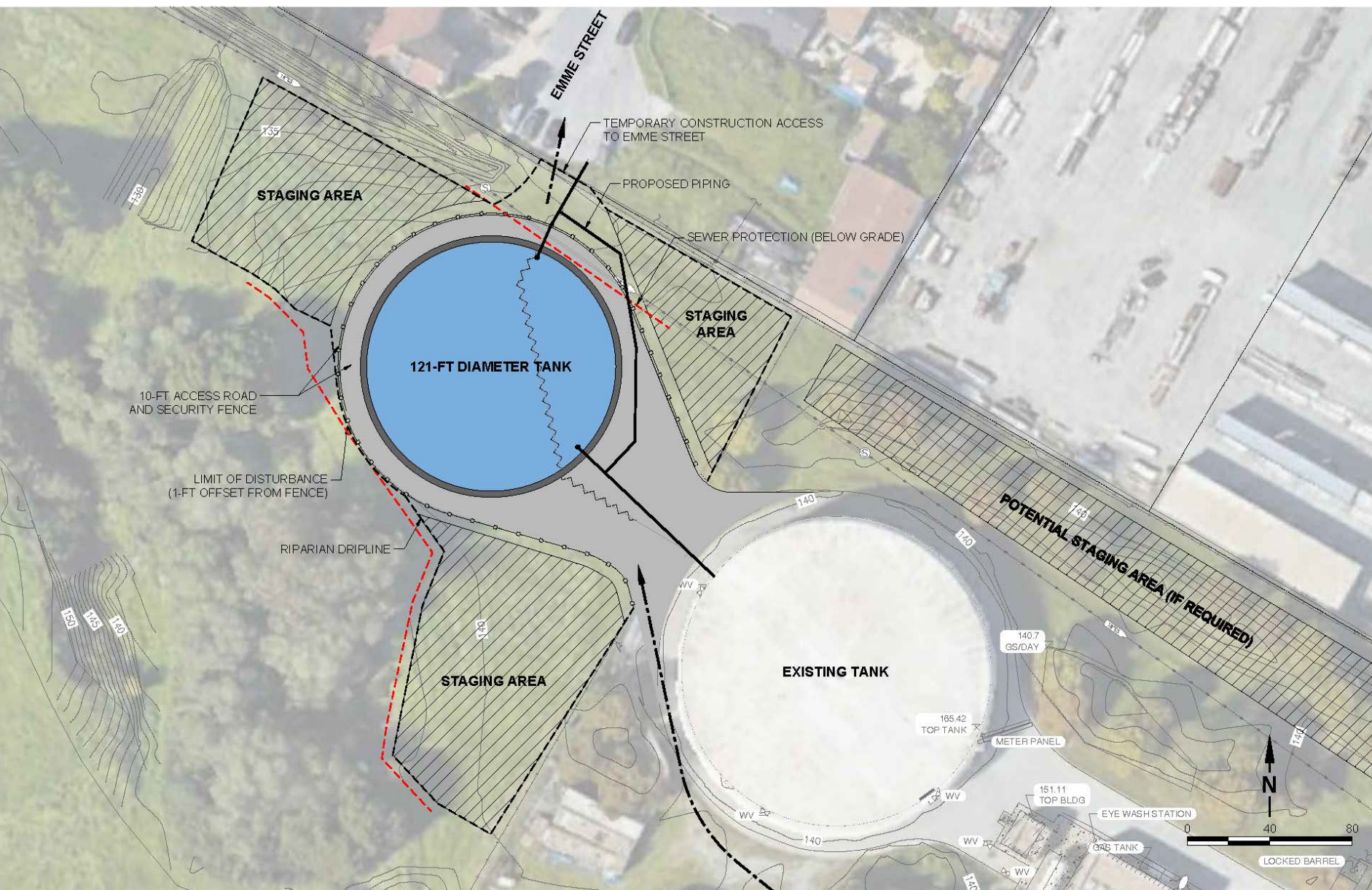


# City of Watsonville Water Service Area



Figure 2

City of Watsonville Water Service Area



**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Water Storage Tank Site Layout**

## **Certified Mailing Receipts of Letters to the Tribes**



## SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of  
Mission San Juan Bautista  
Irene Zwielerlein, Chairperson  
3030 Soda Bay Rd.  
Lakeport, CA 95453



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 56

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7019 1640 0001 5440 4194

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

## A. Signature

- ☐ Agent  
☐ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

Irene Zwielerlein

## C. Date of Delivery

9/30/21

## D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

If YES, enter delivery address below:

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

3030 Soda Bay Rd  
Lakeport CA 95453

## 3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature  
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery  
☒ Certified Mail®  
☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery  
☐ Registered Mail  
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®  
☐ Registered Mail™  
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise  
☐ Signature Confirmation™  
☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

## SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band  
Valentin Lopez, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 5272  
Galt, CA 95632



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 87

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7019 1640 0001 5440 4163

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

## A. Signature

- ☐ Agent  
☒ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

Valentin Lopez

## C. Date of Delivery

9-30-21

## D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

If YES, enter delivery address below:

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

## 3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature  
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery  
☒ Certified Mail®  
☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®  
☐ Registered Mail™  
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise  
☐ Signature Confirmation™  
☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

## SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band  
of Castanoan  
Kanyon Sayers-Roods  
1615 Pearson Ct.  
San Jose, CA 95122



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 32

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7019 1640 0001 5440 4217

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

## A. Signature

- ☒ Agent  
☐ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

K Canyon Sayers-Roods

## C. Date of Delivery

9/30

## D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

If YES, enter delivery address below:

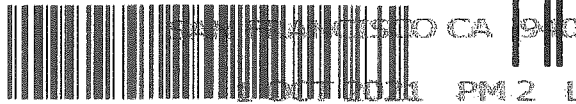
- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

## 3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature  
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery  
☒ Certified Mail®  
☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®  
☐ Registered Mail™  
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise  
☐ Signature Confirmation™  
☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

USPS TRACKING#



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 56

United States  
Postal Service

• Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4® in this box•

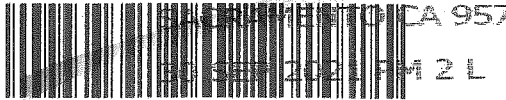
City of Watsonville  
Public Works- Attn: Kurt Cotten  
250 Main St  
Watsonville, CA 95076

First-Class Mail  
Postage & Fees Paid  
USPS  
Permit No. G-10



ENERGY ACTION MONTH

USPS TRACKING#



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 87

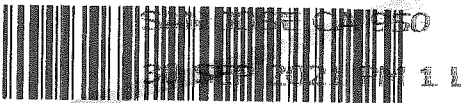
United States  
Postal Service

• Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4® in this box•

City of Watsonville  
Public Works- Attn: Kurt Cotten  
250 Main St  
Watsonville, CA 95076

First-Class Mail  
Postage & Fees Paid  
USPS  
Permit No. G-10

USPS TRACKING#



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 32

United States  
Postal Service

• Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4® in this box•

City of Watsonville  
Public Works, Attn: Kurt Cotten  
250 Main St.  
Watsonville, CA 95076

First-Class Mail  
Postage & Fees Paid  
USPS  
Permit No. G-10

## SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe  
of the SF Bay Area  
Monica Arellano, Vice Chairwoman  
20885 Redwood Rd., Suite 232  
Castro Valley, CA 94546



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 70

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7019 1640 0001 5440 4170

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

## A. Signature

X J. Burge

☒ Agent☐ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

J. BURGE

## C. Date of Delivery

9/30/12

- D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes  
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

## 3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature  
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery  
☒ Certified Mail®  
☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®  
☐ Registered Mail™  
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise  
☐ Signature Confirmation™  
☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Restricted Delivery

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt

## SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom  
Valley Band  
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson  
1179 Rock Haven Ct.  
Salinas, CA 93906



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 49

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7019 1640 0001 5440 4200

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

## A. Signature

X C19

☒ Agent☐ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

## C. Date of Delivery

- D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes  
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

## 3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature  
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery  
☒ Certified Mail®  
☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery  
☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

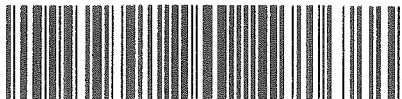
- ☐ Priority Mail Express®  
☐ Registered Mail™  
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery  
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise  
☐ Signature Confirmation™  
☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Restricted Delivery

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt

USPS TRACKING#



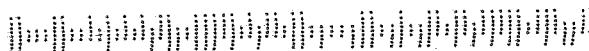
9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 70

United States  
Postal Service

• Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4® in this box•

City of Watsonville  
Public Works- Attn: Kurt Cotten  
250 Main St.  
Watsonville, CA 95076

First-Class Mail  
Postage & Fees Paid  
USPS  
Permit No. G-10



USPS TRACKING#



9590 9402 5380 9189 5818 49

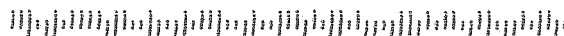
United States  
Postal Service

• Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4® in this box•

City of Watsonville / Public Works  
Kurt Cotten  
250 Main St.  
Watsonville, CA 95076

First-Class Mail  
Postage & Fees Paid  
USPS  
Permit No. G-10

76-508099



**No Responses from the Tribes**