INITIAL STUDY

EAGLE CANYON DAM AND DEBRIS BASIN PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY:

Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
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Riverside, CA 92501
Contact: **Mr. Kris Flanigan**
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June 2009

JN 65100557

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LIST OF EXHIBITS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following preliminary review of the proposed project, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) has determined that the Eagle Canyon Dam and Debris Basin Project is a **project** subject to the guidelines and regulations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Initial Study has been prepared to address potential impacts associated with the Eagle Canyon Dam and Debris Basin Project, as described below. This Initial Study addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed project.

1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 - 21178.1), this Initial Study has been prepared to analyze the proposed Eagle Canyon Dam and Debris Basin Project ("the project") in order to identify any potential significant impacts upon the environment that would result from implementation of the project. The purpose of this Initial Study is to inform the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District decision-makers, affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project.

Following completion of the Initial Study, the District will make a formal determination as to whether the project may or may not have significant unmitigable environmental impacts. A determination that a project may have less than significant effects on the environment would result in the preparation of a Negative Declaration. A determination that a project may have significant impacts would require the preparation of an EIR to further evaluate issues identified in this Initial Study. Based upon the potential significant environmental effects associated with the proposed project, the District will require preparation of an EIR to further evaluate issues identified in this Initial Study. Therefore, this Initial Study and Notice of Preparation (NOP) serve as part of the scoping process to determine the appropriate environmental analysis for the proposed project.

The Initial Study and NOP will undergo a 30-day public review period. During this review, comments by the public and responsible agencies on the project relative to environmental issues are to be submitted to the District. The District will review and consider all comments as a part of the project's environmental analysis as required in Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines. The comments received with regard to this NOP and Initial Study will be included in the project EIR, for consideration by the District.

1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Initial Study is to: (1) identify environmental impacts; (2) provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or Negative Declaration; (3) enable an applicant or Lead Agency to modify the project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared; (4) facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of the project; (5) provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a Negative Declaration that a project would not have a significant environmental effect; (6) eliminate needless EIR's; (7) determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used for the project; and (8) assist in the preparation of an EIR, if required, by focusing the EIR on the effects determined to be significant, identifying the effects determined not to be significant, and explaining the reasons for determining that potentially significant effects would not be significant.

Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines identifies specific disclosure requirements for inclusion in an Initial Study. Pursuant to those requirements, an Initial Study shall include: (1) a description of the project, including the location of the project; (2) an identification of the environmental setting; (3) an identification of environmental effects by use of a checklist, matrix or other method, provided that entries on a checklist or other form are briefly explained to indicate that there is some evidence to support the entries; (4) a discussion of ways to mitigate significant effects identified, if any; (5) an examination of whether the project is compatible with existing zoning, plans, and other applicable land use controls; and (6) the name of the person or persons who prepared or participated in the preparation of the Initial Study.

1.3 CONSULTATION

As soon as the Lead Agency has determined that an Initial Study would be required for the project, the Lead Agency is encouraged to consult informally with all Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies that are responsible for resources affected by the project, in order to obtain the recommendations of those agencies on the EIR to be prepared for the project. Following the District's receipt of any written comments from those agencies, the District would consider any recommendations of those agencies in the formulation of the District's preliminary findings. Following preparation of this Initial Study, the District would initiate formal consultation with these and other governmental agencies as required under CEQA and its implementing guidelines.

1.4 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pertinent documents relating to this Initial Study have been cited and incorporated, in accordance with Sections 15148 and 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines, to eliminate the need for inclusion of voluminous engineering and technical reports within the CEQA document. Of

particular relevance are those previous EIR's that present information regarding descriptions of environmental settings, future development-related growth and cumulative impacts. This Initial Study has incorporated by reference the following documents, which are available for review at County of Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District, 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501:

Palm Springs General Plan
The Palm Springs General Plan was adopted in 2007. A portion of the proposed project site lies within the City of Palm Springs boundary. Goals and objectives contained within the *City of Palm Springs General Plan* were developed to guide existing and future land use, circulation, and open space decisions within the City. According to the General Plan Land Use map, the proposed project lies within the Special Policy Area. This designation requires that proposed projects must be of superior design, demonstrating integration with the existing natural features and land forms, be sensitive to biological resources of the site, and create a more desirable living environment than could be achieved through conventional subdivision design and requirements. Information contained within the General Plan was incorporated herein, because it is the primary source for City policies, objectives, and citywide planning analysis.

Cathedral City General Plan
The Cathedral City General Plan was adopted in July 2002 and revised in December 2007. A portion of the proposed project site is situated within the Cathedral City limits. Goals and objectives contained within the *Cathedral City General Plan* were developed to guide existing and future land use, circulation, and open space decisions within the City. According to the General Plan Land Use Map, the proposed project lies within an area designated as Hillside Reserve and General Commercial. The Hillside Reserve area allows for development of 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres. However, the General Plan states that development could be precluded on these lands due to topographic, aesthetic, or other constraints; in such cases, development rights could be preserved by density transfer or similar mechanism. General Commercial lands range from general merchandising and strip commercial centers to community and regional scale centers. Offices, hotels and motels, as well as supermarket anchors and big box retailers are also appropriate uses on these lands. Information contained within the General Plan was incorporated herein, because it is the primary source for City policies, objectives, and citywide planning analysis.

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Indian Canyons Master Plan 2007 Update
The Indian Canyons Master Plan outlines the Tribe's goals and objectives for the Indian Canyons and establishes a framework by which to guide future land acquisitions, natural and cultural resources conservation efforts, recreation improvements, and development within Heritage Park and the surrounding lands in the Indian Canyons Planning Area. The aforementioned Master Plan is the result of the Tribe's recognition that there is a need for a comprehensive plan to lay out a clear vision for the unique resources within the Indian Canyons. The proposed Eagle Canyon Dam project site potentially lies within the Mountains

and Canyons Conservation Boundary, Mountains and Canyons Conservation Area, and Valley Floor Conservation Area. Information contained within the Master Plan was incorporated herein, because it is the primary source for the Tribe's policies, objectives, and citywide planning analysis.

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan (THCP)

The Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan formally determines conservation planning for the Tribe's Reservation land in and around Palm Springs. The Plan identifies plants, animals and habitat that need to be preserved or protected. It also lays out procedures for mitigation of future land development and determines under what circumstance an "incidental take" can be permitted on the Reservation. The THCP streamlines the Tribe's compliance with the Endangered Species Act, and provides for additional restrictions near the base of mountains to protect the Peninsular bighorn sheep. It also sets aside a mountainous area for bighorn lambing where no development can take place. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Palm Springs, California, with 31,500 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. The 423-member tribe currently owns and operates the Spa Resort Casino and Hotel in downtown Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Casino near Rancho Mirage. Information contained within the Conservation Plan was incorporated herein, because it is the primary source for Cahuilla Indian policies, objectives, and citywide planning analysis.

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) provides a regional vision for balanced growth that will help conserve the Coachella Valley's natural heritage and meet the requirements of federal and state endangered species laws. The CVMSHCP will also help expedite infrastructure improvement projects, and promote enhanced opportunities for recreation, tourism and job growth. The California Department of Fish and Game issued the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) Permit for the CVMSHCP on September 9, 2008, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued the final permit on October 1, 2008. The Plan is administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, a joint powers authority of elected representatives. The CVMSHCP protects 240,000 acres of open space, and 27 plant and animal species. The Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City are participating agencies in the CVMSHCP. A portion of the project site (the downstream end of proposed Line 43) is located within an area covered by the CVMSHCP.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION & SETTING

The project site is located at the mouth of Eagle Canyon, in the hills to the southwest of East Palm Canyon Drive (Highway 111) in both the city of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, California (refer to Exhibit 1, *Regional Vicinity Map*, and Exhibit 2, *Site Vicinity Map*). The Canyon drains the northeastern portion of the San Jacinto Mountains and currently discharges into a wash and vacant land between Perez Road and Canyon Plaza Drive. A portion of the project would be sited within Agua Caliente Indian Reservation property. The canyon floor is approximately 100 to 150 feet wide throughout the length of the project site. The axis of the canyon is aligned generally southwest to northeast. A building materials business is located southwest of the project site.

2.2 BACKGROUND

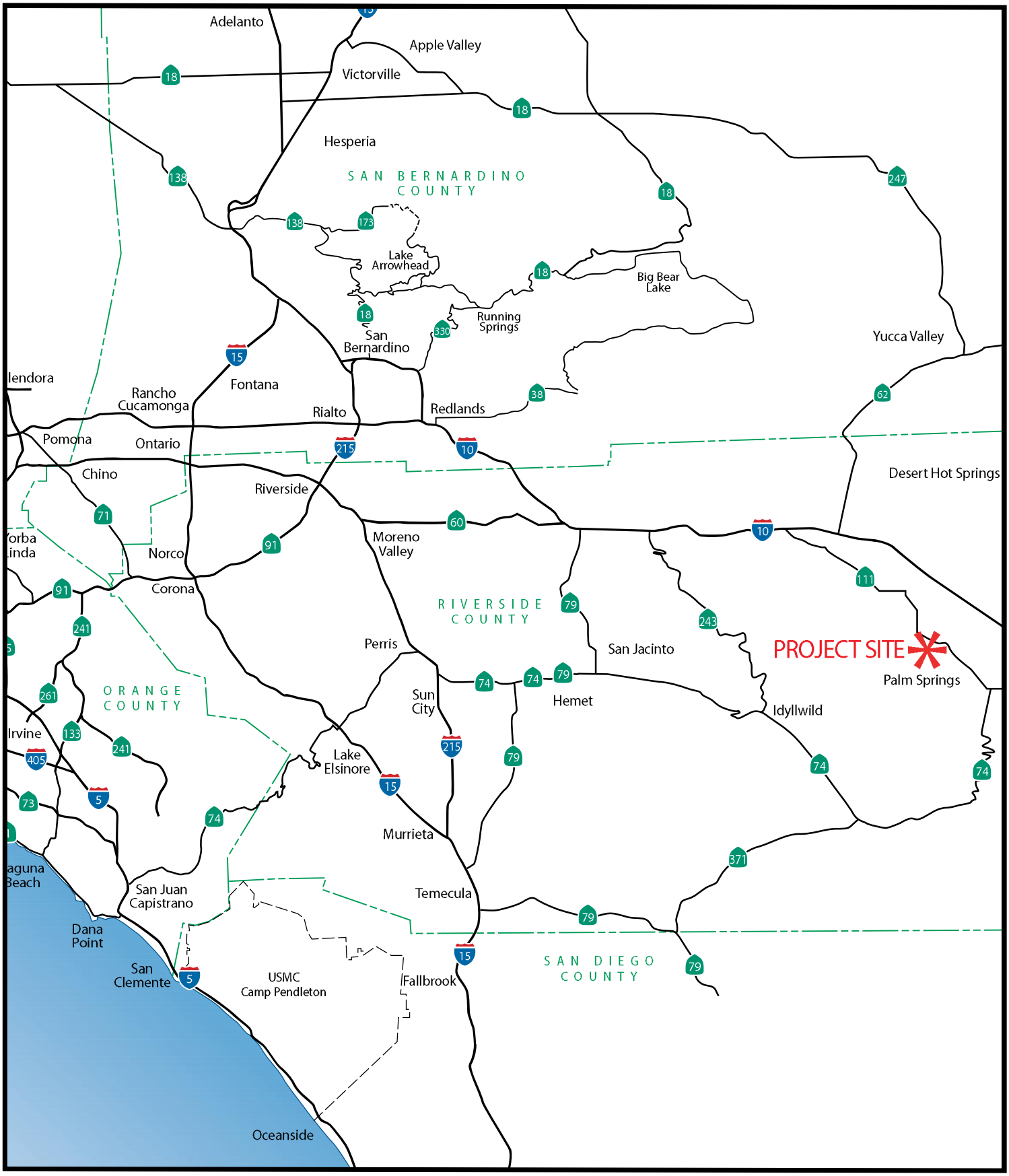
The canyon has historically been used as a gravel pit, equipment storage and disposal area, and a shooting range. During periods of heavy rainfall, rain, mud and debris funnel down Eagle Canyon and have damaged structures downstream of the Canyon in Cathedral City. For example, on July 20, 2008, the area experienced a significant flood event that pushed sediment into south portions of the City, flooding a trailer park and an auto dealership, along with other businesses; refer to Exhibit 3, *Flood Event Photographs*. The southern half of the project site does not appear to have been disturbed by these activities and serves as the drainage course through the site. Flood control improvements are needed to reduce potential damage to developed land located downstream from the project site.

2.3 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The proposed project would include the construction, operation, and maintenance of an earthen dam, debris catchment and underground storm drain (refer to Exhibit 3, *Proposed Project*). The project will provide flood detention and flood hazard mitigation for the developed portion of Cathedral City located downstream of the Canyon. The outlet works would be ungated and the dam would therefore only hold water for brief periods of time following significant flood events. The debris basin would keep sediment and debris from flowing downstream, and would be cleaned out on a periodic basis to prevent buildup of materials and storm water. Storm water flows from the wash would be conveyed in 3300 linear feet of 42" drainage pipeline (Line 43), which extends to East Palm Canyon Drive (Highway 111) and follows the right-of-way (ROW) for approximately 1,000 LF, terminating at the West Cathedral Channel, which is located southeast of Eagle Canyon next to Bankside Drive.

Prior to construction of the project, the Project Proponent shall remediate potentially hazardous materials resulting from illegal dumping that previously occurred on the site.

The project area is accessed through a gate from East Palm Canyon Drive (Highway 111). Construction staging would be located within the vacant land adjacent to the wash.



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EAGLE CANYON DAM AND DEBRIS BASIN

Regional Location Map

EXHIBIT 1

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EAGLE CANYON DAM AND DEBRIS BASIN

Project Vicinity Map

Exhibit 2

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EAGLE CANYON DAM AND DEBRIS BASIN

July 20, 2008 Flood Event Photographs

Exhibit 3

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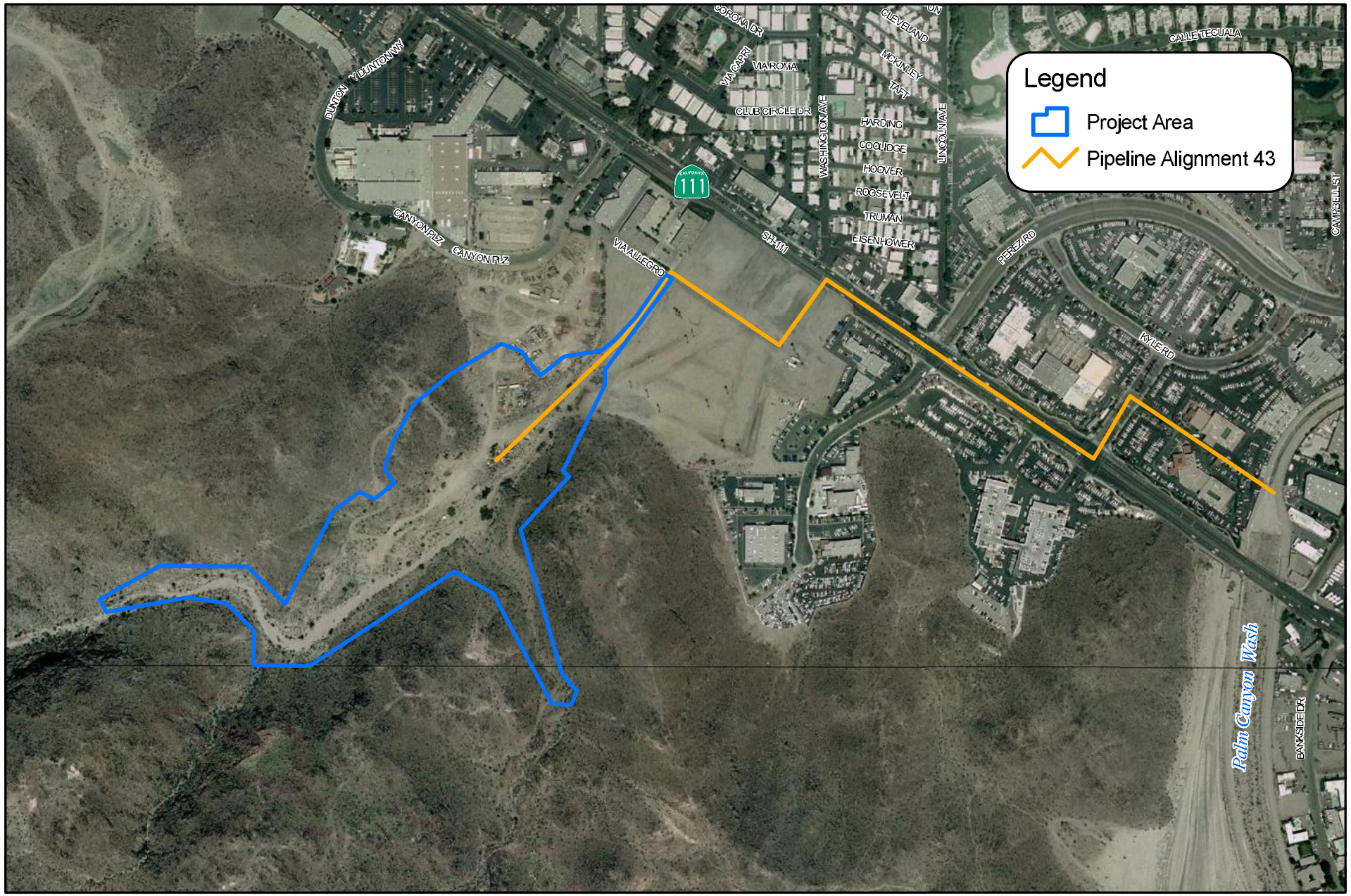

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EAGLE CANYON DAM AND DEBRIS BASIN

Proposed Project Limits

Exhibit 4

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2.4 AGREEMENTS, PERMITS, AND APROVALS

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is the Lead Agency for the project and has discretionary authority over the project. To implement this project, the following agreements, permits, and approvals may need to be obtained:

Agreements, Permits, and Approvals	Granting Agency
Air Conformity Determination	Air Quality Management District
Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification	State Water Resources Control Board
Discharge of Dredge or Fill Material into Water (Section 404 Permit)	Army Corps of Engineers
Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Certification	Riverside County Flood Control District
Agreement(s)	City of Palm Springs, Cathedral City
Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement	California Department of Fish and Game
NPDES Permits	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Specification Plans, and Design Approvals	Division of Safety of Dams
Highway 111 Encroachment Permit	Caltrans

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3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

3.1 BACKGROUND

Project Title: Eagle Canyon Dam and Debris Basin Project
Lead Agency Name and Address: County of Riverside Public Utilities Department 3901 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501
Contact Person and Phone Number: Kris Flanigan, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer 951-955-8581
Project Location: The project site is located at the mouth of Eagle Canyon, in the hills to the southwest of East Palm Canyon Drive (Highway 111) in both the city of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, California (refer to Exhibit 1, Regional Vicinity Map, and Exhibit 2, Site Vicinity Map). A portion of the project would be sited within Agua Caliente Indian Reservation property.
General Plan Designation: Cathedral City: Hillside Reserve and General Commercial Palm Springs: Special Policy Area
Zoning: Indian Land (I-L); Urban Reserve (U-R);
Description of the Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to, later phases of the Project, and any secondary, support or off-site features necessary for its implementation.) The proposed project would include the construction, operation, and maintenance of an earthen dam, debris catchment and underground storm drain (refer to Exhibit 3, Proposed Project). The project will provide flood detention and flood hazard mitigation for the developed portion of Cathedral City located downstream of the canyon. The outlet works would be ungated and the dam would therefore only hold water for brief periods of time following significant flood events. The debris basin would keep sediment and debris from flowing downstream, and would be cleaned out on a periodic basis to prevent buildup of materials and storm water. Storm water flows from the wash would be conveyed in 3300 linear feet of 42" drainage pipeline (Line 43), which extends to East Palm Canyon Drive (Highway 111) and follows the right-of-way (ROW) for approximately 1,000 LF, terminating at the West Cathedral Channel, which is located southeast of Eagle Canyon next to Bankside Drive. Prior to construction of the project, the Project Proponent anticipates remediation of potentially hazardous materials resulting from illegal dumping that previously occurred on the site.
Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: The proposed dam site is surrounded by the following land uses: **North:** Industrial and commercial uses **South:** Vacant hillsides **East:** Vacant land **West:** Vacant hillsides

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

3.3 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The issue areas evaluated in this Initial Study include:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture Resources
- Air Quality and Global Warming
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

The environmental analysis in this section is patterned after the Initial Study Checklist recommended by the District's CEQA Guidelines and used by the District in its environmental review process. For the preliminary environmental assessment undertaken as part of this Initial Study's preparation, a determination that there is a potential for significant effects indicates the need to more fully analyze the project's impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

For the evaluation of potential impacts, the questions in the Initial Study Checklist are stated and an answer is provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. The analysis considers the long-term, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project. To each question, the following are the four possible responses:

- **No Impact.** The project will not have any measurable environmental impact on the environment.

- **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will have the potential for impacting the environment, although this impact will be below established thresholds that are considered to be significant.

- **Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.** The project will have the potential to generate impacts which may be considered as a significant effect on the environment, although mitigation measures or changes to the project's physical or operational characteristics can reduce these impacts to levels that are less than significant.

- **Potentially Significant Impact**. The project will have impacts that are considered significant, and additional mitigation measures cannot reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

Where potential impacts are anticipated to be significant, mitigation measures will be required, so that impacts may be avoided or reduced to insignificant levels whenever possible.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
1. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☑	◎	◎	◎

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☑	◎	◎	◎
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	◎	◎	☑	◎

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The proposed project involves the construction, operation, and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and associated storm drainage facilities at the mouth of Eagle Canyon, in the hills to the southwest of the city of Palm Springs and Cathedral City. The dam is proposed to be approximately 65 feet high and approximately 150 feet wide. Eagle Canyon is currently undeveloped, and is surrounded by undeveloped hillsides. Any development within this area could permanently alter the scenic vista of the hillside. Further analysis will be conducted.

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

The project site is located approximately .5 miles from SR-111. SR-111 is an Eligible State Scenic Highway – Not Officially Designated between SR-74 in Palm Desert to Whitewater. The proposed dam would be visible from SR-111, and may potentially impact the local scenic resources. The dam would be made of earthen materials, which would reduce the aesthetic impact from SR-111. However, further analysis will be conducted.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Refer to Response (a), above. Further analysis will be conducted.

d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project would include permanent structures associated with the dam embankment. It is not anticipated that these structures would cause a significant amount of light and glare due to a lack of reflective surfaces. Less than significant impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
2. 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?	◎	◎	◎	☑
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	◎	◎	◎	☑
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?	◎	◎	◎	☑

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? ***No Impact.***

The project site is not indicated on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as prime or unique farmland. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? ***No Impact.***

The project site is zoned Indian Land by the City of Palm Springs zoning map, and Urban Reserve by the Cathedral City zoning map. In addition, the site is not encumbered by a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impact would occur.

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? ***No Impact.***

The project site is not currently used for agricultural purposes. Approval of the project would not convert farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
3. 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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable	☑			

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?		◎	◎	◎
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	◎	◎	☑	◎
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	◎	◎	☑	◎

Would the project:

a) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The project site is located in the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), a geographic region whose air quality and pollution control actions are regulated and monitored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). SCAQMD is responsibly for the development of the regional Air Quality Management Plan, a multi-tier effort to regulate pollutant emissions from a variety of sources. The California Air Resources Board and the Environmental Protection Agency have identified the SSAB as a non-attainment area for both PM_{10} and ozone. Temporary construction activities associated with the proposed project could result in significant additional emissions. Long-term operations would consist of periodic maintenance activities, which would result in minimal air quality emissions. Further analysis will be conducted.

b) *Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Currently, the Salton Sea Air Basin is designated as nonattainment for ozone (O_3) and particulate matter (PM_{10}) under both Federal and State standards. Development of the proposed project would result in pollutant emissions from short-term construction activities. Long-term operations would consist of periodic maintenance activities, which would result in minimal air quality emissions. The EIR will quantify potential air quality

impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures that would be effective in reducing pollutant emissions.

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)?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Refer to Responses (a) and (b), above. Further analysis will be conducted.

d) *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Sensitive receptors (i.e., children, senior citizens, and acutely or chronically ill people) are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the general population. Land uses that are considered sensitive receptors typically include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes. The project is located near one school, Cathedral City Elementary School (located approximately 1.5 miles from the project). Development of the proposed project would result in pollutant emissions such as fugitive dust and exhaust fumes from short-term construction activities. However, the project site is not located within close proximity to sensitive receptors, as identified above. Impacts in this regard are considered less than significant.

e) *Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Construction activities may generate detectable odors from heavy-duty equipment exhaust. Odors associated with diesel and gasoline fumes would occur during construction and may affect people in the vicinity of the project; however, these odors would be temporary and would dissipate upon completion of construction. Additionally, periodic maintenance during operation may result in odors associated with diesel and gasoline fumes, however these odors would be minimal and temporary. Additionally, the project site is not located within close proximity to substantial populations. Impacts in this regard are considered less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect,	☑			

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?		◎	◎	◎
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☑	◎	◎	◎
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan,	☑	◎	◎	◎

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

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?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Existing data indicates that the project area may contain special status species, including Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Le Conte's Thrasher, Flat-tailed Horned Lizard, Northern Red-diamond Rattlesnake, Coachella Giant Sand-treader Cricket, and Coachella Valley Jerusalem Cricket. Implementation of the proposed project could potentially result in significant impacts to habitat for these species during construction and operation. Further analysis will be conducted.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

It is not anticipated that the project site includes riparian habitat, as the project site only contains water during flood events and for relatively short periods of time. However, the project site includes Desert Dry Wash Woodland, a California Natural Diversity Database Community of Highest Inventory Priority that grows along the bottom of the canyon and tributary. Further analysis will be conducted.

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

It is not anticipated that the project site includes wetlands, as the project site only contains water during flood events and for relatively short periods of time. However, further analysis will be conducted regarding compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The project proposes the construction of a dam and debris basin that would cross Eagle Canyon. The implementation of the dam could potentially impact wildlife corridors. Further analysis will be conducted.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Implementation of the proposed project would involve the construction of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain facilities in an undeveloped portion of Eagle Canyon. Construction and operation of these facilities could conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Further analysis will be conducted.

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? ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project site is located within an area covered by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Draft Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition, a portion of the project site (the downstream end of proposed Line 43) is located within the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Plan. Development of the project site could potentially conflict with these plans. Further analysis will be conducted.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?	☑	◎	◎	◎
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☑	◎	◎	◎
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☑	◎	◎	◎

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

A Cultural Resources Report will be prepared for the project area, which will determine the presence or absence of resources located and potential impacts resulting from implementation of the project. Further analysis will be conducted

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5? ***Potentially SignificantImpact.***

There is a potential that archaeological resources may be located within the project site. A Cultural Resources study including an archaeological study will be prepared for the project site which will determine the presence/absence of resources located within the project site. Further analysis will be conducted.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

There is a potential that paleontological resources may be located within the project site. A Cultural Resources study including a paleontological study will be prepared for the project site which will determine the presence or absence of resources located within the project site. It is anticipated that any impacts associated with these resources could be mitigated as a part of project implementation. Further analysis will be conducted.

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

There are no known formal gravesites within the project limits. However, the possibility still remains that human remains could be encountered during grading. The project would

adhere to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, which state that if human remains are discovered, all work will stop until the origin of the remains have been determined. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission**.** Further analysis will be conducted.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	◎	◎	☑	◎
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	◎	◎	☑	◎
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☑	◎	◎	◎
iv) Landslides?	◎	◎	☑	◎
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☑	◎	◎	◎
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 Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
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?	◎	◎	☑	◎
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	◎	◎	◎	☑

Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project site is located within a seismically active portion of California. Several Alquist-Priolo faults are located within the project region, including the San Andreas Fault, the Banning Fault, the San Gorgonio Pass Fault and the Garnet Hill Fault, which are located north of the project site. The design of the dam embankment would be required to comply with Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) regulations and policies regarding seismic standards. Compliance with DSOD standards would reduce impacts in this regard to a level of less than significant.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

It is anticipated that the project area could experience strong seismic groundshaking from the San Andreas Fault, the Banning Fault, San Gorgonio Pass Fault, and the Garnet Hill Fault. The design of the dam embankment would be required to comply with DSOD

regulations and policies regarding seismic standards. Compliance with DSOD standards would reduce impacts in this regard to a level of less than significant.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

According to the Cathedral City *General Plan*, the project site is not located in an area that has the potential for liquefaction. However, preliminary geologic studies indicate that materials in the foundation area of the dam would be subject to liquefaction during an earthquake. Further analysis will be conducted.

iv) Landslides? ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

According to the Cathedral City *General Plan*, the project site is not located in an area that has the potential for landslides. Therefore, less than significant impacts would occur.

b) *Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Soil erosion is defined as the detachment and movement of soil particles by the erosive forces of wind or water. The project would be required to comply with existing DSOD, and Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) design and operational requirements. A detailed soils report will be prepared as part of the environmental analysis for this project. Further analysis will be conducted.

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?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Refer to Responses *(a)(i)* through 4.6*(a)(iv)* And 4.6 (b), above. Further analysis will be conducted.

d) *Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

Soils within the project site include sands and gravels in the canyon bottom and downstream wash, and decomposed granite covering the remaining portions of the site. Typically, these soil types do not exhibit expansive characteristics. As part of the project implementation, an analysis of expansion potential will be conducted in compliance in DSOD standards, reducing impacts in this regard to a level of less than significant.

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?* ***No Impact.***

The project does not propose the development of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impacts would occur in this regard.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS B Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	◎	◎	☑	◎
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	◎	◎	◎	☑
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	◎	◎	◎	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	◎	◎	◎	☑
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	◎	☑	◎	◎
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?	◎	◎	◎	☑

Would the project:

a) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The proposed project would include the construction of a dam, debris basin, and associated stormwater drainage facilities. It is not anticipated that hazardous materials would be used in either the construction or operation of these facilities. However, the project includes removal and remediation of existing and potentially hazardous materials from previous use as an illegal dumping site. Potentially hazardous materials may need to be transported and/or remediated prior to construction of the dam and debris basin. Transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials associated with site remediation activities would be temporary in nature, and would comply with Standard Guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard, Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120), as well as the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The project site is vacant and was historically used for illegal dumping. Some of the items dumped on the project site may be hazardous, and therefore, would be required to be properly disposed of prior to construction. Further analysis will be conducted regarding potential pre-construction accidental release of hazardous materials. Operation-related risks associated with hazards to the public resulting from accidental release of hazardous materials are not significant.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? ***No Impact.***

The project site is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

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? ***Potentially Signficant Impact.***

Refer to Response (a), above. According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Due to the previous illegal dumping activities, the Project Proponent anticipates the removal and remediation of existing and potentially hazardous materials prior to construction. Potentially hazardous materials would need to be transported and/or remediated prior to construction of the dam and debris basin. Transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials associated with construction and maintenance equipment would be would be temporary in nature, and would comply with Standard Guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard, Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120), as well as the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Further analysis will be conducted.

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? ***No Impact.***

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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? ***No Impact.***

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.***

During construction activities, the project has the potential to impair emergency response due to road closures, detours, and construction-related traffic. However, the project would be required to implement a Traffic Control Plan that would address emergency response during construction. With the implementation of mitigation measures, impacts would be reduced to a level of less than significant. Further analysis will be conducted in the EIR.

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? ***No Impact.***

The project would include the development of a dam, debris basin, and associated stormwater facilities, which would not increase the exposure to people or structures to wildland fires. No impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial discharges of typical storm water pollutants (e.g. sediment from construction activities, hydrocarbons, and metals from motor vehicles, nutrients and pesticides from landscape maintenance activities, metals of other pollutants from industrial operation,) or substantial changes to surface water quality including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, or	◎	◎	☑	◎

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
turbidity?				
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)?	◎	◎	☑	◎
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☑	◎	◎	◎
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☑	◎	◎	◎
f) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on Federal Flood Hazard boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	◎	◎	◎	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Place structures or fill within a 100-year flood hazard area, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☑	◎	◎	◎
h) 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?	◎	☑	◎	◎
i) Be susceptible to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	◎	◎	☑	◎
j) Substantially change the amount of surface water in any water body or wetlands?	◎	◎	☑	◎

Would the project:

a) *Result in substantial discharges of typical storm water pollutants (e.g. sediment from construction activities, hydrocarbons, and metals from motor vehicles, nutrients and pesticides from landscape maintenance activities, metals of other pollutants from industrial operation,) or substantial changes to surface water quality including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, or turbidity?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and an underground storm drain. Although there is some potential for discharge of typical storm water pollutants during construction, the project would be required to implement necessary Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) pursuant to the District's MS4 permit issued by the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board. Implementation of the SWPPP and Best Management Practices for reduced impacts to storm water quality would ensure that significant impacts would not occur. Impacts would be considered less than significant. Further analysis will be conducted.

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)? ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and an underground storm drain which will provide flood detention and flood hazard mitigation to existing developments below the canyon. Therefore, the project does not have the potential to substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge.

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

The project proposes the development of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain, the development of which would alter the natural drainage pattern downstream of Eagle Canyon. Further analysis will be conducted.

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

Refer to Response (c), above. Further analysis will be conducted.

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?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The project will alleviate current deficiencies in the existing storm water drainage systems, and protect development downstream of Eagle Canyon from debris and flooding during significant rain events. The outlet works would be ungated and the dam would therefore only retain water for brief periods of time following significant flood events. Storm water flows from the wash would be conveyed in 3300 linear feet of 42" drainage pipeline (Line 43), which extends to East Palm Canyon Drive (Highway 111) and follows the right-of-way (ROW) for approximately 1,000 LF, terminating at the West Cathedral Channel, which is located southeast of Eagle Canyon next to Bankside Drive. Since the project is designed to improve conveyance of the existing storm water drainage systems, impacts would be less than significant in this regard. However, further analysis will be conducted.

f) *Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on Federal Flood Hazard boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?* ***No Impact.***

The project does not include the construction of housing. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

g) *Place structures or fill within a 100-year flood hazard area, which would impede or redirect flood flows?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The project site is located in Flood Hazard Zone A, as designated on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate maps. Flood Hazard Zone A is defined as areas of a 100-year floo, with base elevations that have not been determined. When constructed, the project will protect development downstream of the project from flood events. Further analysis will be conducted.

h) *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?* ***Less Than Significant with Mitigation.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin and underground storm drain. The outlet works would be ungated and the dam would therefore only retain water for brief periods of time following significant flood events. Water collected by the dam would be carried away via storm drainage facilities that discharge into the West Cathedral Canyon Channel. The project would be designed and constructed in accordance with California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) requirements. Further analysis will be conducted.

i) *Be susceptible to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The proposed dam would retain water for brief periods of time following significant flood events, and therefore, it is unlikely that seiche could occur resulting in significant damage. The project site is not located near a large body of water, and therefore, the potential for tsunamis is considered not significant. The construction of the debris basin would reduce the potential for mudflow, and therefore, impacts are less than significant.

j) *Substantially change the amount of surface water in any water body or wetlands?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

According to current estimates, the proposed dam would retain water for seven days or less after a storm event, and therefore, would not substantially change the amount of surface water in the area, nor would it create wetland or riparian habitat in the vicinity of the dam and debris basin. Less than significant impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
9. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	◎	◎	◎	☑
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☑	◎	◎	◎

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community? ***No Impact.***

The project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of an earthfill dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain located at the mouth of Eagle Canyon. The dam will provide flood detention and flood hazard mitigation for the developed portion of Cathedral City located downstream. The project site is vacant and is located on the fringe of the City's developable area. No impact would occur.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The northwest portion of the project site is designated as a Special Policy Area, as identified in the Palm Springs *General Plan,* and the southwest portion of the site is located within the Hillside Reserve and General Commercial land use designations in the Cathedral City

General Plan. The project site is zoned Indian Land and Urban Reserve, as identified by Palm Springs and Cathedral City, respectively. Further analysis will be conducted.

c) *Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The majority of the project site is located within an area covered by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Draft Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition, a portion of the project site (the downstream end of proposed Line 43) is located within the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Plan. Implementation of the project could potentially conflict with these plans. Further analysis will be conducted.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
10. 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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎

Would the project:

a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

According to the Cathedral City *General Plan,* the project site is located in MR-Z 3 Resource Zone. Areas designated as MRZ-3 include areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. Further analysis will be conducted.

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? ***Potentially Significant Impact***

Refer to Response (a), above. Further analysis will be conducted.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☑	◎	◎	◎
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	◎	◎	☑	◎
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☑	◎	◎	◎
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?	◎	◎	◎	☑
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?	◎	◎	◎	☑

Would the project result in:

a) *Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Project construction activities could result in short-term noise impacts. Short-term impacts would occur during grading and would expose adjacent uses to increased noise and vibration levels. Long-term impacts would be minimal, and associated with periodic maintenance activities, including debris removal from behind the dam. Further analysis will be conducted for short-term noise impacts.

b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Refer to Response (a), above. Further analysis will be conducted in the EIR.

c) *A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

It is not anticipated that operation and maintenance of the dam would result in a significant increase in ambient noise. However, further discussion will be provided in the EIR.

d) *A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Refer to Response (a), above. Further analysis will be conducted.

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?* ***No Impact.***

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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?* ***No Impact.***

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
12. 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)?	◎	◎	◎	☑
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	◎	◎	◎	☑
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	◎	◎	◎	☑

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)? ***No Impact.***

The project involves the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain and would not have an impact on population growth. No impacts would occur in this regard.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ***No Impact.***

The project site does not contain housing. Therefore, no housing would be displaced as a result of project implementation. No impacts would occur in this regard.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ***No Impact.***

Refer to Response (b), above. No impacts would occur in this regard.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
13. PUBLIC SERVICES				
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:				
Fire protection?	◎	◎	◎	☑
Police protection?	◎	◎	◎	☑
Schools?	◎	◎	◎	☑
Parks?	◎	◎	◎	☑
Other public facilities?	◎	◎	◎	☑

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:*

1) Fire protection? ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain, which would not require additional fire protection services. No impacts would occur in this regard.

2) Police protection? ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain, which would require additional police protection services. No impacts would occur in this regard.

3) Schools? ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the c construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain and does not include housing and therefore, would not generate additional students. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

4) Parks? ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain and does not include housing, and therefore would not increase the demand for parks. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

5) Other public facilities? ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain, and does not include housing, and therefore would not increase the demand for other public facilities, including libraries. No impacts would occur in this regard.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
14. RECREATION --				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional	◎	◎	◎	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
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?	◎	◎	◎	☑

a) Would the proposed 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? ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain which would not increase the use of existing parks. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment? ***No Impact.***

Refer to Response (a), above. No impacts would occur in this regard.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
15. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on	☑	◎	◎	◎

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
roads, or congestion at intersections)?				
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature *(e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections)* or incompatible uses *(e.g., farm equipment)?*	◎	◎	◎	☑
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	◎	◎	☑	◎
e) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	◎	◎	◎	☑

Would the project:

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

Temporary potential traffic impacts may occur as a result of construction activities. The project would not result in significant long-term traffic impacts, as the project would only require periodic routine maintenance. Further analysis will be conducted.

b) *Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Refer to Response (a), above. Further analysis will be conducted.

c) *Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?* ***No Impact.***

The project involves the construction and operation of a dam, debris basin, and associated storm drainage facilities, and would increase hazards from design features or incompatible

uses. The project is designed to mitigate existing hazards. No impacts would occur in this regard.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access? ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

As part of project implementation, Line 43 would be constructed in Highway 111 and local streets, which may result in temporary detours or road closures. Development of the project site would be subject to design review by both Palm Springs and Cathedral City Public Works Departments to assure that adequate emergency access is provided. Less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.

e) Result in inadequate parking capacity? ***No Impact.***

The proposed project would need minimal parking for dam operation and maintenance. In addition, the project would be required to meet City parking standards applicable to the project. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur in this regard.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS B Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the construction or relocation of water or wastewater treatment or transmission facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	◎	◎	◎	☑
b) 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?	◎		☑	◎
c) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	◎	◎	◎	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) 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?	◎	◎	◎	☑
e) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	◎	◎	☑	◎
f) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	◎	◎	◎	☑

Would the project:

a) *Require or result in the construction or relocation of water or wastewater treatment or transmission facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?* ***No Impact.***

The project is not expected to generate wastewater, and therefore would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

b) *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?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain, which will collect and convey stormwater flows. Stormwater detained behind the dam would be carried through proposed stormwater pipelines (Line 43) and drain into the West Cathedral Canyon Channel. It is not anticipated that significant impacts would result from implementation of the proposed project. However, further analysis will be conducted.

c) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?* ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain, which would provide flood detention and flood hazard mitigation for the developed portion of Cathedral City located downstream. The outlet works would be ungated and the dam would therefore only retain water for brief periods of time following significant flood events. No impacts would occur in this regard.

d) *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?* ***No Impact.***

The project proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a dam, debris basin, and underground storm drain,, which would not generate wastewater. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

e) *Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?* ***Less Than Significant Impact.***

The project would include the construction disposal of onsite hazardous waste during construction and operation of a dam, debris basin, and associated storm drainage facilities which are not expected to generate significant amounts of solid waste. No impacts would occur in this regard.

f) *Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?* ***No Impact.***

The project will comply with applicable federal, state, and local statutes relative to solid waste. No impacts would occur in this regard.

	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-	☑	◎	◎	◎

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				
b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	☑	◎	◎	◎
c) 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)?	☑	◎	◎	◎
d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☑	◎	◎	◎

The following findings have been made, regarding the mandatory findings of significance set forth in Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines, based on the results of this environmental assessment:

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?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

Existing data indicates that the project area may contain special status species, including Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Le Conte's Thrasher, Flat-tailed Horned Lizard, Northern Red-diamond Rattlesnake, Coachella Giant Sand-treader Cricket, and Coachella Valley Jerusalem Cricket. In addition, it is not known whether as-yet undiscovered historical, archaeological or paleontological resources exist within the project site. However, resources could be found during construction operations. Accordingly, mitigation will be incorporated into the project to address this possibility. Further analysis will be conducted.

b). *Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

The project proposes the construction of a dam and debris basin to mitigate existing flood hazards downstream of Eagle Canyon. As stated above, the project has the potential to create several long term impacts, including impacts to aesthetics, land use, mineral resources, and biological resources. Further analysis will be conducted.

c). *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

There is a potential for cumulative impacts based on the number of potentially significant impacts. The project could potentially have significant impacts on:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic

A review of cumulative impacts for each issue area will be part of the EIR analysis, pursuant to Section 15130 of the CEQA Guidelines.

d). *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?* ***Potentially Significant Impact.***

As stated in various sections of this Initial Study, the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts on the environment. The EIR will include a comprehensive

review of existing conditions, potential project impacts, and will recommend mitigation measures to reduce the level of significance related to short-term construction and long-term operations, as necessary.

4.0 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 the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. 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 significant effect(s) 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, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." 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, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: Mr. Mark Wills
Chief of Regulatory Division
For: Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

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5.0 REFERENCES

LEAD AGENCY:

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:

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Ontario, California 91761

Ms. Ruth Villalobos, Project Director
Mr. John Gifford, Project Manager

The following references were utilized during preparation of this Initial Study:

California Environmental Quality Act CEQA Guidelines, 2009.

Cathedral City General Plan, 2007

City Palm Springs General Plan, 2007

County of Riverside General Plan, 2008

County of Riverside Website. http://www.countyofriverside.us/portal/page/portal/cornew

State of California Scenic Highway Mapping System Website.
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm

State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control Website. www.dtsc.ca.gov

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