

## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

This Executive Summary for the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State of California Clearinghouse No. 2004051023) has been prepared according to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. This EIR has been prepared by LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) under contract to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (Lead Agency or District) to identify the proposed project's potential impacts on the environment, to discuss alternatives, and to propose mitigation measures that will offset, minimize, or otherwise avoid significant environmental impacts. This EIR has been prepared in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15120 through 15132, 15161, and other applicable sections regulating the preparation of EIRs.

### **1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

In 1993, representatives of numerous public and private agencies including Cemex Construction Materials Limited Partnership [LP] (Cemex) and Robertson's Ready Mix, Ltd. (Robertson's) formed a Wash Committee to discuss and coordinate proposals for aggregate mining in the Santa Ana River Wash (Wash). As shown in Figure 1.1 (or 3.1) the Wash Area is generally that land area between Greenspot Road on the east, Alabama Street on the west, Greenspot Road and Plunge Creek on the north, and the Santa Ana River on the south. Subsequently, Robertson's and Cemex forged ahead and submitted applications to mine on Wash lands leased from the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (District). Representatives from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had significant issues with the proposals, believing that the land to be mined would significantly disturb important wildlife habitat. Additionally, the land proposed for mining would eliminate virtually all of the District's existing groundwater recharge basins, and relocating those basins to other parts of the Wash would further affect important wildlife habitat. (It should be noted here that Seven Oaks Dam was not yet complete and the excavated borrow pit was still under control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).)

In January 1997, the Wash Committee, and any other agency that could influence how land was used in the Wash, began meeting to discuss the mining proposals. Within the first two meetings of this new group, it was apparent there was significant competition for use of the land. There were three primary uses causing that competition. First, the geology of the land provided superb percolation for recharging the groundwater basin with native Santa Ana River and Mill Creek water, the chartered function of the District. Second, those same geologic conditions provided sand and gravel deposits that were defined by the State as being regionally significant for economic sustainability. Thus, Robertson's and Cemex proposed to mine those aggregates. Third, the Wash was home to federally and State listed threatened and endangered species. Proposals for mining and excavation for water recharge basins could potentially affect the habitat for those species. The CDFG and USFWS were opposed to the loss of habitat.

In addition to those uses, the San Bernardino County Flood Control District (SBCFCD) noted that the Wash could be severely impacted by flooding waters, and there would need for continued maintenance of the stream channels. The two cities wanted to use the Wash for various forms of outdoor recreation, including having trails to view the wash resources. Furthermore, because the cities had received revenues from the mining companies for mining production, it would be economically favorable for mining to take place.

Using the former Wash Committee as a starting point, a Policy Action Committee (PAC) was established consisting of elected officials from the Cities of Highland and Redlands, County of San Bernardino (County), the District, and the Field Manager from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), North Palm Springs Office. To carry out the work, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was

formed consisting of staff personnel from the PAC agencies, plus representatives from the mining companies, the SBCFCD, other water agencies, and the wildlife agencies.

The TAC concluded that the only way to address everyone's concerns was to treat the Wash as a single entity, ignoring political and land ownership lines. In other words, start over to determine how best to use the land to meet the goals of each of the agencies.

The TAC noted that the western part of the Wash was already disturbed by long-term mining activities; therefore, that area should be reserved for mining. Additionally, the land in the eastern part of the Wash was already configured with water spreading basins, and that should continue. The TAC conceded that some of the best wildlife habitat was in the land between the disturbed mining area and the water spreading basins, much of which was encumbered with long-standing mining leases between the District and the mining companies. The challenge was to develop a balance between the three primary uses while maintaining the existing flood control operations, accommodating future trails in the Wash for the Cities and County, and ensuring that the District and Cities received economic benefit from mining royalties.

After several meetings, the TAC concluded that planned mining expansion would be best addressed by consolidating future mining activity into one area, adjacent to existing operations within the western half of the Wash. This would focus extraction activities on lands currently in or near mining disturbance—lands with the least long-term wildlife habitat value. In addition, the TAC determined that portions of the BLM land designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) were previously disturbed or fragmented by adjacent mining activities and thus would be better suited for mining expansion. The TAC also determined that some of the most intact, viable wildlife habitat areas were contained within lands leased for future mining and currently used for water conservation. The TAC concluded that some of these lands were best suited for joint uses as water and habitat conservation, rather than mining. For example, the up-gradient side of a percolation basin dike could be wetted and periodically contain water for water-dependent species; whereas, the down-gradient side could generally remain undisturbed, except for maintenance and repair of the percolation basin dike and, therefore, could support other wildlife species common to the Wash.

To effect these conclusions, a trade of land between the District and BLM was proposed. BLM owned land in the western part of the Wash adjacent to existing mining, while the District owned land in the eastern and middle parts. Making this exchange would make existing BLM land designated as ACEC, but of lesser environmental importance and already disturbed in part by mining haul roads and adjacent to existing mining, available to expand the mining area. In return, the District land would remain habitat and be designated ACEC, providing protection of habitat for species, while simultaneously ensuring an adequate depth of soil for water spreading operations. The benefits that would be accrued to all the agencies were evident.

1. Ensure continued ability to conserve native water. Combining the exchanged land with BLM with some other owned land in the western part of the Wash, would allow the District to transfer leases with the mining companies to the new mining areas, thereby precluding the potential loss of all the spreading basins in the eastern half of the Wash, and preserving the ability to conserve native water.
2. Assure SBCFCD lands were not impacted. The proposed land exchange between Robertson's and the SBCFCD would enhance the Santa Ana River Woollystar Preserve Area and not affect existing SBCFCD land needed for flood control operations and maintenance.
3. Set aside and maintain habitat. While much of the Wash might appear to the causal observer to be simply "open space" or wildlife habitat, its use for groundwater recharge and proposed expansion of aggregate mining under the original plan was destined to cause the loss of much of the open habitat. The proposed plan achieved an acceptable balance between the mining and water conservation uses and established specific areas for wildlife habitat that will be managed as ACEC land or will be governed by a Habitat Conservation Plan.

4. Accommodate expansion of aggregate mining quarries. The original plan as proposed by the mining companies would have used most of the Wash for aggregate mining, a positive element in view of the significance of the aggregate resources. However, there was doubt that permits for mining would actually be approved. The proposed plan does not use as much land for aggregate mining, but does give greater assurance that mining permits would be approved. Hence, the mining companies reduced their risks with the proposed plan.

The plan, which became known as “Plan B,” was presented to the PAC, then to the PAC governing boards. The proposed plan conformed neither to previously planned land use nor to current land ownership, and crossed both ownership and jurisdiction (two cities and the County) lines. But, in early 2000, the Plan was enthusiastically “endorsed to proceed” by all the participating agencies. Proceeding meant that environmental and implementing documents would need to be prepared.

To create the framework for joint funding and governance from all participants, the Wash Committee was re-constituted as the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management and Habitat Conservation Plan Task Force (Task Force). Members of the Wash Committee (both PAC and TAC) remained in the Task Force, namely the County, County Flood, cities of Highland and Redlands, District, BLM, Cemex, Robertson’s, East Valley Water District (EVWD), and City of Redlands Municipal Utilities Department (RMUD). In recognition of the important roles they play in the environmental planning process, the USFWS and CDFG were made advisory members. The ACOE, California Department of Water Resources (CDWR), County of Orange, and Inland Valley Development Agency (IVDA) have also participated in associate roles. The District was designated as lead agency for CEQA issues, while BLM was designated lead agency for NEPA issues, principally the exchange of land between the District and BLM. The Cities and County are responsible parties. The Agreement was signed November 20, 2002.

### 1.3 PROPOSED PROJECT

The Upper Santa Ana River Wash Plan (Wash Plan or proposed project) is a multifaceted, multi-agency, and multi-property owner project that provides for the coordination and accommodation of existing and anticipated future activities on the project site (Planning Area). The eastern border of the 4,467-acre<sup>1</sup> Planning Area is near the mouth of the Santa Ana Canyon in San Bernardino County, California, at Greenspot Road and extends westerly for approximately 6 miles to Alabama Street (Figure 1.1). At its widest part from north to south, the project site extends approximately 2 miles. The Planning Area is generally bounded by the following land uses:

- City of Highland, urban and public facility uses and vacant land on the north;
- City of Redlands, urban and agricultural uses and vacant land on the south;
- The San Bernardino International Airport on the west; and
- Agricultural and public uses and the San Bernardino Mountains to the east.

Other adjacent or nearby land uses include the Redlands Wastewater Treatment Facility and California Street Landfill, both of which are located to the southwest, and the Redlands Municipal Airport to the south. Two north-south paved roadways cross the Planning Area: Orange Street-Boulder Avenue and State Route 30 (SR-30). Greenspot Road wraps around the project site, forming a portion of the north and eastern boundaries, and Alabama Street is the western boundary.

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<sup>1</sup> The total Planning Area is 4,519 acres. Within the Planning Area, there are 52 acres that are not part of the proposed project, leaving a net of 4,467 acres.

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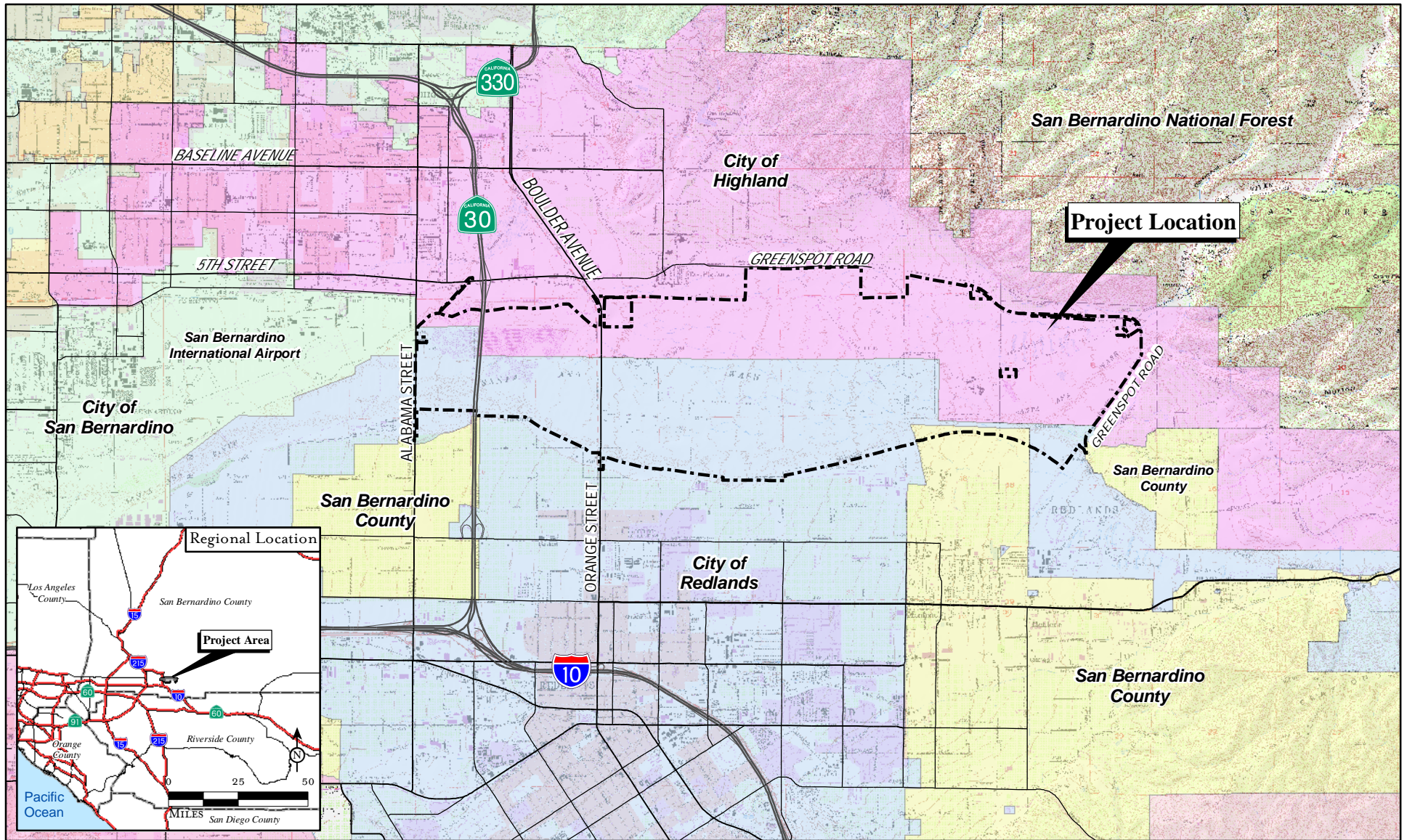
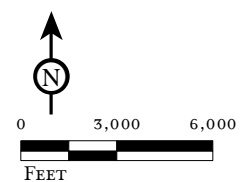


FIGURE 1.1

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SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quads: San Bernardino South (1980), San Bernardino North, Harrison Mtn., Redlands, Keller Peak, Yucaipa (1988), CA; Thomas Bros. (2006).

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Upper Santa Ana River Wash  
Land Management Plan  
Environmental Impact Report

Regional and Project Location

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The proposed project is the adoption of the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan. Full implementation of the Wash Plan will subsequently require preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as well as exchanges of land between various participating entities. As such, it will not cause direct impacts to the physical environment; however, adoption of this plan by the responsible agencies involved is the initial step authorizing activities which will have environmental impacts. The associated actions required by the responsible agencies are discussed in Table 3.I. A comprehensive description of the proposed project is provided in Section 3.0 of the EIR. The components of the plan are discussed below and analyzed in Section 4.0 of the EIR.

The purpose of the proposed project is to allow the continued use of land and mineral resources while maintaining the biological and hydrological resources of the Planning Area in an environmentally sensitive manner. The Wash Plan is intended to coordinate and manage the present and future activities in the Wash, which are under multiple jurisdictions, each with different needs. The goal of the proposed project is to balance the ground-disturbing activities of aggregate mining, water conservation, and other public services, including recreational activities; with quality, natural habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Objectives of the proposed project are:

- Ensure the continued ability of the District to replenish the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin with native Santa Ana River water using existing and potential future water recharge facilities in the Planning Area;
- Ensure the continued ability of the SBCFCD to protect land and property by managing the floodwaters of the Santa Ana River and its local tributaries (Mill Creek, Plunge Creek, and City Creek);
- Set aside and maintain habitat for sensitive, threatened, or endangered species populations on the project site, and prevent colonization by non-native plants and animals, as mitigation for impacts from other aspects of the project, such as mining, designation of areas for future roadways or water spreading facilities;
- Accommodate the relocation and expansion of aggregate mining quarries, to help ensure long-term availability of high quality aggregate reserves located within the Planning Area for local and regional use, consistent with the MRZ-2 designation or reserves in this area, and do so on land adjacent to existing quarries, that has mostly been disturbed;
- Accommodate arterial roads and highways to provide safe modes of travel; and
- Provide trails for public enjoyment of the existing environment.

To achieve the above-stated objectives, there are nine components of the Wash Plan:

1. Continued operation and maintenance activities of the District within the Planning Area, and designation of, and environmental mitigation for, potential future groundwater recharge facilities within the area designated for "Water Conservation" or on adjacent BLM ACEC land as a joint use under the Land Use Plan.
2. Continued SBCFCD operations and maintenance activities within the Planning Area, and streams adjacent to or leading into the Planning Area (Mill Creek, Plunge Creek, and City Creek).
3. Continued water production operations and maintenance activities of the EVWD and RMUD, within the Planning Area.
4. Aggregate mining activities of Robertson's and Cemex, on the areas designated in the Land Management Plan for mining, including construction of aggregate vehicle haul roads, an access road from the mining area to 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Highland, and reclamation of the mine pits at the end of mining operations.

5. Adoption of General Plan Amendments by the City of Highland for land use amendments and zone change and by the Cities of Highland and Redlands for trails and habitat conservation plans.
6. Designation of, and environmental mitigation for, expanded roadway rights-of-way on Alabama Street and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue<sup>1</sup>; widening, ~~and~~ straightening, ~~and~~ realignment of Greenspot Road, and ~~dedication~~ designation of right-of-way for a new Greenspot Road Bridge.<sup>1</sup>
7. ~~Dedication~~ Designation of rights-of-way for and management of recreational trails in the Planning Area.
8. A land exchange between the District and the BLM. This land exchange is the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared under separate cover. The District's participation in such land exchange is covered by this EIR.
9. A land exchange between the SBCFCD and Robertson's, which is also the subject of this EIR.

The following is a description of the components of the Wash Plan. Table 1.A provides a comparison of the existing and proposed land uses in the Planning Area.

**Table 1.A – Land Uses for Proposed Project and Comparison with Existing Land Uses**

Land Use	Existing Land Uses (acres)	Proposed Project (acres)	Difference in Acreage	Main Reason(s) for Change in Acres
Water Conservation	1,260	<del>749</del> <u>740</u>	<del>-511</del> <u>-520</u>	Water Conservation changes to Habitat Conservation.
Flood Control	414	<del>408</del> <u>406</u>	<del>-6</del> <u>-8</u>	Portions are utilized as rights-of-way.
Habitat Conservation	1,215	1,947	732	Unmanaged Open Space and Water Conservation changes to Habitat Conservation.
Undeveloped Natural Habitat	604	0	-604	Existing open space that is unmanaged; with the proposed project, all open space would be managed.
Aggregate Mining and Processing	832	1,195	363	Aggregate Mining becomes consolidated area where mining haul roads exist, away from Habitat Conservation of better quality.
Arterial Roads/Highways	66	<del>96</del> <u>113</u>	<del>30</del> <u>47</u>	Road rights-of-way are designated for future roadway projects (Alabama Street and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue widening, and Greenspot Road widening, realignment and bridge).
Agricultural	6	6	0	No change.
Undesignated Public Ownership	70	<del>66</del> <u>60</u>	<del>-4</del> <u>10</u>	Portions are utilized as rights-of-way.
<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>4,467</b>	<b>4,467</b>	<b>0</b>	No change.
Area Not a Part	52	52	0	No change.
<b>Area within Project Boundary</b>	<b>4,519</b>	<b>4,519</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No change</b>

<sup>1</sup> The following items are not included in the project description of activities to be covered by this EIR, and would require their own, subsequent environmental evaluation:

- (a) Construction of road improvements on Alabama Street, Orange Street-Boulder Avenue, and Greenspot Road within the Planning Area;
- (b) Construction of the new Greenspot Road Bridge; and
- (c) Designation of, and roadway construction within rights-of-way for improvements outside the Planning Area on Alabama Street and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue.



### 1.3.1 Water Conservation

Existing Water Conservation land uses (1,260 acres) are concentrated in the eastern portion of the Planning Area. Groundwater recharge is the primary operation of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, which operates percolation basins<sup>1</sup> with a wetted area<sup>2</sup> of 64 acres. Water in the Planning Area is conveyed by gravity flow from the Santa Ana River and its tributaries to these basins where it ponds to depths of 3 to 10 feet. The water then percolates into the ground, recharging the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin that underlies the San Bernardino Valley. The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and its predecessors, have been operating these and other water conservation facilities in the Upper Santa Ana River Wash since 1911. All water conservation activities would continue to be focused within the Planning Area, which is located about one mile downstream from the Seven Oaks Dam. A reduction of approximately ~~514~~ 520 acres of land reserved for water conservation activities would occur with the implementation of the proposed project. Water spreading facilities existing within certain areas designated in the Land Use Plan as habitat conservation areas will continue to be available for water spreading. Biological clearance for additional, future facilities in the Water Conservation area and certain habitat conservation areas of the Land Use Plan is also a component of this project. The specific designs, and construction-level environmental review of such potential, future facilities, will require independent or supplemental environmental review.

### 1.3.2 Flood Control

Flood Control land uses within the project site currently consist of approximately 414 acres. With implementation of the proposed project, land devoted to flood control uses would be reduced by approximately 6 ~~8~~ acres. Despite a ~~6-acre~~ 8-acre reduction in land devoted to flood control activities, flood control activities include the continuation of an existing flood control program related to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries. The proposed project includes only the currently conducted flood control activities. The project area contains a portion of the Santa Ana River to the south, Mill Creek to the southeast, and Plunge Creek in the central northern portion. City Creek skirts the project boundary on the northwest.

#### Santa Ana River

Periodic maintenance work associated with the Santa Ana River is required and includes the following:

- Maintenance, repairs, and construction to harden the face of the Santa Ana River levee<sup>3</sup> to prevent erosion of the embankment; and
- Repair, construction, and low-flow maintenance work for levee areas to ensure that water flow travels safely into the Santa Ana River/Mill Creek confluence areas.

No additional maintenance, repairs, or construction work associated with the Santa Ana River would be required as a result of the proposed project.

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<sup>1</sup> Basins are typically areas of shallow excavation where water percolation takes place. Flow of water into these basins brings suspended sediment, which is dropped to the basin floor with percolation of the water. This sediment requires periodic removal for percolation rates to remain efficient.

<sup>2</sup> The wetted area is the surface area of the basin actually covered by water.

<sup>3</sup> A levee is typically composed of native material and formed into a berm 5 to 15 feet high. Native vegetation is left to grow on the slopes. Maintenance activities include occasional excavation and compaction of the levee material at the source of leaks, similar work to replace broken overflow culverts, and repair of washouts. Such repairs occur infrequently.

## **Mill Creek**

The Mill Creek levee and floodwall<sup>1</sup> starts on the upstream end and travels along the south side of the creek to its confluence with the Santa Ana River. Frequent maintenance is required during the year (repair, construction, grading, armor surfacing, and low-flow maintenance work) along the entire reach of Mill Creek levee. No extra activities for Mill Creek would be required with the proposed project.

## **Plunge Creek**

Plunge Creek maintenance includes continued repair and construction to the levees downstream of the crossing of Greenspot Road. Low-flow channel work is necessary to ensure that flow passes safely away from residences and other properties along Greenspot Road. No additional Plunge Creek maintenance work would be required as a part of the proposed project.

## **City Creek**

As in the past, City Creek (located off the project site to the northwest) requires levee maintenance, repair, and construction work on both its sides as well as low-flow channel work upstream and downstream of the Alabama Bridge crossing. These routine maintenance activities keep water flows within the confines of the channel on their way to the Santa Ana River. In addition, maintenance, repair, and construction for both sides of the confluence of City Creek and Plunge Creek as well as low-flow channel work is necessary on a periodic basis. There would be no added flood control activities required with the proposed project with respect to City Creek.

### **1.3.3 Habitat Conservation Areas**

Conservation of the Planning Area habitat is considered critical to the long-term survival of a variety of sensitive species. Two State-listed and federally-listed plant species—the Santa Ana River woollystar and the slender-horned spineflower—and two federally-listed wildlife species—the coastal California gnatcatcher and the San Bernardino kangaroo rat—are known to occur on the site. The Los Angeles pocket mouse is a species also known to occur on the site. Although not a federally-listed wildlife species, it is relatively restricted in geographic range and habitat requirements, and is listed as a California special species of concern. The proposed project would include 1,947 acres of Habitat Conservation (an increase of 732 acres over existing conditions) made up of the following and further described below:

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).<sup>2</sup> The land to be exchanged to BLM and designated ACEC provides for an unrestricted wildlife movement corridor across the wash.
- Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area.
- District Conservation Easement.
- City of Highland Biological Mitigation Area.
- Habitat Conservation and Potential ACEC.
- Additional habitat conservation land to be included in future Santa Ana River Wash HCP.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A floodwall is a long, narrow reinforced concrete wall usually built to protect land from flooding. If built of earth, the structure is usually referred to as a levee. Floodwalls and levees confine stream flow within a specified area to prevent flooding.

<sup>2</sup> ACECs were authorized in Section 202 (c)(3) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), which states that in the development and revision of land use plans, there shall be given "priority to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern."

<sup>3</sup> Additional habitat areas include approximately 141 acres of land owned by the City of Redlands.

## **Bureau of Land Management Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

Approximately 642 ~~638~~ acres of land within the Planning Area are located within BLM ACECs, which are areas where natural conditions are to be maintained insofar as possible. However, approximately 61 acres located in the westernmost BLM ACEC has been disturbed by mining activities. With implementation of the proposed project, some ACEC land, including the 61 acres of disturbed area, would be exchanged for higher quality habitat, which would be designated ACEC land. The real estate transaction that would implement this land exchange is analyzed in a companion environmental document, *Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement*. The land exchange, which is currently under way, will be approved approximately nine months to a year subsequent to the EIS. The land exchange is expected to result in increased long-term protection for Santa Ana River woollystar and slender-horned spineflower.

## **Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area**

As a result of the construction of the Seven Oaks Dam in the 1990s and early 2000s, critical habitat of the Santa Ana River woollystar, a federally listed endangered species, was affected. The ACOE and the local sponsors of the Seven Oaks Dam (the Counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino) entered into a Section 7 Consultation<sup>1</sup> with the USFWS. As a result of that consultation, the existing Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area<sup>2</sup> was established as part of the mitigation for the construction of the Seven Oaks Dam. This Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area is currently managed by the SBCFCD. Its existence would continue with the proposed project in an expanded form, as approximately 27 acres of project land that presently contain Santa Ana River woollystar would be added to the Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area. These 27 acres would link two divided units of the Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area that extend along the Santa Ana River. It should be noted that a forthcoming Army Corps of Engineers/Local Sponsor Seven Oaks Dam MSHMP document will manage additional species within the same WSPA boundaries identified in the Wash Plan. This MSHMP would not affect anything the Wash Plan EIR covers.

A 20-acre corner of the Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area that has been disturbed by a prior lumber mill use and is poor habitat would be designated Aggregate Mining with the proposed project. This 20-acre parcel owned by SBCFCD will be exchanged for 47 acres of favorable undisturbed Santa Ana River woollystar habitat owned by Robertson's and subsequently added to the WSPA.

## **District Conservation Easement**

As mitigation for impacts to biological resources that were created with the construction of a mining vehicle haul road in the Planning Area for Robertson's mining activities, 10 acres of land owned by the District were placed into a conservation easement. This conservation easement ensures that this area would be left in its natural state and that no development or disturbance to biological resources would occur on the site.

## **City of Highland Biological Mitigation Area**

The City of Highland completed a drainage channel ~~storm drain~~ project that required approximately 46 ~~20~~ acres of land designated for the mitigation of impacts that the City's project caused to biological

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<sup>1</sup> Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

<sup>2</sup> The Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area is 707 acres, of which 160 acres are located out side of the Planning Area. A total of 547 acres are within the Planning Area, and within the proposed project, an additional 27 acres will be added for a new total of 574 acres.

resources. As a separate action to be taken between the City of Highland and BLM independent of the Wash Plan, ownership of land will be conveyed to BLM.

### **Additional Habitat Conservation Areas**

Additional Habitat Conservation land uses would involve land set aside for the purpose of informal or formal (in the case of easements) protection of habitat and/or species. Some of the land could become either Habitat Conservation or part of the BLM ACEC land, depending on the appraised values of the parcels for the proposed land exchanges between BLM and the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District. This activity is discussed in greater detail in Section 4.4 *Biological Resources*.

### **1.3.4 Aggregate Mining**

Aggregate mining land uses of the proposed project include the following:

- Expansion of two existing sand and gravel mining operations (Cemex and Robertson's).
- Reclamation plans for the closure of mining facilities (Cemex and Robertson's) following the completion of mining extraction activities.

### **Expansion of Mining**

Table 1.A summarizes the existing and planned mining acres. Total mining production for Cemex and Robertson's is 4.5 million tons per year (MTPY).<sup>1</sup> With the proposed project, maximum production of the aggregate processing plants would be 3.0 million tons per year for each mining company, with a combined total of 6.0 MTPY, or about a 33 percent increase in total production. The existing mining footprint covers approximately 832 acres. With the proposed project, the combined footprint of Cemex and Robertson's quarries and associated facilities would total 1,195 acres, an approximately 43.6 percent increase in acreage.

With implementation of the proposed project, material would be mined using standard open pit techniques. Equipment used would not differ (other than as a result of technological advancements or replacement equipment) from that currently being used for mining on the project site. The mining operators would excavate the designated extraction areas with the same standard mining practices used in and approved for existing operations. The estimated operating life of the proposed mining facilities would be 61 years.

### **Reclamation of Mining Areas**

The completed mining areas would be used for future water conservation, including water recharge and water storage basins, open space, or acceptable recreation uses agreed upon by the landowner and, depending on its location, whichever City (City of Highland or City of Redlands) would be involved. The side slopes would be revegetated with native plant species and would be available for habitat conservation and open space. Processing plants, mining equipment, stockpiles, and refuse would be removed. Locked gates and fencing, as needed, would remain along quarry rims with signs posted every 300 feet to prevent public access into the quarries.

### **1.3.5 Arterial Roads/Highways**

A public arterial and a highway traverse the Planning Area. In addition, the Planning Area contains an existing private circulation system. Unpaved private haul roads are presently used by mining trucks,

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<sup>1</sup> Sum of average production for the past three years (2003-2005) based on truck tickets or sales.

and several agencies<sup>1</sup> use service roads within the project area to perform maintenance and other activities. There would be no change to these existing haul roads and service roads. The proposed project would include the setting aside of rights-of-way and environmental mitigation for Alabama Street, Orange Street-Boulder Avenue and the Greenspot Road realignment and associated bridge. With the proposed project a new 5<sup>th</sup> Street mining access road would be constructed and additional right-of-way required. This access road would connect with a new paved road to be constructed within the Aggregate Mining area to serve the processing plants of Cemex and Robertson's.

### **Fifth Street Mining Access Road**

As part of the proposed project, a new haul road would be constructed along the existing City Creek east-side levee to access 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The new access road would serve as an ingress and egress route for the trucks serving Cemex and Robertson's. This access road would connect with a haul road to be constructed within the Aggregate Mining area to serve the processing plants of Cemex and Robertson's. The northern terminus of this haul road would connect to eastbound 5<sup>th</sup> Street for exiting mining vehicles that go south on SR-30. Mining vehicles going north on SR-30 would not use this access road. Entering vehicles would ingress from the westbound lane on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and traverse beneath the 5<sup>th</sup> Street bridge connecting to the new access road.

### **Right-of-Way for Arterials**

Total existing acreage for right-of-way for arterials (Alabama Street, Orange Street-Boulder Avenue, and Greenspot Road widening, realignment and its associated bridge) is 66 acres within the project site. The proposed project would include the setting aside of right-of-way for Alabama Street for the portion that is located in the City of Redlands. The Orange Street-Boulder Avenue right-of-way would be established within both Redlands and Highland. Rights-of-way within the City of Highland for the Greenspot Road realignment and bridge would also be established with the proposed project. Approximately ~~30~~ 47 additional acres would be set aside for right of way for a future total of ~~96~~ 113 acres of right of way within the proposed project area.

## **1.3.6 Trails**

Various trail plans for the Cities of Highland and Redlands do not fully match up within the boundaries of the Planning Area. The proposed project seeks to rectify that situation by presenting a plan of integrated trails. The trails within the project boundaries would consist of eight interconnecting hiking and bicycle trails:

- Alabama Street Trail
- Boulder Avenue-Orange Street Trail
- Greenspot Road Trail
- Old Greenspot Road Trail
- Pole Line Road Trail
- Old Rail Line Trail
- The Cone Camp Road Trail
- Borrow Pit South Rim Trail

All trails would be located on existing service roads, utility easements, and old railroad beds. Except for the placement of barricades and signs indicating that trails and service roads would serve a dual purpose, there would be no construction activities associated with trails. Off-road vehicles and off-trail equestrian uses would not be permissible trail activities. Boulders or similar barricades may be placed to direct trail users away from habitat conservation, flood control, water conservation, and other areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Agencies that use the service roads include San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, San Bernardino County Flood Control District, East Valley Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Southern California Edison, and Metropolitan Water District.

### **1.3.7 Other Land Uses**

Other existing land uses, which would remain the same with implementation of the proposed project, include the following:

- Agriculture;
- Area Not a Part (various land uses); and
- Vacant land uses (five areas) that are a part of the proposed project.

The Agricultural use is located south of Greenspot Road in the northeastern portion of the project area. This is an approximately 6-acre active citrus grove and its agricultural use would continue with the proposed project.

Several areas totaling about 52 acres, although located within the Planning Area, are not considered to be participants for this project and are identified as “Area Not a Part.” They include the following uses:

- Recreation (the 35.5-acre Inland Fish and Game Club);
- Water Conservation (a privately owned parcel in the southwest part of the ACOE borrow pit);
- Vacant (an area north of the citrus grove and a sliver south of Greenspot Road on the northern boundary); and
- Mining (an existing batch plant on the western border of the project).

There are other parts of the proposed project that are identified as undesignated public ownership land. They total approximately 70 acres and include five acres that border the project on the north and east.

## **1.4 AREAS OF CONTROVERSY AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED**

In addition to a summary of each significant effect and the proposed mitigation measures to reduce or avoid that effect, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15123(b)(2) requires that areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency be stated in the EIR summary. This discussion includes issues raised by other agencies and the public, and issues to be resolved including the choice among alternatives that would mitigate the significant effects identified in the EIR.

### **1.4.1 Comments Received on the Notice of Preparation**

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft EIR was distributed to State, regional, and local agencies on April 26, 2004, for a 47-day review period ending on June 11, 2004. The objective of distributing an NOP is to solicit public comment in order to identify and determine the full range and scope of issues of concern so that these issues might be fully examined in the EIR. An Initial Study (IS) was distributed in tandem with the NOP. The NOP was mailed to the State Clearinghouse, as well as to the organizations and persons considered likely to be interested in the project and its potential impacts. Comments received regarding the NOP were used to help identify impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project.

The Initial Study, Notice of Preparation, distribution list, Notice of Public Scoping Meeting, and response letters are included in Appendix A of the Draft EIR. As of the close of the 47-day NOP public review period, ten responses to the NOP were received. The comments received are summarized below in Table 1.B.



**Table 1.B – Notice of Preparation Comment Letters Received**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Response</b>
1. Metropolitan Water District <b>Laura J. Simonek</b>	May 27, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests identification and analysis in the environmental document of any potential impacts to Metropolitan Inland Feeder facility and associated easements that traverse the project and incorporation of appropriate measures to ensure no substantial impacts.</li> <li>• Requests design plans for any activity not already covered by the Joint Use Agreement between Metropolitan and the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District be submitted for review and written approval.</li> <li>• Requests that the EIR include Metropolitan activities within the easements in any Land Use Management Plan.</li> <li>• <i>Guidelines for Developments in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements of the Metropolitan Water District of California</i> is attached to assist in the preparation of plans compatible with Metropolitan's facilities and easements.</li> </ul>	The Metropolitan Inland Feeder facility and its associated easements that traverse the project are analyzed in utilities and service systems, Section 4.16.
2. Native American Heritage Commission <b>Carol Gaubatz</b>	May 20, 2004	The comment letter discusses appropriate actions to take to assess adequately the project-related impacts on cultural resources.	A cultural resources study was completed, and potential impacts analyzed in Section 4.5. Tribal consultation will be required as part of SB 18 compliance for General Plan Amendments.
3. Department of Toxic Substances Control <b>Greg Holmes</b>	June 1, 2004	Discusses the need to identify any hazardous wastes/substances or contaminated sites on the subject property and gives examples of hazards potentially found on the property, the proper steps to be taken if such substances are found, and how to properly dispose of the substances.	Comment noted, no response necessary.
4. Southern California Gas Company <b>Rogelio A. Rawlins</b>	April 29, 2004	This comment letter states that Southern California Gas Company has the facilities and is currently available to provide natural gas to the project site.	No response necessary.
5. South Coast Air Quality Management District <b>Steve Smith, Ph.D.</b>	April 30, 2004	The comment letter discusses the different types of air quality impacts and mitigation measures to be analyzed under CEQA. The SCQAMD offers its assistance in identifying, categorizing and evaluating-project related emissions.	Air Quality impacts are analyzed in Section 4.3.
6. Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources <b>Paul Frost</b>	June 2, 2004	The comment letter advises that the proposed project is beyond the administrative boundaries of any oil or gas field; however, if the project operations uncover a previously unrecorded well, the Division district office in Cypress must be notified and may require remedial operations.	Comment noted no response necessary.
7. County of Orange	June 11,	The comment letter discusses impacts to the Woollystar Preserve Area (WSPA). The	Impacts to woollystar are

**Table 1.B – Notice of Preparation Comment Letters Received**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Response</b>
Resources and Development Management Department <b>Lance Natsuhara</b>	2004	commenter states that the EIR/EIS needs to address potential impacts on the owners of property in the area. The commenter requests revisions to the EIR/EIS in order to clarify and compare existing and proposed changes to the project and impacts to the Santa Ana River woollystar, the existing WSPA, the Multi-Species Habitat Management Plan prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the pervious borrow site.	analyzed in Section 4.4.  The HCP to be submitted to USFWS would be integrated to complement existing HCPs and BOs.
8. California Regional Water Quality Control Board <b>Adam P. Fischer</b>	May 25, 2004	The commenter discusses the need for issuance of a 404 Permit by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers which necessitates the issuance of a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.  As the issuance of 401 Certifications are subject to CEQA, Regional Board staff felt that the proposed EIR is an opportunity to legitimately authorize discharges of dredge and fill associated with maintenance according to conservation and flood control activities.	Individual activities conducted pursuant the Santa Ana River Wash Plan and HCP may require §404 and § 401 permits. This EIR would be the document from which project-specific analysis could be conducted.
9. State of California Department of Water Resources <b>Mark Stuart</b>	June 14, 2004	Identifies State Water Project facilities and Southern California Edison utilities that may be affected by the proposed project, and requests analysis and discussion of the potential impacts.  Requests that the City of Highland submit bridge widening and realignment designs to his agency for review and comment, assume all aspects of construction management, and schedule and coordinate potential power outages.  Discusses pipeline alignments that will cross the Santa Ana River Wash Planning Area and submits maps of currently proposed pipeline alignments.	Impacts to utilities and service systems are analyzed in Section 4.16.
10. Southern California Association of Governments <b>Jeffrey M. Smith, AICP</b>	June 2, 2004	States that the project is regionally significant per CEQA. Attaches <i>Policies of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide</i> and <i>Regional Transportation Plan</i> and states that SCAG expects citations of appropriate SCAG policies and to address consistency. The attachment identifies several topics to be addressed.	Impacts to regional planning are analyzed in Section 4.9 Land Use and Planning, Section 4.12 Population and Housing and Section 4.15 Transportation and Traffic.

### 1.4.2 Comments Received During the Public Scoping Meeting

In compliance with *State CEQA Guidelines*, the District has taken steps to maximize opportunities for individuals, parties, and agencies to participate in the environmental process. During the preparation of the Draft EIR, various Federal, State, regional, and local government agencies, and other interested parties were contacted to solicit comments and to inform the public of the proposed project.

The purpose of a Scoping Meeting is to:

- Introduce the proposed project;

- Solicit input on the potential environmental impacts that may result from the construction and operation of the proposed project; and
- Provide direction and scope of the analysis in the EIR.

Two public Scoping Meetings were held for the proposed project in May 2004. Notices for these meetings were sent to: All property owners within 300 feet of the project site; and all parties requesting such notice.

In addition, newspaper announcements of the meetings were placed in the *San Bernardino County Sun* and the *Press-Enterprise* on April 17, 2004. For additional public information, a brochure describing the project was created and placed in the offices of the Cities of Highland and Redlands, the County of San Bernardino, the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and the BLM.

Certified transcriptions of both Public Scoping meetings are on file at the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District<sup>1</sup> and included in Appendix A. The first scoping meeting was held in the City Council Chambers of the City of Highland on May 12, 2004. The second was held on May 19, 2004, in the City Council Chambers of the City of Redlands. An administrative draft EIR was circulated to all Task Force members in March of 2007.

## 1.5 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

CEQA Guidelines §15126 describes the method for consideration and discussion of alternatives to a proposed project. It states that an EIR should describe a reasonable range of alternatives to the project, or the location to the project, that would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project, but avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project after mitigation, and evaluate the comparative merits of the respective alternatives. Here, significant effects were found to occur to air quality, biological resources, loss of potential mineral reserves, aesthetics, and traffic. This EIR considers four alternatives, including a No Project Alternative, each of which is designed to either avoid or lessen one or more of these identified significant impacts. An alternative location to the project as a whole is not considered, given the scope in terms of acreage of the project area, and the range of activities covered within the project description. One key element of the project is the consolidation of mining activities, by expanding immediately adjacent to existing mining disturbances. Such project activity of necessity must occur immediately adjacent to existing mining. Still, the alternatives do examine a series of configurations and varying locations for mining activities within the Planning Area, and in this sense, do examine alternative locations for various components of the project.

It is the mining component of this project that generates the bulk of environmental impacts. As such, variations in the location and production levels of mining are the variables assessed in determining a reasonable range of alternatives. The consequences of these various mining configurations do impact other components of the project, such as the amount of habitat conservation land that would be available for dedication, location of recreational trails, etc.

The Lead Agency is responsible for selecting a range of project alternatives for examination and must publicly disclose its reasoning for selecting those alternatives. The range of alternatives required in an EIR is governed by a “rule of reason,” which requires the EIR to set forth only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice. Of the alternatives considered, the EIR need examine in detail only the ones that the lead agency determines could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. Pursuant to CEQA, “feasible” has been defined as “...capable of being accomplished in a successful

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<sup>1</sup> The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District is located at 1630 West Redlands Boulevard, Suite A, Redlands, California.

manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.”<sup>1</sup>

Section 6.0 of the EIR analyzes alternatives that were considered infeasible and rejected from further analysis and alternatives that are carried on for further analysis are summarized below.

## **1.5.1 Alternatives Considered**

### **Alternative 1: No Project Alternative**

The purpose of describing and analyzing a No Project Alternative is to allow decision-makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the impacts of not approving the proposed project. Under CEQA (Section 15126.6[e][2]), the No Project discussion should consider what is reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services. If disapproval of the project under consideration would result in predictable actions by others, such as the proposal of some other project, this consequence should be discussed. The No Project Alternative (Figure 6.1) would not change the activities that are currently taking place within the project area. Aggregate mining would continue as it does now in the baseline condition of the project producing 4.5 MTPY to 7.4 MTPY as is currently permitted. No changes to habitat areas would take place, no new trails or public road rights-of-way would be established and no land exchanges would take place.

### **Alternative 2: Relocation of Future Mining Activities**

Alternative 2 (Figure 6.2) allows the largest area to be dedicated to expanded aggregate mining and the least amount of area dedicated to water conservation. Water conservation would be limited to the reclaimed borrow pit in the northeast portion of the Planning Area. Habitat preservation would be reduced due to expanded mining and no land exchange. Alternative 2 expands mining throughout the north-central portion of the project area into the northeast portion to include more mining acreage than the proposed project, although the amount of yearly aggregate production would remain the same as the proposed project at 6 MTPY. Alternative 2 is expected to yield approximately 220 million tons of aggregate, as compared to 184 million tons for the proposed project. This alternative basically presumes mining of the Planning Area to the extent of existing mineral leases, and therefore extends mining into the north half of Section 12 (Cemex), the Cone Camp Quarry in Section 7 (Robertson's), and presumes the continuation of existing silt pond activities permitted on existing BLM property in Section 10. This alternative would involve no land exchanges between either the District and BLM nor Robertson's and the SBCFCD. This alternative would require approval from the MWD for a haul road crossing its Inland Feeder Pipeline right-of-way between Sections 12 and 7.

The new 5<sup>th</sup> Street access would be constructed under this alternative and annual mining production would be the same as the proposed project, 6 MTPY. Old Rail Line Trail and Cone Camp Trail would be lost to mining and there would be no connection to the Borrow Pit South Rim Trail. The Alabama and Greenspot trails would continue, and the project would continue with the biological clearance for additional rights-of-way on Alabama Street, Greenspot Road, and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue.

This alternative would lessen the significant impact recognized from the proposed project of long-term loss of available mineral reserves, since significantly greater amounts of acreage the proposed project does not propose to mine would become available to meet regional aggregate demand. In most other respects, however, environmental effects would be greater under this alternative.

This alternative was selected for detailed analysis because it represents the Wash Plan participants' conception of the way the Planning Area would be mined absent the proposed project. This alternative was essentially the "Plan A" from which the Wash Plan (then called "Plan B") sprang, and

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, §15364.

allows a meaningful comparison of the proposed project with conditions as they were envisioned under existing leases, without the proposed project.

Under this alternative, some mitigation of the biological impacts associated with expanded mining, and with potential relocation of water spreading basins for water conservation, would still be needed. This mitigation would have to come from the District's dedication of remaining unmanaged habitat areas, the operators' acquisition of off-site mitigation areas, payments of mitigation fees or contribution to mitigation banks, or a combination of all of these. This is recognized as a major question in the feasibility of implementing this alternative.

### **Alternative 3: Maintain Existing Rate of Mining but in Proposed Quarries**

Alternative 3 (Figure 6.3) expands the areas to be mined to the central northeast portion of the Planning Area but would continue the existing baseline condition for aggregate production allowing 4.5 MTPY to be extracted. The Robertson's land exchange with the SBCFCD would take place as it would in the proposed project, allowing a contiguous Santa Ana River Woollystar Preservation Area along the south of the Planning Area. Mining activities would be allowed in the north half of Section 12 portion of the Planning Area. The BLM land exchange with the District would not take place. Trail rights-of-way would be established in somewhat the same manner as they would in the proposed project, but the Old Rail Line Trail would be lost to mining. Mining haul and access roads would not be constructed as a part of this alternative, and this alternative would require an allocation agreement between Cemex and Robertson's as to the amounts of available tonnage to be mined by each, since Robertson's leased Cone Camp Quarry would be unavailable while Cemex's Section 12 leased area would be mined, giving disproportionate reserves to Cemex.

Total tonnage would be approximately equal to the proposed project, at 184 million tons. Mining truck traffic would continue to use the existing routes on public streets. This alternative would require BLM approval of a haul road, but would not require any project-related amendments to the South Coast Regional Management Plan.

This project alternative was selected primarily because it decreases aesthetic impacts to the area in and around the Orange Street-Boulder Avenue right-of-way, which under the proposed project is mined out, on both sides, from the northern boundary of the Planning Area to the southern boundary, except for the existing Orange Street Plant.

### **Alternative 4: Reduced Mining Production Rate and Proposed Quarry Alternative**

Alternative 4 (Figure 6.4) is similar to the proposed project, with the exception of a 25 percent reduction in the geographic area of new mining to be undertaken. This alternative presumes that the area immediately south of the East Quarry North, and immediately east of the East Quarry South, would not be mined. This area of approximately 89 acres is roughly equivalent to 25 percent of the increase in mining area, totaling 363 acres, in the proposed project. The total aggregate yield expected from this alternative is 158 million tons.

Under this alternative, the 5<sup>th</sup> Street access would still be constructed and the mining production levels would remain at 6 MTPY. The land exchanges with both the BLM and the District, and Robertson's and the SBCFCD, would occur.

This alternative was selected because it reduces significant impacts to biological resources. As shown in Figure 4.4.4, this roughly 89-acre area does contain portions of Santa Ana River woollystar populations, that would go undisturbed as a part of this alternative, but that are lost under the proposed project. In addition, this area is nearer to the Santa Ana River Woollystar Preserve Area (WSPA) and, if left unmined, would provide available habitat for potential future mitigation purposes, on potential other projects in the Planning Area.

Under the Reduced Mining Footprint Alternative, short-term impacts to air quality and traffic would be expected to be similar to those of the proposed project, although long-term cumulative impacts may be decreased. The 6.0 MPTY production rate would make the air quality analysis for short-term impacts essentially the same as the proposed project, since that analysis was conducted on an annual emissions basis. In the long term, however, the reduction by approximately 25 percent of the mining area can be expected to result in a shortened life of the project. As such, cumulative air quality impacts, or the time over which the annual air quality impacts would be generated, would be decreased.

With respect to traffic, the analyses for traffic were reviewed using the year 2030 as the projected future date, and the traffic impacts would be expected to extend at least until that date, even under the Reduced Mining Footprint Alternative. Again, long-term cumulative impacts, to both local streets and to freeway on-ramps and off-ramps, would likely be reduced, due to the shortened life of this alternative.

In addition, aesthetic impacts generated by the proposed project would be somewhat reduced by this alternative, based on a reduction in mined area.

## **1.6 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS**

Table 1.C provides a summary of the proposed project impacts, proposed mitigation measures, and the residual impacts after mitigation.



**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<b>4.1 AESTHETICS</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Damage Scenic Resources within a State Scenic Highway.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Light and Glare Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Adverse Effect on Scenic Vistas/ Characteristics of Site.</u></b> Aggregate mining would degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.	<p><b>AES-1</b> Prior to initiating grading for the Silt Pond Quarry, where sufficient space is available, a berm shall be created and maintained by the mining operator on the northern and eastern boundaries of the quarry that parallel 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue, respectively. This berm shall be planted by the mining operators with plant species common to the Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub Community as approved by the District and the appropriate jurisdiction. Berm and landscaping plans shall be submitted to the District and the City of Highland for review and approval.</p> <p><b>AES-2</b> Within 6 months of the issuance of mining permits, trees at least 15 gallons in size and common to the Planning Area plant community shall be planted by the mining operator along the western perimeter of West Quarry, where sufficient space is available, at spacing of 15 feet on center to allow unrestricted growth and to be sufficient to shield the quarry from view of passing motorists on SR-30. Tree planting plans shall be submitted to the District, the City of Highland, the City of Redlands and/or Caltrans for review and as necessary. The trees shall be planted prior to the expansion of the quarry and shall be watered by the mining operators until established. The trees shall be maintained for the life of the quarry and</p>	Significant and unavoidable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>replaced as necessary by the mining operator.</p> <p><b>AES-3</b> Trees of a species common to the Planning Area shall be planted by the mining operator along the eastern boundary of Alabama Street Quarry, where sufficient space is available, that parallels SR-30. The spacing of the trees shall be 15' on center to allow unrestricted growth and to be sufficient to mask the quarry from view of travelers on SR-30. Tree planting plans shall be submitted to the District, and the City of Redlands for review and approval.</p> <p><b>AES-4</b> As mining activities are completed, the slopes of the quarries shall be reclaimed and revegetated by the mining operators per the approved Reclamation Plans with plant species common to the Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub Community. Reclamation and revegetation plans shall be submitted to the District and the City of Highland and the City of Redlands for review and approval.</p>	
<p><b><u>Aesthetic Cumulative Impacts.</u></b> The proposed project would have an adverse effect on scenic vistas across the Wash Plan through substantial changes in the characteristics of the site, and with the implementation of mitigation, these potential impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. The future widening and construction of roadways identified above would contribute light and glare impacts in the form of vehicular lighting; however, as existing roadways, light and glare impacts currently occur and new sources of light and glare would not be introduced. The volume of vehicles traveling on these roadways is not expected to increase to the point that a significant light and glare impact would result. There are no projects that would, in combination with the proposed project, result in any significant impact to scenic vistas, scenic resources, or character of the site and its surrounding. The cumulative aesthetic impact of conversion of currently un-mined property to mining uses, even though such converted properties will be concentrated into areas adjacent to</p>	<p>No mitigation is required.</p>	<p>Significant and unavoidable</p>

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
already disturbed areas, would remain significant and unavoidable.		
<b>4.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Conversion of State Designated Farmland.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Termination of Williamson Act Contract.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Conflict with an Existing Agricultural Zone.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Conversion of an Existing Agricultural Operation to a Non-Agricultural Use.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Cumulative Agricultural Resources Impacts.</u></b> The proposed project would not result in the conversion of farmland, cumulative development within the City of Highland, City of Redlands, and the County of San Bernardino and would therefore not contribute to a significant cumulative impact to agricultural operations and resources.	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>4.3 AIR QUALITY</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Consistency with the Air Quality Management Plan</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Short-Term Construction Impacts</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Long-Term Microscale (CO Hotspot) Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Health Risks from Project-Related Emission Impacts</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Odors.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b><u>Global Climate Change (Green House Gas Emissions)</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Long-Term Regional Emissions.</u></b> The proposed aggregate mining activities will result in potentially significant impacts related to a net increase of criteria pollutants for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.	<b>AIR 1</b> The mining operators, Cemex and Robertson's, shall comply with Article 4.8 <i>In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets</i> , Section 2449 <i>Emission Standards for In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets</i> (CARB; July 27, 2007) and any other applicable,	Significant and unavoidable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	subsequent rules, regulations, and requirements to the extent that is technologically feasible.	
<p><b>Expose Sensitive Receptors to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations.</b> The proposed aggregate mining activities will result in potentially significant impacts related to exposure of substantial pollutant concentrations to sensitive receptors.</p>	<p><b>AIR-2</b> The emissions of diesel particulate are expected to result in carcinogenic health risks that exceed the AQMD thresholds at nearby sensitive receptors. Applicable mitigation measures may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy-duty diesel equipment shall have exhaust particulate traps as certified and/or verified by EPA or California installed, if available.</li> <li>• Heavy-duty diesel equipment shall be fitted with the most modern emission control devices and be kept in proper tune to minimize construction vehicle emissions, where feasible. This measure shall be monitored by the construction manager.</li> </ul> <p><b>AIR-3</b> The two operators, Cemex and Robertson's, shall schedule transportation of material such that both operators are not transporting material on the same day from the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 11, which is the area farthest from both processing plants.</p>	Significant and unavoidable
<p><b>Cumulative Air Quality Impacts.</b> The cumulative area for air quality impacts is the Basin. The Basin is in nonattainment for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> at the present time. Implementation of the proposed project, in conjunction with other planned developments within the cumulative study area, would contribute to the existing nonattainment status by generating ozone precursors (CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, and ROC), PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions. Therefore, the proposed project would delay the attainment of air quality standards within the Basin and contribute to cumulative air quality impacts.</p>	No mitigation is required	Significant and unavoidable

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<b>4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Conflict With A Local Biological Policy or Ordinance.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b><u>Conflict with Provisions of An Adopted Habitat Conservation Plan.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<p><b><u>Take of or Modification of the Habitats of Listed Species and Other Special Status Species.</u></b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4.1</b> Relocation of the District's Observation Well No. 4 and construction of future water conservation facilities may result in impacts to listed species and/or other special status species or modification of their habitats.</p>	<p><b>BIO-1</b> The District shall <u>prepare and</u> implement a Habitat Enhancement Plan within the proposed Habitat Conservation, Flood Control, and Water Conservation areas within the Planning Area. The goals of the Habitat Enhancement Plan are to maintain adequate habitat for the slender-horned spineflower, Santa Ana River woollystar, coastal California gnatcatcher, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and Los Angeles pocket mouse; to prevent colonization of exotic plant or animal species within the Planning Area; and to avoid degradation of water quality within the Santa Ana River, Plunge Creek, and Mill Creek.</p> <p><b>BIO-2</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall include surveys for, and eradication of, exotic aquatic species in the recharge basins; surveys for, and eradication of, non-native plant species; and trash removal. The Habitat Enhancement Plan will establish preliminary measures to be included in the Upper Santa Ana River HCP to be approved by USFWS. At a minimum, the specific measures set forth in the Habitat Enhancement Plan shall be included in the Conditional Use Permits for the proposed quarries, as appropriate <u>in the operating plans</u></p>	Significant and unavoidable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p><u>of the District</u>, and in accordance with the modifications to the specific measures as ultimately contained in the approved HCP.</p> <p><b>BIO-3</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall maintain approximately 1,662 acres of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub (including pioneer, intermediate, mature and combinations with non-native grassland) in the Habitat Conservation area along the Santa Ana River, Plunge Creek, and Mill Creek with a minimum decline of 10 percent (166 acres) from existing conditions or a minimum of 1,496 acres of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub at any given time.</p> <p><b>BIO-4</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall maintain approximately 374 acres of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub (including pioneer, intermediate, mature, and combinations with non-native grassland) in the Planning Area along the Santa Ana River, with a minimum decline of 10 percent (37 acres) from existing conditions or a minimum of 337 acres of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub.</p> <p><b>BIO-5</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall maintain intermediate and intermediate/mature Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub at minimum in a similar portion to the existing baseline of the three primary stages of alluvial fan sage scrub conserved within the Planning Area with an allowed 15 percent decline of intermediate and intermediate/mature Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub combined from existing conditions to account for natural successional processes. Intermediate and intermediate/mature alluvial fan sage scrub currently account for 1,372 acres (67%) of the baseline total within the Habitat Conservation and Water Conservation areas. The minimum allowable</p>	



**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>amount of intermediate and intermediate/mature Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub would be 1,059 acres (52%).</p>	
	<p><b>BIO-6</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall maintain approximately 121 acres of chamise chaparral (including chamise chaparral within combinations of chamise chaparral/non-native grassland vegetation types) in the Habitat Conservation area along the Santa Ana River, Plunge Creek, and Mill Creek, with a minimum decline of 10 percent (12 acres) from existing conditions or a minimum of 109 acres of chamise chaparral (including chamise chaparral within combinations of chamise chaparral/non-native grassland vegetation types).</p>	
	<p><b>BIO-7</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall maintain approximately 50 acres of chamise chaparral (including chamise chaparral within combinations of chamise chaparral/non-native grassland vegetation types) in the Planning Area <del>along the Santa Ana River</del>, with a minimum decline of 10 percent (5 acres) from existing conditions or a minimum of 45 acres of chamise chaparral (including chamise chaparral within combinations of chamise chaparral/non-native grassland vegetation types).</p>	
	<p><b>BIO-8</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall maintain at least 64 wetted acres of recharge basins within the Planning Area.</p>	
	<p><b>BIO-9</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the District, include a survey conducted in the summer of each year to determine the extent and type of non-native vegetation present in the Habitat Conservation, Water Conservation, and</p>	

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>Flood Control areas in the Planning Area. Non-native species currently present in the Planning Area include tree tobacco (<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>), tocalote (<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>), Russian thistle (<i>Salsola tragus</i>), Spanish broom (<i>Spartium junceum</i>), and castor-bean (<i>Ricinus communis</i>) (Lilburn 1997). During the surveys, the approximate area containing the non-native species and their density will be estimated. The frequency of these surveys shall be reduced to every other year if no patches of non-native species are found for four consecutive years. Surveys for non-native aquatic species (e.g., bullfrogs, crayfish, mosquitofish, and snapping turtles) known to be detrimental to western spadefoot shall be conducted annually in the spring or summer.</p> <p><b>BIO-10</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the District, include the removal of non-native, invasive plant species found during the annual surveys using methods that will not harm individual members of the Santa Ana River woollystar, coastal California gnatcatcher, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and Los Angeles pocket mouse or their habitat, or cause pollutants to enter the Santa Ana River, Mill Creek, City Creek, or Plunge Creek. Eradication shall be accomplished using hand tools or pulling individual plants by hand. For many annual species, this will likely involve cutting the plants (one or more times) before they set seed.</p> <p><b>BIO-11</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the District, include removal of non-native aquatic species (e.g., bullfrogs and crayfish) found during the surveys utilizing methods currently approved by the USFWS that minimize the potential for impacts to the western spadefoot. Potential</p>	

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>methods include traps, seine, dip net, hand, and spear/gig. Removal shall be by biologists who can distinguish the non-native species (including egg and tadpole stages) from the native species to be protected. Eradication shall not be conducted when western spadefoot eggs are present.</p>	
	<p><b>BIO-12</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the District, include a program to control Argentine ants within the Habitat Conservation, Water Conservation, and Flood Control areas and within 300 feet of these areas within the Planning Area. The Argentine ants shall be controlled through elimination of water sources where feasible and treatment of nests. Queens and larvae in the nest will be controlled primarily through the use of granular toxic bait (e.g., Talstar). The integrated pest management program shall include annual inspection to determine presence of colonies, treatment of identified colonies, and site re-inspection after one month to determine efficacy of the treatment. Specific pest control recommendations shall be made by a State-licensed Category A Pest Control Advisor. The specified areas shall be monitored annually in the summer or fall. The frequency of these surveys shall be reduced to every other year if no Argentine ants are found for four consecutive years. A report detailing the program shall be prepared annually.</p>	
	<p><b>BIO-13</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the District, employ fencing (three-strand wire fencing) around entry points and post signage to control unauthorized trail use by off-road vehicles and garbage and trash dumping.</p>	
	<p><b>BIO-14</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the SBCFCD and the District, restrict vehicular traffic associated with routine operation</p>	

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>and maintenance activities within the Habitat Conservation area to daylight hours to avoid roadkill of San Bernardino kangaroo rats and Los Angeles pocket mice.</p> <p><b>BIO-15</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the District, ensure that Best Management Practices (BMPs) are employed during maintenance operations at the recharge basins to avoid impacts to water quality.</p> <p><b>BIO-16</b> The Habitat Enhancement Plan shall, under the direction of the District, ensure that trails, and 100-foot wide buffers on each side of the trails or roads where these buffers fall within the Planning Area, shall be monitored on a quarterly basis for the presence of trash, which could be washed into the Santa Ana River, Mill Creek, or Plunge Creek during storm events. All trash shall be removed by hand during the quarterly surveys.</p>	
<p><b>Impact 4.4.2</b> Continuation of existing flood control operation and maintenance activities may result in impacts to listed species and/or other special status species or modification of their habitats.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-9, BIO-10, BIO-12, and BIO-14</b> implement habitat conservation strategies associated with Flood Control areas and flood control activities.</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.4.3:</b> The proposed aggregate mining expansion may result in impacts to listed species and/or other special status species or modification of their habitats.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-16</b> implement habitat conservation strategies associated with the establishment of a Habitat Enhancement Plan for the Planning Area.</p> <p><b>BIO-17</b> The mine operators shall implement reclamation and revegetation concurrent with ongoing mining per the Mine and Reclamation Plans approved by the Cities of Highland and Redlands.</p> <p><b>BIO-18</b> Cemex shall be prohibited from mining the area encompassed by the Slender-horned Spineflower Enhancement and Relocation Plan (SLERP) until such time that the SLERP has effectively</p>	<p>Significant and unavoidable.</p>

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	transplanted or relocated all members (or a sufficient number as determined by USFWS) of the slender-horned spineflower from the SLERP area, or the USFWS determines the SLERP ineffective and abandons the program.	
<b>Impact 4.4.4:</b> Construction of roadway improvements may result in impacts to listed species and/or other special status species or modification of their habitats.	<b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1</b> through <b>BIO-16</b> implement habitat conservation strategies associated with the establishment of a Habitat Enhancement Plan for the Planning Area.	Significant and unavoidable.
<p><u><b>Adversely Effect Federally Protected Wetlands, Riparian Areas or Other Sensitive Natural Communities.</b></u></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4.5:</b> Relocation of the District's Observation Well No. 4 and construction of future water conservation facilities may result in substantial impacts to riparian habitats, jurisdictional areas as defined by the ACOE and CDFG, and other sensitive natural communities.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1</b> through <b>BIO-16</b> implement habitat conservation strategies associated with the establishment of a Habitat Enhancement Plan for the Planning Area. <b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-3, and BIO-4</b> will mitigate impacts to species associated with the Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub habitat while <b>Mitigation Measures BIO-5, BIO-6, and BIO-7</b> will preserve and enhance the quality of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub that remains in the Planning Area. The following mitigation measure shall be implemented by the District to reduce impacts to riparian habitats and other jurisdictional areas from relocation of the District's Observation Well No. 4 and construction of future water conservation facilities.</p> <p><b>BIO-19</b> Prior to construction of relocated Observation Well No. 4 and construction of future water conservation facilities within the District's Phase 1, 2, and 3 areas, jurisdictional delineation surveys shall be prepared by the District for those areas demonstrating riparian habitat and historic river flows. The jurisdictional delineation surveys shall comply with California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616 and Section 404 requirements from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for any discharge of dredged or fill material in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. A Section 401 Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board could also be required.</p>	Significant and unavoidable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<p><b>Impact 4.4.6:</b> The proposed aggregate mining expansion may result in a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitats, jurisdictional areas, or other sensitive natural communities.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1</b> through <b>BIO-16</b> implement habitat conservation strategies associated with the establishment of a Habitat Enhancement Plan for the Planning Area. <b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-3, and BIO-4</b> will mitigate impacts to species associated with the Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub habitat while <b>Mitigation Measures BIO-5, BIO-6, and BIO-7</b> will preserve and enhance the quality of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub that remains in the Planning Area.</p> <p>The permit proponent shall implement the following mitigation measure for impacts to jurisdictional areas.</p> <p><b>BIO-20</b> Prior to construction of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Access Road and mining within the Plunge Creek Quarry, jurisdictional delineation surveys shall be prepared by Robertson's. The jurisdictional delineation surveys shall comply with California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616 and Section 404 requirements from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for any discharge of dredged or fill material in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. A Section 401 Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board could also be required.</p>	<p>Significant and unavoidable.</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.4.7:</b> The designation of rights-of-way for proposed future roadway improvement projects may result in a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitats, jurisdictional areas, or other sensitive natural communities.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1</b> through <b>BIO-16</b> implement habitat conservation strategies associated with the establishment of a Habitat Enhancement Plan for the Planning Area. <b>Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-3, and BIO-4</b> will mitigate impacts to species associated with the Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub habitat while <b>Mitigation Measures BIO-5, BIO-6, and BIO-7</b> will preserve and enhance the quality of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub that remains in the Planning Area.</p> <p>The permit proponent shall implement the following mitigation measure for impacts to jurisdictional areas.</p> <p><b>BIO-21</b> Prior to construction of the Greenspot Road,</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>



**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	Alabama Street, and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue Roadway improvement projects, jurisdictional delineation surveys shall be prepared by the City of Highland and/or Redlands. The jurisdictional delineation surveys shall comply with California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616 and Section 404 requirements from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for any discharge of dredged or fill material in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. A Section 401 Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board could also be required.	
<p><b>Interference with Wildlife Movement or Migration Corridors</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4.8:</b> The proposed relocated Observation Well No. 4 and future water conservation facilities may result in disturbances to migratory birds, including the burrowing owl, resulting in a significant impact.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures.</b> The permit proponent shall implement the following mitigation measures for impacts to burrowing owls and other migratory bird species.</p> <p><b>BIO-22</b> As part of the construction of relocated Observation Well No. 4 and construction of future water conservation facilities, trees and other significant vegetation that may provide nesting habitat for migratory birds shall be removed from the construction areas by the District between September 1 and March 1, outside of the nesting season. If trees or other significant vegetation must be removed during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to any grading or vegetation clearing. If nesting birds are found within the areas to be impacted by the project, the nest and a 100-foot buffer area (200 feet for raptors) around the nest shall be protected and maintained until the biologist determines that young have fledged and/or the nests are no longer active. The buffer area shall be delineated with orange construction fencing.</p> <p><b>BIO-23</b> Prior to construction of relocated Observation Well No. 4 and construction of future water conservation facilities, the District shall conduct a habitat</p>	Less than significant.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>assessment for burrowing owl. If habitat is observed, a focused burrowing owl survey shall be conducted during breeding season (March 1 – August 31) per approved survey protocol. If occupied burrows are found, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented which may include one or more of the following in consultation with CDFG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid disturbance within 160 feet of occupied burrows during non-breeding season and within 250 feet during breeding season; and/or</li> <li>• If owls must be moved, passive relocation during the non-breeding season per CDFG recommendations shall be implemented.</li> <li>• A burrowing owl pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to any grading or vegetation clearing in areas with potential borrowing owl habitat not previously mitigated. If nesting owls or occupied burrows are found within the areas to be impacted, the above mitigation measure shall be implemented.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Impact 4.4.9:</b> The proposed aggregate mining expansion may result in disturbances to migratory birds, including the burrowing owl, resulting in a potentially significant impact.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures.</b> The mining companies shall implement the following mitigation measures for impacts to burrowing owls and other migratory bird species.</p> <p><b>BIO-24</b> As part of their mining expansion, trees and other significant vegetation that may provide nesting habitat for migratory birds shall be removed by CEMEX and Robertson's from the mining areas between September 1 and March 1, outside of the nesting season. If trees or other significant vegetation must be removed during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey shall be conducted by</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to any grading or vegetation clearing. If nesting birds are found within the areas to be impacted by the project, the nest and a 100-foot buffer area (200 feet for raptors) around the nest shall be protected and maintained until the biologist determines that young have fledged and/or the nests are no longer active. The buffer area shall be delineated with orange construction fencing.</p> <p><b>BIO-25</b></p> <p>Prior to mining within all mining expansion areas, CEMEX and Robertson's shall conduct a habitat assessment for burrowing owl. If habitat is observed, a focused burrowing owl survey shall be conducted during breeding season (March 1 – August 31) per approved survey protocol. If occupied burrows are found, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented which may include one or more of the following in consultation with CDFG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid disturbance within 160 feet of occupied burrows during non-breeding season and within 250 feet during breeding season; and/or</li> <li>• If owls must be moved, passive relocation during the non-breeding season per CDFG recommendations shall be implemented.</li> <li>• A burrowing owl pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to any grading or vegetation clearing in areas with potential borrowing owl habitat not previously mitigated. If nesting owls or occupied burrows are found within the areas to be impacted, the above mitigation measure shall be implemented.</li> </ul>	

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<p><b>Impact 4.4.10:</b> The designation of rights-of-way for proposed future roadway improvement projects may result in disturbances to migratory birds, including the burrowing owl, resulting in a potentially significant impact.</p>	<p>The Cities of Highland and Redlands shall implement the following mitigation measures for impacts to burrowing owls and other migratory bird species. These measures will be implemented as part of subsequent environmental review in accordance with CEQA.</p> <p><b>BIO-26</b> As part of the Greenspot Road, Alabama Street, and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue roadway improvements, trees and other significant vegetation that may provide nesting habitat for migratory birds shall be removed by Highland and Redlands from the construction areas between September 1 and March 1, outside of the nesting season. If trees or other significant vegetation must be removed during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to any grading or vegetation clearing. If nesting birds are found within the areas to be impacted by the project, the nest and a 100-foot buffer area (200 feet for raptors) around the nest shall be protected and maintained until the biologist determines that young have fledged and/or the nests are no longer active. The buffer area shall be delineated with orange construction fencing.</p> <p><b>BIO-27</b> As part of the Greenspot Road, Alabama Street, and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue roadway improvements, Highland and Redlands shall conduct a habitat assessment for burrowing owl. If habitat is observed, a focused burrowing owl survey shall be conducted during breeding season (March 1 – August 31) per approved survey protocol. If occupied burrows are found, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented which may include one or more of the following in consultation with CDFG:</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid disturbance within 160 feet of occupied burrows during non-breeding season and within 250 feet during breeding season; and/or</li> <li>If owls must be moved, passive relocation during the non-breeding season per CDFG recommendations shall be implemented.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cumulative Biological Resources Impacts.</b> Projects evaluated for the cumulative analysis include those in the project area with impacts to habitats similar to those that would be impacted in the Planning Area (primarily Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub). This land cover type provides habitat for listed species (slender-horned spineflower, Santa Ana River woollystar, and San Bernardino kangaroo rat); consequently, incidental take authorizations from the USFWS are necessary for these projects.	Implementation of mitigation measures would benefit the long term conservation of protected species and their habitat however; these mitigations only partially mitigate cumulative impacts. Therefore, cumulative impacts on biological resources will remain significant.	Significant and unavoidable.
<b>4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Destruction of Unique Paleontological Resource.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b><u>Human Remains.</u></b>	No mitigation is required with adherence to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5,	Less than significant.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<b>Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource.</b> There is a potential for the proposed project's components and activities of aggregate mining, roadway/bridge rights-of-way, and the land exchange between SBCFD and Robertson's to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5 of the Guidelines for California Environment Quality Act.	<b>CUL-1</b> A qualified archaeological monitor shall be present during initial ground-disturbing activities in the proposed Planning Area. The monitor shall be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect construction/mining activities in the vicinity of the find until the find can be evaluated by a certified archaeologist.  <b>CUL-2</b> In the event of a new find, salvage, excavation and reporting shall be required. The Secretary of the	Less than significant.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>Interior's Guidelines for archaeological documentation shall be followed by a qualified archeologist.</p> <p><b>CUL-3</b> If the archaeological sites CA-SBR-6075H, CA-SBR-6076H, and/or CA-SBR-6087H cannot be avoided during implementation of the proposed project, further study as detailed below shall be necessary for mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Subsurface Testing:</i> This would consist of a limited subsurface data collection program to help determine the depth and distribution of the resource.</li> <li>• <i>Archival Research:</i> Archival research could yield specific data regarding the origin and age of found resources/artifacts and place them in a historical context.</li> <li>• <i>Data Recovery:</i> If the resource/artifacts are determined eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources, additional archaeological data recovery excavations would be necessary. <i>Data Recovery:</i> If the resource/artifacts are determined eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources, additional archaeological data recovery excavations would be necessary. Data Recovery shall consist of a research design, hand and/or block architectural excavation, laboratory analysis, research, data recovery report, and curation of collected artifacts.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cumulative Cultural Resources Impacts:</b> The proposed project would not cause substantial adverse change to historical resources, nor would it directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource. Moreover, the proposed project is not anticipated to disturb any human remains. There are no projects that would, in combination with the proposed project, result in any significant impact to historical or paleontological resources or to human remains.</p>	<p>No mitigation is required.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<b>4.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Fault Rupture Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Ground Shaking Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Soil Erosion or Loss of Topsoil Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Landslide, Lateral Spreading, Subsidence, or Liquefaction Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Expansive Soils Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Septic Tank Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Cumulative Geology and Soils Impacts.</u></b> Impacts on geology and soils are generally localized and do not result in regionally cumulative impacts. The only impact from the proposed project that could potentially be cumulative would be erosion impacts; however, adherence to standard requirements identified in this section would cause the project's contribution to this cumulative impact to be less than significant on and off the site.	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>4.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Routine Transport, Use, and Disposal of Hazardous Materials Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Reasonable Foreseeable Upset and Accident Conditions Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Safety Hazard near Existing or Proposed School Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Public or Private Airport Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Emergency Response Plan Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Open Pit Hazards to Trail Users Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Wildland Fires</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<p><b><u>Hazardous Materials Site Impacts.</u></b> The project site is not listed on the Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List (Cortese List) of the Department of Toxic Substance Control; however, activities associated with the proposed project, such as ground disturbance associated with mining activities, have the potential to uncover previously undiscovered contamination. This is a significant impact.</p>	<p><b>HAZ-1</b> The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) shall be immediately notified in the event malodorous or discolored soils, liquids, containers, or other materials known or suspected to contain hazardous materials and/or contaminants are encountered during activities associated with the proposed project. Earthmoving activities in the vicinity of said material shall be halted until the extent and nature of the suspect material is determined by qualified personnel (as determined by the DTSC). The removal and/or disposal of any such contaminants shall be in accordance with all applicable local, State, and Federal standards.</p> <p><b>HAZ-2</b> The Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, &amp; Geothermal Resources shall be immediately notified in the event that a previously unrecorded well is discovered during the course of activities associated with the proposed project. Earthmoving activities in the vicinity of said material shall be halted until the extent and nature of the suspect material is determined by qualified personnel (as determined by the Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, &amp; Geothermal Resources) and any necessary remedial action is completed. The removal and/or disposal of any such contaminants shall be in accordance with all applicable local, State, and Federal standards.</p> <p><b>HAZ-3</b> Prior to the issuance of any permit required for project-related ground-disturbing activities a site-specific Phase I Environmental Site Assessment in accordance with DTSC standards shall be completed and submitted to the appropriate jurisdiction for review. <u>In the event that hazardous materials are discovered, the project applicant shall provide evidence to the appropriate agency</u></p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>



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Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p><u>(agencies) that remediation and/or mitigation of said site has been completed to the satisfaction of the appropriate local, regional, State, and/or Federal entity, prior to any ground-disturbing activities within 100 feet of any hazardous material site identified during a project-specific Phase I.</u></p> <p><b>HAZ-4</b> In the event of any identification of or spill of hazardous materials and/or contaminants in the Planning Area, the party whose activity resulted in the spill or release shall notify the District of the location, extent, and nature of the spill or release. The District shall thereupon assess the depth to groundwater in the area of the release, and if it appears that groundwater tables are high enough to create a potential for exposure of the groundwater table to the spill or release, will modify its recharge operations as much as feasible to prevent groundwater table intersection with the identified spill or release.</p>	
<p><b><u>Impacts from Materials and Debris on Trucks.</u></b> Materials and debris could fall from the bottom-dumping trucks while traveling on public roadways, presenting a potentially hazardous condition for other motorists. This is a significant impact.</p>	<p><b>HAZ-5</b> All loads in open street legal trucks shall be no higher than 6.0 inches below the top of the truck wall or covered and shall be subject to spot inspection pursuant to the Community Development Directors of the Cities of Highland and Redlands.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

#### **4.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

##### **Less than Significant Impacts**

<b><u>Violate Water Quality or Waste Discharge Requirements.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Deplete or Interfere with Groundwater Supplies or Recharge.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Increase Erosion and/or Siltation.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Increase in Surface Water Runoff that would result in Flooding.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Housing Flood Hazards.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Impede or Redirect Flood Flows.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Levee and Dam Flooding.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.

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Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<b><u>Seiche, Tsunami, Mudflow.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Additional Source of Runoff.</u></b> Mining activities during the operational phase are anticipated to produce a small amount of runoff. This is a significant impact.	<p><b>HYD-01</b> Prior to ground disturbance activities, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) shall be developed or revised by mining proponents for routine mining activities associated with new excavation areas. The SWPPP shall emphasize structural and nonstructural BMPs to control sediment.</p> <p><b>HYD-02</b> Prior to ground disturbance activities, a spill prevention control and countermeasures plan (SPCCP) shall be developed or revised by mining proponents for new mining area activities and shall outline the methods and locations that would be used for disposal of debris handled or produced on site during excavation. The plan shall also include handling and clean up procedures for any accidental releases from the excavation site. Disposal of maintenance/excavation waste is subject to compliance with all applicable waste disposal regulations and requirements.</p>	Less than significant.
<b><u>Otherwise Degrade Water Quality.</u></b> The proposed uses, with the exception of mining activities, would not significantly degrade water quality. Mining activities would have a greater potential to degrade water activities. This is a significant impact.	<b>HYD-03</b> During the operational phase of each respective quarry, the District shall review monthly groundwater level data from nearby wells and observe pit floor conditions to determine the depth of the existing groundwater level. If it is determined that groundwater is present at least 20 feet or less from the bottom of the active quarry, active mining shall cease on that portion of the pit.	Less than significant.
<b><u>Cumulative Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts.</u></b> The cumulative area for hydrologic and water quality impacts is the Bunker Hill Sub-Basin Area. The project proposes continuation of the historical practices of the Conservation District and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District for groundwater recharge and flood control. The project does not contemplate substantial differences in these activities from existing baseline activities and operations, and therefore no cumulative impacts resulting from the continuation of these activities is expected to occur. Changes in surface runoff from mining excavations are expected to result in less	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<p>than significant impacts, because mining operations will include protections to keep mining operations clear of groundwater and reclamation plans will require revegetation of side slopes to reduce runoff and erosion.</p> <p>Increases in long-term development in the City of Highland, City of Redlands, and surrounding areas may result in expansion of impermeable surfaces, which would increase the potential for pollutants in runoff, posing potential threats to water quality. However, adherence to NPDES, SWPPP, and WQMP requirements will reduce such cumulative water quality impact to less than significant levels. While the potential future expansion of impermeable surfaces may incrementally decrease natural recharge for the groundwater basin, regional groundwater management practices, such as evidenced by the Seven Oaks Accord and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, provide a flexible management system for accommodating such changing conditions, and adjusting the amount and location of groundwater recharge to keep groundwater levels at an appropriate level. As such, no significant cumulative hydrologic or water quality impacts are expected from the project.</p>		
<b>4.9 LAND USE AND PLANNING</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<u><b>Physically Divide and Established Community.</b></u>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<u><b>Conflict With Land Use Plans.</b></u>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<u><b>Conflict with Airport Land Use Plans.</b></u>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<u><b>Conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan.</b></u>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<b>No significant impacts associated with Land Use and Planning were identified.</b>		
<u><b>Cumulative Land Use and Planning Impacts.</b></u> The proposed project would be consistent with the affected jurisdiction's general plans as well as the regional plans in which the project is located in. There are no other projects in the project vicinity that would in	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
combination with the proposed project create a cumulative impact by dividing an established community, conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations, or conflict with an approved habitat conservation plan. A less than significant impact would occur.		
<b>4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<u><b>Loss of Statewide or Regional Mineral Resources.</b></u>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<u><b>Loss of Locally Important Mineral Resources.</b></u>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
No significant impacts associated with Mineral Resources were identified.		
<p><u><b>Cumulative Mineral Resource Impacts.</b></u> Because there would be a greater amount of aggregate materials excavated than originally allowed within the Planning Area and because SMARA regulations would continue to be implemented within the San Bernardino Production-Consumption Region, cumulative impacts are less than significant.</p> <p>The cumulative area for mineral resources is the San Bernardino Production-Consumption Region (Fig. 4.10.3). Within this area, the project proposes to expand existing mining operations, adjacent to existing quarries, by some 305 acres. In this sense, additional reserves are cleared for mining and regional use, and the project results in an increase, rather than a loss, of available mining reserves.</p> <p>Still, it must be acknowledged that the entire planning area fits within region designated as MRZ-2 identified as an area of potential significant mineral deposits, even though existing land uses as defined for the project for mining presently amount to 900 acres, this MRZ-2 designation applies to acreage included under other defined existing land uses as well. The project proposes to place some 753 acre in habitat conservation, which will prohibit any long-term exploitation for mining. It will also designate 745 acres for future water conservation, which will also preclude mineral extractions.</p>	No feasible mitigation is available.	significant and unavoidable

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
While there may be some question regarding the practical ability to permit these areas under existing regulatory constraints for mining, the project will still commit these areas to uses other than mining, and they will be lost to future potential mineral exploitation. As such, and to this extent, there will be a loss of regional mineral resources, which given the features and objectives of the project, cannot be mitigated. This effect is recognized as cumulatively significant.		
<b>4.11 NOISE</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Private Airport Noise Impacts:</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Public Airport Noise Impacts:</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Construction Noise Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Groundborne Vibration or Groundborne Noise Level Impacts.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Mobile Source Noise Impacts to Sensitive Receptors.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b><u>Stationary Source Noise Impacts to Sensitive Receptors.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
No significant impacts associated with Noise were identified.		
<b><u>Cumulative Noise Impacts.</u></b> Cumulative noise impacts associated with roadway noise have been addressed based on the cumulative traffic volumes. The increases over existing traffic volume are attributable to cumulative development projects in the project vicinity and region. As indicated, the future roadway noise assessment concludes that there will be no significant roadway noise impacts associated with cumulative plus project conditions. Due to the distance between the project site and the potentially noise-sensitive receptors, as well as application of the City's noise ordinance and General Plan policies, cumulative impacts associated with short-term construction related impacts are less than significant.	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b>4.12 POPULATION AND HOUSING</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>		
<b><u>Population Growth Inducement.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Less than significant.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<b><u>Displacement of Housing and People and Construction of New Housing.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Less than significant.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
No significant impacts associated with Population and Housing were identified.		
<p><b><u>Cumulative Population and Housing Impacts.</u></b> The proposed project would not result in cumulative growth-inducement impacts as there are no houses being built and there are no additional jobs created as a result of project implementation.</p> <p>Although restraints on mining operations could affect the local economy, and the proposed project would have varied effects on the local economy, the effects would not be considered substantial, and no mitigation measures would be necessary</p>	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant.
<b>4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>		
<b><u>Fire Protection.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b><u>Police Protection.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b><u>School Facilities.</u></b>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
No significant impacts associated with Public Services were identified.		
<p><b><u>Cumulative Impact for Public Services.</u></b> The proposed project would not produce significant impacts to fire protection, police protection, or school services. There are no projects that would, in combination with the proposed project's insignificant impacts, result in any significant impact to these public services; therefore, there are no significant cumulative impacts.</p>	No mitigation is required	No applicable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<b>4.14 PARKS AND RECREATION</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>		
<b>New or Physically Altered Recreation and Park Facilities</b>	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant.
<b><u>Increased Use of Existing Recreational Facilities.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<b><u>Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities.</u></b>	<p><b>REC-01</b> Prior to implementation of a trail program, a Trails Master Plan shall be developed and implemented for the Planning Area by the City of Highland and City of Redlands, which shall identify the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantity, style, and location of signs and barricades associated with each trail. (This may include the requirement to place signs in areas previously disturbed versus undisturbed area, the use of educational signs informing people to “carry in/carry out” trash, and signs depicting fines for littering.)</li> <li>• Maintenance schedule for replacement/repair of signs, barricades, and trail improvements.</li> <li>• Maintenance schedule for collection of trash (e.g., weekly, monthly).</li> <li>• Maintenance schedule for removal of invasive species for each trail.</li> <li>• Identification of agency responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of these trails.</li> </ul> <p><b>REC-02</b> Prior to implementation of a trail program, an outreach program shall be developed by the</p>	Less than significant.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>City of Highland and City of Redlands for the Planning Area, which shall incorporate and use education and outreach tools, developed and contained in the California Water Boards Erase the Waste Campaign. The education outreach program shall focus on litter and pet waste and include (but shall not be limited to) the following elements: Advertising, Community Outreach, Strategic Partnerships, Media, Youth Education, and Business and Stakeholder Outreach.</p> <p><b>REC-03</b> Prior to implementation of a trail program, the City of Highland, City of Redlands, and County of San Bernardino shall identify public access hours and seasonal limitations to minimize unauthorized access and use of the trails within the Planning Area as part of the Trails Master Plan.</p>	
<b><u>New or Physically Altered Recreation and Park Facilities.</u></b>	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
No significant impacts associated with Parks and Recreation were identified.		
<p><b><u>Cumulative Parks and Recreation Impact.</u></b> The proposed project would not result in an increase in population of the cities of Highland and Redlands and the community of Mentone. With no increase in population, increased usage of nearby regional recreational facilities would not occur. Development of other projects in the area may result in additional increased usage of regional recreational facilities; however, payment of user fees will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposed project would not result in impacts to recreational users because the project proposes to increase the</p>	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant.



**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
availability of recreational opportunities for the region's residents through increased open space and the addition of a trails system.		
<b>4.15 TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>		
<u><b>Air Traffic Patterns.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Design Features.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Emergency Access.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Parking Capacity.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Alternative Transportation Policies, Plans, and Programs.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<p><b>Impact 4.15.1: Impacts to the Palm Avenue/5<sup>th</sup> Street intersection would be potentially significant and require mitigation. Opening Year (2008) Intersection Traffic and Level of Service (LOS) Standard.</b> Without the proposed extension of Third Street to Fifth Street, truck traffic would contribute to congestion at the Palm Avenue/Fifth Street intersection from local deliveries <u>and regional deliveries that would travel north on SR-30</u>. This is a potentially significant impact and requires mitigation.</p>	<p><b>TRAFFIC-1</b></p> <p>The Robertson's <del>mining aggregate processing</del> plant shall control the distribution of <u>commercial haul trucks</u> <del>road mining vehicles</del> on local streets to ensure that no new peak hour vehicle trips are generated. Peak hours are 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>TRAFFIC-2</b></p> <p>Within one year of the issuance of <del>mining permits</del> a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the new mining areas <u>or as specified in the CUP</u>, the following improvements shall be constructed by the permit proponent:</p> <p><b>Third Street:</b> <u>Widen and extend 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from Palm Avenue to connect to 5<sup>th</sup> Street at the intersection of Church Avenue/5<sup>th</sup> Street. Convert 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to a one-way street traveling east consistent with the City of Highland's planned roadway network and conceptual drawings of 5<sup>th</sup> Street provided by the City.</u></p> <p><b>Church Avenue/5<sup>th</sup> Street:</b> Add a northbound free right-turn lane corresponding to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street connection. Restripe the east leg of the intersection to a six-lane roadway. The restriping to six lanes can be accommodated</p>	Less than Significant

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p>within the existing right-of-way and is consistent both with the City of Highland's General Plan roadway network and conceptual drawings of 5<sup>th</sup> Street provided by the City. <u>Add a southbound leg to the intersection corresponding to the 3<sup>rd</sup> street connection.</u></p> <p><b><u>Truck Traffic and 5th Street Access Road:</u></b>  <u>Truck traffic shall conform to Access Alternative D as described in the EIR and the traffic impact analysis for the proposed project. This truck traffic pattern shall be maintained in order to ensure the safe operation of traffic on 5th Street and enforced by the City of Highland.</u></p>	
<p><b>Impact 4.15.2:</b> <b><u>Impacts to freeway segments would be potentially significant and require mitigation. Year 2008 With-Project Conditions (Freeway Segments) Traffic and Level of Service Impacts.</u></b> With the addition of project traffic to the year 2008 baseline scenario, freeway levels of service at the following segments would operate at less than the minimum service standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SR-30 Northbound Fifth Street Off-Ramp Influence Area; and</li> <li>• SR-30 Southbound Fifth Street On-Ramp Influence Area.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRAFFIC-3</b></p> <p>Within one year of the issuance of <del>mining expansion permits</del> <u>a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) or as otherwise specified in the CUP</u>, the permit proponent shall pay City impact fees and <del>CMP fair-share fees</del> as delineated in the respective City's Development Impact Fee program <u>and CMP fair-share fees based on current costs estimated at time of payment. Fair-share fees shall include acceleration lanes for the SR-30 northbound and southbound on-ramps.</u></p>	Significant and unavoidable.
<p><b><u>Impact 4.15.3 Year 2030 impacts to local street intersections would be potentially significant and would require mitigation.</u></b></p>	<p><b>TRAFFIC-4</b></p> <p>Within one year of the issuance of a <u>Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the new mining areas or as specified in the CUP</u>, the permit applicant shall pay all applicable City <u>development impact fees for regional and local circulation and CMP fair-share fees based on current construction costs estimated at time of payment. Based on the year 2030 analysis prepared for this EIR, year 2030 intersection impacts can be mitigated with implementation</u></p>	

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	<p><u>of the following specific improvement measures, which shall be in place by year 2030:</u></p> <p><u><b>Palm Avenue/5<sup>th</sup> Street:</b> Add a westbound left-turn lane.</u></p> <p><u><b>Palm Avenue/3<sup>rd</sup> Street:</b> Add a northbound right-turn lane. Restripe the rightmost northbound through lane as a shared through/right-turn lane. Widen the east leg of the intersection to accommodate two departure lanes.</u></p> <p><u><b>Boulder Avenue/Greenspot Road:</b> Restripe the southbound right-turn lane as a shared through/right-turn lane. Add a northbound left-turn lane.</u></p> <p><u><b>Orange Street-Boulder Avenue/Cemex Access:</b> Add a northbound through lane and a southbound though lane.</u></p> <p><u><b>Alabama Street-Robertson's Access-Cemex Access:</b> Install a traffic signal and add a northbound through lane and a southbound through lane.</u></p>	
<p><u><b>Year 2030 With-Project Conditions (Intersection) Traffic and Level of Service Impacts.</b> With the addition of project traffic to the year 2030 baseline scenario, intersection levels of service at the following eight intersections would result in less than the minimum standard in the a.m. peak hour, p.m. peak hour, or both:</u></p> <p><u><b>Impact 4.15.4 Year 2030 impacts to freeway ramp intersections would be potentially significant and would require mitigation.</b></u></p>	<p><b>TRAFFIC-45</b></p> <p>Within one year of the issuance of mining permits a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the new mining areas or as specified in the CUP, the permit applicant shall pay all applicable City development impact fees for regional and local circulation and CMP fair-share fees <u>based on current construction costs estimated at time of payment.</u> Based on the year 2030 analysis prepared for this EIR, year 2030 impacts can be mitigated with implementation of the following specific improvement measures,</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <del>Palm Avenue/Fifth Street</del></li> <li>● <del>Palm Avenue/Third Street</del></li> <li>● <del>Alabama Street/Robertson's Access</del></li> <li>● <del>Alabama Street/Cemex Access</del></li> <li>● <del>SR-30 Northbound Ramps/Fifth Street</del></li> <li>● <del>SR-30 Southbound Ramps/Fifth Street</del></li> <li>● <del>Boulder Avenue/Fifth Street</del></li> <li>● <del>Orange Street/Cemex Access</del></li> </ul>	<p>which shall be in place by year 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>SR-30 Southbound Ramps/5<sup>th</sup> Street.</b> Widen 5<sup>th</sup> Street to two eastbound through lanes, an eastbound shared through/right-turn lane, a dedicated eastbound right-turn lane, three westbound through lanes, and two westbound left-turn lanes. <u>Provide storage length for turn lanes per the traffic study.</u> This improvement is consistent both with the City of Highland's General Plan roadway network and conceptual drawings of 5<sup>th</sup> Street provided by the City. This improvement would require <u>widening of Greenspot Road approximately 12 feet of right-of-way on both sides of 5<sup>th</sup> Street under the SR-30 bridge from 80 feet to 110 feet or more.</u></li> <li>● <b>SR-30 Northbound Ramps/5<sup>th</sup> Street.</b> Widen 5<sup>th</sup> Street to three eastbound through lanes, an eastbound left-turn lane, two westbound through lanes, and a westbound shared through-right-turn lane (wide enough for <i>de facto</i> right-turn lane). Add a northbound left-turn lane to the off-ramp. Widening of 5<sup>th</sup> Street to six lanes is consistent both with the City of Highland's General Plan roadway network and conceptual drawings of 5<sup>th</sup> Street provided by the City. <u>Provide storage length for turn lanes per the traffic study.</u> These improvements will require <u>widening of Greenspot Road approximately 12 feet of right-of-way on both sides of 5<sup>th</sup> Street under the SR-30 bridge from 80 feet to 110 feet or more.</u> Approximately 12 feet of additional right-of-way will also be required</li> </ul>	

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
	on the south leg of the intersection unless Caltrans approval to re-stripe the off-ramp is obtained.	
<p><b><u>Impact 4.15.45. Year 2030 With-Project Conditions (Freeway Segments) Traffic and Level of Service Impacts.</u></b> With the addition of project traffic to the year 2030 baseline scenario, freeway levels of service at all segments would operate at less than the minimum service standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SR-30 Northbound Fifth Street Off-Ramp Influence Area.</li> <li>• SR-30 Northbound Fifth Street On-Ramp Influence Area.</li> <li>• SR-30 Southbound Fifth Street Off-Ramp Influence Area.</li> <li>• SR-30 Southbound Fifth Street On-Ramp Influence Area.</li> </ul>	Because freeways are under the control of Caltrans, there is no feasible mechanism for the project applicant or City of Highland to construct freeway mainline improvements that would mitigate identified freeway segment impacts.	Significant and unavoidable.
<p><b><u>Cumulative Traffic Impacts.</u></b> Traffic volumes for the opening day plus project scenario are based on a sum of existing traffic, estimated traffic from a list of approved and pending projects, and estimated traffic from the proposed project. This yields a cumulative analysis, based on the list of projects approach consistent with CEQA. As described previously, the project will contribute to significant impacts at intersections located in the immediate project vicinity. The significant impacts are forecast to occur with or without implementation of the project and are therefore cumulative in nature. Because several of the improvements to the affected freeway ramp intersections will be included in future yet to be determined improvement projects sponsored by Caltrans or SANBAG, the project proponent has no control over the specific timing of when the improvements will be constructed. As a result, these cumulative impacts remain significant and unavoidable until such time as the improvements are constructed.</p> <p>Traffic volumes for the year 2030 plus project scenario are based on forecast traffic volumes from the City's traffic model. This yields a cumulative analysis, based on the projection's approach consistent with CEQA. As described previously, specific improvements to two intersections are required to maintain the City of Highland's level of</p>	Contribution toward the funding of the future improvements via payment of the City's traffic signal and road improvement fees and payment of CMP fair-share fees.	<p>Freeway Impacts: Significant and unavoidable</p> <p>For local intersections: Less than significant</p>

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<p>service standard. The improvement measures defined are consistent with the City's General Plan. Given the long-term time frame for when these improvements will be needed, their implementation is not needed until traffic volumes reach the levels estimated for the 2030 scenario. Consequently, the project will be responsible for contributing toward the funding of the future improvements via payment of the City's development impact fee for regional and local circulation and payment of CMP fair-share fees, resulting in a less than significant cumulative impact.</p>		
<b>4.16 Water Supply and Wastewater</b>		
<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>		
<u><b>Wastewater Treatment Requirements.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>New or Expanded Wastewater Treatment Facilities.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>New or Expanded Stormwater Drainage Facilities.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Adequate Water Supplies.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Wastewater Treatment Capacity</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Solid Waste Facilities.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<u><b>Solid Waste Reduction.</b></u>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.
<b>Significant Impacts</b>		
<p><u><b>Construction or Expansion of Water Treatment Facilities.</b></u> The mining component of the proposed project would locate mining operations at the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District No. 4 well. As mining operations approach this well, the well would need to be relocated to a location with similar capability to monitor groundwater levels. This is a significant impact.</p>	<p><b>UTIL-01</b> Prior to mining excavations occurring in East Quarry North within 100 feet of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Well No. 4, the mining operator of East Quarry North shall assure an agreement has been documented between the operator, the District, BLM, and USFWS for the relocation of Well No. 4 to assure the well site is outside of any ACOE Section 404 or DFG Sections 1600 et seq. permitting jurisdiction, or if this is not feasible, secure all such required permits prior to beginning construction.</p>	Less than significant.
<p><u><b>Cumulative Utilities and Service Systems Impacts.</b></u>  <b>Water Supply.</b> The cumulative area for water supply-related issues is the EVWD and Redlands Mutual Water service area. Although the</p>	No mitigation is required	Not applicable.

**Table 1.C – Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan Environmental Summary**

Issues/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance after Mitigation
<p>project itself would not significantly increase water demand, increases in population and intensity of uses would contribute to increases in the overall regional water demand. However, projects within the water purveyor service boundaries would be required to analyze water supply, treatment requirements, and effects on existing systems. Because this analysis would be required for projects within these service boundaries, no cumulatively significant effect on water infrastructure and supply would occur.</p> <p><b>Wastewater.</b> The cumulative area for wastewater-related issues is the Planning Area. Cumulative population increases and development within the surrounding area would increase the overall regional demand for wastewater treatment service. However, the proposed project would not require the expansion of existing wastewater treatment infrastructure and the contribution of the proposed project would not have a cumulatively significant impact on wastewater infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Solid Waste.</b> The cumulative area for solid waste-related issues is San Bernardino County. AB 939 mandates the reduction of solid waste disposal in landfills. With planned expansion activities of County landfills, it is anticipated that sufficient landfill capacity would exist to accommodate future disposal needs throughout San Bernardino County. Consequently, cumulative impacts associated with solid waste within the County would be considered less than significant.</p>		

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## **2.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

This section of the EIR describes the purpose and type of EIR, the intended uses of the EIR, documents incorporated by reference, and the process and procedures governing the preparation of the environmental document. Included in this section is a discussion of issues determined to be less than significant. This section also identifies topic areas of discussion and analysis in the EIR and provides an outline of the document format.

### **2.1 PURPOSE**

Approval of the proposed project requires a series of discretionary actions by the participating agencies. The actions include the certification of the EIR and adoption of the Santa Ana River Wash Land Management Plan by the District; exchange of Federal land administered by the BLM for private lands for the purpose of water conservation and mining, designation of acquired lands as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and amendment of the South Coast Resource Management Plan by the BLM; approval of an Incidental Take Permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and associated Habitat Management Plan (HMP), and approval of an Implementation Agreement by the USFWS (subsequent to the BLM land exchange); Consistency Determination by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) pursuant to Section 2080.1 of the Fish and Game Code (after the USFWS completes a Federal Environmental Assessment for the Incidental Take Permit); grant of recreational trail easement by the District to the Cities of Highland and Redlands; approval of General Plan Amendments and Conditional Use Permits for revised mining plans; and approval of reclamation plans by the Cities of Highland and Redlands.

Because of these discretionary actions to be considered, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the proposed project be reviewed to determine the environmental effects that would result if the project is approved and implemented. The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (District) is the Lead Agency and has the responsibility for preparing and certifying this EIR prior to implementing the proposed project. The District will be using the EIR in its consideration of ongoing and potential future water conservation activities within the Planning Area. The Cities of Highland and Redlands will be using the EIR in their approval of General Plan Amendments regarding land use and open space and for consideration of Conditional Use Permits in the expansion of existing mine pits and reclamation of the mining once operations have ceased. The EIR also addresses the expansion of road rights-of-way for future roadway improvements and establishment of a linked trail system within the Planning Area. The County will be using the EIR in the consideration of any flood control activities and the USFWS may consult the EIR in its consideration of its approval of the HCP and the issuing of a take permit for effects to endangered species. All the agencies listed have the authority to make decisions regarding discretionary actions relating to implementation of the proposed project.

The objective of the EIR is to inform the District decision-makers, representatives of other affected/responsible agencies, the public, and other interested parties of the potential environmental consequences that may be associated with the approval and implementation of the proposed project. The EIR also examines various alternatives to the proposed project and describes potential impacts relating to a variety of environmental issues and methods in which these impacts can be mitigated or avoided. This EIR has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, California Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*; the *Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act* (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3); and the rules, regulations, and procedures for implementing CEQA as adopted by the District.