Final Mitigated Negative Declaration

SUBJECT: Otay Water District 1296-3 Reservoir

I. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: See Initial Study.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: See Initial Study.

III. DETERMINATION:
The Otay Water District (OWD) conducted an Initial Study for the proposed 1296-3 Reservoir project, and determined that the proposed project could have a significant environmental effect in the following areas: **Air Quality, Biological Resources, Geology/Soils, Hydrology/Water Quality, and Noise.** Future development of the 1296-3 Reservoir shall be required to implement the mitigation measures identified in Section V of this Mitigated Negative Declaration. Implementation of the prescribed mitigation would avoid or mitigate potentially significant environmental effects identified by this analysis, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not required for the construction of the 1296-3 Reservoir.

IV. DOCUMENTATION:
The attached Initial Study documents the evidence to support the above determination.

V. MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM:
The following mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts associated with Air Quality, Biological Resources, Geology/Soils, Hydrology/Water Quality, Noise, and Mandatory Findings of Significance to below a level of significance:

Air Quality
A1. During clearing, grading, and earth moving, OWD shall control fugitive dust by regular watering of the site and access road. The following practices shall be implemented:

- Spread soil binders;
- Wet the area down, sufficient enough to form a crust on the surface with repeated soakings, as necessary, to maintain the crust and prevent dust pick up by the wind;
- Use water trucks and sprinkler systems to keep all areas where vehicles move wet enough to prevent dust raised when leaving the site; and,
- Wet down areas in the late morning and after work is completed for the day.

Biological Resources
B1. The impact to 1.20 acres of Diegan Coastal sage scrub (CSS) shall be mitigated through the preservation of CSS at a 2:1 ratio for a total mitigation requirement of 2.40 acres of CSS. The 2.40 acres of CSS shall be preserved in the OWD's existing HMA.

B2. To avoid potential direct impacts to nesting birds, all vegetation clearing within the construction footprint (project site boundary) shall be conducted outside of the gnatcatcher breeding season (February 15 through September 1). A biologist shall be onsite to walk ahead of clearing/grubbing

equipment to flush any gnatcatchers toward areas of appropriate vegetation that are to be avoided. The biologist will ensure that gnatcatchers are not injured or killed by initial vegetation clearing/grubbing.

B3. To avoid indirect construction related noise impacts to gnatcatchers during the breeding season (February 15 through September 1), surveys shall be conducted to determine the exact location of nests within 315 to 790 feet from the center of construction activity.

If an occupied gnatcatcher nest is identified during a survey within 315 to 790 feet from the center of construction activity, a focused noise survey shall be conducted to determine the actual noise level at the nest. If the noise level exceeds 60 dB(A) at the nest, noise reduction techniques such as temporary noise barriers/walls shall be installed. Construction activity noise levels shall be monitored near the nesting locations. Additional noise reduction measures such as reducing the number of equipment items being used, reducing the use of loud equipment items, and/or reducing the amount of time loud equipment items are used are also considered appropriate.

Geology/Soils
Same as Mitigation Measure WQ1, below; and,

GS1. In order to mitigate the potential for differential settlement, the cut portion of the pad shall be undercut an amount equal to one-third or more of the deepest fill depth beneath the structure or three feet, whichever is greater, and replaced with compacted fill. Prior to construction of the proposed project a comprehensive geotechnical evaluation, including development-specific subsurface exploration and laboratory testing, shall be conducted. The purpose of the subsurface evaluation would be to further evaluate the subsurface conditions in the area of future structures or improvements and to provide information pertaining to the engineering characteristics of earth materials at the project site. From this data, recommendations for grading/earthwork, surface and subsurface drainage, foundations, pavement structural sections, sedimentation modifications, and other pertinent geotechnical design considerations may be required as additional mitigation measures for the proposed project.

Hydrology and Water Quality
WQ1. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented at the project site during construction and long-term operation of the reservoir. The contractor specifications shall require the implementation of BMPs to control stormwater runoff during project construction. The following measures shall be implemented:

- Prior to the commencement of construction activities of the proposed project, the OWD shall comply with the Resources Control Board General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ), the following components are required: a Notice of Intent (NOI), Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and Monitoring Program and Reporting Requirements. The SWPPP shall include all required elements and BMPs that shall be used during construction include but are not limited to:
    - Silt fence, fiber rolls, or gravel bag berms;
    - Street sweeping;
    - Storm drain inlet protection;
    - Stabilized construction entrance/exit;
    - Vehicle and equipment maintenance, cleaning, and fueling; and,
    - Hydroseed, soil binders, or straw mulch.

In preparing the SWPPP, OWD shall reference the County of San Diego's Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) and Stormwater Standards Manual (SSM) for a template in preparing the Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and guideline for selecting and implementing BMPs.

- Prepare a BMP implementation and maintenance schedule to provide proper guidance in the proper utilization of BMPs.

Noise
Same as Mitigation Measures B1 and B2 above; and,

N1. The following shall be incorporated into the design and construction of the proposed project:
- Noise construction activities shall be scheduled only during the hours and days as permitted by OWD standards, which are Monday through Saturday 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM;
- If blasting is employed during construction, the blast target shall be completely covered at least with two loader buckets full of dirt;
- All construction equipment, stationary and mobile, shall be equipped with properly operating and maintained muffling devices. Impact tools shall be shielded per manufacturer's specifications; and,
- Grading and construction equipment shall be stored on the project site while in use.

VI. PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION:

Draft copies or notice of this Draft Negative Declaration were distributed to:

Federal, State, and Local Agencies
Mr. Don Chadwick, California Department of Fish and Game
Ms. Cara McGary, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ms. Laurie Monnares, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
Mr. John H. Robertus, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Other Entities
San Diego County Library, Rancho San Diego Branch
East County Californian
Mr. David C. Fege, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Tim Cass, San Diego County Water Authority
Jamul/Dulzura Community Planning Group

Owner/Occupant
Property Owners within 500 feet of the project site, including Bear Mountain Way.

VII. RESULTS OF PUBLIC REVIEW:

( ) No comments were received during the public input period.

( ) Comments were received but did not address the Draft Negative Declaration finding or the accuracy/completeness of the Initial Study. No response is necessary. The letters are attached.

(X) Comments addressing the findings of the Draft Negative Declaration and/or accuracy or completeness of the Initial Study were received during the public input period. The letters and responses follow.

VIII. LIST OF PUBLIC AGENCIES THAT COMMENTED ON THE DRAFT MND

A draft version of this MND was circulated for public review from October 18, 2007 to November 19, 2007. The following is a listing of the public agencies that commented during this public review period. The letters and response to comments are attached to this document following the MND. As a result of the public comments to the Draft MND, the Final MND includes minor revisions to the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist that are marked in ~~strickeout~~/underline format. Specifically, no new significant impacts would result from the proposed project or no new mitigation measures are proposed for implementation different from those discussed in the Draft MND.

Index of Comment Letters

Comment Letter	Commenter	Letter Date
A	Native American Heritage Commission	11/13/07
B	United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service	11/16/07

Copies of the Draft Negative Declaration and any Initial Study material are available for review at: Otay Water District, 2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, CA 91978-2004, Contact: Lisa Coburn-Boyd, Environmental Compliance Specialist, (619) 670-2219; and the San Diego County Library, Rancho San Diego Branch, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon, CA 92019.

Lisa Coburn-Boyd
Environmental Compliance Specialist
Otay Water District

October 18, 2007
Date of Draft Report

Date of Final Report

Comment Letter A

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net

November 13, 2007

Ms. Lisa Coburn-Boyd
OTAY WATER DISTRICT
2554 Sweetwater Springs road
Spring Valley, CA 91978-2004

Re: SCH#2007101085; CEQA Notice of Completion; Negative Declaration for the 1296-3 Reservoir Project, Otay Water District; San Diego County, California

Dear Ms. Coburn-Boyd:

The Native American Heritage Commission is the state's Trustee Agency for Native American Cultural Resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per CEQA guidelines § 15064.5(b)(c). In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE)', and if so, to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess the project-related impacts on historical resources, the Commission recommends the following action: **A1**

√ Contact the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS). Contact information for the Information Center nearest you is available from the State Office of Historic Preservation (916/653-7278)/ http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/1068/files/IC%20Roster.pdf The record search will determine:

- If a part or the entire APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
- If any known cultural resources have already been recorded in or adjacent to the APE.
- If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
- If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

√ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.

- The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
- The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.

√ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for:

- A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the project area and information on tribal contacts in the project vicinity that may have additional cultural resource information. Please provide this office with the following citation format to assist with the Sacred Lands File search request: USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle citation with name; township, range and section;

- The NAHC advises the use of Native American Monitors to ensure proper identification and care given cultural resources that may be discovered. The NAHC recommends that contact be made with Native American Contacts on the attached list to get their input on potential project impact (APE). In some cases, the existence of a Native American cultural resources may be known only to a local tribe(s).

√ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.

- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.

√ Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans.

- CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(d) requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans identified by this Commission if the initial Study identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE. CEQA Guidelines provide for agreements with Native American, identified by the NAHC, to assure the appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated grave liens.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER BY DAVE SINGLETON, PROGRAM ANALYST, NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION, DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2007 (COMMENT LETTER A)

Response to Comment A1:
The letter recommends a series of actions to determine if any cultural resources may be affected by the proposed project. As discussed in Section V. Cultural Resources of Initial Study/Environmental Checklist of the Final MND, based on the result of a cultural resource survey of the project site, no historical or cultural resource were identified on or within the surrounding area of the project site. However, as discussed in Section V. Cultural Resources, if human remains are discovered, any project activity that would impact the remains shall be stopped and the County Coroner and/or Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted immediately. No activity that would impact the remains shall be resumed until disposition of the remains satisfactory to these agencies has been implemented. Therefore, none of the actions recommended by Mr. Singleton are required.

√ Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and Sec. §15064.5 (d) of the CEQA Guidelines mandate procedures to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

√ Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in § 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines, when significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project planning and implementation

A1
(cont'd)

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment: List of Native American Contacts

Native American Contacts
San Diego County
November 13, 2007

Attachment to
Comment Letter A

wilaapaayp Tribal Office
larlan Pinto, Sr., Chairperson
O Box 2250 Kumeyaay
lpine , CA 91903-2250
ymicklin@leaningrock.net
519) 445-6315 - voice
519) 445-9126 - fax

Kumeyaay Cultural Historic Committee
Ron Christman
56 Viejas Grade Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Alpine , CA 92001
(619) 445-0385

lanzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation
eroy J. Elliott, Chairperson
O Box 1302 Kumeyaay
oulevard , CA 91905
519) 766-4930
519) 766-4957 Fax

Campo Kumeyaay Nation
H. Paul Cuero, Jr., Chairperson
36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Kumeyaay
Campo , CA 91906
chairgoff@aol.com
(619) 478-9046
(619) 478-5818 Fax

ycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
anny Tucker, Chairperson
459 Sycuan Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
l Cajon , CA 92021
silva@sycuan-nsn.gov
19 445-2613
19 445-1927 Fax

Jamul Indian Village
William Mesa, Chairperson
P.O. Box 612 Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Jamul , CA 91935
jamulrez@sctdv.net
(619) 669-4785
(619) 669-48178 - Fax

Viejas Band of Mission Indians
Bobby L. Barrett, Chairperson
O Box 908 Diegueno/Kumeyaay
lpine , CA 91903
laguilar@viejas-nsn.gov
619) 445-3810
619) 445-5337 Fax

Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee
Steve Banegas, Spokesperson
1095 Barona Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Lakeside , CA 92040
(619) 443-6612
(619) 443-0681 FAX

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2007101085; CEQA Notice of Completion; Negative Declaration for 1296-3 Reservoir; Otay Water District; San Diego County, California.

Native American Contacts
San Diego County
November 13, 2007

Attachment to
Comment Letter A
(cont'd)

lint Linton
.O. Box 507
anta Ysabel , CA 92070
'60) 803-5694
linton73@aol.com

Diegueno/Kumeyaay

his list is current only as of the date of this document.

istribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and afety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

his list is only applicable for contacting local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed CH#2007101085; CEQA Notice of Completion; Negative Declaration for 1296-3 Reservoir; Otay Water District; an Diego County, California.

Comment Letter B

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92011

In Reply Refer To:
FWS-SD-2008-B-0081/2008-TA-0070

NOV 16 2007

Mr. Patrick O'Neil
BRG Consulting, Inc.
204 Ivy Street
San Diego, California 92101

Subject: Comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Otay Water District 1296-3 Reservoir Project, Jamul, County of San Diego, California

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the above-referenced Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and supporting documentation, which we received on October 18, 2007. The proposed 1296-3 Reservoir (Project) would occur on 1.36 acres adjacent to two similar existing reservoirs. Project components include construction of a new reservoir, pipelines, an energy dissipater, a paved access road, potential repavement of Bear Mountain Way, fencing, lighting, new retaining walls, and relocation of cellular facilities. The project would impact 1.20 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub (CSS). The comments provided in this letter represent our concerns regarding the proposed project's potential impacts on sensitive biological resources. We offer the following recommendations and comments to assist the Otay Water District in avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating project impacts to biological resources. **B1**

1. Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) presence was reported from three site visits that occurred in August and September 2006. Gnatcatcher protocol surveys require that nine surveys be conducted at least two weeks apart for surveys occurring between July 1 through March 14 on properties that are not located within a jurisdiction participating in a NCCP interim section 4(d) process. As such, the gnatcatcher surveys are not consistent with the USFWS protocol and would need to be updated before the project could proceed.

2. In the biological technical report (BTR), gnatcatcher survey results indicate that the species was present outside the breeding season within 230 feet of the western boundary of the project site in coastal sage scrub (CSS) that is contiguous with CSS that would be impacted within the project footprint. The fact that gnatcatcher maintained fidelity to this area

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

Response to Comment Letter B

BRG

May 29, 2008

Ms. Cara McGary
Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92011

SUBJECT: FWS-SD-2008-B-0081/2008-TA-0070 - OTAY WATER DISTRICT, 1296-3 RESERVOIR PROJECT – RESPONSE TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Dear Ms. McGary:

We are submitting this letter on behalf of the Otay Water District (District) to respond to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) November 16, 2007 comment letter on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the 1296-3 Reservoir project (proposed project). OWD's responses to the Service's comments on the Draft MND are provided below.

Response to USFWS Comment #1. Based on telephone conversations with Jim Rocks, Rocks Biological Consulting (RBC), in the Service's December 11, 2007 email, the Service stated, "the gnatcatcher survey comment should be disregarded." No change to the MND is necessary.

Response to USFWS Comment #2. The proposed project is included as Capital Improvement Program (CIP) No. 143 in the *Biological Opinion (BO) on the Otay Water District Capital Improvement Program (CIP), San Diego, California (1-6-94-F-42)*, dated November 16, 1994. Based on the December 11th email from the Service and telephone conversations, it is recognized by the Service that OWD does not need to apply for an incidental take permit under section 10 (a) of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the protocol-level gnatcatcher surveys conducted by RBC from April 22 to May 7, 2008, no gnatcatchers are present on the project site or adjacent to the site. Therefore, incidental take coverage under the BO is not necessary. OWD will include the conclusions of the 2008 survey in the Final MND. RBC will submit the 45-day reports to the Service.

Response to USFWS Comment #3. Per Comment #3, OWD directed RBC to perform Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (QCB) protocol-level surveys. RBC performed the surveys from March 13 to April 13, 2008. No QCB are present on the project site. The results of the survey are consistent with the habitat assessment conducted in March 2007. Based on the habitat assessment, QCB were not anticipated to occur on the site. OWD will include the conclusions of the 2008 survey in the Final MND. RBC will submit the 45-day reports to the Service.

Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub - Mitigation Ratio. During our telephone conversations, the service identified that the BO requires a 2:1 mitigation ratio (Terms and Conditions, Page 18, #5) for permanent impacts to coastal

outside the breeding season indicates that the project site is likely occupied by gnatcatcher. Because implementation of this project could impact gnatcatcher and possibly result in take, we recommend that the applicant coordinate with us to apply for an incidental take permit through section 10 (a) of the Endangered Species Act as amended, and develop and Habitat Conservation Plan before initiating this project. It may be possible for this project to qualify under the Low Effect HCP process. **B1** (cont'd)

3. Habitat assessment surveys for Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) were conducted in March 2007. Quino are generally associated with CSS, open chaparral, grasslands, and vernal pools (USFWS, 2002). According to the BTR, protocol level surveys were deemed unnecessary because "...most of the area (site) is dense Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub with few, small openings on steep terrain" and because primary and secondary host plants were not observed. The study site is within an area recommended for survey according to the Recommended Quino checkerspot Survey Area Map (USFWS, 2002). Because the Service's protocol criteria for excluding sites or portions of sites was not used, we cannot fully evaluate the status of Quino on site and recommend protocol level surveys be conducted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this MND and associated documentation. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Cara McGary at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

Therese O'Rourke
Assistant Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

cc: Lisa Coburn-Boyd, Environmental Specialist, Otay Water District

sage scrub. The Draft MND identified a 1:1 ratio. To be consistent with the BO, in the Final MND, OWD will change the mitigation ratio for coastal sage scrub from 1:1 to 2:1.

If you have any questions please call me at 619.298.7127. We will include the above responses to comments in the Final MND. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,
BRG CONSULTING, INC.

Patrick W. O'Neill
Project Manager

Cc: Lisa Coburn-Boyd, OWD, 2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, California 91978-2004
Jim Rocks, Rocks Biological Consulting, 3442 Falcon Street, San Diego, CA 92103

INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title: 1296-3 Reservoir

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Otay Water District
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-2004

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Lisa Coburn-Boyd, Environmental Compliance Specialist
(619) 670-2219

4. Project Location: The proposed project is located within the Jamul/Dulzura Subregion of the County of San Diego. The project site is located on an approximately 5.0-acre parcel of land located within the Otay Water District's (OWD) service area, southwest of State Route 94, at the western end of Bear Mountain Way (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed project will be developed on approximately 1.36 acres of the 5.0-acre parcel and will be located south of the existing 1296-1 and 1296-2 Reservoirs (Figure 3).

5. Project's Sponsor's Name and Address: Otay Water District
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-2004

6. General Plan Designation: Estate Residential (17)

7. Zoning: Limited Agriculture (A-70)

8. Description of Project:
The proposed project includes the construction of a 2.0 million gallon (MG) reservoir located south of the existing 1296-1 and 1296-2 Reservoirs.

Background
The OWD is a publicly owned water and sewer service agency serving the needs of approximately 186,000 people in a 125.5 square mile area in southern San Diego County. OWD's service area encompasses the communities of southern El Cajon, La Mesa, Rancho San Diego, Jamul, Spring Valley, Bonita, Eastern Chula Vista, and Otay Mesa along the international border with Mexico. OWD is a California Special District authorized under the provisions of the Municipal Water District Act of 1911, as amended, and is revenue neutral (i.e., each end user pays its fair share of District's costs of water acquisition and the operation and maintenance of its facilities). The OWD's ordinances, policies, taxes, and rates for service are set by its elected Board of Directors. All of the potable water delivered by the OWD is purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority. The OWD also owns and operates a wastewater collection and reclamation system providing sewer service to approximately 6,000 homes and businesses within the Jamacha drainage basin.

The OWD is comprised of five potable water service systems: the La Presa; Hillsdale; and, Regulatory systems in the northern portion of OWD's service area, and the Central Area and Otay Mesa systems in the southern portion of OWDs service area. The proposed project is located in the Regulatory system, which comprises approximately 27,440 acres of the northern portion of OWD's service area. The proposed project is located within the 1296 Pressure Zone of the Regulatory system. The 1296 Pressure Zone serves portions of the unincorporated community of Jamul.

In August 2002, the OWD adopted a Water Resources Master Plan (WRMP). The WRMP is a comprehensive program for the orderly and phased development of potable and reclaimed water supply, storage, transmission, and distribution in the

OWD's service area and designated area of influence. The 2002 WRMP is a revision and update to OWD's 1995 WRMP to incorporate previous OWD planning efforts and approved land-use development plans, and growth projections within the OWD service area consistent with the San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG's) forecasts. The WRMP identifies proposed potable and recycled facilities, and expansions of existing facilities, with required capacity and phasing. The WRMP is based on dwelling unit and population projections for three increments of development: Phase I (existing – 2006); Phase II (2006 – 2016); and Phase III (2017 – ultimate build out). The WRMP only addresses potable and recycled water facilities, not wastewater facilities.

The potable water system capital improvement program (CIP) consists of pump stations, storage reservoirs, and transmission mains to meet the projected demands within the OWD service area as identified in the WRMP. These CIP facilities are the primary facilities that are planned, funded, and constructed by OWD. The secondary potable water facilities are the distribution pipelines and lateral pipelines, typically 12-inches or smaller in diameter to be planned, funded, and constructed by the development project proponents as part of each development project.

A Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the WRMP by OWD, as Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Final Program EIR was adopted by OWD in 2004. The Program EIR provides information regarding the environmental effects of the WRMP and provides an update to the Master EIR that was prepared for the previous WRMP prepared in 1995. As such, the Program EIR evaluates projects that were analyzed in the Master EIR as well as projects proposed in the current WRMP. The Final Program EIR for the WRMP examines issues of aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils/paleontology, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/permitting, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. In addition, state law requirements for the coordination of land use and water supply planning, growth-inducement, cumulative impacts, and alternatives to the proposed WRMP are evaluated in the Program EIR. The Final Program EIR identifies potential impacts of existing and future projects, and provides mitigation measures that shall be applied when individual projects are approved or implemented. The Program EIR recognizes that development of mitigation measures for a specific project may require further evaluation or technical study at the time the particular project is proposed, as in this case with this particular reservoir project.

Existing Facilities

Reservoirs

The existing level of water storage within the 1296 Pressure Zone is 3.03 million-gallon (MG) and is provided by the 1.02 MG 1296-1 Reservoir and the 2.01 MG 1296-2 Reservoir. These existing reservoirs are located in Jamul, at the west end of Bear Mountain Way. The existing reservoirs are welded steel, flat bottom reservoirs supported on ring wall foundations at an elevation of 1,265 feet. The maximum water depth in the reservoirs is approximately 31 feet.

Based on the storage requirements of the 2002 WRMP, existing water storage in the 1296 Pressure Zone is deficient; the total required operational storage was 3.5 MG for the 2002 conditions and 6.13 MG for 2006 conditions. The projected ultimate storage for the 1296 Pressure Zone is 15.17 MG. Therefore, storage in the 1296 Pressure Zone is currently deficient by 3.1 MG and will be deficient by an estimated 12.14 MG for the projected ultimate condition.

Potable Water Supply

The 1296 Pressure Zone is one of six primary pressure zones in the Regulatory system. The 1296-1 Pump Station supplies water to the 1296 Pressure Zone via the 944 Pressure Zone. This pump station has a firm capacity of 3,300 gallons per minute (gpm) and a total capacity of 5,300 gpm.

Inlet/Outlet Pipelines

Water is supplied to and withdrawn from the 1296 Reservoirs via two parallel 12-inch diameter pipelines located in Bear Mountain Way. The pipeline along the centerline of Bear Mountain Way was constructed in 1962 and consists of steel pipe. A second pipeline, consisting of asbestos cement pipe, was constructed in 1979. The steel inlet and outlet pipes for the existing reservoirs split from the 12-inch pipelines and consist of a 12-inch inlet and a 16-inch outlet for the 1296-1 Reservoir and a 20-inch inlet and a 16-inch outlet for the 1296-2 Reservoir.

Drainage
Surface drainage from the project site currently drains towards the north into a drainage north of the site. A new drainage ditch will have drainage flow south of the site.

Access
Access to the existing reservoirs is provided by Bear Mountain Way, a private road which OWD has easements and that also provides access to the neighboring properties. The road is approximately 18 to 20 feet wide with an average grade of 15 to 20 percent. The road has extensive pavement cracks.

Proposed Project
As discussed above, storage in the 1296 Pressure zone is currently deficient by 3.1 MG and will be deficient by 12.14 MG for the projected ultimate conditions. The purpose of the proposed project is to partially reduce the storage deficiency and add storage capacity to the Pressure Zone in compliance with the WRMP.

The proposed 1296-3 Reservoir will be constructed adjacent to and south of the existing 1296-1 and 1296-2 reservoirs (Figures 3 and 4). The reservoir will be located on an approximately 5.0-acre parcel of land owned by OWD; however, the project site is only about 1.36 acres in size (Figure 3).

The following describes the project design features:

Reservoir Design
The proposed reservoir will be consistent with the existing reservoirs in terms of foundation elevation, shell height and minimum and maximum water elevations. The proposed reservoir is anticipated to consist of a welded steel reservoir constructed above grade, similar to the existing reservoirs. Figure 4 depicts the Preliminary Site Plan for the project. Figure 5 depicts the elevations and details of the proposed reservoir.

Inlet/Outlet Pipelines
Water supplied to the proposed reservoir will be provided through a 20-inch diameter inlet pipeline. The 20-inch pipeline will connect to the existing 12-inch pipeline in Bear Mountain Way. The outlet pipeline will be approximately 16 inches in diameter and will be concrete encased below the floor and footing of the proposed reservoir. The outlet pipeline will connect to the existing 16-inch outlet pipeline from the 1296-1 and 1296-2 Reservoirs.

Drainage
Surface drainage for the proposed reservoir site would be directed south consistent with the existing drainage pattern of the site. Under existing conditions, stormwater runoff from the project site flows into a natural drainage north of the site. Stormwater runoff from the project site will be captured via surface and subsurface drainage improvements and discharged to a rip-rap energy dissipator and ultimately into the drainage south of the project site. Figure 6 depicts the design of the proposed rip-rap energy dissipator.

Access
Access to the existing 1296-1 and 1296-2 Reservoirs is provided by Bear Mountain Way, a private road over which OWD has easements and that also provides access to neighboring properties. The road is generally 18 to 20 feet wide with an average grade of 15 to 20 percent. Currently, the road has numerous pavement cracks. Truck traffic that will occur during construction of the proposed reservoir may further damage the road. Therefore, as part of this project, OWD will be repaving the road with asphalt concrete after the construction of the proposed 1296-3 Reservoir is complete.

In addition, a paved access road surrounding the proposed reservoir will be provided at a width of approximately 18 feet. This access road will be used only by OWD for reservoir operations and maintenance purposes. An access road from the proposed reservoir connecting to Bear Mountain Way will be constructed with a paved width of approximately 14 feet. The proposed new access roads will be located within the project site boundary (Figures 3 and 4).

Fencing and Lighting
An eight-foot high chain link fence surrounds the existing reservoirs. The southern portion of this fence will be removed and a new fence constructed around the new reservoir site. This fence would encompass the three reservoirs. Temporary security fencing will be installed during construction when the removal of the existing fence is required.

Lighting to facilitate OWD maintenance and operation of the reservoirs is anticipated as part of the proposed project. Lighting improvements are anticipated to consist of 150 watt lamps mounted on 10-foot high steel posts around the perimeter of the reservoirs. Three lamps per reservoir are anticipated. Lighting will be utilized during reservoir maintenance and operation activities when OWD personnel are onsite. Lighting improvements will also include motion sensor triggered lighting for security purposes. Lighting would be directed toward the reservoirs.

Retaining Walls
A reinforced concrete retaining wall approximately nine feet in height borders the existing reservoirs on the south and west sides. The southern portion of this retaining wall will be removed to facilitate construction of the proposed reservoir. Partial removal of the existing retaining wall will also facilitate future maintenance of the reservoirs. A new retaining wall, connected to the existing wall, will be constructed along the southerly portion of the project site.

Cellular Facilities
Existing cellular facilities on the 1296-1 and 1296-2 Reservoir site consist of reservoir-mounted antennae and conduit/cable trays, underground cabling, pedestals, panels, lighting and bollards. Cellular equipment panels owned by Sprint are attached to the existing retaining wall. The cellular equipment will be relocated approximately 30 feet south of the existing 1296-1 Reservoir within the project site.

Project Construction
The project site is approximately 1.36 acres in size (Figure 3). Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2008 and be completed by January 2009. Construction activities are only anticipated to occur during the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm and would be completed in approximately 12 months. Construction equipment to be used during different phases of construction will include a variety of equipment such as a dozer, excavator, backhoe, loader, motor grader, paving roller, paving compactor, drilling rig, road reclaimer, asphalt paver, trucks, mobile crane, air compressor, welders, grinders, concrete vibrators, and portable power generators. All construction equipment will be stored at a designated staging area within the project site.

Grading will require an estimated 13,500 cubic yards of cut and 2,000 cubic yards of fill. Approximately 11,500 cubic yards of surplus material will be exported off-site. Approximately 750 total truck trips are estimated to move this quantity of material off-site. Imported material will consist of approximately 1,200 cubic yards of sand bedding to be placed beneath the reservoir floor and in pipeline trenches, and aggregate base and asphalt concrete for pavements. Approximately 60 truck trips are estimated to import these materials.

9. Surrounding Land Use and Setting:

The project site is generally surrounded by large lot residential dwelling units in a rural setting. The immediately surrounding land uses are designated as Estate Residential in the Jamul/Dulzura Subregional Plan, which allows residential uses on two-acre parcels. Surrounding land uses include two reservoirs, 1296-1 and 1296-2, located directly north of the proposed reservoir (Figure 3); undisturbed and vegetated areas to the south and west; and, scattered estate residential units to the east and one estate residential parcel to the west of the project site. In addition, portions of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Otay-Sweetwater Unit (NWR) are located to the west and south of the project. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) currently owns the 8,289-acre San Diego NWR. The San Diego NWR was established to: contribute to the recovery of the endangered, threatened, and rare species supported within the Refuge; support the native biodiversity of the southwestern San Diego Region by conserving large blocks of native habitat; contribute to the development of a regional preserve under the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP); and, provide potential opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation compatible with refuge purposes. Currently, the San Diego NWR supports 13 federally listed species, including several species of birds, plants, amphibians, crustaceans, and a butterfly, as well as a variety of species covered under the MSCP.

10. Other agencies whose approval is required:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ENIRONMENTAL 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	☒ 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	

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.

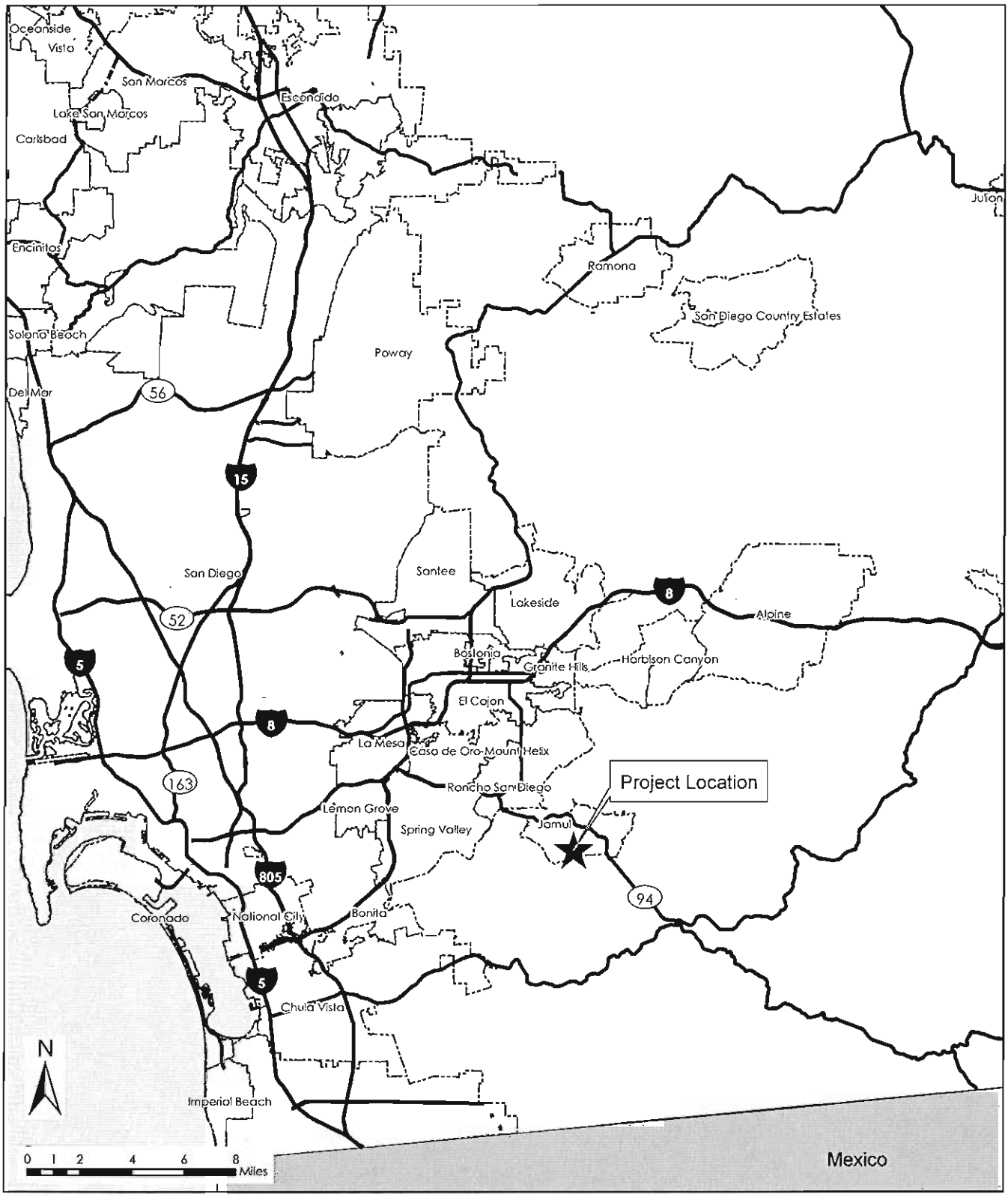
☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ 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 project, nothing further is required.

Signature	Date
Lisa Coburn-Boyd	Otay Water District
Printed Name	For



SOURCE: ESRI, 2007; BRG Consulting, Inc., 2008 6/10/08

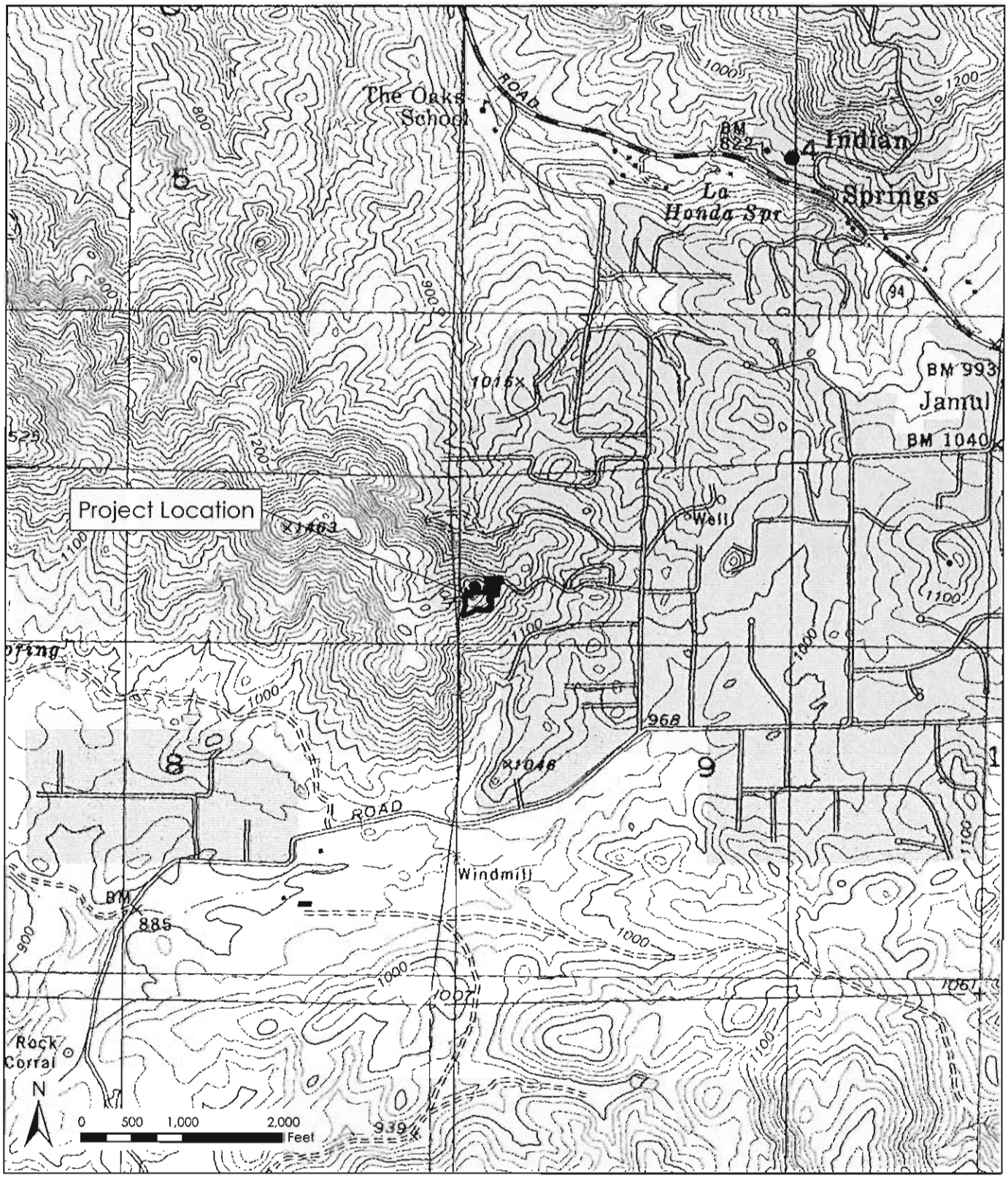
BRG CONSULTING, INC.

Otay Water District 1296-3 Reservoir

Regional Location Map

FIGURE 1

F:\Server Projects\529_OWD_1296\Maps\Fig 1 Regional Map.mxd



SOURCE: USGS, 2007; BRG Consulting, Inc., 2007

6/10/08

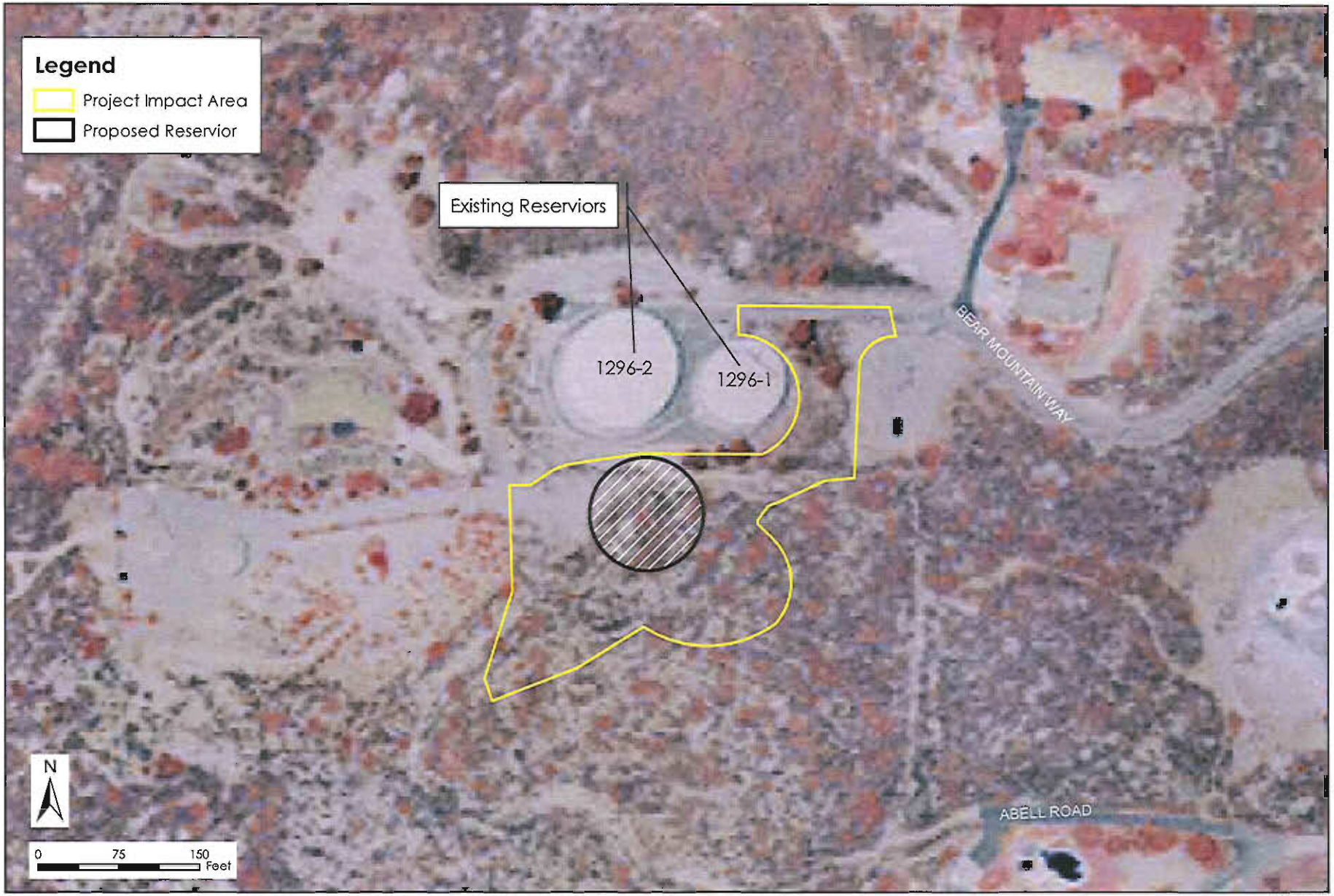
BRG CONSULTING, INC.

Otay Water District-1296-3 Reservoir Project

Project Location Map

FIGURE 2

F:\Server Projects\529_OWD_1296\Maps\Fig 2 Project Location.mxd



SOURCE: Rocks Biological Consulting, 2007; Oaty Water District, 2007; SanGIS, 2000; BRG Consulting Inc., 2006

6/10/08

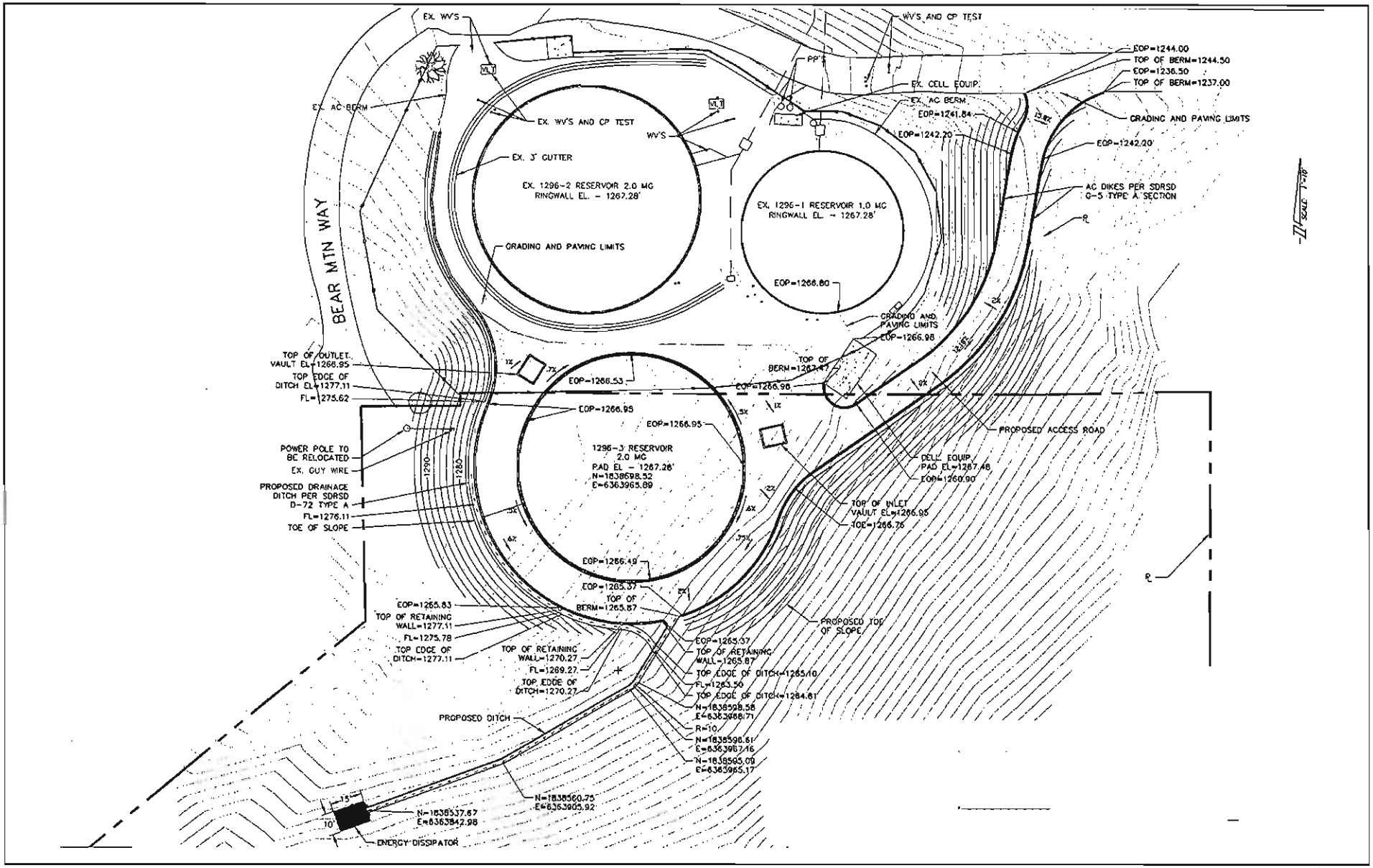
BRG CONSULTING, INC.

Otay Water District 1296-3 Reservior

Project Site Boundary Map

FIGURE 3

F:\Server Projects\529_OWD_1296\Maps\Figure 3 Project Site Boundary.mxd



SOURCE: Otay Water District, 2007

6/10/08

BRG CONSULTING, INC.

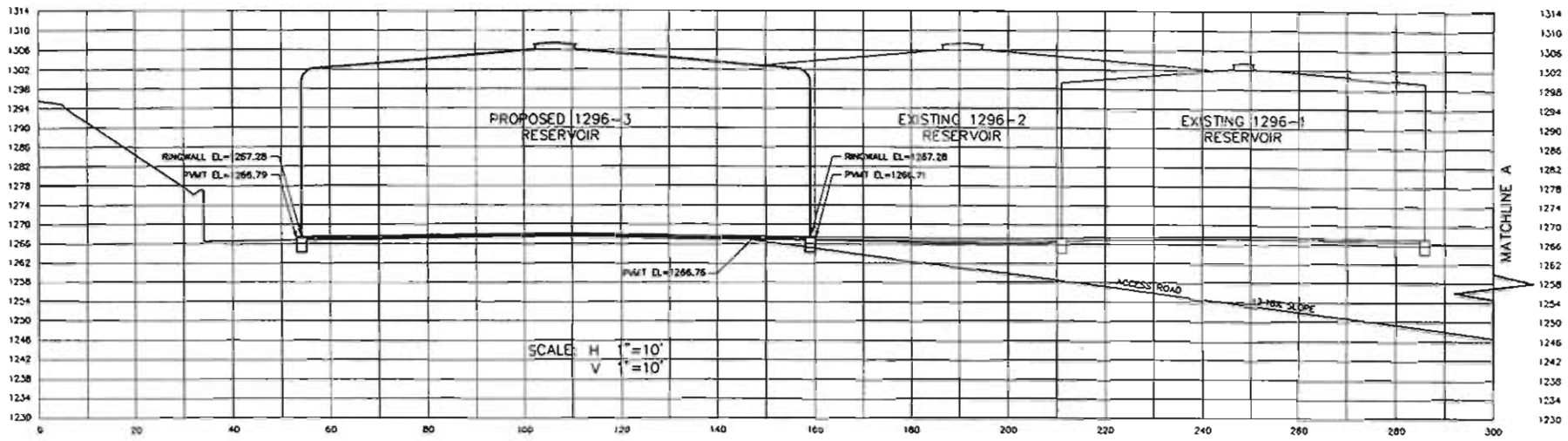
Otay Water District-1296-3 Reservoir

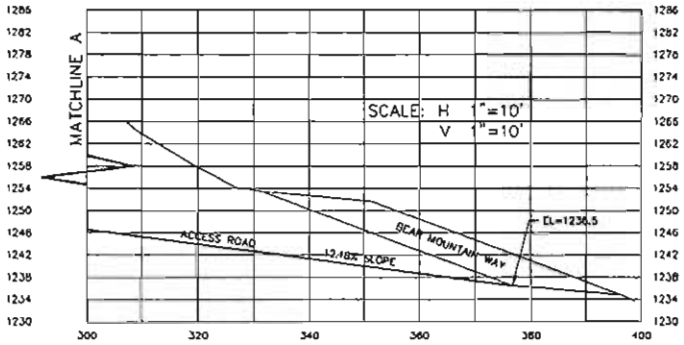
Preliminary Site Plan

FIGURE

4

F:\Server Projects\529_OWD_1296\Maps\Figure 4 Preliminary Site Plan.ai





SOURCE: Otay Water District, 2007

6/10/08

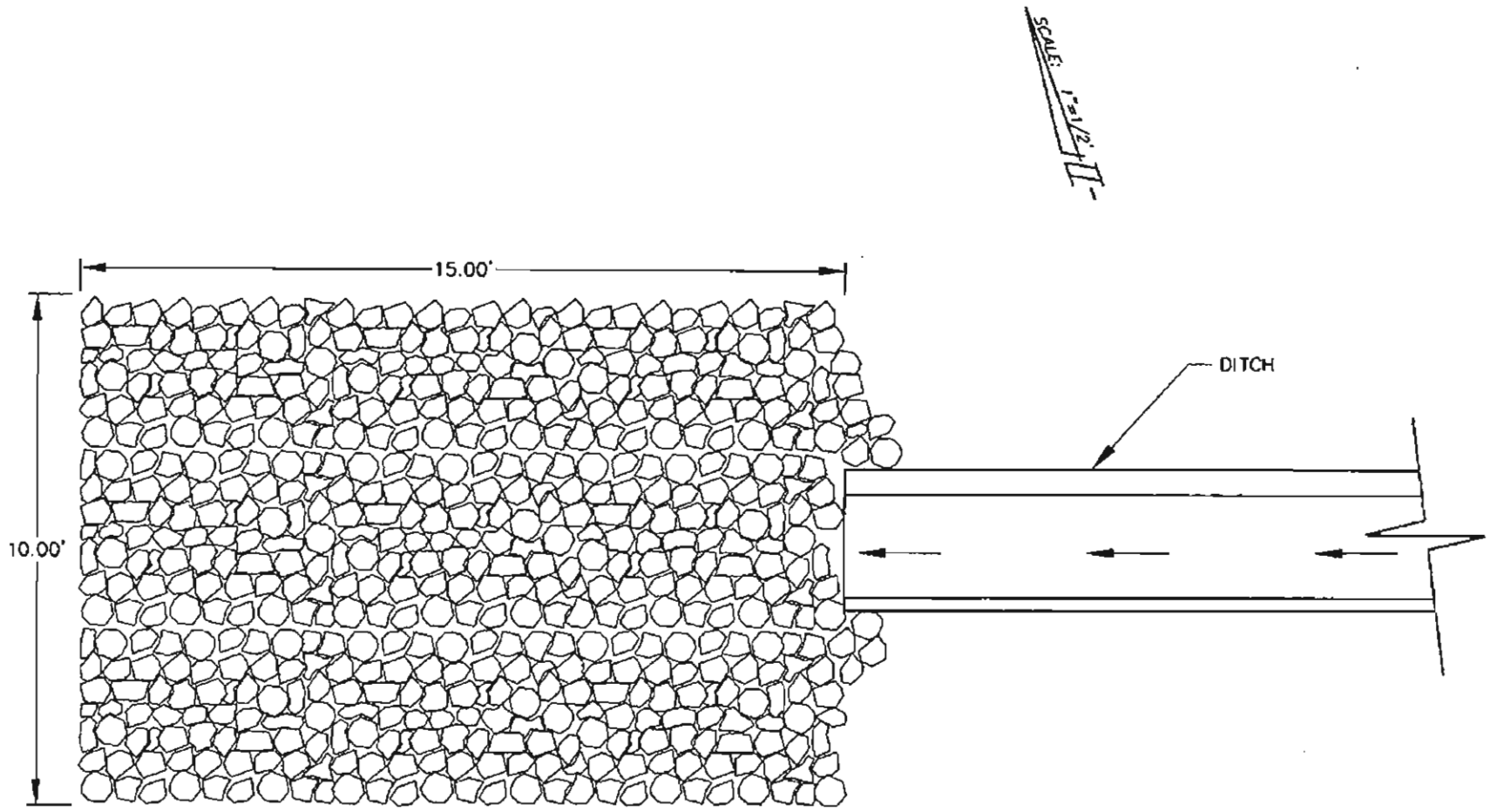
BRG CONSULTING, INC.

Otay Water District-1296-3 Reservoir

1296-3 Reservoir Elevations (Cross Section and Access Road Profile)

FIGURE 5

F:\Server Projects\529_OWD_1296\Maps\Figure 5 Reservoir Elevations.ai



SOURCE: Otay Water District, 2007

6/10/08

BRG CONSULTING, INC.

Otay Water District-1296-3 Reservoir

Energy Dissipator - Design

FIGURE 6

F:\Server Projects\529_OWD_1296\Maps\Figure 6 Energy Dissipator.ai

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project site is located in a rural setting and is surrounded by relatively undisturbed vacant land to the south and east. Disturbed land associated with an estate residential property is located west of the site. The existing OWD Reservoirs (1296-1 and 1296-2) are located to the north. The proposed reservoir, due to the elevation of the site will be visible at several locations in the surrounding community; however, the surrounding community currently has views of the existing two reservoirs. The proposed reservoir will have the same design, elevation, and height as the existing reservoirs. The site is not located within a designated view corridor or scenic vista, and there is limited public access in this area. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

No roadways that have views of the project site are designated as state scenic highways.

According to the San Diego County General Plan, Scenic Highway Element, Proctor Valley Road, located south of the project site, is identified as a Second Priority Scenic Route from Otay Lakes Road to State Route 94 (County of San Diego, 1975). The proposed reservoir may be visible from portions of Proctor Valley Road; however, as discussed in I a) above, existing views of the project area contain reservoirs. The addition of another reservoir in this area will not substantially change the existing view as the proposed reservoir will have a similar design, height, and elevation as the existing reservoirs. In addition, the proposed reservoir will be painted the same color as the existing reservoirs.

Furthermore, the proposed project will not damage any scenic resources, as no resources are located in close proximity to the project site. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

Please see I a) and b) above. The proposed project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site or surrounding area. Figure 5 provides a cross-section of the project area in relation to the existing elevation of the site. The proposed reservoir will be located in immediate proximity to the existing reservoirs, and at the same elevation and height as the existing reservoirs. While the project will result in development of a new reservoir within an undeveloped site, the proposed reservoir would be consistent with the existing visual character of the area. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The proposed reservoir will function primarily as an unmanned facility; however, night lighting is proposed onsite to facilitate maintenance and operation activities that may occur at night. Lighting improvements are anticipated to consists of 150 watt lamps mounted on 10-foot high steel posts around the perimeter of the reservoirs. Three lamps per reservoir are anticipated. In addition, lighting improvements will also include motion sensor triggered lighting for security purposes. The Reservoir will be designed to limit the introduction of new light to the area by incorporating the following measures:

- All outdoor lighting fixtures will be shielded and located to minimize the potential for spillover light into adjacent habitat and nearby residential areas; and,
- No external features of the reservoir and supporting features are proposed to be made of metallic or smooth surfaces that could generate glare.

In addition, no lighting is proposed during construction, as all construction will occur during daylight hours. The proposed project will not generate light or glare. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is not designated as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland designations within the project area. However, the project site is zoned Limited Agriculture (A-70), and according to the County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance, such zones are intended for crop or animal agriculture. Based on the Geotechnical Report prepared by Ninyo & Moore (Appendix C of this Initial Study), the site is underlain with soils classified as Cieneba, which is a very rocky and course sandy loam. Based on the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey for the San Diego Area (1973), this type of soil is not considered prime agricultural land. Furthermore, the site is characterized by steep topography that slopes

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

downward to the south and east, which makes the site unlikely to be used for agricultural production. The proposed project will not convert the project site to a non-agriculture use, as the project site is not in agricultural production. In addition, as a Special District, local land use plans and policies are not applicable to OWD. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

Please see II a) above. The project is not in agricultural production use and the site is not under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed reservoir is located within a relatively disturbed area that is not used for agricultural operations. The project would not involve changes that would convert farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed reservoir will not obstruct the implementation of the Regional Air Quality Strategy developed jointly by the San Diego's Association of Governments (SANDAG) and San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD). The OWD Water Resources Master Plan is consistent with SANDAG regional growth forecasts. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

Project Operation

The long-term operation of the proposed reservoir will not generate significant air emissions. Occasional maintenance will be required, amounting to a few vehicular trips per year. Therefore, no impact associated with long-term/vehicular emissions is anticipated.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

Construction Emissions

Construction of the project will result in a short-term increase in exhaust emissions by construction equipment. The construction fleet mix will include a dozer, excavator, backhoe, loader, motor grader, paving roller, paving compactor, drilling rig, road reclaimer, asphalt paver, trucks, mobile crane, air compressor, welders, grinders, concrete vibrators, and portable power generators. Construction activities are anticipated to occur during the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, and would be completed in approximately 12 months. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2008 and by completed by January 2009. As identified in Table 1, operation of the construction equipment and vehicles will not generate emissions that exceed the SDAPCD significance thresholds. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a short-term impact to localized air quality as the daily significance thresholds would not be exceeded during the construction activities.

TABLE 1
Construction Emissions

	Emissions in Pounds/Day				
Construction Phases	CO	NO_x	SO_X	PM_{10}	ROG*
Grading (Year 2008)	197.36	168.58	0.01	33.57	24.49
Construction (Year 2008)	283.71	230.28	0.01	35.45	71.97
Significance Thresholds (SDAPCD)	550.00	250.00	250.00	100.00	137.00
Significant?	No	No	No	No	No

Source: BRG Consulting, Inc., URBEMIS 2002 for Windows, Version 7.5.0
Notes: * The application of zero emission ROG paint to the reservoir is proposed.

The proposed reservoir will require an estimated 13,500 cubic yards of cut and 2,000 cubic yards of fill. Approximately 11,500 cubic yards of surplus material will exported off-site. Approximately 750 total truck trips are estimated to move this quantity of material off-site. Imported material will consist of approximately 1,200 yards of sand bedding to be placed beneath the reservoir floor and in pipeline trenches, and aggregate base and asphalt concrete for pavements. Approximately 60 truck trips are estimated to import these materials. Under the SDAPCD Rules and Regulations, a construction site may be considered a stationary source of air pollutant emissions. Fugitive dust emissions are subject to regulation by SDAPCD and the applicable local ordinances. The OWD will be required to comply with the applicable SDAPCD regulations regarding control of fugitive dust during grading. Mitigation Measure A1 is proposed to ensure that watering on the project site during grading operations is implemented in accordance with SDAPCD regulations. With the implementation of this mitigation measure, the air quality impact associated with fugitive dust during grading will be less than significant. Additionally, implementation of this measure will address the potential indirect, adjacency management issue related to dust on adjacent habitat (see Section IV Biological Resources).

Mitigation Measure

A1. During clearing, grading, and earth moving, the OWD shall control fugitive dust by regular watering of the site and access road. The following practices shall be implemented:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

- Spread soil binders;
- Wet the area down, sufficient enough to form a crust on the surface with repeated soakings, as necessary, to maintain the crust and prevent dust pick up by the wind;
- Use water trucks and sprinkler systems to keep all areas where vehicles move wet enough to prevent dust raised when leaving the site; and,
- Wet down areas in the late morning and after work is completed for the day.

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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Please see III b) above. The proposed reservoir will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in any air constituents or violate any air quality standard. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Operation of the proposed reservoir would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. There are several residential properties that are considered sensitive air quality receptors located in proximity to the project site and access roads. However, dust control measures will be implemented during construction of the project in accordance with rules established by the SDAPCD (see Mitigation Measure A1). Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

Development of the proposed reservoir has the potential to generate trace amounts of substances that are known to produce odorous conditions. However, it should be noted that the sources of odor generation due to the project (such as diesel emissions due to construction, roofing material application, application of low emission paint etc.) is not expected to be significant because any odor generation would be intermittent and would terminate upon completion of the construction phase of the project. As such, no long-term odor impact is anticipated. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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	☐	☒	☐	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant Impact	No Impact
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?				

A general biological survey and report was prepared for the proposed project (Rocks Biological Consulting (RBC), 2007). The report is provided as Appendix A to this Initial Study.

Vegetation Communities

The project site consists of three vegetation communities. The vegetation communities identified on the project site include Diegan Coastal sage scrub (1.20 acres), disturbed habitat (0.02 acre), and developed (0.20 acre). Figure 7 depicts the vegetation communities on the project site.

Diegan Costal sage scrub (CSS) is comprised of low, soft-woody subshrubs approximately three feet in height. The project site supports 1.20 acres of CSS on relatively steep south and east facing slopes. The CSS onsite can be considered high quality based on its species diversity and lack of disturbance. Plant species present in the CSS include California Sagebrush, California Buckwheat, White Sage, and San Diego Sunflower. The San Diego Sunflower is a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 4 species, which is considered sensitive because they have a limited distribution within California, but are still relatively common.

Disturbed habitat is land where vegetation has been significantly altered by agriculture, construction, or other land-clearing activities. The disturbed habitat area within the project site was previously cleared to allow for parking of vehicles. This area is largely barren, but annual weedy species such as Russian Thistle, Shot-pod Mustard, and Brome grasses are colonizing the edges of the cleared area.

Developed areas support no native vegetation and may be additionally characterized by the presence of human-made structures such as buildings or roads. The developed areas within the project site include Bear Mountain Way. The road consists of asphalt and does not support plant species.

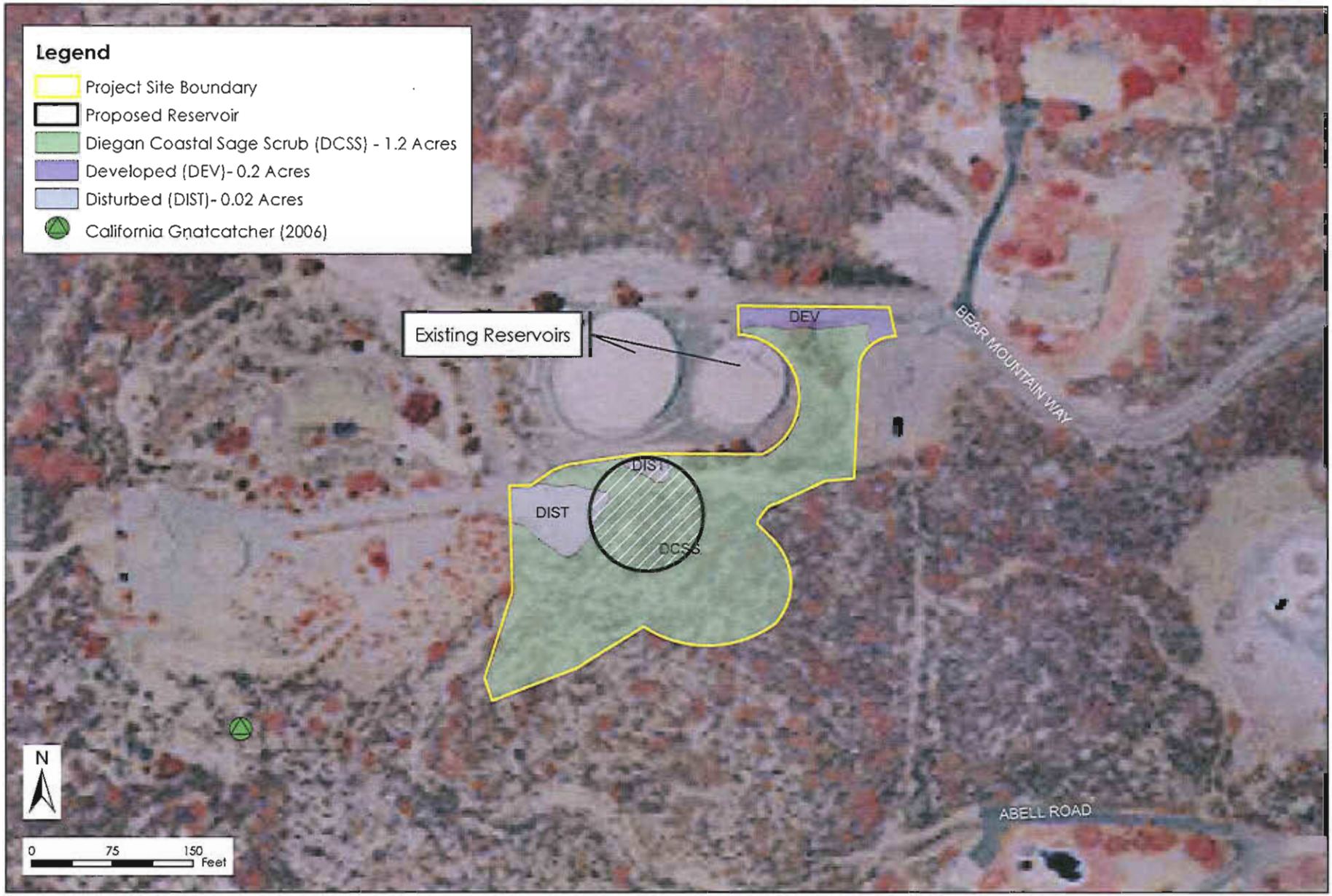
Sensitive Plant Species

One sensitive plant species, San Diego Sunflower (CNPS, List 4), was observed within the project site. The San Diego Sunflower occurs throughout the site as a common component of the CSS. CNPS List 4 species are considered plants of limited distribution but are typically considered relatively common.

A focused survey for the federally listed Otay Tarplant (CNPS List 1B) was conducted during the appropriate flowering time for this species. However, the Otay Tarplant was not observed within the project site and is not expected due to the lack of suitable clay soils on the site.

Wildlife Species

The wildlife species observed on site are typical for CSS adjacent to residential housing and the existing reservoirs. Bird species observed on site or soaring above include Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Towhee, Anna's Hummingbird, California Thrasher, House Finch, Common Raven, and California Towhee. The



SOURCE: Rocks Biological Consulting, 2007; Otay Water District, 2007; SanGIS, 2000; BRG Consulting Inc., 2007

6/10/08

BRG CONSULTING, INC.

Otay Water District-1296-3 Reservoir Project

Biological Resources Map

FIGURE 7

F:\Server Projects\529_OWD_1296\Maps\Figure 7 Biological Resources.mxd

California gnatcatcher (federally listed as threatened) and Rufous-crowned Sparrow (CDFG Species of Special Concern) were observed approximately 230 feet and at least 300 feet from the project boundary respectively.

Sensitive Wildlife Species

The gnatcatcher was observed outside of the project site boundary, approximately 230 feet from the western site boundary. The gnatcatcher was observed during a USFWS protocol-level survey conducted for the project in September 2006. This species nests almost exclusively in open sage scrub in coastal San Diego County. Although not observed within the project site, the quality and quantity of CSS onsite appears suitable to support nesting and foraging by the gnatcatcher. However, during a recent protocol-level survey conducted by RBC from April 22 to May 7, 2008, no gnatcatchers were found to be present on the project site or adjacent to the project site.

A USFWS protocol habitat assessment for the federally endangered Quino Checkerspot Butterfly was conducted in March 2007. This species is known to occupy openings in native scrub, chaparral, or grasslands with patches of its host plant and nectar sources and typically uses ridgelines and hilltops and areas with cryptobiotic crusts. The site does not appear to be suitable because most of the area is dense Diegan Coastal sage scrub with few, small openings on steep terrain. The flat, open, disturbed area at the highest point of the site is highly disturbed and neither the primary host plant, Dot-seed Plantain, or potential secondary host plants such as Owl's Clover, or Bird's Beak were observed. Based on the habitat assessment and overall site conditions, it is unlikely that the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly occupies or will occupy the site in the near future. The site is not within designated USFWS Critical Habitat for Quino Checkerspot Butterfly. In addition, a protocol-level survey for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly was conducted by RBC from March 13 to April 13, 2008. Based on this survey, no Quino Checkerspot Butterfly was found to b present on the project site. Based on the habitat assessment and recent survey, the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly is not anticipated to occur on the project site.

1994 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion

The proposed project is included as Capital Improvement Program (CIP) No. 143 in the *Biological Opinion (BO) on the Otay Water District Capital Improvement Program (CIP), San Diego, California (1-6-94-F-42)*, dated November 16, 1994. A total of 21 CIP projects are considered in the BO as having impacts to CSS habitat and/or gnatcatchers.

The proposed project is the same as that described in the BO under CIP No. 143; however, the installation of approximately 4,000 feet of 24-inch pipeline between Proctor Valley Road and the proposed reservoir is not a part of this project, but remains a CIP project (No. 204) to be completed at a future date. The alignment of the pipeline has changed and it no longer would impact coastal sage scrub. Construction of the pipeline would occur only within existing roadways (Bear Mountain Way, Pioneer Way, Proctor Valley Road).

The BO estimated that CIP No. 143 would impact 0.98 acre of coastal sage scrub and one gnatcatcher pair would be directly or indirectly impacted.

In the BO, the USFWS provides a list of conservation measures that should be undertaken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate direct impacts of CIP projects, including the proposed project. The following is a list of conservation measures that are relevant to this project:

- No clearing or grading shall occur within occupied California gnatcatcher habitat during the breeding or nest establishment season (1 February through 31 July);
- Construction activities shall proceed through Coastal sage scrub habitat without temporal break to restrict the duration of construction impacts;
- All construction corridors within or adjacent to Coastal sage scrub or other habitat occupied by California gnatcatchers, shall be temporarily fenced with single-strand construction fencing or chain-link fencing to prevent expansion of the disturbance footprint; and,
- Acquire and preserve offsite Coastal sage scrub habitat to mitigate direct impacts on Coastal sage scrub.

Habitat Impacts

Figure 7 depicts the limits of project grading (project site boundary) overlayed on the vegetation of the project site. Table 2 identifies the impacts to vegetation communities as a result of implementation of the proposed project. The proposed project will impact 1.20 acres of CSS, 0.02 acre of disturbed habitat, and 0.20 acre of developed land. The impact to 1.20 acres of CSS is considered a significant impact.

TABLE 2
Habitat Impacts (acres)

Habitat	Acreage of Impact
Diegan Coastal sage scrub	1.20
Disturbed Habitat	0.02
Developed	0.20
TOTAL	**1.42**

Source: Rocks Biological Consulting, 2007.

To mitigate impacts on CSS, OWD proposes to conserve CSS on lands in their established Habitat Management Area (HMA) at a ~~1:1~~2:1 ratio (Table 3). The HMA was established to function as a conservation area to mitigate impacts that occur as a result of OWD projects and activities covered in the BO (1-6-94-F-42). The mitigation ratios provided in Table 3 are consistent with those other local agency mitigation requirements such as the City of Chula Vista (pursuant to their Habitat Loss and Incidental Take Ordinance and MSCP), City of San Diego (pursuant to their Biology Guidelines and MSCP Subarea Plan), and the County of San Diego (pursuant to their Biological Mitigation Ordinance and MSCP). Implementation of Mitigation Measure B1 will reduce this impact a level less than significant.

The 1994 BO estimated that the proposed project (CIP No. 143) would impact 0.98 acre of CSS. However, the proposed project will impact 1.20 acres of CSS, which is an additional impact to 0.22-acre of CSS. The HMA has sufficient availability of CSS credits to accommodate this increase in CSS impact. It is anticipated that OWD will need to coordinate with the USFWS regarding an amendment to the BO.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

TABLE 3
Required Mitigation Acreage for Habitat Impacts

Habitat	Acreage of Impact	Proposed Mitigation Ratio*	Proposed Mitigation Acreage
Diegan Coastal sage scrub	1.20	~~1:1~~2:1	~~1.20~~2.40
Disturbed Habitat	0.02	Not Required	--
Developed	0.20	Not Required	--
TOTAL	**1.4**	**N/A**	**~~1.20~~2.40**

Source: Rocks Biological Consulting, 2007.
Notes: *Mitigation ratios are based on other local agency mitigation requirements (i.e., City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego).

Mitigation Measure for Habitat Impacts
B1. The impact to 1.20 acres of Diegan Coastal sage scrub (CSS) shall be mitigated through the preservation of CSS at a ~~1:1~~2:1 ratio for a total mitigation requirement of ~~1.20~~2.40 acres of CSS. The ~~1.20~~2.40 acres of CSS shall be preserved in the OWD's existing HMA.

Impacts to Sensitive Plant Species
Focused sensitive plant surveys were conducted for the project (Rocks Biological Consulting, 2007). The sensitive plant species found on the project site is the San Diego Sunflower, a CNPS List 4 species. The San Diego Sunflower is relatively common in CSS in the southern portion of the County away from the immediate coast. This species is still regionally common and occurs as a dominant shrub in areas immediately adjacent to the project site. Conservation of CSS within OWD's HMA, as required with the implementation of Mitigation Measure B1, will offset impacts to these species. Therefore, the impact to San Diego Sunflower is considered less than significant.

Impacts to Sensitive Wildlife Species
As discussed above, during the 2006 protocol-level survey, no nesting gnatcatchers were identified on the project site~~;~~. In addition, protocol-level gnatcatcher surveys were conducted by RBC from April 22 to May 7, 2008, and no gnatcatchers were found to be present on the project site or adjacent to the site. ~~h~~However, the project site does contain 1.20 acres of CSS, which is considered suitable habitat for gnatcatchers. Therefore, in order to avoid direct impacts to gnatcatchers, Mitigation Measure B2 shall be implemented prior to construction. Mitigation Measure B2 requires OWD to clear the vegetation on the project site outside the gnatcatcher breeding season (February 15 to September 1). This requirement is consistent with the terms and conditions of the BO.

However, the gnatcatcher is a sensitive species that may be indirectly impacted by construction noise during ~~construction~~the breeding season. In 1991, the USFWS adopted a 60 average decibels (dB(A)) noise level as a threshold for noise effects to protect sensitive bird species such as the gnatcatcher. As discussed above, in 2006 the gnatcatcher was observed within 230 feet of the project site (Figure 7). However, in a recent protocol-level survey conducted by RBC from April 22 to May 7,2008, no gnatcatchers were found to be present on the project site or adjacent to the site. As discussed in Section XI. Noise of this Initial Study, a noise study conducted for the proposed project concluded that noise levels would exceed 60 db(A) at a distance of 315 to 790 feet from the center of construction activity during construction of the reservoir and at

a distance of approximately 455 feet from the center of the activity if Bear Mountain Way is repaved. Based on Appendix I of the Noise Study (Appendix E of this Initial Study), during the months of February and March 2009 of construction the noise level will be 60 dB(A) at a distance of approximately 315 feet; in April and May 2009 it will be at distance of approximately 790 feet; and, in June through December 2009 it will be a distance closer to 315 feet. The breeding season for the gnatcatcher is February 15 through September 1. Based on the results of the noise study, construction of the proposed reservoir has the potential to result in indirect construction related noise impacts on the gnatcatcher during the breeding season. Because it is not currently possible to determine if gnatcatchers are nesting near the project site and/or the exact location of nests near the project site (each year nesting locations may change), as discussed in Mitigation Measure B3 below, OWD proposes to conduct pre-construction surveys for the gnatcatcher to determine if any gnatcatchers are nesting near the site and their location. If any gnatcatchers are nesting within the distances provided above, a focused noise survey shall be conducted in the field near the location of the nesting gnatcatchers. If the nesting gnatcatchers are within the potential noise effect area, additional mitigation measures identified in Mitigation Measure B3 shall be implemented to reduce the potential impact to this species to a level less than significant.

The 1994 BO provides incidental take coverage for the proposed project (CIP No. 143) to directly or indirectly impact one gnatcatcher pair. Based on the recent protocol-level surveys that were conducted by RBC from April 22 to May 7, 2008, no gnatcatchers were found to be present on the project site or adjacent to the site. However, If based on the pre-construction surveys, more than one pair of gnatcatchers has the potential to be impacted by the project, OWD will consult with the USFWS prior to construction. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures B2 and B3 will reduce the potential for direct or indirect impacts, respectively, to a level less than significant.

Mitigation Measures for Sensitive Wildlife Species

B2. To avoid potential direct impacts to nesting birds, all vegetation clearing within the construction footprint (project site boundary) shall be conducted outside of the gnatcatcher breeding season (February 15 through September 1). A biologist shall be onsite to walk ahead of clearing/grubbing equipment to flush any gnatcatchers toward areas of appropriate vegetation that are to be avoided. The biologist will ensure that gnatcatchers are not injured or killed by initial vegetation clearing/grubbing.

B3. To avoid indirect construction related noise impacts to gnatcatchers during the breeding season (February 15 through September 1), surveys shall be conducted to determine the exact location of nests within 315 to 790 feet from the center of construction activity.

If an occupied gnatcatcher nest is identified during a survey within 315 to 790 feet from the center of construction activity, a focused noise survey shall be conducted to determine the actual noise level at the nest. If the noise level exceeds 60 dB(A) at the nest, noise reduction techniques such as temporary noise barriers/walls shall be installed. Construction activity noise levels shall be monitored near the nesting locations. Additional noise reduction measures such as reducing the number of equipment items being used, reducing the use of loud equipment items, and/or reducing the amount of time loud equipment items are used are also considered appropriate.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐

As discussed in the Biological Resources Report (Appendix A of this initial study), an assessment of the site was conducted to determine whether or not the site supports wetland and other Waters of the U.S. Based on this assessment, the project site does not support jurisdictional wetlands or other Waters of the U.S. As such, no jurisdictional wetlands or other Waters of the U.S. are located on the project site or will be impacted with the implementation of the proposed project. However, as indicated above, implementation of the proposed project will impact approximately 1.20 acres of CSS, which is considered a sensitive habitat community. See discussion under Section IV a) Habitat Impacts.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

As discussed in the Biological Resources Report (Appendix A of this initial study), an assessment of the site was conducted to determine whether or not the site supports wetland and other Waters of the U.S. Based on this assessment, the project site does not support jurisdictional wetlands or other Waters of the U.S. As such, no jurisdictional wetlands or other Waters of the U.S. are located on the project site or will be impacted with the implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The project site is located within a relatively disturbed area. The proposed project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any wildlife species or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The proposed project is not located in an area identified as a wildlife corridor or for use by migratory species. However, as discussed above, the gnatcatcher has been observed adjacent to the project site. See discussions under Section IV a) Impacts to Sensitive Wildlife Species.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The project site is located within rural setting. The project site is not located within any preservation area and will conflict with any local ordinances or policies. However, as discussed above the 1994 BO covered the proposed project but with the implementation of Mitigation Measures B1 through B3, the proposed project will comply with the conservation measures of the BO and a "take" of USFWS listed species will not be required. Therefore, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures B1 through B3, impacts associated with this issue will be reduce to a level less than significant.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is located within rural setting and is not located within a conservation plan. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.

V. **CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

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

A cultural resources survey was conducted for the project site (ASM Affiliates, 2006). The cultural resources report is provided as Appendix B of this Initial Study. Based on the results of the cultural resources survey, no historical resources as defined in §15064.5 were identified in the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause an adverse change to a historical resource and no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

A cultural resources survey was conducted for the project site (ASM Affiliates, 2006). Based on the results of the cultural resources survey, there are no archaeological resources located in the project site, and no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is located within a relatively disturbed area. The project site is located in the coastal foothill section of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province (Ninyo and Moore, 2006). This geomorphic province encompasses an area that extends approximately 900 miles from the Transverse Ranges and the Los Angeles Basin south to the southern tip of Baja California. The province varies in width from approximately 30 to 100 miles. In general, the province consists of rugged mountains underlain by Jurassic metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks and Cretaceous igneous rocks of the southern California batholith. The project site is

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

generally underlain by Cretaceous-age granitic rock consisting of grandiorite with some tonalite and monogranite. As types of igneous rocks formed directly from magma (molten rock) they are devoid of paleontological resource sensitivity (Deméré, 1993). Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal ceremonies?	☐	☐	☒	☐

A cultural resources survey was conducted for the project site (ASM Affiliates, 2006). Based on the results of the cultural resources survey, no human remains or cultural resources are identified in the project site. It is unlikely that any human remains will be found or disturbed. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

In compliance with OWD's Master Plan Program EIR (OWD, 2004), if human remains are discovered, any project activity that would impact the remains shall be stopped and County Coroner and/or Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted immediately. No activity that would impact the remains shall be resumed until disposition of the remains satisfactory to these agencies has been implemented.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	☐	☐	☒	☐

A limited geotechnical reconnaissance has been conducted for the project site (Ninyo and Moore, 2006). The geotechnical investigation is provided as Appendix C of this Initial Study.

The project site is not located in a hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zoning Act, Special Publication 42, Revised 1994, Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California.

Although no active faults are known to transect the project site, the project site is considered to be in a seismically active area, as is most of Southern California. The site is located in the Peninsular Range Geographic Province. The area is identified by rugged, northwest trending mountain ranges to the east and coastal plains to the west. Several earthquake fault zones exist in the regional vicinity of the project site increasing the potential for earthquake damage on-site. The nearest fault to the project site is the active Rose Canyon Fault, which is located approximately 16 miles west of the project site. The maximum magnitude of the fault is estimated at 6.9 at 16 miles from the project site. The level of risk is similar to most of the

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

Southern California region. The proposed reservoir will be primarily an unmanned facility and will be constructed to current seismic codes of the California Building Code (CBC) and the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Please see VI a) i. above. There may be significant ground shaking at the project site from the Rose Canyon Fault Zone. According to the limited geotechnical reconnaissance conducted for the project (Ninyo and Moore, 2006) (Appendix C of this Initial Study), the calculated peak horizontal ground acceleration having a 10 percent probability in 100 years (upper-bound earthquake) for the site is 0.19g (19 percent of the acceleration gravity) and the calculated peak horizontal ground acceleration having 10 percent probability in 50 years (design-basis earthquake) for the site is 0.16g (16 percent of the acceleration of gravity). The project proposes to construct an unmanned reservoir in a relatively disturbed area, and does not otherwise involve the construction or placement of structures or development that would result in exposure of people or property to strong seismic ground shaking. In addition, the proposed reservoir would be designed and constructed in accordance with the most recent CBC and UBC standards thereby reducing instability issues related to strong seismic ground shaking. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this area.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒

According to the limited geotechnical reconnaissance conducted for the project (Ninyo and Moore, 2006) (Appendix C of this Initial Study), the project site is underlain with granitic-rock. As such, the potential for liquefaction within the project site is considered low. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒

According to the limited geotechnical reconnaissance conducted for the project (Ninyo and Moore, 2006) (Appendix C of this Initial Study), no landslides of deep-seated landsliding were noted on the project site during a field exploration and review of available geologic literature, topographic maps, and stereoscopic aerial photographs. In addition, the proposed reservoir will be designed in accordance with CBC and UBC standards thereby reducing the potential for instability issues related to landslides. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

The project site has been relatively disturbed by the development of the two existing Reservoirs; however, natural vegetation has reestablished on portions of the site. This vegetation protects against soil erosion. In addition, based on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey for the San Diego Area (1973), the project site is underlain with Cieneba, very rocky, coarse sandy loam (CmrG) (Ninyo and Moore, 2007). The Cieneba soil type has a severe erosion hazard (USDA, 1973). The construction of the proposed reservoir would involve trenching into these soils, which has the potential for erosion as a result of runoff during storm events. The project will be required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for short-term erosion impacts associated with construction activities and long-term water quality impacts. The

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

proposed BMPs and mitigation requirements are discussed under Mitigation Measure WQ1 in Section VIII Hydrology and Water Quality of this Initial Study. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure WQ1, the potential impact associated with soil erosion will be reduced to a level less than significant.

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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Based upon the topography of the project site and the base elevation of the existing reservoirs, there is a potential that the proposed reservoir will be placed on a cut/fill transition. Due to the differing settlement properties of granitic rock and fill, there is a potential for differential settlement to occur across the cut/fill transition. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measure GS1, the potential impacts associated with differential settlement will be reduced to a level less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

GS1. In order to mitigate the potential for differential settlement, the cut portion of the pad shall be undercut an amount equal to one-third or more of the deepest fill depth beneath the structure or three feet, whichever is greater, and replaced with compacted fill. Prior to construction of the proposed project a comprehensive geotechnical evaluation, including development-specific subsurface exploration and laboratory testing, shall be conducted. The purpose of the subsurface evaluation would be to further evaluate the subsurface conditions in the area of future structures or improvements and to provide information pertaining to the engineering characteristics of earth materials at the project site. From this data, recommendations for grading/earthwork, surface and subsurface drainage, foundations, pavement structural sections, sedimentation modifications, and other pertinent geotechnical design considerations may be required as additional mitigation measures for the proposed project.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project site is underlain with Cieneba, which is a very rocky, coarse sandy loam. According to the USDA Soil Survey for the San Diego Area (1973), this type of soil has a slight shrink/swell behavior, which means this soil type is not considered to be expansive. The proposed project is the construction of a proposed reservoir, and would not involve the development of habitable structures. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a substantial risk to life or property. In order to protect the proposed reservoir from impacts related to expansive soils, the implementation of the appropriate measures consistent with standard engineering practices and recent CBC and UBC standards will be incorporated into project design and grading to ensure there is no potential for impact from expansive soils. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project does not include the use of septic tanks. Therefore, soil suitability for wastewater disposal is not an issue and no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is the construction of a reservoir. The proposed project will not require the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Construction and operation of the proposed reservoir will not involve the use of hazardous materials. The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through foreseeable upset and accident conditions. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

Please see VII a) above. The project site is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing school and would not emit hazardous emissions or require the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials or substances. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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 Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The project site is not located on a hazardous materials site list pursuant to the Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan and is not within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The project will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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 private airstrips are located near the site. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

The proposed project is the construction of a reservoir in a rural setting. The project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project is the construction of a reservoir in a rural setting. Therefore, the project will not expose people or structures to the potential risk of wildland fires. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

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

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant Impact	No Impact

A limited water quality evaluation has been prepared for the proposed project (Ninyo and Moore, 2006) and is provided in Appendix D of this Initial Study. The water quality evaluation identifies that there are no existing water quality violations within the surface water bodies that drain the project site. The proposed project is the construction of a reservoir in a rural setting. The proposed project has the potential to impact water quality during construction by increasing erosion and transporting construction-related debris/chemicals into downstream surface water in the event of rainfall. The project site is located in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which regulated stormwater discharges through the San Diego County Municipal Stormwater Permit, Order No. 2001-01, which expired in February 2006; however a new tentative order was issued effective March 10, 2006 (Tentative Order No. 2006-0011). In order to comply with this permit and regulate stormwater discharges, the County has developed the following:

- Jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Plan (JURMP);
- Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP), which is intended to assist in the implementation of land development programs and capital improvement projects under the jurisdiction of the JURMP. In addition, the SUSMP provides a template for development a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and guideline for selecting and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs);
- County of San Diego Watershed Protection, Stormwater management, and Discharge Ordinance (WPO) (County Code sections 67.801-67.825); and,
- Stormwater Standards Manual (SSM).

As discussed in the water quality evaluation, certain types of jurisdictions, such as OWD, are not regulated by the RWQCB Order No. 2006-0011 and the above listed County of San Diego plans, but are subject to the state Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, as well as federal requirements of the Clean Water Act. In addition, the proposed project is subject to the State Water Resources Control Board General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ). The water quality evaluation identifies the need to protect surface water quality by preparing a SWMP and implementing BMPs during and post construction in compliance with the Resources Control Board General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ) in order to address potential short-term construction and long-term operation impacts. The operation of the proposed reservoir would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Implementation of Mitigation Measure WQ1, will reduce this impact to a level less than significant. The facility will not involve waste discharge.

Mitigation Measure

WQ1. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented at the project site during construction and long-term operation of the reservoir. The contractor specifications shall require the implementation of BMPs to control stormwater runoff during project construction. The following measures shall be implemented:

- Prior to the commencement of construction activities of the proposed project, the OWD shall comply with the Resources Control Board General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ), the following components are required: a Notice of Intent

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

(NOI), Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and Monitoring Program and Reporting Requirements. The SWPPP shall include all required elements and BMPs that shall be used during construction include but are not limited to:

- Silt fence, fiber rolls, or gravel bag berms;
- Street sweeping;
- Storm drain inlet protection;
- Stabilized construction entrance/exit;
- Vehicle and equipment maintenance, cleaning, and fueling; and,
- Hydroseed, soil binders, or straw mulch.

In preparing the SWPPP, OWD shall reference the County of San Diego's Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) and Stormwater Standards Manual (SSM) for a template in preparing the Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and guideline for selecting and implementing BMPs.

- Prepare a BMP implementation and maintenance schedule to provide proper guidance in the proper utilization of BMPs.

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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project will not utilize groundwater resources for operation. The proposed reservoir will store needed potable water for 1296 Pressure Zone. The project will result in the creation of impervious surfaces; however, the site is not located within an aquifer or groundwater recharge area. The project will not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge and will not result in a new deficit in the aquifer volume. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

According to a limited water quality evaluation conducted for the proposed project (Ninyo and Moore, 2006) (Appendix D of this Initial Study), the project site is located in the Proctor Hydrologic Subarea (910.32) of the Dulzura Hydrologic Area of the Otay Hydrologic Unit. The project site on which the proposed reservoir would be constructed drains downhill to the south into an unnamed intermittent (seasonal) stream approximately 1/2-mile from the project site. The stream eventually drains to the Upper Otay Reservoir, approximately four miles southwest of the project site.

Implementation of the proposed project will not result in alteration of an existing stream or river. Impervious surface will be created as a result of constructing the building pad for the reservoir and associated access road. Stormwater runoff from the project site will be captured via surface and subsurface drainage improvements and discharged to a rip-rap energy dissipator and ultimately into the natural drainage south of the project site (Figures 6 and 7). The increase in impervious surface and corresponding runoff will be minimal and will not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Additionally, the project is proposed by the OWD, and drainage improvements will comply with OWD specifications. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage paltern 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The implementation of the proposed project will not result in an alteration of existing drainage courses. Impervious surfaces will be created as a result of constructing the building pad for the reservoir and associated access road. The increase in corresponding runoff volumes will be minimal, and can be adequately accommodated by the existing drainage system. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Please see VIII a) and c). Implementation of the proposed project will result in a minor increase in runoff as a result of the creation of impervious surfaces. The runoff will be captured and directed to an existing natural drainage south of the site. This increase in runoff will be minor, and will not contribute water, which would exceed the capacity of the drainage system. Additionally, traffic volume on the access roads to the project site is minimal, and the creation of substantial pollutants as a result of petroleum products (e.g., oil, gasoline) is not anticipated. The project will comply with applicable BMPs as required by the SWMP prepared for the proposed project. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The proposed project will not affect groundwater sources. Surface water quality will not be substantially degraded as described above. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard boundary. Furthermore, the project is the construction of a reservoir, development of housing is not proposed. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

Please see VIII g) above. The project would not impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard boundary. Furthermore, the project is the construction of a reservoir and does not involve the development of habitable structures. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is located several miles from the coast at an elevation between 1,210 feet above mean sea level (MSL) and 1,295 MSL and is therefore, not an area susceptible to a tsunami. There is also no risk of inundation as a result of a seiche occurrence as the project site is not located on a lake. The site is located on a slightly elevated topography, and is not in a floodplain area; therefore, the risk of mudflow is also considered low. Tsunamis, seiches, and mudflows are not considered a significant hazard at the site. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The proposed project is located within a relatively disturbed and undeveloped area south of the existing 1296-1 and 1296-2 Reservoirs. The project site is surrounded by undisturbed and vegetated areas and estate residential properties. Currently, the project site is vacant. As such, the proposed project would not physically divide an established community and no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

According to the County of San Diego's General Plan, the project site is zoned for Limited Agriculture. However, as stated in the General Plan, public utilities such as the proposed project are allowed within this zone. As a Special District, local land use plans or policies are not applicable to OWD. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

The project site is located adjacent to the USFWS NWR and is covered under the 1994 Biological Opinion (BO). The proposed project will not impact the adjacent USFWS NWR area. The 1994 BO allows the project to impact 0.98 acres of CSS and impact one gnatcatcher pair. As discussed above in Section IV Biological Resources of this Initial Study, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures B2 and B3 the proposed project will be consistent with the terms and conditions of the BO and will not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is located within a relatively disturbed area and adjacent to two existing reservoirs. The project site is not identified as containing significant mineral resources. Based on the Geotechnical Report prepared by Ninyo and Moore (Appendix C of this Initial Study), the project site is not utilized for mineral resources mining or processing activity, nor is the site located in close proximity to such uses. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The project is the construction of a new Reservoir within a relatively disturbed area. There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites delineated on any local plan, specific plan or general plan, or in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

An environmental noise study was prepared for the proposed project (Wieland Associates, Inc., 2007). The report is provided as Appendix E to this Initial Study.

Based on the results of the noise report, the construction noise levels associated with the proposed project will fluctuate depending on the particular type, number and duration of use of various pieces of construction equipment. The exposure of persons to the periodic increase in noise levels will be short-term. Table 7-1 of the noise report (Appendix E of this Initial Study) provides typical noise levels associated with various types of construction-related machinery. Based on OWD policy, construction will occur between the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Construction is anticipated to start in February 2008 and will occur over approximately 12 months.

Based on the estimated construction noise levels identified in Table 7-1 of the noise report, and an analysis conducted to estimate the combined equipment noise levels that will be experienced during each month of construction, the average noise level (Leq) for the proposed project will range from 80 to 90 average decibels (dB(A)) at a distance of 50 feet from the center of construction activity. If Bear Mountain Way is repaved, the Leq will be approximately 84 dB(A) at a distance of 50 feet.

The nearest noise sensitive land use is the residential uses located north and south of the project site. The distance of the nearest residential unit to the project site is approximately 240 feet. At this distance, the average noise level produced by the construction equipment is estimated to range from 63 to 73 dB(A). This is below the County of San Diego standard of 75 dB(A) for residential uses; therefore, the proposed project will not expose persons to noise levels in excess of standards established by County of San Diego's noise ordinance.

The existing vegetated areas surrounding the project site can be considered noise sensitive due to the potential presence, or use of the sensitive avian species, such as the gnatcatcher observed near to the project site (Rocks Biological Consulting, 2007) (see Section IV Biological Resources, above). The area surrounding the project site is heavily vegetated, so it has been assumed that the construction equipment noise level will decay at a rate of 7.5 dB per doubling of distance. Using this factor, it is estimated that the construction equipment noise level will be 60 dB(A) at a distance of 315 to 790 feet from the center of the project site

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

during the construction, and at a distance of 455 feet from the center of Bear Mountain Way if this roadway is repaved. The barrier effects provided by intervening terrain may reduce these distances; however, to provide a "worst case" assessment, no barrier effects were assumed in the noise analysis.

In addition, as discussed in the noise report, the construction of the proposed reservoir will generate an average daily traffic volume (ADT) of 98 vehicles on Bear Mountain Way during the peak construction period (April/May 2009). This level of traffic is expected to generate a sound level of 60 dB(A) and a community noise equivalent level (CNEL) of about 55.5 dB at a distance of 50 feet from the near lane centerline of Bear Mountain Way. Therefore, during the gnatcatcher's breeding season (February 15 through September 1) the impact would be significant to any nesting gnatcatcher within 50 feet of the near lane centerline of Bear Mountain Way. Please refer to Section IV Biological Resources of this Initial Study. Implementation of Mitigation Measures B2 and B3 will reduce the potential indirect impact to the gnatcatcher to a level less than significant.

In addition, the CNEL (55.5 dB) is below the County's standard of 60 dB at residential properties and will not result in a significant impact to residences.

It is possible that some limited blasting may be required in the western portion of the project site in order to facilitate excavation to achieve the planned elevation of the reservoir pad and the perimeter of the access road. However, blasting will only occur between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, and only Monday through Saturday and the blast target will be completely covered with at least two loader buckets full of dirt. In addition, notice will be given to the residents within 600 feet of the blast site no less than 24 hours before the blasting operations occur. This complies with the County of San Diego's regulations. In addition, with the implementation of Mitigation Measure N1, potential temporary noise impacts during construction to the surrounding residences will be reduced to a level less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

N1. The following shall be incorporated into the design and construction of the proposed project:

- Noise construction activities shall be scheduled only during the hours and days as permitted by OWD standards, which are Monday through Saturday 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM;
- If blasting is employed during construction, the blast target shall be completely covered at least with two loader buckets full of dirt;
- All construction equipment, stationary and mobile, shall be equipped with properly operating and maintained muffling devices. Impact tools shall be shielded per manufacturer's specifications; and,
- Grading and construction equipment shall be stored on the project site while in use.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The primary vibratory source during construction of the proposed project will be large bulldozers. At the distance of the nearest residences to the project (about 240 feet) the estimated vibration level will be 51 logarithmic decibel (VdB). This is below the perception threshold of 75 to 80 VdB for residential properties, and well below the threshold at which building damage occurs (Wieland, 2007).

In addition, some limited blasting may be required in the western portion of the project site in order to facilitate excavation to achieve the planned elevation of the reservoir pad and the perimeter of the access road. Blasting can generate a vibration level of 100 VdB at a distance of 50 feet (Wieland, 2007). The nearest residence to the blasting area is at a distance of about 340 feet, where the expected vibration level will be about 83 VdB. This level is expected to be perceptible to the nearby residencies and may be annoying; however, it is below that threshold at which building damage occurs. Furthermore, blasting will only occur between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, and only Monday through Saturday and the blast target will be completely covered with at least two loader buckets full of dirt. Notice will be given to the residents within 600 feet of the blast site no less than 24 hours before the blasting operations occur. This complies with the County of San Diego's regulations. Furthermore, with the implementation of Mitigation Measure N1, this potential impact will be reduced to a level less than significant.

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

The proposed reservoir will be constructed in an area of low, rural ambient noise. The proposed project will not produce a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise in the project vicinity above levels without the project, as the noise associated with the proposed project will be temporary, during construction. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

Please see XI a) above. The construction phase of the proposed project will produce a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. However, the implementation of Mitigation Measure N1, discussed above, will reduce this potential impact to a level less than significant.

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 site to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project site to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

There are no private airstrips within the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project does not involve a use that would induce growth in the region. According to OWD's Water Resources Master Plan (WRMP) (OWD, 2002), a large percentage of undeveloped land is undergoing significant change. More than 29,000 acres of land within the OWD's planning area are being planned and developed. Growth forecasts used to develop the WRMP indicate that at ultimate buildout, the OWD will serve a population of nearly 277,000 residing in over 84,000 dwelling units. The size of the OWD's water supply system is predicted on population and demand factors related to local land use decisions. In the WRMP updating process, changes in the OWD facility sizing, phasing, and capacity will be related to the orderly, planned growth in its service area. In this sense, the OWD does not, in its WRMP, induce growth in its service area; rather the OWD has identified facilities and additional pipelines to support the growth that is dependent on land use decisions made by the County of San Diego, the City of Chula Vista, and the City of San Diego.

As discussed above in the project description, storage in the 1296 Pressure Zone is currently deficient by 3.1 MG and will be deficient by 12.14 MG for the projected ultimate conditions. The purpose of the proposed project is to partially reduce the storage deficiency and add storage capacity to the Pressure Zone in compliance with the WRMP. Therefore, the proposed project is the construction of a reservoir to store water for the 1296 Pressure Zone, which was included in the WRMP in order to plan for the ultimate buildout demands of the system. Therefore, the proposed project will not induce, directly or indirectly, substantial growth in the area. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

The project site is vacant. The proposed project will not displace existing housing. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

The project site is vacant. The proposed project will not displace existing housing or people. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project is the construction of a reservoir. There would be a positive effect on fire protection services, as the project would improve the reliability of water service and storage for the area. The project would not substantially impact existing or result in the need for the creation of new public services. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

XIV. RECREATION

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project will not result in an increase in population (which would generate a demand for recreational uses) nor is the project site located in an area planned for recreational uses. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project does not involve recreational facilities. Additionally, the proposed project will not result in an increase in population, which would generate a demand for recreational uses. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

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

A Traffic Impact Analysis has been for the proposed project (Linscott, Law & Greenspan (LLG), 2007). The Traffic Impact Analysis is provided as Appendix F of this Initial Study.

As discussed in the traffic impact analysis, during a two-month peak construction period, which is identified as April/May 2009, the proposed project will generate approximately 98 average daily trips (ADT) (49 inbound/49 outbound) including construction employee trips (Table 4). In addition, to account for heavy vehicle traffic, a Passenger Car Equivalency (PCE) factor of 2.0 was applied to account for passenger cars that are displaced by a single heavy vehicle of a particular type under the prevailing traffic conditions. Assuming that every truck counts as 2.0 cars, the project is calculated to generate the equivalent of 168 ADT.

TABLE 4
Peak Construction Period Trip Generation

Vehicle Type	Inbound Trips	Outbound Trips	Inbound + Outbound	With PCE Factor
Truck (18 wheel hauler)	30	30	60	120
Truck (10 wheel/fuel/lube)	1	1	2	4
Truck (3/4-ton)	4	4	8	16
Employee vehicles	14	14	28	28
Totals:	49	49	98	168

Source: LLG, 2007.

As depicted in Figures 2-1a through 2-1c (Traffic Impact Analysis, Appendix F of this Initial Study), project related trucks may use any of three haul routes to transport materials to/form the project site. Figures 6-1a through 6-1c and Figures 6-2a through 6-2c (Traffic Impact Analysis, Appendix F of this Initial Study) depict

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant Impact	No Impact

the project traffic assignment and the existing plus project traffic volumes, respectively. All of the roadway segments analyzed in the project area for the three designated truck haul routes are calculated to continue to operate at acceptable service levels (Levels of Service (LOS) D or better) with the exception of the following segments, which are calculated to continue to operate below acceptable LOS:

- State Route (SR) 94: between Steele Canyon Road and Proctor Valley Road (LOS F); and,
- Steele Canyon Road: between Willow Glen Drive and SR 94 (LOS E).

However, because these roadway segments are currently operating at unacceptable service levels and the addition of the proposed project trips will not worsen these existing conditions, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Please see XV a) above. The proposed project will not worsen the existing conditions of two segments currently operating at unacceptable service levels. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project site is not located within an airport approach or departure path. The proposed project would not result in an increase in air traffic levels or a change in location that would result in substantial safety risks. Therefore, no impact associated with this issue area is anticipated.

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

The proposed project does not involve the construction of any new public roadways, nor does it propose the use of dangerous equipment that would pose a hazard to the public. Currently, access to the project site is provided by Bear Mountain Way, a private road over which OWD has easements and which also provides access to neighboring properties. As part of the project, OWD will be repaving the road with asphalt concrete after the construction of the proposed project is complete. Repaving this road will improve the existing condition of the road, which has currently has numerous pavement cracks. In addition, a paved access road surrounding the proposed reservoir will be provided which will only be used by OWD for reservoir operations and maintenance purposes. Therefore, no impact associated with this issue area is anticipated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Adequate emergency access will be provided to the project site via Bear Mountain Way and a paved access road surrounding the project site. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project will not generate a demand for parking. Maintenance vehicles will park within the perimeter areas of the existing reservoirs. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

The project is the construction of a reservoir. The project will not generate vehicle trips that would conflict with an adopted policy, plan, or program supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

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

The project is the construction of a reservoir. The proposed project will not generate wastewater that enters the public sewer system. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is the construction of a reservoir. The overall concept of the project is consistent with the OWD Water Resources Master Plan (OWD, 2002), that provides for the availability of water to be provided from a number of possible sources. The project is consistent with the Master Plan and will provide potable water to accommodate the planned ultimate buildout of the 1296 Pressure Zone. The proposed project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				

Please see VIII a) and c) above. Drainage for the project site is proposed to be directed south consistent with the existing drainage pattern of the site. Under existing conditions, stormwater runoff from the project site flows into a natural drainage south of the site. Stormwater runoff from the project site will be captured via surface and subsurface drainage improvements and discharged to a rip-rap energy dissipator and ultimately into the natural drainage south of the project site. Figure 3 depicts the location and Figure 6 depicts the design of the proposed rip-rap energy dissipator. As depicted in Figure 3, the proposed energy dissipator will occur entirely within the project site boundary. Environmental impacts associated with the project's drainage feature are addressed in applicable sections of this Initial Study (e.g., Hydrology and Water Quality). Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

The project is the construction of a reservoir. The overall concept of the project is consistent with the OWD Water Resources Master Plan (OWD, 2002), that provides for the availability of water to be provided from a number of possible sources. The project is consistent with the Master Plan and will provide potable water to accommodate the planned ultimate buildout of the 1296 Pressure Zone. The project will not require the addition of new or expanded entitlements for water supplies. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project is the construction of a reservoir and no wastewater will be generated by the project. The project will not treat any water, and will not have any facilities producing wastewater. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

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

Construction waste will be minimal, and is anticipated to be disposed of at the Otay Landfill in South Chula Vista. According to the Draft Countywide Siting Element, the Otay Landfill has a remaining capacity of 31,336,166 tons and is anticipated to close in 2027 assuming the current disposal rates continue. The Otay Landfill has sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs during construction. Negligible waste would be generated during the operation of the proposed reservoir. Therefore,

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact
no impact to this issue area is anticipated.				
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The proposed project does not represent a significant generator of solid waste and the project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to the generation of solid waste. Therefore, no impact to this issue area is anticipated.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Please see Sections IV and V above. The proposed project will result in an impact 1.20 acres of CSS, 0.02 acre of disturbed habitat, and 0.20 acre of developed area. The project site is also located adjacent to undisturbed and vegetated areas which have been identified as habitat for the gnatcatcher. In addition, the proposed project is covered under the 1994 Biological Opinion (BO) for impacts to 0.98 acre of CSS and direct or indirect impacts to one nesting gnatcatcher pair. The proposed project will result in an additional 0.22 acre of impact to CSS. The OWD HMA has sufficient availability of CSS credits to accommodate this increase in CSS impact. It is anticipated that OWD will need to coordinate with the USFWS regarding an amendment to the BO. Implementation of mitigation measures proposed within this document will reduce the potential biological impacts to a level less than significant.

Additionally, the proposed project does not have the potential to degrade important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than significant impact	No Impact

All project impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant impact and are not considered cumulatively considerable.

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

As demonstrated in this Initial Study, the proposed project will not result in a potential impact to the health and well being of human beings either directly or indirectly.

XVIII. EARLIER ANALYSIS

In 2002, a Master Plan was prepared for the OWD that included this project in order to meet the projected ultimate buildout water demands for the OWD 1296 Pressure Zone. Pursuant to the Master Plan, a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was prepared in 2004. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is consistent with the information provided in the PEIR.

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

California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA Guidelines, 2007.

California Division of Mines & Geology. Jamul 7 1/2 Minute Quadrangles, 1975.

County of San Diego General Plan,

County of San Diego General Plan, Scenic Highway Element, January 1975 (amended in 1986).

Department of Conservation, Divisions of Mines and Geology, Update of Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region, 1983.

Demeré, Tom, Paleontological Resources for County of San Diego, 1993.

Otay Water District 1296-3 Reservoirs, Preliminary Design Report, June 2006.

Otay Water District Water Resources Master Plan, 2002.

Otay Water District, Water Resources Final Program Environmental Impact Report, 2004.

Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9), September 8, 1994.

Special Publication 42, Fault Rupture Hazard Zones in California, Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones Act, Title 14, 2000.

United States Department of Agriculture, San Diego County Soil Survey, San Diego Area, June 2003.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Opinion on the Otay Water District Capital Improvement Program, San Diego, California, 1994.