

## 4.9 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section focuses on potential effects of the alternatives on pre-historic resources, historic resources, and cultural tribal resources. The information and analysis in this section is based on the CRA, January 2005, prepared by LSA and the *Cultural Resources Assessment*, August 2015, which was completed by BCR Consulting, LLC (BCR).

### THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the State *CEQA* Guidelines and are consistent with NEPA implementing regulation Section 1508.27. An alternative would result in significant impacts related to cultural and/or tribal resources if it would cause any of the following to occur:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or contain rock formations indicating potential paleontological resources.
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on a Tribal Cultural Resource.

### 4.9.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

#### 4.9.1.1 Alternative A: No Action Alternative

In the No Action Alternative, the USFWS would not issue an incidental take permit for Covered Activities. Current mining and water conservation operations would continue. The No Action Alternative does not include the construction of any water, storm drain, or roadway infrastructure or other structures that could result in adverse impacts to any cultural resources.

**Determination:** The No Action Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts associated with cultural resources.

#### 4.9.1.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action/Projects

The APE consists of the horizontal and vertical limits of Proposed Projects/Covered Activities, and includes the area within which significant impacts or adverse effects to historic property under Section

106 of the NHPA and a historical resource under CEQA could occur. The horizontal APE consists of all areas where activities are proposed, the footprint of Covered Activities, as shown in Figure 2.0-1, *Covered Activities*. The vertical APE is described as the maximum depth below the surface to which grading and excavations will extend. Covered Activities such as aggregate mining, new recharge basins, well and pipeline infrastructure, would include grading or excavation. Thus, the vertical APE includes all subsurface areas where archaeological deposits could be affected. The subsurface vertical APE varies across the project site.

- CUL-1** Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? **Determination: *Less than significant impact with mitigation implemented.***
- CUL-2** Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? **Determination: *Less than significant impact with mitigation implemented.***
- CUL-3** Would the Project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or contain rock formations indicating potential paleontological resources? **Determination: *Less than significant impact with mitigation implemented.***
- CUL-4** Would the Project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? **Determination: *Less than significant impact with mitigation implemented.***
- CUL-5** Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on a Tribal Cultural Resource? **Determination: *Less than significant impact with mitigation implemented.***

### ***Pre-historic Resources***

No pre-historic resources were identified through the records search or pedestrian survey within the Plan Area.

As lead Federal agency, the USFWS sent letters to the Native American Tribes of the area and conducted consultation with interested Native American Tribes regarding the Proposed Action/Projects. The letters were sent on May 13, 2015 to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, attention Lynn Valbuena, Chairwoman, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, attention Robert Martin, Chairperson, the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, attention John Valenzuela, Chairperson, and the Serrano Nation of Mission Indians, attention Goldie Walker, Chairwoman<sup>1</sup>. The letter contained a summary of relevant Federal laws, regulation, and policies and the co-lead role in notifying Native American Tribes in the area. The letter then discussed background information and how it relates to the Proposed Action/Projects. The letter ends with USFWS seeking views and comments from the tribe and offers

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<sup>1</sup> Letters were sent to tribes and contact persons as identified in the Native American Contact List, San Bernardino County, March 19, 2015, provided by the Native American Heritage Commission.

further coordination and consultation, should the tribe wish to do so, with contact information. The USFWS did not receive any responses to the May 13, 2015 letters from these tribes. AB 52 Tribal Consultation applies to projects for which the NOP, Notice of Mitigated Negative Declaration or Notice of Negative Declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015. A NOP to prepare a joint EIS/Supplemental EIR was filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2015031022) by the Conservation District on March 5, 2015 for a public and agency review of 30 days, through April 3, 2015. The NOP was also filed with the San Bernardino County Clerk of the Board. Therefore, this project is not required to comply with AB 52. However, the Conservation District initiated AB 52-like consultation with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Gabrielaño Band of Mission Indians for this project starting in October 2017.

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians site visit and meeting on December 5, 2017. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indian representatives were concerned about impacts to remnant water facilities and asked about NHPA Section 106 consultation with the federal lead agencies.

The Conservation District met with the Gabrielaño Band of Mission Indians on December 13, 2017. The Gabrielaño Band of Mission Indian representatives at the meeting expressed concern for burial sites along riparian corridors and requested notification of ground disturbances and that qualified monitors are allowed on site.

The Conservation District, BLM and USFWS met with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) on November 27, 2017. Lee Claus, Director, Cultural Resources Management, sent an email to Jeffrey Beehler at the Conservation District on November 29, 2017 that included a recap of the Tribe's comments summarized below:

1. SMBMI desires to continue traditional plant gathering as outlined in the current MOU with the Conservation District. The Conservation District confirmed that the adoption and/or implementation of the HCP would not diminish or alter the MOU as the plant gathering is considered a Covered Activity.
2. SMBMI expressed concern about the use of herbicide used for the management of non-native plants. The HCP managers will inform the tribe on herbicide application locations and timing and rotational application of herbicides with gathering seasons.
3. SMBMI expressed some concern about removal of tree tobacco. The Conservation District will retain some non-native vegetation areas, including tree tobacco, in the Plan Area.
4. SMBMI reviewed the BCR-authored CRA and requested that an addendum be prepared with additional information provided.

The Conservation District, BLM, and USFWS have addressed the concerns of the tribes and will maintain coordination with the tribes as individual Proposed Projects move forward.

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### **Historic Resources**

**CA-SBR-6006-H Civilian Conservation Corps Cone Camp (Cone Camp).** Cone Camp was recorded in June 1987 (by R. Paul Hampson, Roderick S. Brown, and Margaret A. Doyle of Greenwood and Associates) to include 38 features. Between 1931 and 1938 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) used the camp as a worker base. Between 1942 and 1964 its buildings were leased to house local orchard workers under the Federal “Bracero Program.” At its peak, the camp housed more than 1,000 workers. The buildings were used for storage until 1977, when the wood frames were burned for fire department training exercises. The site was revisited in 2004 and overall the site integrity remained good, and artificial impacts were noted at the time as minimal. Some natural deterioration was evident. Cone Camp is located in the Neutral Lands and Newly Conserved Lands subcomponent of the HCP, as shown in Figure 1.0-6, *Wash Plan HCP Subcomponents*, and is owned or under a Conservation Easement by the Conservation District. Cone Camp is not located within the mapped Covered Activities/Projects footprints and would not be adversely affected by implementation of Covered Activities/Projects.

**P-36-5526**, the historic-period orchard complex, was previously recorded as a historic period orchard and associated features. Features included poured concrete footings with exposed iron anchor bolts, a house foundation, several cobble/boulder pads, one poured concrete slab, a cement and cobble aqueduct, and numerous debris scatters. Artifacts included sun colored amethyst bottle glass, amber hand-tooled bottle finishes, tobacco tins, hole in cap cans, brick fragments, whiteware, and blue and porcelain ceramic fragments. During the 2015 survey effort it was found in place, basically intact as recorded.

**P-36-5526** was determined eligible for National Register listing (ergo eligible for California Register listing) in 1991. The 2015 CRA has confirmed this and has confirmed that the resource appears to retain integrity. As a result, this resource is recommended a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA and a historical resource under CEQA.

**P-36-5526** is located in the Neutral Lands subcomponent of the HCP, as shown in Figure 1.0-6, *Wash Plan HCP Subcomponents*, and is owned by the Conservation District. **P-36-5526** is not located on lands that will be exchanged between the Conservation District and BLM. **P-36-5526** is located between proposed SBVMWD recharge basins (Covered Activity VD.01) and could be adversely affected by construction of this Covered Activity/Project. The Proposed Action/Projects could result in significant adverse impacts on **P-36-5526**, the historic-period orchard complex that was determined for California Register listing and is recommended a historical resource under CEQA. The following mitigation measure (CR-1) would reduce potential adverse impacts.

**P-36-6062**, a multiple-episode deposit of historic-period debris, was previously recorded as a historic-period domestic debris deposit composed of five loci on either side of a dirt road. Debris included steel beverage cans, aluminum cans, milk tins, glass fragments (brown, clear, cobalt, olive, and sun-colored amethyst), stoneware fragments, metal rivets and one rubber shoe. During the 2015 survey effort the

site was found in place as recorded. **P-36-6062** is recommended potentially eligible for National Register and California Register listing eligibility due to its potential significance.

**P-36-6062** is located in the Neutral Lands subcomponent of the HCP, as shown in Figure 1.0-6, *Wash Plan HCP Subcomponents*, and is owned by the Conservation District. **P-36-6062** is not located on lands that will be exchanged between the Conservation District and BLM. **P-36-6062** is located within proposed SBVMWD recharge basins (Covered Activity VD.01) and would be adversely affected by construction of this Covered Activity/Project. The Proposed Action/Projects are anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts on **P-36-6062**, a multiple-episode deposit of historic-period debris, which is recommended potentially eligible for California Register listing and potential historical resource under CEQA. The following mitigation measure (CR-1) would reduce potential adverse impacts.

**MM CR-1** To reduce potential adverse impacts from construction of Proposed Projects/Covered Activities on cultural resources (**P-36-5526** recommended as a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA and **P-36-6062** recommended potentially eligible for National Register listing and potentially a historic property) one of the following options shall be implemented:

- Avoidance and Preservation in place.
- If avoidance and preservation in place is not feasible, then a Phase III data recovery plan, which provides for adequately recovering scientifically consequential information from and about the historic property/historical resource, shall be prepared and adopted prior to any undertaking or project-related excavation.

### ***Paleontological Resources***

Because there are no paleontological resources located within the vicinity of the Plan Area, and because sediments suitable for containing significant vertebrate paleontological resources are absent there would be no impacts to any of the nine components of the Wash Plan associated with directly or indirectly destroying a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological site. No mitigation is required.

**Determination:** The Proposed Action/Projects could result in significant adverse impacts on **P-36-5526**, the historic-period orchard complex that was determined eligible for National Register listing in 1991 and is recommended a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA. The Proposed Action/Projects are anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts on **P-36-6062**, a multiple-episode deposit of historic-period debris, that is recommended potentially eligible for National Register listing. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 would reduce potential impacts to these cultural resources to less than significant levels.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

**MM CR-2** An archaeological monitor shall be present during any proposed earthmoving activities for Proposed Projects. The monitor should work under the direct supervision of a cultural resources professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (the project archaeologist). Prior to commencement of any earthmoving activities, the project archaeologist should attend a pre-construction meeting in order to:

- Discuss safety procedures;
- Become acquainted with essential project personnel;
- Inform construction personnel of field methods; and
- Confirm avoidance of any National Register or (as necessary) California Register eligible or potentially eligible resources.

The monitor should be empowered to divert construction work from any resources set aside for avoidance. The monitor should also be empowered to temporarily halt or redirect construction work in the vicinity of any new find until the project archaeologist can evaluate it. In the event of a new find, salvage excavation and reporting may be required.

**MM CR-3** If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine/notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

## RESIDUAL IMPACTS AFTER MITIGATION

No residual impacts related to cultural or tribal resources would occur with implementation of the Proposed Projects and mitigation measures.

### 4.9.1.3 Alternative C: 2008 Land Management Plan

As with the Proposed Action/Projects alternative, cultural resources **P-36-5526** and **P-36-6062** are located within areas in the 2008 Land Management Plan proposed for Water Conservation. Implementation of water conservation projects in this area could adversely affect these cultural resources. As with the Proposed Action/Projects alternative, implementation of mitigation measure (CR-

1) would be required to reduce potential adverse impacts from implementing the 2008 Land Management Plan.

**Determination:** The 2008 Land Management Plan could result in significant adverse impacts on **P-36-5526**, the historic-period orchard complex, which was determined eligible for National Register listing in 1991 and is recommended a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA. The 2008 Land Management Alternative is anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts on **P-36-6062**, a multiple-episode deposit of historic-period debris that is recommended potentially eligible for National Register listing. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 would reduce potential impacts to these cultural resources to less than significant levels.

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## 4.10 NOISE

This section discusses the potential effects of noise and vibration that may result from the alternatives. This impact analysis examines the short-term and long-term impacts of the alternatives on noise sensitive uses adjacent to the Plan Area. Potential impacts from noise on wildlife is covered under *Section 4.4, Biological Resources*.

### THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the State *CEQA Guidelines* and are consistent with *NEPA implementing regulation Section 1508.27*. An alternative would have a significant effect on the environment related to noise if it will substantially increase the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas or conflict with adopted environmental plans and goals of the community in which it is located. The applicable noise standards governing the Plan Area are the criteria in the Noise Element of the *City of Highland General Plan* and Municipal Code, and the Noise Element of the *City of Redlands General Plan* and Municipal Code.

Based on Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, a project may have a significant noise-related effect on the environment if it would result in any of the following:

- For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, exposure of people residing or working in the Plan Area to excessive noise levels.
- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, exposure of people residing or working in the Wash Plan Area to excessive noise levels.
- A substantial temporary, periodic, and/or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.
- Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local General Plan or Noise Ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.
- Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

#### 4.10.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

##### 4.10.1.1 Alternative A: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, mining operations would still occur, and the noise and vibrations generated from mining activities and traffic would continue. These noise levels currently range from 45.4 dBA to 69.2 dBA and are below established local and regional standards. The existing permitted

mining would be mined to completion, but no additional mining permitting is presumed. The No Action Alternative would result in a gradual slowing of mining activities in the Plan Area as aggregate resources are depleted under existing permits and leases. The aggregate sources currently available to Robertson's are expected to be depleted in the next 1-2 years. The aggregate sources currently available to Cemex are expected to be depleted in the next 10-15 years (dependent on the market).

#### 4.10.1.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action/Projects

##### *Airport Noise*

###### **NOI-1 Private Airstrip Noise Impacts**

*For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the Wash Plan Area to excessive noise levels? **Determination: No Impact.***

###### **NOI-2 Public Airport Noise Impacts**

*For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the Plan Area to excessive noise levels? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact.***

There are no private airstrips located within the Plan Area or within the vicinity of the Plan Area boundary. The Redlands Municipal Airport is located immediately south of the Plan Area, and the San Bernardino International Airport is located immediately west of the Plan Area. The Proposed Action/Projects do not include construction of any residences in the Plan Area and there are no existing residences in the Plan Area. Areas surrounding both airports, which include portions of the Plan Area, are exposed to existing aircraft noise associated with these airports. As the Proposed Action/Projects do not include noise-sensitive receptors (e.g., educational facilities, residences, or hospitals), existing aircraft noise would have a less than significant impact on the all of the uses proposed and no mitigation measures are required.

##### *Construction Noise*

###### **NOI-3 Construction Noise Impacts**

*Would the proposed project result in a substantial temporary, periodic, and/or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

*Would the proposed project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

## Aggregate Mining

Expanded aggregate mining may require future construction for the relocation of mining facilities. Those aggregate processing facilities may, over time, be relocated to take advantage of potential mining excavation opportunities within their present sites. The new facilities would be less permanent in nature and would be constructed within a mining pit existing at that time. The location of the potential new mining facility has not yet been determined. The construction of the mine within a mining pit would create some short-term noise; however, the construction would occur within a mining pit that would create a barrier to noise receptors.

Additionally, a new truck access road is proposed that would connect with 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Church Avenue and SR-210. The construction of this roadway would create some short-term noise impacts from grading, hauling, paving and other road construction activities. Construction-related short-term noise levels would be higher than existing ambient noise levels in the Plan Area today but would no longer occur once construction of the project is completed.

Two types of short-term noise impacts could occur during the construction of the new road. First, construction crew commutes and the transport of construction equipment and materials to the site for the new road would incrementally increase noise levels on access roads leading to the site. Although there would be a relatively high single-event noise exposure potential causing intermittent noise nuisance (passing trucks at 50 feet would generate up to a maximum of 87 dBA  $L_{max}$ ), the effect on longer term (hourly or daily) ambient noise levels would be small. Therefore, short-term construction-related impacts associated with worker commute and equipment transport to the Plan Area would be less than significant.

The second type of short-term noise impact is related to noise generated during grading and roadway construction on the Plan Area. Construction of the proposed truck access roadway is expected to require the use of earthmoving equipment such as dozers, haul trucks, front-end loaders, and water and pickup trucks. This equipment would be used in the Plan Area. Based on the information in Table I.5-2- in Appendix I, the maximum noise level generated by each scraper on the proposed Plan Area is assumed to be 87 dBA  $L_{max}$  at 50 ft from the scraper. Each dozer would generate 85 dBA  $L_{max}$  at 50 feet from the dozer. Each doubling of the sound sources with equal strength increases the noise level by 3 dBA. Assuming that each piece of construction equipment operates at some distance from the other equipment, the worst-case combined noise level during this phase of construction would be 91 dBA  $L_{max}$  at a distance of 50 feet from the active construction area. The nearest sensitive receptors are residences on Powell Drive, approximately 600 feet from the closest point of the proposed roadway. At this distance the 91 dBA  $L_{max}$  would be reduced to less than 70 dBA  $L_{max}$ . This is less than the City of Highland's 75 dBA  $L_{max}$  exterior noise standard, so there would be no significant impact and no mitigation measures are required. For more details see the CEQA analysis outlined below in Section 4.10.2.2, NOI-3.

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### Other Covered Activities

Water conservation, wells and water infrastructure, transportation, and flood control construction projects are not anticipated to result in substantial increases in ambient noise. However, noise impacts could occur as a result of future construction projects if they are located within 600 feet from sensitive receptors. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would require site specific noise analyses be conducted prior to construction to ensure noise levels do not exceed City and/or County requirements.

The following mitigation measure would reduce impacts related to increases in ambient noise from construction activities at sensitive receptors:

**MM NOI-1** If construction activities are located within 600 feet from sensitive receptors a noise and vibration analysis shall be prepared to confirm that construction noise or vibration generated would not exceed standards at the property line of the nearby sensitive receptors. If the noise analysis indicates construction noise generated would exceed ambient standards then it shall identify the design features (such as noise barriers), their location and height, that are required to reduce construction noise to appropriate standards at the property line of nearby sensitive receptors.

### Operation and Maintenance Noise

Existing Operation & Maintenance Activities that occur in the Plan Area include aggregate mining operations, operation and maintenance of water conservation facilities (spreading basins, dikes, weir gates, and access roads), general water wells and pipeline maintenance, flood control channels, levees, and outlets, and other structures and access roads, as well as operation of the 6.7-acre citrus grove.

The types of equipment used for these operation and maintenance activities include dozers, excavators, pickup trucks, haul trucks, scrapers, pavers, rollers, cranes, flatbed trucks, drill rigs, pump hoists, dump trucks, water trucks, and vacuum street sweepers. The different operations and maintenance activities, equipment needs for each, and the max noise level based on the type of equipment used are outlined in detail in Section 3.10, *Noise*, in Table 3.10-6, *Construction and O&M Equipment Noise Levels*.

These various maintenance activities are intermittent and short-term in duration, generally not lasting more than several days at a time or several weeks for more extensive maintenance needs. Maintenance of existing water conservation spreading basins, at the closest part of the basins, is located approximately 1,000 feet from the nearest residence. Most water conservation wells are not located near residences. The closest existing well to a residence is located south of Greenspot Road and just north of the existing citrus grove, approximately 800 feet from the nearest residences on the north side of Greenspot Road. Various flood control facilities including channels, outlets, levees and access roads in and outside the Plan Area are maintained. Flood control facilities closest to existing residences are located south of Greenspot Road and 5<sup>th</sup> Street and are within several hundred feet of residences. The existing citrus grove is located approximately 1,000 feet to the nearest residences on the north side of

Greenspot Road. Existing and future maintenance activities are not anticipated to result in substantial increases in ambient noise at sensitive receptors just outside the Plan Area.

### **Mobile Source Noise**

#### **NOI-4 Mobile Source Noise Impacts to Sensitive Receptors**

*Would the proposed project result in a substantial temporary, periodic, and/or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact.***

*Would the proposed project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact.***

### **Aggregate Mining**

Vehicular traffic noise associated with the expansion of mining activities would potentially impact off-site noise-sensitive land uses. With the expansion of the mining activities, mobile noise sources would include truck traffic both within the project and on adjacent roads and the operation of heavy mobile equipment within the Plan Area. The expansion of the mining activities is anticipated to increase the amount of activity within the Plan Area boundary and the number of trucks on the local roadways.

The FHWA highway traffic noise prediction model (FHWA RD-77-108) was used to evaluate traffic-related noise conditions in the Plan Area vicinity. As previously noted, this model requires various parameters, including traffic volumes, vehicle mix, vehicle speed, and roadway geometry to compute typical equivalent noise levels during daytime, evening, and nighttime hours. Modeling parameters for the future 2030 ADT volumes, vehicle speed, and roadway geometry were obtained from the *Traffic Study* (LSA 2007). See appendix I for the list of parameters used for each roadway as well as the baseline traffic noise levels with and without the Projects.

The 2008 and 2030 With Project (Mining Expansion) scenarios would have a traffic noise increase of up to 0.1 dBA. As changes in noise levels of 3 dBA or less are not perceptible to the human ear in an outdoor environment, these noise level increases would be considered less than significant. The noise from the heavy-duty truck traffic on the new truck access road at 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Church Avenue and SR-210 would not cause a significant noise impact to the nearest sensitive receptors approximately 500 feet to the north on Powell Drive. No mitigation measures are required.

### **All Other Proposed Projects**

Operation and maintenance activities associated with water conservation, wells and water infrastructure, transportation, flood control, trails, habitat enhancement & monitoring, and the citrus grove would not require significantly more vehicle trips that would increase ambient noise along roadways in the Plan Area. A less than significant impact associated with these operation and maintenance activities would occur and no mitigation is required.

## Stationary Source Noise

### NOI-5 Stationary Source Noise Impacts to Sensitive Receptors

*Would the proposed project result in a substantial temporary, periodic, and/or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact.***

*Would the proposed project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact.***

## Aggregate Mining

The mining operations would potentially result in noise impacts on noise-sensitive land uses adjacent to the Plan Area. Mining operations include excavation, transporting, and processing of materials in the Plan Area.

The closest existing residences are located approximately 1,300 feet from the closest excavation site and 1,690 feet from the closest aggregate processing area and would experience maximum noise levels up to 67 dBA  $L_{max}$ . Also, the closest future planned residence is located approximately 1,700 feet from the aggregate mining area and would experience maximum noise levels up to 64 dBA  $L_{max}$ . The Cities of Highland and Redland Municipal Codes limit noise levels for over a specified duration in any hour. Maximum noise levels generated by excavation equipment in the mining area would involve 1 or 2 minutes and would not exceed the Cities' 30-, 15-, 10-, 5-, or 1-minute noise standards. The Cities of Highland and Redlands also have daytime and nighttime maximum noise level limits. The City of Highland has a daytime maximum noise level of 80 dBA  $L_{max}$  and a nighttime maximum noise level of 75 dBA  $L_{max}$ , and the City of Redlands has a daytime maximum noise level of 80 dBA  $L_{max}$  and a nighttime maximum noise level of 70 dBA  $L_{max}$ . Noise levels generated by excavation equipment measured outside of the Plan Area would be below the Cities' daytime and nighttime maximum noise levels. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur with the on-site excavation of aggregate materials, and no mitigation measures are required.

Transporting equipment, such as haul trucks, transport excavated materials from the mining area to the processing plants. Water trucks are used to spray haul routes with water to control fugitive dust. As shown in Tables 4.10-1 and 4.10-6, haul trucks would generate a maximum noise level of 88 dBA  $L_{max}$  at 50 feet and water trucks would generate maximum noise level of 86 dBA  $L_{max}$  at 50 feet from these vehicles. The processing plant at the East Basin is the closest facility to residences located in the northwest of the Plan Area. Three rock crushers are currently located at the processing facility in the East Basin Pant and would remain the same for the Proposed Action/Projects. Assuming that each rock crusher operates at some distance from the other rock crushers, the worst-case combined noise level during this phase of aggregate mining would be 100 dBA  $L_{max}$  at a distance of 50 feet from the active mining area. Haul trucks and water trucks operating at the same time, as a worst-case scenario, would generate a maximum noise level of 90 dBA  $L_{max}$  at 50 feet.

The nearest residence to water truck and haul truck transport routes is located approximately 2,540 feet away and would experience noise levels up to 56 dBA  $L_{max}$ . Noise levels generated by water trucks and haul trucks would not exceed the Cities' 30-, 15-, 10-, 5-, or 1-minute noise standards. The maximum noise level of 56 dBA  $L_{max}$  would also be below the Cities' daytime and nighttime maximum noise levels. Therefore, no significant noise impacts would occur with the on-site transport of excavated materials, and no mitigation measures are required.

Based on manufacturing specifications, back-up alarms for mining vehicles can generate a maximum noise level of 112 dBA  $L_{max}$  at a distance of 1 foot as a worst-case scenario. It is assumed that back-up alarms from mining vehicles would not last for more than one minute. Existing residences located approximately 1,690 feet from mining activities would experience a maximum noise level of 47 dBA  $L_{max}$ . These noise levels would not exceed the Cities' 30-, 15-, 10-, 5-, 1-minute, or maximum daytime and nighttime noise level standards.

Equipment used to process the aggregate materials consists of rock crushers, conveyors, aggregate screens, stackers, water trucks, and haul trucks. Aggregate materials are transported to the processing plants using haul trucks. Excavated materials are initially crushed and moved to a surge pile using conveyors. Materials are then processed through a vibrating screen to isolate oversized materials for reduction by a secondary cone crusher. Materials are then further reduced in size and conveyed for further screening by tertiary crushers. The completed sizing of the aggregate material is then conveyed to dry finished product screens (asphalt materials) or washed finished products (concrete materials). A fourth-stage crusher and screens are sometimes used for improved particle shape.

The rock crusher is the noisiest equipment during the processing of aggregate materials. Based on previously referenced Tables 4.10-1 and 4.10-6, the maximum noise level generated by one rock crusher is assumed to be 95 dBA  $L_{max}$  at 50 feet. The East Basin processing plant is the closest facility to residences in the northwest of the Wash Plan Area. Three rock crushers are currently located at the Robertson's East Basin processing facility and five rock crushers are currently located at the Cemex processing plant. These would remain there for the Proposed Action/Projects. Assuming that each rock crusher operates at some distance from the other rock crushers, the worst-case combined noise level during this phase of aggregate mining would be 100 dBA  $L_{max}$  at a distance of 50 feet from the active mining area.

The nearest existing residence to the aggregate processing site is located approximately 1,690 feet away and would experience noise levels up to 65 dBA  $L_{max}$ . Residences adjacent to the Plan Area have intervening residential structures or barriers protecting their backyards from the Plan Area. Residential structures and backyard barriers would provide a minimum of a 5 dBA noise reduction. Therefore, with intervening structures and barriers, residences would experience a noise level of up to 60 dBA  $L_{max}$  in their backyards. The maximum noise level of 60 dBA  $L_{max}$  would not exceed the Cities' 30-, 15-, 10-, 5-, and 1-minute noise standards. Also, noise levels generated by the aggregate processing operations would be below the Cities' daytime and nighttime maximum noise levels. Therefore, no significant noise

impacts would occur with the on-site processing of aggregate materials, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **All Other Proposed Projects**

All other Proposed Projects, including water conservation, wells and water infrastructure, transportation, flood control, trails, habitat enhancement and monitoring and agriculture do not involve any stationary sources of noise. Therefore, noise impacts to sensitive receptors from stationary sources from all other Proposed Projects would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Groundborne Vibration**

#### **Groundborne Vibration or Groundborne Noise Level Impacts**

*Would the proposed project result in the exposure of persons to a generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? **Determination: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

### **Aggregate Mining**

Groundborne vibrations generated from excavation and processing activities would potentially impact sensitive receptors in the Plan Area vicinity. Conventional aggregate mining practices common to the industry include excavating loose material with bulldozers and loaders and loading rock and sand onto haul trucks for transport from the mine quarry to the primary crusher. Equipment used in the excavation process generally includes a shovel and/or front-end loader, end-dump trucks, dozers, and water trucks. Raw materials from the quarries are generally hauled in large bottom-dump truck-trailers directly to the plant facilities located at the Orange Street Plant and the East Basin Plant between Alabama Street and SR-210 at the Plan Area boundary. Processing at the crusher facilities consists of primary, secondary, and tertiary crushing and wet and dry screening to produce specification-quality and size concrete and asphalt aggregate, sands, and road-base material. The Proposed Project would excavate raw materials using standard open pit mining techniques. Equipment used would not differ (other than as a result of technological advancements or replacement equipment) from the current mining operations in the Plan Area.

Based on data contained in the FTA's *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment* (FTA, May 2006), bulldozers and other heavy tracked equipment operating in the proposed Plan Area would generate approximately 92 VdB at a distance of 50 feet from the source. According to Caltrans, every doubling of distance from 50 feet results in the reduction of the vibration level by 6 VdB. In other words, the vibration level at 100 feet is approximately 6 VdB lower than the vibration level at 50 feet, and vibration at 200 feet from the source is approximately 6 VdB lower than the vibration level at 100 feet. Thus, sensitive receptors at 100 and 200 feet from the construction activity may be exposed to groundborne vibration up to 86 and 80 VdB, respectively. The closest residences are located approximately 1,690 feet and 1,300 feet from the closest excavation site at East Quarry South and the aggregate processing plant, respectively. The closest residences would be exposed to vibration levels of 62 VdB and 57 VdB. These

vibration levels are below the threshold of human perception of 65 VdB. Vibration levels generated by haul roads, excavation and processing operations would be less than the perceivable level and result in a less than significant impact. No mitigation measures are required.

### **All Other Proposed Projects**

Any groundborne vibration impacts that may occur as a result of future construction would be required to adhere to Mitigation Measure NOI-1, which would require site specific noise and vibration analyses be conducted prior to construction within 600 feet of sensitive receptors to ensure noise levels do not exceed City and/or County requirements.

**MM NOI-1** If construction activities are located within 600 feet from sensitive receptors a noise and vibration analysis shall be prepared to confirm that construction noise or vibration generated would not exceed standards at the property line of the nearby sensitive receptors. If the noise analysis indicates construction noise generated would exceed ambient standards then it shall identify the design features (such as noise barriers), their location and height, that are required to reduce construction noise to appropriate standards at the property line of nearby sensitive receptors.

**Determination:** The Proposed Action/Projects would not expose people working in the Plan Area to excessive noise levels from a private airstrip or public airport. Construction noise and groundborne vibration from aggregate mining would not exceed standards at nearby sensitive receptors. Water conservation, wells and water infrastructure, transportation, and flood control construction projects are not anticipated to result in substantial increases in ambient noise or significant groundborne vibration and implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would ensure potential impacts from construction on sensitive receptors are less than significant. Aggregate mining operations would not generate noise from mobile or stationary sources that would exceed standards and impacts on sensitive receptors are less than significant. Operation and maintenance of water conservation, water infrastructure, roads, and flood control facilities, and trails, habitat, agriculture would not generate noise from mobile or stationary sources that would exceed standards and potential impacts on sensitive receptors are less than significant.

## **RESIDUAL IMPACTS AFTER MITIGATION**

No residual impacts related to noise would occur after implementation of Mitigation Measure MM NOI-1 for the Proposed Projects. Impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.

### **4.10.1.3 Alternative C: 2008 Land Management Plan**

As outlined above for Alternative B, the *Traffic Study* analyzed expanded mining as proposed in the 2008 Land Management Plan (Alternative C) which included 32 more acres of expanded mining than Alternative B (Proposed Action/Projects). Although the traffic impacts may be slightly overestimated for Alternative B, they represent anticipated impacts from expanded mining of Alternative C. Modeled noise

levels were based upon vehicle data and project trip generation included in the *Traffic Study*. Consequently, modeled noise impacts may be slightly overestimated for Alternative B, they represent anticipated impacts from expanded mining of Alternative C. Therefore, potential impacts from implementation of Alternative C would be consistent with the analysis and conclusions outlined above for Alternative B.

**Determination:** The 2008 Land Management Plan would not expose people working in the Plan Area to excessive noise levels from a private airstrip or public airport. Construction noise and groundborne vibration from aggregate mining would not exceed standards at nearby sensitive receptors. Water conservation, wells and water infrastructure, transportation, and flood control construction projects and maintenance of these facilities are not anticipated to result in substantial increases in ambient noise or significant groundborne vibration and implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would ensure potential impacts from construction on sensitive receptors are less than significant. Aggregate mining operations would not generate noise from mobile or stationary sources that would exceed standards and impacts on sensitive receptors are less than significant. Operation and maintenance of water conservation, water infrastructure, roads, flood control facilities, trails, habitat, and agriculture would not generate noise from mobile or stationary sources that would exceed standards and potential impacts on sensitive receptors are less than significant.

## 4.11 HAZARDS

This section discusses and provides analysis for potential impacts of the alternatives associated with hazards and hazardous materials in the Plan Area. The analysis is intended to satisfy Federal, State, and local requirements, and goals and policies included in the *City of Highland General Plan*, *City of Redlands General Plan*, and the *County of San Bernardino General Plan*.

### THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines and are consistent with NEPA implementing regulation Section 1508.27. An alternative would result in significant impacts regarding hazards if it would do any of the following:

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.
- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in project area.
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

#### 4.11.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

##### 4.11.1.1 Alternative A: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the USFWS would not issue an incidental take permit, the existing mining activities would remain and future operations could continue as allowed within the existing

permits and leases. Hazards and the use of hazardous materials from mining activities would continue as in the existing condition.

Aviation hazards would remain similar to the existing condition and would not change current activities within the Plan Area boundary.

Wildland fire hazards would continue to be present in the portions of the Plan Area as stated above and no new activities in or around the wildland fire hazard areas would occur.

**Determination:** Under this alternative the HCP would not be implemented. There would be no effects related to hazards or use or spill of hazardous materials, as no new changes related to hazards would occur under Alternative A.

#### **4.11.1.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action/Projects**

**HAZ-1: Routine Transport, Use, and Disposal of Hazardous Materials**

*Would the proposed project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.***

**HAZ-2: Reasonable Foreseeable Upset and Accident Conditions**

*Would the proposed project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.***

**HAZ-3: Safety Hazard near Existing or Proposed School**

*Would the proposed project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? **Less Than Significant Impact.***

**HAZ-6: Wildland Fires**

*Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? **Less Than Significant Impact.***

#### **Aggregate Mining**

Currently, aggregate mining and associated support activities, such as haul roads, are occurring within the Plan Area. As part of the implementation of the HCP, the existing mining area would be expanded for new aggregate mining. Existing and expanded mining would involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, petroleum products, concrete admixtures, oils, fuels, greases, and other

hazardous materials in conjunction with operations would continue to be used during mining operations. Although an existing haul road would be expanded as part of the HCP and may involve the use of hazardous materials during construction, standard construction techniques would minimize the release of hazardous waste and would be temporary. Multiple circumstances could cause the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment, for instance a storage container leak, a spill of hazardous materials, or an equipment leak. Mining activities would not be exempt from all applicable State and Federal laws relating but not limited to containment, remediation, and reporting requirements put forth in the event of a spill or accidental release of hazardous materials. Mining activities with the Plan Area would be compliant with Federal, State, and local regulations, which would ensure that impacts would remain less than significant.

Existing and the expansion of mining activities within the Plan Area would not occur within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Impacts related to hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school would be less than significant.

As part of the implementation of the HCP, the existing mining area would be expanded for new aggregate mining. New structures are not part of the HCP and would not be susceptible to wildland fire hazards within the mining activity areas. Risks associated with wildland fires would not be substantial for people working within the existing and expanded mining operations area. Equipment for fire prevention and suppression is maintained at the mining sites as required with State and local fire codes. Workers shall leave the mining areas should any fire hazard pose a significant risk of loss, injury, or death to the worker. Mining activities within the Plan Area would be compliant with State and local fire codes. Impacts associated with the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires would be less than significant.

### **Water Conservation**

Activities with water conservation operations within the Plan Area would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Water conservation operations and maintenance would continue to occur as part of the HCP in a similar approach to current practices. Maintenance activities would occur within the basins, stockpile and processing areas, and on roads within the Plan Area footprint. Existing basin facilities shall be expanded within the Plan Area footprint and would be maintained to promote groundwater recharge. Inspections, repairs, sediment removal, stockpiling, lubrication of weir gate wheels and stems, debris removal, service roads vegetation clearing, and filling service road ruts/potholes are examples of typical maintenance activities over varying periods of time within parts of the water conservation area of the Plan Area. Much of the activities described have been part of the existing maintenance practices for the area and would continue. New and expanded water conservation facilities in the Plan Area would involve operations and maintenance activities similar to those currently utilized to ensure water conservation conditions remain optimal. The maintenance of the existing and expanded basin facilities would not pose a significant risk associated with the transport of hazardous materials.

Additionally, the Conservation District would construct and operate new recharge basins on the northwestern portion of the Plan Area on lands owned by the Conservation District. Boulder rows may be placed in areas where unauthorized access occurs frequently or to prevent unauthorized vehicle access.

The construction activities as well as operations and maintenance activities related to the water conservation area for the Plan Area would continue to be compliant with Federal, State, and local regulations associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and would not cause a significant impact to the public or environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

Existing and the expansion of water conservation activities within the Plan Area would not occur within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Impacts related to hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school would be less than significant.

The construction activities for water conservation proposed within the Plan Area would be compliant with State and local fire codes. No unauthorized personnel would be within the water conservation facilities and no structures would be constructed. Operations and maintenance activities would also continue to be compliant with State and local fire codes to ensure fire safety remains. Impacts associated with the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires would be less than significant.

### **Wells and Water Infrastructure**

The SBVMWD would construct eight new wells that would be located off of Alabama Street and Orange Street, which would include an access road, connector pipeline, and main pipeline to convey water produced by the new wells to the existing Texas Grove Reservoir and the Redlands Pump Station, located outside the Plan Area.

The temporary impact area would be restored following construction activities per the guidelines set forth in the HCP for temporary impacts on habitat. The construction stages would first include having professional surveyors clearly marking all limits of disturbance, followed by clearing and grubbing of the vegetation. All impacts would be confined to the footprint of the permanent access roads and would not include the routine transport of hazardous materials. The routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would not be part of the construction, and therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

As part of the construction of the Alabama Street wells and Orange Street wells by the SBVMWD, two temporary pipelines (16-inch) would be placed aboveground in existing disturbed habitat in order to convey construction water in the east-west direction from the well sites to nearby mine pits or percolation basins. This activity would not involve the routine transport of hazardous materials.

The City of Redlands plans to construct one new well that would be located off of Orange Street, although the final specific locations would be identified in consultation with the USFWS and the CDFW. This would not result in the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

For wells within the Plan Area, long term general well maintenance would continue to take place to allow long term use of these facilities. Maintenance of wells and associated facilities includes rehabilitation, redevelopment, testing, and/or replacement. Typical activities associated with rehabilitation and redevelopment may include, but are not limited to: temporary removal of above/below ground equipment, brushing and bailing, chemical treatment (oxidizers, cleaning agents (surfactant and/or dispersant), and/or acid treatments), redevelopment, and reinstallation of above/below ground equipment. The use of chemicals for treatment of the wells would not pose a significant threat to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of the chemicals. The areas where chemical treatment would take place shall be closed off to the public and would allow authorized personnel only. The use of potentially hazardous materials for construction, operations, and maintenance for the wells and water infrastructure would be relatively small in scale and would not create a significant impact to accidental conditions for the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

Water pipelines within the Plan Area would also require ongoing maintenance activities and would occur in areas around water conveyance systems such as pipelines, pump stations, blow-offs, turnouts, and vaults. The maintenance activities would not require significant transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and would not pose a significant threat to the environment or public.

Existing and the expansion of wells and water infrastructure activities within the Plan Area would not occur within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Impacts related to hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school would be less than significant.

A portion of the wells and water infrastructure activities, near the northeastern project boundary within the City of Highland, is located in Fire Severity Zone II, which is considered areas at high risk for fire. Other portions of the wells and water infrastructure activities are located within the City of Redland's High Fire Hazard Zone and also within the San Bernardino County Fire Safety Overlay District's FR-2 Fire Safety Review Area 2. The construction activities for the wells and water infrastructure in the Plan Area would be compliant with State and local fire codes. No unauthorized personnel would be within the wells and water infrastructure facilities and no structures would be constructed. Operations and maintenance activities would also continue to be compliant with State and local fire codes to ensure fire safety remains. Impacts associated with the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires would be considered less than significant.

### **Transportation**

Arterial road/highway maintenance and expansion is planned at a number of locations in the Plan Area. Four of these projects are proposed to obtain coverage under the HCP for the City of Highland. Projects

include the widening of two existing roadways and the construction or replacement of two additional roadway expansions across the northern and western portions of the Plan Area. The construction of these roads may include temporary transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. These impacts would be temporary and would not be ongoing or routine in nature. There would not be a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment from transportation activities included for the HCP. Construction activities would include compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations with temporary storage, handling, and/or disposal of hazardous materials or volatile fuels and would reduce potential significant impacts to less than significant.

Separate from the above transportation activities of the City of Highland, another element of the Plan Area with relation to transportation is the maintenance of the Conservation District's paved roads. Maintenance on these roads includes: shoulder grading, easement and weed control, and sign and guardrail replacement. These activities would not pose significant threats to the public or the environment through the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant.

Within the City of Highland and the City of Redlands, Boulder Avenue/Orange Street from Greenspot Road to the south limit of the Plan Area would be widened along both sides to include four travel lanes, one center lane and two bike lanes. The northernmost tip of this activity is within 0.25 mile of Beattie Middle School and Highland Grove Elementary School. Boulder Avenue/Orange Street would be improved with standard street improvements such as curb, gutter, sidewalk, landscaped parkway, roadway drainage, and street lights. The construction of said improvements would have temporary impacts and would follow all applicable local, State, and Federal regulations prior to the start of such construction. Upon completion of construction, it is not anticipated significant impacts related to hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste near Beattie Middle School and Highland Grove Elementary School would occur. All other transportation activities included as part of the Plan Area is not located within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Less than significant impacts would occur.

A portion of the transportation activities, near the northeastern project boundary within the City of Highland, are located in Fire Severity Zone II, which are considered areas at high risk for fire. Portions of the transportation activities located within the City of Redlands are within the City's High Fire Hazard Zone and are also within the San Bernardino County Fire Safety Overlay District's FR-2 Fire Safety Review Area 2. However, these construction activities would be compliant with State and local fire codes and no unauthorized personnel would be within the transportation construction boundaries. Maintenance activities would also continue to be compliant with State and local fire codes to ensure fire safety remains for the public use of the public roads. Ongoing use of the public roads would continue to occur after improvements are constructed. Impacts associated with the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires would be considered less than significant.

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## Flood Control

The SBCFCD may conduct the Plunge/ Elder Creek Restoration Project, which is a reasonably foreseeable project and a Covered Activity. This project would be located within an area that remediation of lead and other metals is planned for by BLM on a parcel that was once used as a shooting range. The HCP provides coverage for impacts to species associated with ground disturbing activities required for remediation. This coverage is considered permissive or conditional and would also require the preparation of a lead remediation plan acceptable to the resource agencies. The BLM is currently planning to clean up the former shooting facility. The anticipated take from temporary disturbance and the needed conservation to offset the take is included in the HCP. The area would become part of the BLM's ACEC and the HCP Preserve when the cleanup is complete. With implementation of this cleanup, metal elements including lead, arsenic, antimony, and nickel, would be removed from the soils and alleviate the potential to leach into groundwater and surface runoff. The cleanup would be completed prior to implementing the Elder/ Plunge Creek Restoration-Reasonably Foreseeable Project, a Covered Activity. With Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 (MM HAZ-1), impacts associated with the temporary impacts of the transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and exposure to the public or environment would be less than significant.

Operations and Maintenance of SBCFCD facilities within the Plan Area would occur and shall consist of activities such as in-stream maintenance, access road maintenance, levee maintenance, and stockpiling. These activities would not result in the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and would not pose a significant risk associated with such to the environment or the public. All State, local, and Federal regulation for remediation, containment, and reporting requirements for the accidental release of potentially hazardous materials would continue to be followed.

The City of Highland shall also construct operations and maintenance activities of their flood control facilities within the Plan Area including Weaver Street Channel, Greenspot Road drain outlets, and Church Street Channel. These activities would not result in the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and would not pose a significant risk to the environment or the public.

The SBCFCD has a stockpiling facility within 0.25 mile south of Beattie Middle School. Maintenance of stockpile locations includes placement of material (i.e., debris and sediment) at specific locations for use in repairs and temporary storage. Stockpiles are often treated to avoid the spread of invasive plants. The specific stockpile location is an existing sediment stockpile area so no new impacts are anticipated. Impacts related to hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste to Beattie Middle School would be less than significant. All other flood control activities included as part of the Plan HCP are not located within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Less than significant impacts would occur.

Maintenance activities for SBCFCD facilities would continue in similar practice as is currently existing and would not pose significant risks of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. No new structures are proposed and flood control facilities lands allow only authorized personnel.

A portion of the Plan Area, near the northeastern project boundary within the City of Highland, is located in Fire Severity Zone II, which is considered areas at high risk for fire. The City of Highland would not allow unauthorized personnel within its flood control facilities and maintenance activities would follow similar practices as is currently existing. No additional risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires would occur as a result of the maintenance activities.

Impacts from flood control activities would not result in a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

### **Trails**

The HCP address Covered Species and their habitats associated with the development and operations of a trail system within the Plan Area using primarily existing roads and access easements to minimize impacts. The construction, operation and maintenance of trails is covered by the HCP and is considered a conditionally compatible use, meaning trails are permissible following preparation of a Trail Management Plan (Trail Plan) and its approval by the Wildlife Agencies. Activities associated with trails within the Plan Area would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and would not cause significant impacts with such use.

The City of Highland, as part of the HCP, is seeking a new designation for a recreational trail to be named Greenspot Road Trail. Greenspot Road Trail would be located within 0.25 mile south of Beattie Middle School and Highland Grove Elementary School adjacent to the existing Greenspot Road ROW. The operation and maintenance of this trail would not produce hazardous emissions or require the handling of acutely hazardous materials. Impacts associated with hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste in proximity to Beattie Middle School and Highland Grove Elementary School would be considered less than significant.

Development of trails would be compliant with all State and local fire codes to ensure fire safety remains. Impacts to the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires would be considered less than significant.

### **Habitat Enhancement and Monitoring**

Habitat restoration and enhancement would generally be temporary and disruptive only in the short term; these activities could involve soil disturbance, removal of undesirable plants, and limited grading. Restoration activities would not result in the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials and would not be a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Less than significant impacts would occur.

Restoration activities within the Plan Area would not occur within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Operations and maintenance included with restoration activities would not involve significant

amounts of hazardous emissions, or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Impacts would be less than significant.

The removal of non-native annual grasses in the Plan Area would help reduce wildlife risk, because during the warmer months of the year they are dry and highly flammable. Removal of non-native vegetation could be completed using four different management treatments including sheep grazing, prescribed fire, the use of herbicides, and mechanical removal. The use of prescribed fire would be coordinated with City of Highland and Redlands fire departments and would only be conducted at times when risk of wildfires is very low, so as not to increase the risk of wildfires in the Plan Area. No new structures are proposed and impacts to people and structures with the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires is less than significant.

### **Agriculture**

There is one activity in the Plan Area related to agricultural activities and a small recharge demonstration project area at EVWD headquarters. A 6.7-acre citrus grove is operated within the Plan Area. Operation of the grove requires maintenance of access roads and irrigation infrastructure, including a sampling well, as well as, application of herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and fertilizer as needed. Vertebrate grove pests are also managed using procedures designed to avoid impacts on sensitive vertebrate species in adjoining areas. The use of potentially hazardous materials for maintenance of the groves would occur in areas for authorized personnel only and would not pose a significant threat to the public with the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Amounts of potentially hazardous materials would be small in scale and would not consist of quantities large enough to be a significant hazard to the public through accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

The EVWD has constructed three wetland and demonstration facilities (basins) at their headquarter facility that require maintenance in an area of approximately 1.5 acres. These activities would not cause significant impact with the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Agriculture activities within the Plan Area would not occur within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Operations and maintenance included with agriculture activities would not involve significant amounts of hazardous emissions, or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Impacts would be less than significant.

The EVWD maintenance activities would follow all applicable State and local fire codes to reduce exposure of people and structures to the risks associated with wildland fires. Impacts to the risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires would be less than significant.

**HAZ-4:            Within Two Miles of a Public or Private Airport**

*For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, or in the vicinity of a*

*private airstrip, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in project area?*  
**Less Than Significant Impact.**

The Plan Area's western and central southern boundary is located near the San Bernardino International Airport (SBIA) to the west, and the Redlands Municipal Airport to the south. Currently, the SBIA does not have an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) and is absent of an approved ALUCP. The California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook (Handbook) details standard criteria for compatibility zones within an ALUCP and was analyzed in lieu of an adopted ALUCP. The Plan Area is located within the SBX 'Traffic Pattern Zone.' This zone includes all portions of the pattern entry routes and designated traffic pattern. Portions of the Plan Area are also located in the 'Outer Safety Zone', 'Inner Safety Zone', and 'Inner Turning Zone'. The Traffic Pattern Zone allows for residential uses and most nonresidential uses as its zone has an essentially low likelihood of accident occurrence. The Outer Safety Zone area contains a lower altitude than normal traffic patterns as aircraft approaches the area. The Inner Safety Zone area disallows schools, daycare centers, hospitals, nursing homes, hazardous uses, as well as residential uses except on large agricultural parcels. The Inner Turning Zone area contains turning and descending for landing of aircraft or turning and climbing for departure of aircraft.

The Redland Municipal Airport has a 2015 ALUCP that was utilized for analysis of the Plan HCP. The Wash Plan Area's southern boundary is within the Redlands Municipal Airport compatibility Zones 1-6. The Zone 1 is the runway protection zone and prohibits immediately adjacent areas to any other use other than aeronautical functions as it includes the airport's runway and is very high risk. The Zone 2 area is the Inner Approach/Departure Zone contains approaching and departing aircraft and is high risk. Zone 3 is the Inner Turning/Low Traffic Patter Zone, is moderate to high risk, and Zone 4 is the Outer Approach/Departure Zone, is moderate risk. Zone 5 is the Sideline Safety Zone with low to moderate risk and Zone 6 is the Airport Influence Area with low risk.

The Plan Area does not include residences or permanent workplaces. All operations and maintenance activities within the Plan Area would be in compliance with applicable Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 77 where height limitations are presented. Operations and maintenance activities for the Plan Area are not prohibited in any of the mentioned zones for both airports. Additionally, construction activities to occur within said airport related zones would be required to comply with FAA concurrence with form 7460. Construction, operations, and maintenance activities as included in the Plan Area, would not result in a substantial safety hazard for people working in the Plan Area. Less than significant impacts are anticipated for all Covered Activities/Projects in the Plan Area.

**HAZ-5: Emergency Response Plan**

*Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?* **Less Than Significant Impact.**

The *City of Redlands General Plan* was utilized for part of this analysis where the Plan Area is located within the City of Redlands' boundaries. Within the *City of Redlands General Plan*, an Emergency Disaster Plan is updated every two years and identifies responses the City will take in emergency situations such as a flood, earthquake, dam failure, terrorists acts, pollution, epidemics, fire, war,

transportation accidents, industrial accidents, storms, civil disturbance, drought, extreme heat, and hazardous spills.

The *City of Highland General Plan* was also utilized for portions of this analysis where the Plan Area is located within the City of Highland's boundaries. The *City of Highland General Plan* maintains emergency preparedness and response programs in emergency situations such as a flood, high winds, earthquake and other geological hazards, hazardous materials accidents, and wildfire.

The City of Redlands as well as the City of Highland follow the *County of San Bernardino General Plan* in relation to evacuation routes that could be used in an emergency. These include State Routes 38, 60, 66, 91, and 210, as well as Interstates 10, 15, and 215.

Each activity covered within the Wash Plan HCP would remain compliant with emergency access and evacuation plans as it applies to local, regional, State, and Federal requirements. With the exception of transportation and trails activities, all other HCP Covered Activities/Projects would not take place within areas that would be accessed or used by the public during an emergency. Temporary construction activities do not pose any long-term impact to an emergency response or evacuation plan. Construction activities would not significantly alter or impair roadways or trails to be utilized in an emergency response or evacuation plan.

Transportation activities to occur as part of the Proposed Projects would improve conditions related to emergency responses and evacuations with the proposed widening and adding lanes for Orange Street within the Plan Area boundary. Transportation activities would allow for better traffic flow and would not significantly alter or impair an emergency response or evacuation plan. Trail activities for the Plan Area would also not significantly alter or impair an emergency response or evacuation plan. Trails would be open for public use, but would not be significantly utilized for evacuation purposes. Interference with an evacuation or emergency plan would not occur with the proposed trail activities.

Overall, all activities to occur under the Plan HCP would not significantly impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Less than significant impacts would occur.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

**MM HAZ-1** A lead remediation plan shall be prepared prior to any construction activities for the Elder/ Plunge Creek Restoration-Reasonably Foreseeable Project in accordance with DTSC requirements. The plan shall be acceptable to the resources agencies and further consultation with the USFWS and the CDFW in the development of final design drawings to further minimize species and habitat impacts shall occur.

## RESIDUAL IMPACTS AFTER MITIGATION

No residual impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would occur after implementation of Mitigation Measure MM HAZ-1 for the Proposed Projects. Impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

**Determination:** Construction and maintenance activities for covered activities would involve temporary use of potentially hazardous materials (such as fuel and lubricants used with construction equipment), however, the amount of hazardous materials would be considered relatively small and use in the Plan Area would be temporary. These activities are required to and would follow all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations related to the use and handling of hazardous materials. Construction and maintenance activities are not expected to increase the potential for aviation hazards or wildlife fire hazards. Alternative B would not result in substantial adverse effects associated with hazards.

### 4.11.1.3 Alternative C: 2008 Land Management Plan

Alternative C would conserve approximately 312 fewer acres of habitat within the Plan Area than the 2019 HCP (Alternative B) and would result in approximately 88 more acres of permanent impacts as compared to Alternative B. Thus, the differentiation of hazard impacts between Alternative B and Alternative C would be that Alternative C would have greater Covered Activity impact areas and associate use of hazardous materials within the Plan Area. The additional use of hazardous materials would occur, but would follow current practices administered when dealing with materials considered hazardous. Therefore, expanded Covered Activities would not considerably increase hazardous risks to people, structures, or the environment associated with the use of hazardous materials.

Alternative C does not include the development of structures or residences. Workers working in the various operations and maintenance and in the existing and expanded mining activities could be exposed to the risk of wildland fires if fire safety standards are not followed. Much of the maintenance activities (for mining and water conservation) have been part of the existing maintenance practices for the area and would continue. Alternative C would not considerably increase fire hazard risks to people, structures, or the environment.

**Determination:** Construction and maintenance activities for covered activities would involve temporary use of potentially hazardous materials (such as fuel and lubricants used with construction equipment), however, the amount of hazardous materials would be considered relatively small and use in the Plan Area would be temporary. These activities are required to and would follow all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations related to the use and handling of hazardous materials. Construction and maintenance activities are not expected to increase the potential for aviation hazards or wildlife fire hazards. Alternative C would not result in substantial adverse effects associated with hazards.

## 4.12 RECREATION

This section discusses the potential effects of the alternatives on recreational uses, i.e., trails, in the Plan Area. The potential impacts on recreational resources are assessed in the context of the goals of the Open Space and Conservation Element of the *City of Redlands General Plan*, *City of Highland General Plan*, and the *County of San Bernardino General Plan* as outlined in Section 3.12, *Recreation*.

It should be noted that the general plans of Redlands, Highland, and the County of San Bernardino are not applicable on Federal lands, and are only applicable to areas outside Federal lands within their respective City or unincorporated County boundaries. There are no other Federal plans prepared that are applicable to the discussion of impacts to trails.

### THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the State *CEQA Guidelines* and are consistent with *NEPA implementing regulation Section 1508.27*. An alternative would result in significant impacts to recreation resources including parks and trails if it would cause any of the following to occur:

- REC – 1 Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated;
- REC – 2 Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that have an adverse physical effect on the environment; and/or; result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered recreation and park facilities.

#### 4.12.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

##### 4.12.1.1 Alternative A: No Action Alternative

Under Alternative A, no changes to current recreational uses would occur. Although there are existing access roads used for mining, water conservation, municipal water utilities, and flood control operations and maintenance, there are currently no existing trails or other recreational facilities specifically developed for the purpose of recreational use by the public within the Plan Area. Public access would continue to be allowed in some areas but restricted to non-motorized recreational vehicles. Passive recreational use (walking, jogging, and bicycling) would continue to be allowed on BLM lands. Although it is not authorized on BLM owned parcels or on surrounding properties owned by private entities (and thus would constitute trespassing), off-road vehicle use (OHV) does occasionally occur in the Plan Area. Passive recreational use (walking, jogging, and bicycling) on privately owned properties in the Plan Area also constitutes trespassing, unless permission is granted by the respective property owner, and in the

case of the Conservation District this is accomplished with a Common Use Agreement. Passive recreational use and a limited amount of OHV trespass on BLM land and private property in the Plan Area is expected to continue to occur under the No Project Alternative. This is expected to result in minor impacts to vegetation and wildlife.

The No Action Alternative does not include construction of new trails or trailheads or management of existing access roads for trail use. The No Action Alternative would not result in direct impacts to the environment from construction of new facilities or indirect impacts from management and use of trails on existing roads. The No Action Alternative would not provide for new recreational opportunities in the Plan Area; therefore, recreational opportunity benefits for surrounding residents in Redlands and Highland and San Bernardino County would not occur. The No Action Alternative would not allow Redlands and Highland to work with the Conservation District to implement HCP compatible elements of their master plan for trails which integrates and provides connection between existing trails in both jurisdictions located outside of the Plan Area to existing access roads/trails within and across the Plan Area.

**Determination:** Under this alternative the HCP would not be implemented. There would be no new effects from recreational uses because no trails or other recreational facilities would be developed.

#### **4.12.1.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action/Projects**

##### **REC-1: Increased Use Existing of Recreational Facilities**

*Would the project result in increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities where substantial physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated? **Less Than Significant Impact.***

##### **REC-2: New or Physically Altered Recreation and Park Facilities**

*Would the project result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered recreation and park facilities or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered recreation and park facilities? **Less Than Significant.***

#### **Aggregate Mining**

Activities associated with the operational phase of aggregate mining include the excavation of mineral resources from the land, and do not require new or physically altered recreation and park facilities. However, during the reclamation phase of aggregate mining, it is anticipated that the Silt Pond Quarry would be gradually filled with settled silts, re-vegetated with native plants, and be returned to open space or other potential future uses such as recreational uses. Since the reclamation of the Silt Pond Quarry is part of the reclamation plans for aggregate mining activities, the eventual expansion of this area for potential recreational uses would not have an adverse physical effect on the environment because the reclamation process would return the land more closely to its former and more natural condition. Aggregate mining would not result in the closure or removal of an existing trail or park

available to the public. Therefore, a less than significant impact associated with this issue would occur and no mitigation would be required.

### **Water Conservation**

Activities associated with water conservation within the Plan Area would not provide new or physically alter existing recreation and park facilities. The use of the Borrow Pit for miniature radio controlled aircraft, an existing recreational activity, may continue to occur per the respective annual permit with the Conservation District. Water Conservation Covered Activities in the Borrow Pit include maintenance of existing recharge basins and access roads and is not anticipated affect the miniature radio-controlled aircraft activities. Since the water conservation operations and maintenance activities of the Conservation District would not result in new or physically altered facilities, no impacts related to this issue would occur and no mitigation is required.

### **Wells and Water Infrastructure**

Water production activities consist of pumping water from wells and routing the resulting water to existing distribution systems. Water production activities would not result in the closure or removal of an existing trail or park available to the public. Since water production operations would remain the same with the implementation of the proposed Project, and since water production activities would not result in new or physically altered recreation and park facilities, no impacts related to this issue would occur and no mitigation is required.

### **Transportation**

Implementation of the proposed transportation Projects would result in the designation of additional rights-of-way for Greenspot Road, Alabama Street, and Orange Street-Boulder Avenue. The designation of additional rights-of-way would not result in new or physically altered recreation and park facilities. Rather, the extensions of planned trails along these expanded roadways are proposed. Therefore, no impacts related to this issue would occur and no mitigation is required.

### **Flood Control**

With implementation of the proposed flood control Projects, existing flood control operations would continue to occur and would not change. Flood control activities consist of maintaining existing flood control features such as dikes, basins, and channels and do not involve the provision of new or physically altered recreation and park facilities. Flood control activities would not result in the closure or removal of an existing trail or park available to the public. Since flood control operation and maintenance activities would not result in new or physically altered recreational facilities, no impacts related to this issue would occur and no mitigation is required.

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## Trails

As outlined above, recreational facilities included in the HCP as Covered Activities/Projects would consist primarily of an interconnecting trails system in the Preserve area that would be available for public access and maintained by the Conservation District. No trailheads or parks are included in the HCP Covered Activities/Projects. The majority of the trails would be located on existing service roads, utility easements, and old railroad beds, minimizing impacts. Except for the placement of trail signs, there would be no construction activities associated with the Preserve trails. The extension of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) in the southern portion of the Plan Area and the construction of bike paths associated with existing paved roads (Alabama Street widening, Orange Street-Boulder Avenue improvements, and Orange Street improvements) would require new construction and permanent impacts to habitat. However, the SART extension and bike lanes are Covered Activities in the HCP<sup>1</sup> and their impacts are would be minor, an estimated 36.3 acres of permanent impacts, and these impacts are accounted for and included in the mitigation included in Alternative B. In addition, a Trails Plan would be prepared for the Preserve trails and the SART which would include a number of minimization measures in as part of the Trail Plan to be developed). The temporary and permanent impacts resulting from the construction of bike paths and the SART are potentially significant and are evaluated in other sections of this DEIS/SEIR (i.e. potential impacts to sensitive cultural and biological resources).

Alternative B does not include the construction of habitable structures that would increase the population in the area and thereby which could in turn adversely affect existing recreational facilities. No additional jobs would be created as a result of Project implementation. Therefore, since no increase in population is anticipated in the Wash Plan Area, there would be less than significant impacts to existing recreational facilities in the area. Implementation of the HCP would not result in new parks, trailheads or similar recreational facilities. Implementation of the HCP provides for the provisional development of a trail network in the Plan Area. An increase in the trail users within the Plan Area may result in indirect impacts to conservation areas. Impacts would likely be limited to minor damage to soils and vegetation from unauthorized off-trail travel. These impacts are expected to be less than significant impacts with the implementation of minimization measures such as regular patrols, the ability through passage of local ordinances to enforce the requirement to stay on designated trails, and regulatory and educational signage. Boulders or similar barricades may be placed to direct trail users away from habitat conservation, flood control, water conservation, and mining activities. Because the provision of trails would occur on existing service roads, utility easements, and old railroad beds (i.e., previously disturbed areas), there would be minimal adverse physical impacts associated with the designation of additional recreational trail rights-of-way. A Trail Management Plan is required to be prepared and implemented for operation and maintenance of trails within the Plan Area. The Trail Management Plan outlines patrol, enforcement authority, sign plan, access, maintenance, long term funding for operation and maintenance, and the measures to address any impacts to conservation areas. A detailed analysis of

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<sup>1</sup> As noted above, the SART extension is considered conditionally compatible and its construction is contingent on the development of a Trail Plan and its approval by the Wildlife Agencies.

potential impacts to sensitive biological resources in the Plan Area from Covered Activities including trail use is outlined in Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*.

### **Habitat Enhancement and Monitoring**

Habitat Enhancement and Monitoring activities would not result in the closure or removal of an existing trail or park available to the public. Habitat Enhancement and Monitoring activities would not result in new or physically altered recreational facilities. No impacts related to this issue would occur and no mitigation is required.

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture activities would not result in the closure or removal of an existing trail or park available to the public. Agriculture activities would not result in new or physically altered recreational facilities. No impacts related to this issue would occur and no mitigation is required.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are required.

## **RESIDUAL IMPACTS AFTER MITIGATION**

No mitigation measures are required, and therefore, impacts are less than significant.

**Determination:** Implementation of Alternative B, Proposed Action/Projects would be expected to result in a positive benefit by providing the public with an opportunity to experience the Preserve including visual, wildlife and plant resources. Significant increases in the use of existing parks and other recreational facilities such that physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated will not occur; the expansion of existing facilities will not be required; and physical effects to the environment from the designation and construction of new trails would be minor and the impacts will be mitigated.

### **4.12.1.3 Alternative C: 2008 Land Management Plan**

The 2008 Land Management Plan does not include construction of new trailheads or parks. The 2008 Land Management Plan does include designation and management of trails on existing access roads and utility easements in the Plan Area for public use, including on BLM lands that would otherwise be restricted BLM land. The 2008 Land Management Plan included the same proposed trails as in Alternative B, Proposed Action/Projects, with the exception of the extension of the SART. The SART extension was considered "Not a Part" of the 2008 Land Management Plan.

The 2008 Land Management Plan would grant recreational trails right-of-way easements from the Conservation District to Redlands and Highland for trails and the Cities would amend the applicable elements of their respective general plans to show trail alignments consistent with these new trail

alignments, These trails would integrate and provide connections between existing trails in both jurisdictions located outside of the Plan Area to existing access roads/trails within and across the Plan Area, with the exception of the SART extension.

**Determination:** Implementation of the 2008 Land Management Plan would result in a positive benefit by providing addition recreational trails open to the public in the Plan Area that also provide the ability to view and enjoy existing natural open space and the sensitive plants and wildlife they support. However, because the SART is excluded from the 2008 Land Management Plan, this Alternative would not provide as much of a benefit to recreation as Alternative B, Proposed Action/Projects. Significant increases in the use of existing parks and other recreational facilities such that physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated will not occur; the expansion of existing facilities will not be required; and physical effects to the environment from the designation and construction of new trails will be minor and the impacts will be mitigated.