



INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.:

Project No. 302-118
(DMEC 01-0111-1)

PROJECT PLANNER:

NCWD –Kenneth J. Peterson
DMEC – David Magney, Lynne Kada, Russ
Baggerly

DATE: 31 October 2002

(site visit on 15 May 2001)

PROJECT BIOLOGISTS:

David L. Magney, Cher Batchelor, James
Castle

PROJECT TITLE: 18-inch Water Main-Sand Canyon Road to Vasquez Canyon Road.

LEAD AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS:

Newhall County Water District (NCWD)
23780 North Pine Street
P.O. Box 220970
Santa Clarita, CA 91322-0970

CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER:

Kenneth J. Peterson
General Manager
Newhall County Water District
661/259-3610

PROJECT LOCATION: Sand Canyon Road/Sierra Highway/Vaqueros Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California. NW¼ SE¼ S2 T4N, R15W, Mint Canyon, California Quadrangle (USGS 7.5-minute Series Topographic Map). The pipeline will intersect Mint Canyon Creek at 34°27.303' North-latitude, and 118°25.236' West-longitude. Project site elevation is at approximately 1,700 feet. The project site location is shown on Figure 1, Location of Project Site.

PROJECT ADDRESS: None – located near Sand Canyon Road/Sierra Highway/Vaqueros Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California.

PROJECT SPONSOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Same as Lead Agency (NCWD)

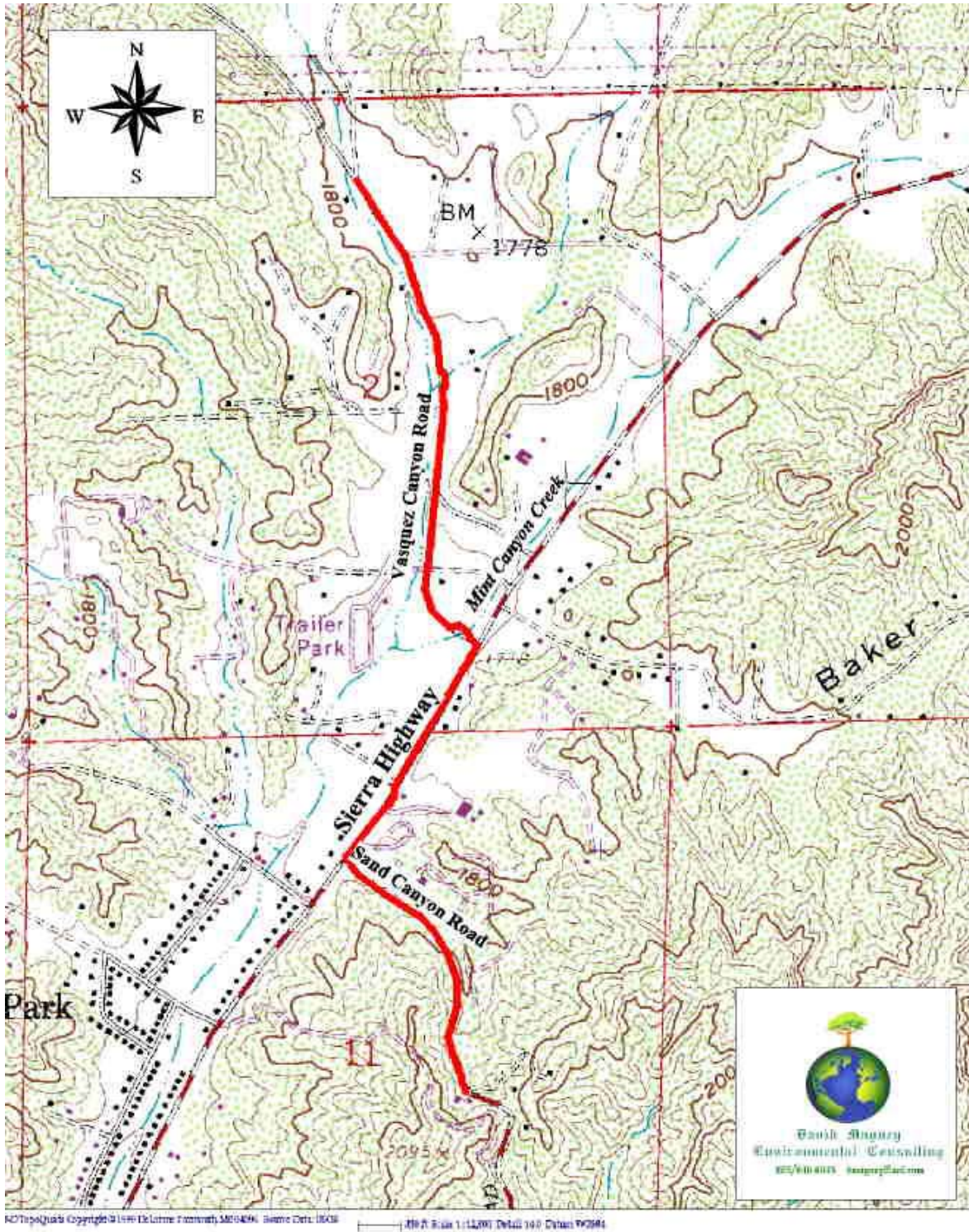
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: NCWD has agreed to provide water service to a new residential development in the vicinity of Mint Canyon, requiring installation of an 18-inch-diameter water line commencing on Sand Canyon Road and terminating 3,000 feet later on Vasquez Canyon Road at Vasquez Way. The 18-inch water line will be installed under existing road beds (including Sand Canyon Road, Sierra Highway, and Vasquez Canyon Road) and cross jurisdictional waters of the State and of the United States in three places, two small tributary creeks and the Mint Canyon Creek. The pipeline will be constructed to cross over a small tributary creek perpendicular to Sierra Highway, as well as crossing over another small tributary creek perpendicular to Vasquez Canyon Road. The pipeline will be buried when crossing Mint Canyon Creek.

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: None. The proposed project will be installed almost entirely within the existing right-of-way of roads and highways in the project area.

ZONING: None. The proposed project will be installed almost entirely within the existing right-of-way of roads and highways in the project area.

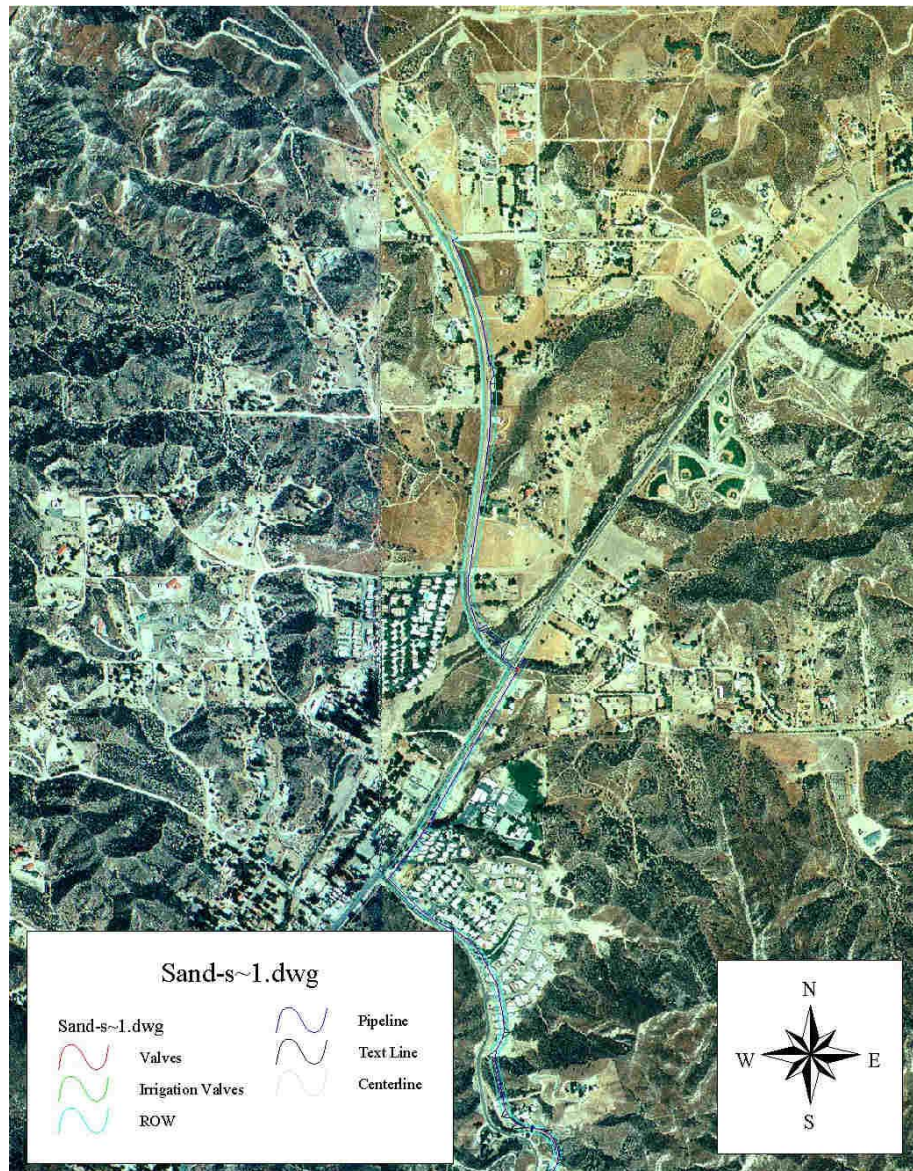


Figure 1. Location Map of Project Site



The project site is also shown on an aerial photograph of the area (Figure 2, Aerial Photograph of Project Site).

Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of Project Site



SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING: Surrounding land uses vary, depending on specific parcels; however, land uses generally include commercial and rural residential, with open space areas along portions of Sand Canyon Road and Vasquez Canyon Road. Land use to the North is rural residential and open space.

- Land use to the South is rural residential, commercial, and open space areas along portions of Sand Canyon Road and Vasquez Canyon Road.
- Land use to the East is rural residential, commercial, and open space areas along portions of Sand Canyon Road and Vasquez Canyon Road.
- Land use to the West is rural residential, commercial, and open space areas along portions of Sand Canyon Road and Vasquez Canyon Road.

OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (E.G. PERMITS, FINANCING APPROVAL, OR PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.):

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. An existing nationwide permit may be used to construct the pipeline across (under) Mint Canyon Creek.
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board – water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for work conducted in waters of the U.S. and state, such as Mint Canyon Creek
- California Department of Fish and Game – Streambed Alteration Agreement pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code for any work to be conducted in riparian areas, such as in Mint Canyon Creek.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The pipeline project occurs along rural, commercial, and urban residential land uses with many adjacent areas dominated by natural vegetation. Land uses are mixed along the length of the project. The terrain is varied, with steep slopes along Sand Canyon Road and flat and gently sloping areas along Sierra Highway and Vasquez Canyon Road. The climate of the project site is semi-arid with dry, hot summers and cool, wet winters, dominated by a Mediterranean-type climate.

The portion of Mint Canyon Creek, which will be altered due to NCWD construction activities, generally flows in a southwesterly direction; however, no active flows were present during the biological survey. Although the project site portion of Mint Canyon Creek consists of a fairly diverse flora, the project site exists in an area that is frequented often by humans, is littered with foreign material and trash, is subject to high levels of air and noise pollution, and does not show significant evidence of a diverse fauna.

Biological Resources Surveys

Biological resources surveys and a wetland delineation were conducted by NCWD consultant David Magney Environmental Consulting (DMEC) on 15 May 2001 to determine baseline conditions of biotic resources, and federal and state regulatory agencies (e.g. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [Corps], California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG], and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board [RWQCB]). The biotic field surveys were conducted to determine what flora and fauna species were present onsite, and if any special-status species could be adversely affected by the proposed project. Details of methods used, results, and recommendations are presented separately in a report on the biological resources (DMEC 2001a¹), and are only summarized here. Since the pipeline will for the most part be buried beneath existing roads, biological resource issues were focused only on those sites where natural vegetation would be disturbed, such as at the Mint Canyon Creek crossing near the intersection of Sierra Highway and Vasquez Canyon Road.

Floristics and Habitats: The NCWD project site contains a moderately species-rich flora consisting of at least 62 vascular plants, 38 (61 percent) of which are native species, while the remaining 24

¹ David Magney Environmental Consulting. 2001a. Biological Resources and Impact Assessment of the Newhall County Water District Vasquez Canyon Road Water Main Project Site, Santa Clarita, California. August. (PN 01-0111-2.) Ojai, California. Prepared for Newhall County Water District, Santa Clarita, California.

species (39 percent) are naturalized (nonnative) taxa. A list of all plant species observed onsite is provided in DMEC (2001a).

The NCWD project site landscape is composed of three habitat types: Upland habitat (represented by Fourwing Saltbush Series); Palustrine habitat ([riparian woodland] represented by Freemont Cottonwood-Arroyo Willow Series); Riverine habitat (the creek bottom – pilot channel/low-flow portion of the creek) is not represented by a specific plant series, since it consists of little or no vegetation. Each habitat is described in detail in DMEC (2001a).

The wetland delineation was performed according to procedures required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (i.e. Corps' 1987 Manual for Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands). A total of 0.27 acre of jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, would be temporarily impacted by the pipeline at Mint Canyon Creek. An existing Nationwide general permit issued by the Corps will be used for the pipeline crossing, and all impacts to jurisdictional waters will be mitigated onsite through replanting of disturbed areas and enhancement of degraded habitat in the immediate vicinity of the impact in Mint Canyon Creek. This same area is also under the jurisdiction of the CDFG pursuant to Section 1601 of the California Fish and Game Code. NCWD has applied for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, and will comply with all conditions of that agreement. The details of the mitigation and monitoring plan for these two permits is presented in DMEC (2001c²), which describes project-related impacts, specific and detailed mitigation measures that will be implemented by NCWD, and a five-year mitigation monitoring plan to ensure the mitigation measures are implemented successfully.

Fauna and Wildlife Habitat: Wildlife surveys were conducted by DMEC biologists on 15 May 2001 during daytime and early evening hours. Particular attention was given to determining the potential of occurrence of special-status wildlife species such as the California Red-legged Frog, Southwestern Arroyo Toad, and Southwestern Pond Turtle.

The general stream habitat at the Mint Canyon Creek project site consists of a relatively flat, low velocity intermittent stream with a sinuosity value of one. The Freemont Cottonwood-Arroyo Willow Series, within the banks of Mint Canyon Creek, and the Fourwing Saltbush Series, dominating the upland habitats onsite, provide marginal functional habitat for the depauperate wildlife observed and expected inhabiting or frequenting the area. Disturbances in this area are frequent and quite intense, including horse and foot traffic, in-stream trash (including dumping), off-road vehicle use, and a substantial (but unquantified) amount of noise and air pollution from the adjacent Sierra Highway and Vasquez Canyon Road. Common wildlife species were observed during the wildlife field survey, which are described in DMEC (2001a). No amphibians or bats were observed during either the daytime or nighttime surveys.

² David Magney Environmental Consulting. 2001c. Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Newhall County Water District Vasquez Canyon Road Water Main Project Site, Santa Clarita, California. August. (PN 01-0111-4.) Ojai, California. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles, California, and the California Department of Fish and Game, Region 5, San Diego, California, on behalf of the Newhall County Water District, Santa Clarita, California.



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

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

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

	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 project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
X	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
 Ken Petersen, General Manager

 Name (print)

 Date
 Newhall County Water District

 For





INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

ISSUE	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
I. AESTHETICS – Would the project:								
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	X				X			
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	X				X			
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	X						X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: The installation of the pipeline will not adversely affect the aesthetics of the project site or surrounding area, since the pipeline will be entirely buried, except at two minor drainage crossings. The entire length of the pipeline, except at the stream crossings, will be buried beneath existing roads.</p> <p>I.c. The potentially growth-inducing nature of the proposed 18-inch pipeline may result in indirect impacts to existing visual character or quality of surrounding areas as a result additional development. This impact may or may not be mitigated by those potential developments.</p>								
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:								
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?	X				X			
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	X				X			
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: No agricultural resources are present within the project site, or adjacent to the project site; therefore, no impact to these resources would occur as a result of installing the pipeline.</p>								
III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:								
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X				X	
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing/projected air quality violation?			X				X	

³ Level of Impact definitions: N = No Impact; LS = Less than Significant Impact; PS-M = Potentially Significant Mitigatable Impact; PS = Potentially Significant Unmitigatable Impact





ISSUE	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
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 that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X				X	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X		X			
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: Installation of the pipeline with take approximately 60 days and use 13 vehicles, including: 10-Wheel End-dump Trucks (4), 311 Caterpillar [CAT] Excavator (1), 950 CAT Loader (1), 655 E Backhoe (1), 1,800-gallon Water Truck (1), Street Sweeper (1), 1-ton GMC Pickup Trucks (2), ¾-ton Pickup Truck (1), a 10-Wheel Dump Truck (1). These vehicles will add minor amounts of emissions for a short duration during installation of the pipeline. The GMC trucks are 1998 or newer vehicles that comply with California smog control requirements.</p> <p>III a, b, c, d. The project construction emissions may have a significant impact on the environment.</p> <p>Cumulative Impacts, III a, b, c. The project installment of an 18” diameter pipeline has the potential to supply a significantly larger public (additional residences) than what the pipeline is initially intended for. The installment of the proposed 18” diameter pipeline is ultimately growth-inducing, and it creates the potential for a future net increase in pollution and in pollutant concentrations, and may be contradictory to the applicable air quality plan. Therefore, if this proposed existing pipeline enables additional residential growth, the resulting increased pollution emissions caused by that growth, may result in significant impacts. Installment of a smaller pipeline (providing only what is necessary) would eliminate the potential for permanent or long-term pollution emissions, and it would only result in a temporary (less than significant) impact.</p>								
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:								
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X				X	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?			X				X	
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?			X				X	
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X				X	





ISSUE	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X				X	
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: DMEC conducted field surveys of the biological resources of the project site to determine existing conditions and the presence of any special-status species that could be affected by the pipeline project. DMEC also conducted a delineation of jurisdictional wetlands in the project site. The results of the surveys found that wetland riparian vegetation was present within the banks of Mint Canyon Creek, which has potential to support several special-status species. The field surveys did not find any special-status species present, and found that the habitat is fairly degraded; however, jurisdictional wetlands are present. The results of the field surveys are presented in Appendix A.</p> <p>The project installment of an 18" diameter pipeline has the potential to supply a significantly larger public (additional residences and businesses) than what the pipeline is initially intended for. Therefore, the installment of this pipeline is ultimately growth-inducing and promotes urban sprawl, and the resulting habitat modifications and permanent loss of functional wildlife habitat caused by that growth, may result in significant impacts to biological resources. Installment of a smaller pipeline (providing only what is necessary to service existing residences and businesses) would eliminate the potential for permanent or long-term impacts to special-status species and habitats, and it would only result in a temporary impacts to biological resources that can be mitigated.</p> <p>IV.a. The project may have significant adverse effects on one or more special-status species if the 18" diameter pipeline, which has the potential to provide for a larger public, causes habitat modifications and permanent functional wildlife habitat loss resulting from residential and commercial growth. The installation of the pipeline itself will not result in significant impacts to special-status species.</p> <p>IV.b. The project has potential to significantly adversely effect one or more riparian habitats, or other sensitive natural communities if the 18" diameter pipeline is installed, which has the potential to provide for a larger public, causes modifications and permanent loss of riparian/sensitive natural communities resulting from residential and commercial growth.</p> <p>IV.c. The project will result in a temporary significant adverse impact on jurisdictional riparian wetland habitat where the pipeline will cross Mint Canyon Creek, which will be mitigated onsite. The installation of the 18" pipeline has potential to result in indirect significant adverse effects on federally protected wetlands by providing growth-inducement by providing for a larger public, which may cause habitat modifications and permanent wetland habitat losses from additional residential and commercial growth in the area served by the new pipeline.</p> <p>IV.d. The project may interfere substantially with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors if the 18"-diameter pipeline results in inducing additional urban growth, which may cause habitat modifications and permanent functional wildlife habitat and corridor losses in the area.</p> <p>IV.e. The project may conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources if the 18" diameter pipeline (which has the potential to provide for a larger public) induces addition urban and commercial growth that causes significant adverse effects to special-status species, sensitive habitats, protected wetlands, and native resident or migratory wildlife species and corridors caused by modifications or permanent loss of wildlife habitat.</p> <p>IV.f. Since there are no adopted conservation plans in the project area, the proposed pipeline does not conflict with such plans.</p>								
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:								
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	X				X			
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?			X				X	
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X				X	
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X				X	





ISSUE	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
<p>Comments/Additional information: The pipeline would be installed almost entirely under existing roads, which have already been significantly disturbed during construction of those roads (i.e. Sand Canyon Road, Sierra Highway, and Vasquez Canyon Road). A small portion of Mint Canyon Creek, and its banks, will be disturbed during trenching. The presence of archaeological or cultural resources within the creek bed is highly unlikely, since this area is routinely disturbed by normal flooding and scour on an annual basis. The soil on the banks has been significantly disturbed in the past, as evidenced by the large quantities of rubble and nonnative soil along Mint Canyon Creek in the vicinity of Vasquez Canyon Road. No known archaeological sites are known within the project disturbance zone.</p> <p>Conejo Archaeological Consultants, at the request of DMEC, prepared a Negative Archaeological Survey Report of approximately 1.5 linear miles for the NCWD Vasquez Canyon Road Water Pipeline Project (Maki 2001), and the following paragraphs summarize their findings.</p> <p>The project site lies within the historic territory of the Tataviam Native American group. Knowledge of this group is limited, although archaeological evidence indicates similarities to adjacent Takic, Hokan, and Yokut groups (King and Blackburn 1978). The Tataviam aboriginal way of life ended with Spanish colonization. Growth in the general project region was first fueled by the discovery of gold in Placerita Canyon in 1842.</p> <p>No prehistoric sites are recorded within a one-quarter mile radius of the project route; however, one historic site (19-002897) is recorded within one-quarter mile radius of the project route. Historic site 19-002897 consists of the foundation remains of a small hotel or residence, which was occupied primarily in the 1930's (Gensler et. al 2001). This site is located approximately 150 meters (500 ft.) southwest of the southern most end of the project route and will not be impacted by the project implementation.</p> <p>Five archaeological surveys have been conducted within one-quarter mile radius of the project route. Two encompassed the Sierra Highway portion of the project route as part of much larger surveys for oil pipeline and fiber optics projects (SAIC 1996, Lerch 1998). Two surveys border the middle section of the pipeline route along the west side of Vasquez Canyon Road (Dillon 1981, Whitley and Simon 1991). The majority of the project alignment along Vasquez Canyon Road was not subject to previous archaeological reconnaissance.</p> <p>The listings of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Points of Historical Interest, and Los Angeles County Historic Landmarks include no properties within or adjacent to the project route.</p> <p>Based on record search findings, field survey results, and the extent of previous ground disturbance along the NCWD water pipeline route, the proposed project is expected to have no impact on cultural resources. Therefore, no further archaeological investigation is warranted prior to or during project implementation. However, since an archaeological survey can only confidentially assess the potential for encountering surface cultural resources remains, the following two recommendations should be incorporated as conditions of project approval: (1) In the event that prehistoric or historic resources are unearthed during project construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until a qualified archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. A Tataviam representative shall be retained to monitor any mitigation work associated with Native American cultural material. (2) If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.</p> <p>V. b, c, d. Archaeological, paleontological, and human burial sites may occur in the service area of the pipeline that may be impacted by additional development of the service area if the pipeline induces growth; however, no database searches or field surveys for these resources were conducted in the service area. No impacts would result to these resources if the pipeline was sized to only serve existing residences and businesses in the service area.</p>								



ISSUE	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:								
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	X				X			
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.								
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	X				X			
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	X				X			
iv) Landslides?	X				X			
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	X				X			
c) Be located on a 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?	X				X			
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?	X				X			
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?	X				X			
Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline project will not result in any significant impacts to geological resources, or put humans or buildings and public structures at risk.								
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:								
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	X				X			
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?	X				X			
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X		X			
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?	X				X			



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	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
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?	X				X			
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?	X				X			
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?					X			
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?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline project will not use hazardous materials, or cause any hazardous materials to be released into the environment.</p> <p>VII.c & g. NCWD must sterilize the pipe before it is installed. A hypochlorite solution not to exceed 70 mg/l must remain in the pipeline and have a contact time of 24 hours. The pipeline is then dechlorinated using Sodium Thiosulfate. This chemical will neutralize the chlorinated water and make it safe to discharge to the atmosphere. The District follows the American Water Works Association Standard Operating Procedures for this operation. No impacts on the environment are anticipated from the use of these chemicals.</p>								
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:								
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X				X	
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 that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	X				X			
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 or siltation on- or off-site?	X				X			
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 that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	X				X			
e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	X				X			





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	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X				X	
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?	X				X			
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	X				X			
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?	X				X			
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: In general, the pipeline project is potentially growth-inducing, as it has the capacity to supply a significantly larger public than what the pipeline is initially intended for. Therefore, hydrology and water quality, resulting from permanent habitat modifications and loss of hydrologic resources caused by that growth, may result in significant impacts. Installment of a smaller pipeline (providing only what is necessary to serve existing residences and businesses) would eliminate the potential for permanent losses or impacts to water resources in the vicinity, and it would potentially only result in a temporary (less than significant) impact.</p> <p>VIII.f. The Mint Canyon Creek project installment of the pipeline may result in increased stream water turbidity and sediment levels if construction activities are conducted within active stream flows. The bed and banks will potentially become unstable during construction activities and may substantially degrade water quality due to soil bank erosion, and may cause adverse effects to aquatic wildlife species and riparian vegetation. To mitigate for this potential impact, NCWD will conduct work during the dry season and install erosion control measures, as described in DMEC's wetland mitigation and monitoring plan for the project (DMEC 2001c).</p> <p>VII.h. Although the installment of the pipeline intersecting Mint Canyon Creek will be place within a 100-year flood hazard area, it is not expected to impede or redirect flood flows in the general vicinity of the project site.</p>								
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:								
a) Physically divide an established community?	X				X			
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?	X						X	
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline will not impact existing land uses and planning. The purpose of the pipeline is to provide water service to existing, and planned residences and businesses. However, the pipeline project is potentially growth-inducing, as the 18" diameter pipeline has the capacity to supply a significantly larger public than what the pipeline is initially intended for. Therefore, this project has the potential to ultimately conflict with an applicable land use plan/policy, and/or conflict with applicable habitat or community conservation plans resulting from permanent land modifications, due to potential residential growth. Installment of a smaller pipeline (providing only what is necessary) would eliminate potential for permanent land modifications in the vicinity.</p>								



ISSUE	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
Level of Impact³								
X. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:								
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	X				X			
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?	X				X			
Comments/Additional information: No mineral resources will be affected by the installation of the proposed pipeline. No mineral resources are known to occur within the project site.								
XI. NOISE -- Would the project result in:								
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X				X	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	X				X			
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	X						X	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X				X	
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?	X				X			
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?	X				X			
Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline will only temporarily increase noise/vibration levels due to the construction activities related to the pipeline installment. Installation of the pipeline will take approximately 60 days and use 13 vehicles, including: 10-Wheel End-dump Trucks (4), 311 Caterpillar [CAT] Excavator (1), 950 CAT Loader (1), 655 E Backhoe (1), 1,800-gallon Water Truck (1), Street Sweeper (1), 1-ton GMC Pickup Trucks (2), ¾-ton Pickup Truck (1), a 10-Wheel Dump Truck (1). No long-term excessive noise levels are expected, since only people and wildlife in the direct vicinity of the project will potentially be affected by the construction noise. However, the pipeline project is potentially growth-inducing, as the 18" diameter pipeline has the capacity to supply a significantly larger public than what the pipeline is initially intended for. Therefore, this project has the potential to ultimately conflict with noise standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, and may cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels, resulting from potential residential and commercial growth. Installation of a smaller pipeline (providing only what is necessary) would eliminate the potential for urban growth and would eliminate the potential for a significant increase in noise levels.								



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Level of Impact³								
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:								
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			X				X	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	X				X			
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	X				X			
<p>Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline may result in significant impacts on the existing population and housing by providing an inducement for additional development as the result of making available additional domestic drinking water to the area.</p> <p>XII.a. This project would add additional infrastructure, i.e. a water main, into an area not presently supported by municipal water supplies.</p>								
<i>XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES</i>								
a) Would the project 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:	X						X	
Fire protection?	X						X	
Police protection?	X						X	
Schools?	X						X	
Parks?	X						X	
Other public facilities?	X						X	
<p>Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline would not result in any adverse impacts to public services. In fact, some public services, such as fire protection, would improve since fire hydrants would be installed along the pipeline where they are currently lacking. However, the pipeline project is potentially growth-inducing, as the 18"-diameter pipeline has the capacity to supply a significantly larger public than what the pipeline is initially intended for. Therefore, this project creates the potential to ultimately require increased fire/police protection, and more schools, parks, and other facilities, resulting from potential residential and commercial growth. Installment of a smaller pipeline (providing only what is necessary) would eliminate the potential for urban growth and would eliminate the potential for substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.</p>								



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<i>XIV. RECREATION</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?	X				X			
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	X				X			
Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline will not impact existing recreation parks or facilities.								
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:								
a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e. result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	X						X	
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	X						X	
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	X				X			
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?	X				X			
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	X				X			
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	X				X			
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	X				X			
Comments/Additional information: The proposed pipeline would not change or impact existing transportation or traffic conditions at the project site, or in the vicinity. Some minor traffic delays would occur only during construction of the pipeline within the existing roads, which would be for short durations along short segments of the three roads involved (Sand Canyon Road, Sierra Highway, Vasquez Canyon Road). Flagmen will direct traffic at these times to prevent traffic hazards and minimize delays by motorists.								
The pipeline project is potentially growth-inducing, as the 18" diameter pipeline has the capacity to supply a significantly larger public than what the pipeline is initially intended for. Since this project induces residential and commercial growth, it creates the potential to ultimately increase traffic substantially; result in a change in air traffic patterns; result in inadequate emergency and parking access; and conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Installment of a smaller pipeline (providing only what is necessary) would eliminate the potential for growth-inducing tendencies and would eliminate the potential for a significant increase in traffic levels.								



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Level of Impact³								
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- Would the project:								
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	X						X	
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of that could cause significant environmental effects?			X				X	
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?	X						X	
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	X					X		
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?			X				X	
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	X						X	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	X						X	
<p>Comments/Additional information:</p> <p>XVI.a. The waterways in the region are designated as impaired by the RWQCB. Additional urban growth in the service area as the result of installing an 18" water main may result in significant and cumulative degradation of water quality in the streams in the service area.</p> <p>XVI.b. The construction of additional residences and businesses may require construction or expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities.</p> <p>XVI.c. The construction of additional residences and businesses may require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which may cause significant environmental effects.</p> <p>XVI.d. The water main pipeline project does not utilize municipal water. The pipeline conveyance does provide for more municipal water use, and therefore, growth in the service area. NCWD, in concert with three other water purveyors in the greater service area, have demonstrated in their Urban Water Management Plan that sufficient water supplies are available.</p> <p>XVI.e. The construction of additional residences and businesses in the service area may result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the future projects in the service area that it has or does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.</p> <p>XVI.f. The construction of additional residences and businesses in the service area may be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate future development project's solid waste disposal needs.</p> <p>XVI.g. The additional development of the service area as a result of potential growth-inducement may result in noncompliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.</p>								



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<i>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</i>								
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?			X					X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				X				X
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X				X?
<p>Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151, Public Resources Code; Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino, 202 Cal.App.3d 296 (1988); Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, 222 Cal.App.3d 1337 (1990).</p>								

Comments/Additional information:

Although installation of the 18” pipeline itself would not result in significant environmental impacts that cannot be fully mitigated onsite, changes in land uses and related activities on adjacent and/or nearby areas could significantly alter the natural character and biodiversity of these areas if the water main induced significant additional urban and commercial growth in the service area. The potentially growth-inducing aspect of the 18” pipeline may require the preparation of a focused EIR to adequately address this issue.

