

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 INTRODUCTION

This Executive Summary has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15123(b), which states that an EIR should contain a brief summary of the Proposed Project and its consequences, and should identify:

1. Each significant effect with proposed mitigation measures and alternatives that would reduce or avoid that effect;
2. Areas of public controversy known to the lead agency, including issues raised by the agencies and the public; and
3. Issues to be resolved, including the choice among alternatives and how to mitigate the significant effects.

The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) is proposing the Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase I (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project includes fifteen (15) projects that would close gaps in the Emerald Necklace's regional trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area. The WCA has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that identifies and evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation and operation of the Proposed Project.

CEQA requires that the Lead Agency, in this case WCA, to consider the information contained in the EIR prior to taking any discretionary action. This PEIR may also be used by other public agencies that must make discretionary actions related to the Proposed Project.

ES.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The Emerald Necklace is located in the San Gabriel Valley in the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County. The San Gabriel Valley is an urbanized valley that is largely built out with single- and multi-family residential, commercial, and industrial land uses; however, some areas within the valley are reserved for open space. The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in the south. Along the San Gabriel River it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in the south.

ES.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2005, Amigos de los Rios, a California non-profit organization, in conjunction with various cities and stakeholders, developed the Vision Plan for the Emerald Necklace. The Vision Plan presented opportunities for the development of linear greenway projects along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

In 2006, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution encouraging the development of the Emerald Necklace with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) and County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) working in coordination with Amigos De Los Rios to accomplish this goal.

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In 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and Amigos De Los Rios was executed. The MOU defines goals and plans of each participant pertaining to the Emerald Necklace. The ultimate MOU goal is to collaborate in the development of proposed Emerald Necklace projects.

In 2012, the WCA, a joint powers authority composed of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the LACFCD, completed a feasibility study that evaluated the existing elements of the Emerald Necklace and identified feasible projects that support the Emerald Necklace Vision (WCA 2012). The feasibility study was presented to the Emerald Necklace Steering Committee (Committee) composed of the Los Angeles County First Supervisorial District, RMC, DPR, DPW, LACFCD, Amigos de los Rios, and Southern California Edison (SCE).

Thirty-seven (37) projects were analyzed in the feasibility study and presented to the Committee. After including initial recommendations and additions, formal project reports were issued to all Committee members for further review and comment. Comments were received from the LACFCD, DPR, and DPW. After review, an additional seven project elements were further broken out as projects along the west side of the Rio Hondo creating a final total of forty-four (44) projects.

The Committee developed a set of consensus goals that were used when assessing the priority of each project. The goals included:

1. Completion of a trail loop through a “Clasp” at the northern portion of the loop
2. Connecting Whittier Narrows to the trail loop
3. Providing access to the Emerald Necklace for surrounding communities
4. Providing access points, missing multi-use/equestrian trail elements, and other park elements

In prioritizing projects, an attempt was made to achieve significant improvements in all of the above categories in the order of importance. Within each category projects were ranked according to the overall goal of that category. Highest rated projects were generally projects that filled a missing link in connectivity, or were relatively simple projects that produce great benefits with little effort or cost.

The sixteen (16) projects that best met the goals listed above compose Phase I of the Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan. Future phases may be composed of the projects that remain from the original 44. An Initial Study, which considered these 16 projects, was completed in March 2013 to help focus the scope of this PEIR.

Since the Initial Study was completed, Project 4 in the Quarry Clasp area was analyzed under a separate CEQA document. As a result, the remaining fifteen (15) projects are being carried forward for analysis and collectively make up the Proposed Project.

The components of the Proposed Project are summarized in Section ES.4. An expanded version of this project description with additional project details can be found at:

www.wca.ca.gov/emerald_necklace_greening_and_trails.

ES.4 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proposed Project includes 15 projects that would close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area. It should be noted that the numbering of the following 15 proposed projects does not indicate prioritization. The proposed projects may be implemented in any order depending on funding and community needs. They are organized in four distinct regional areas: **Quarry Clasp** to the north, **Whittier Narrows** to the south, **San Jose Creek** to the east, and **Westside** to the west.

ES.4.1 Project Areas

Quarry Clasp

The Quarry Clasp project area is located along the northern end of the Proposed Project within the cities of Arcadia and El Monte and in an unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles. The Quarry Clasp project area and its surroundings are characterized by single family residential, industrial, public institutional, open space and mining (quarries) land uses.

Whittier Narrows

The Whittier Narrows project area is located along the southern end of the Proposed Project within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and partially within the City of Industry. This area and its surroundings are characterized by recreational and agricultural open space, and light industrial land uses.

San Jose Creek

The San Jose Creek project area is located along the southeastern side of the Proposed Project within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County (Avocado Heights) and the City of Industry. This area and its surroundings are characterized by recreational and open space land uses.

Westside

The Westside project area is located along the western side of the Proposed Project within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and the cities of El Monte, Rosemead, and South El Monte. This area and its surroundings are characterized by open space and public facilities land uses.

ES.4.2 Quarry Clasp Development

The Quarry Clasp would close the loop at the northern point of the Emerald Necklace by connecting the Rio Hondo with the San Gabriel River. The Quarry Clasp includes **three (3)** proposed projects summarized below. Project 4 is included as part of this description for background purposes.

1. Quarry Clasp Park Development

The project consists of the acquisition of land for the development of a public park at the intersection of Durfee Avenue and Clark Street in the City of Arcadia. This project would entail a conceptual park design that features equestrian amenities such as trailer parking, picnic areas,

restroom facilities, a potable water source, trail maps, native plantings, and interpretive signage. Other park elements include a new concrete curb cut and drive entrance, parking space for approximately five horse trailers and five cars, bicycle racks, drinking fountain, a viewing and seating plaza approximately 100 feet by 100 feet in size, two interpretive signs, and approximately three acres of turf area. The remaining landscape would be planted with native trees and shrubs. The park would be constructed per DPR Guidelines, the County of Los Angeles Trails Manual, and the County of Los Angeles Equestrian Design Guidelines. This park would be owned and operated by the County of Los Angeles.

2. Quarry Clasp Multi-Use Trail and Bicycle Path

Project 2 would connect both a multi-use trail and a combination of Class I bicycle path and Class IV bikeway from the Foothill Transit parking lot on Peck Road to the existing Class I bicycle path on the San Gabriel River. This connection is referred to as the “Clasp” of the Emerald Necklace. These trails would connect to the extension (Project 3, Peck Road Signalized Crossing) of the Rio Hondo Class I bicycle path in the Peck Road Water Conservation Park at an existing traffic light on Peck Road at the Foothill Transit Driveway.

The trails would be located along the southern edge of the Hanson Quarry, turning south behind the Transit Center and then east to parallel Clark Street. Approximately mid-way towards the San Gabriel River, the trails would be located on Clark Street right-of-way due to industrial building development at the quarry edge. The trail alignments would continue on Clark Street through the intersection of Clark Street and Durfee Avenue. From the Clark Street and Durfee Avenue intersection and cul-de-sac, both trails would continue east through the Clark Street easement and the proposed Quarry Clasp Park (Project 1) to a narrow passageway between the active Hanson Quarry and an inactive quarry site slated for industrial building development. This area is referred to as the “spine”.

3. Peck Road Signalized Crossing and Trail Connectivity

The Peck Road Signalized Crossing Project (Project 3) in conjunction with Project 2, the Quarry Clasp Multi-Use Trail and Bicycle Path, would connect Peck Road Water Conservation Park, a regional recreation area on the Rio Hondo, to the San Gabriel River Trail. This connection is referred to as the Quarry Clasp of the Emerald Necklace. The project would modify an existing lighted intersection on Peck Road to accommodate a safe crossing for all trail users. In addition, the Foothill Transit parking lot entrance would be modified to accommodate both the Class I bicycle path and the multi-use trail.

4. Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path Connection in Peck Road Water Conservation Park

This project was included in the Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan – Phase I for the Emerald Necklace and was identified as one of the 16 projects to be analyzed in this PEIR. Subsequently, Project 4 was carried forward for design and implementation and underwent separate CEQA review.

ES.4.3 Whittier Narrows Connectivity

The Whittier Narrows projects would connect the Emerald Necklace trails to the Whittier Narrows park resources at the southern side of the trail loop. This segment of the Emerald Necklace would include **five (5)** proposed projects that would improve the internal circulation

in the Whittier Narrows area allowing access to pedestrians and bicyclists to all park areas currently inaccessible without a car. The five proposed projects of the Whittier Narrows segment are summarized below.

5. Class I Bicycle Path on Rosemead Boulevard to Legg Lake

Project 5 would improve recreational connectivity on Rosemead Boulevard from San Gabriel Boulevard to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. This project includes development of a Class I bicycle path and a multi-use trail on the eastern shoulder of Rosemead Boulevard and partially on the adjacent strawberry field, leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). ROW would need to be acquired from the USACE for this project. The proposed bicycle path and multi-use trail would link the El Bosque del Rio Hondo Park and a western spur of the San Gabriel River Trail on Siphon Road to Legg Lake and would be designed to Caltrans Highway Design Manual standards and AASHTO guidelines.

6. Class IV Bikeway from El Bosque del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Avenue on San Gabriel Boulevard

The intent of this project is to fill in the missing gap between the northern and southern portions of the Rio Hondo Class I bicycle path with a Class IV bikeway. Specifically, this project would extend the existing Class I bicycle path on the north side of San Gabriel Boulevard from the end of the northern section of the Rio Hondo Bicycle Path to Lincoln Avenue. To gain the width necessary for the new Class IV bikeway, all traffic lanes would be reduced and the center raised median relocated to allow an expansion of the north sidewalk. The Class IV bikeway would be designed to Caltrans Highway Design Manual standards, AASHTO guidelines, the MUTCD guidelines, and other applicable requirements.

7. Class I Bicycle Path from the Rio Hondo to Legg Lake through the Southern California Edison Easement

Project 7 has three components that would connect the northern section of the Rio Hondo Class I bicycle path directly to the Legg Lake recreation area parking lot. The first project component would develop an approximately half-mile long Class I bicycle path located on the north side of the Southern California Edison (SCE) transmission line corridor to connect the Rio Hondo Bike Path to Rosemead Boulevard. The 12-foot wide asphalt bicycle path would be designed to Caltrans Highway Design Manual standards and AASHTO guidelines.

The second trail connection component associated with this project is a mid-block signalized pedestrian crossing on Rosemead Boulevard with center median modifications for planting and irrigation. From the signalized crossing a continuation of the Rosemead Boulevard Bicycle Trail will extend north approximately 1,400 lineal feet along the street to the parking lot at the main entry to the Legg Lake parking area. This segment of the trail would be a Class I bicycle path separated from traffic on Rosemead Boulevard by a landscaped buffer.

The project may also include a multi-use trail path within the SCE transmission line corridor, running parallel and adjacent to the proposed bicycle path. This component will be considered during the design development phase.

8. Pellissier Village Multi-Use Trail from State Route 60 to Peck Road Bridge

Project 8 would develop a pedestrian path and includes multi-use trail improvements with a stormwater management/water quality component (bio-swale) to reduce pollution running into the San Gabriel River. The hardened pedestrian trail would connect to an ADA accessible ramp on the northeast side of the new Peck Road Bridge. The project would accommodate DPR's plans for a small arena located at the end of Pellissier Road. The arena can be constructed to drain to the proposed bio-swale. The bio-swale would tie into the existing stormwater drainage system at the street end and at the edge of an office building parking lot adjacent to Peck Road. Implementation of the widened Peck Road Bridge would include improvements to the existing multi-use trail underneath the bridge. Underpass height clearance would be maintained for equestrian use.

9. Pellissier Bridge at Blackwill Arena Staging Area

The proposed shared-use Pellissier Bridge would span the San Gabriel River at a critical location to link existing recreational facilities on both the west and east sides of the river. The Blackwill Arena Staging Area (formerly known as Horseman's Park) is located on the east side of the river and the Whittier Narrows Nature Center is located directly across the river to the west. The shared-use bridge would be flush with the proposed adjoining paths and would be approximately 540 feet long by 15 feet wide. The bridge would emulate a proposed shared-use bridge developed by DPW for Emerald Necklace Project 10, the San Jose Creek Regional Access Project. Emerald Necklace way-finding and regulatory signage would be installed at each end of the bridge.

ES.4.4 San Jose Creek Regional Access

The San Jose Creek segment would improve regional access to the Emerald Necklace for the communities on the east side of the San Gabriel River. This segment includes **two (2)** proposed projects which are summarized below.

10. Multi-Use Trail and Bridge Connections from the San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail

The intent of Project 10 is to close the half-mile gap between the San Gabriel River Trail, a Class I bicycle path on the west side of the river, and the existing trails along San Jose Creek. The project includes two multi-use bridges; one located over San Jose Creek and the other spanning the San Gabriel River. Project features include:

- ◆ Construction of a shared-use bridge (540 feet long by 15 feet wide) over the San Gabriel River that is flush with the proposed adjoining shared-use paths with Emerald Necklace wayfinding signage.
- ◆ Class I bike path and improved multi-use (horse trail) path extension between the two proposed bridges with formalized underpass below I-605.
- ◆ Construction of a shared-use bridge (250 feet long by 12 feet wide) over San Jose Creek that is flush with the proposed adjoining shared-use paths.
- ◆ Class I shared-use path extension between the proposed San Jose Creek shared-use bridge and the existing Class I San Jose Creek bike path with a formalized underpass below the Workman Mill Road bridge.
- ◆ Emerald Necklace signage and wayfinding.

11. Multi-Use Trail from San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm on the San Gabriel River

This project would temporarily connect both the existing and proposed San Jose Creek Class I bicycle path and the multi-use trail to Phase 1 of the Duck Farm on the San Gabriel River when it opens to the public in the spring of 2018. The extension of the multi-use trail would utilize the existing flood control maintenance road (see yellow dashed line below). Additionally, if the proposed San Gabriel River shared-use bridge is constructed as part of Project 10 (*San Jose Creek Regional Access: Multi-Use Trail and Bridge Connections from the San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail*), public use of the multi-use trail would increase from the west side of the San Gabriel River

ES.4.5 Westside Multi-Use Trail

The Westside projects would create a multi-use trail and a continuous loop around the Emerald Necklace for equestrians and improved recreational potential for all user groups. Secondary benefits include improved access to the Emerald Necklace for the communities on the west side of the Rio Hondo. This segment includes **five (5)** proposed projects which are summarized below.

12. Alhambra Wash from State Route 60 to the Garvey Community Center

The Westside Multi-Use Trail Project from SR-60 to the Garvey Community Center would improve approximately 1.25 miles or 6,700 lineal feet of multi-use trail utilizing the DPR riding and hiking easement. Approximately half of the project trail length is located within the natural area of the Rio Hondo. Flood waters from the Alhambra Wash have created a scour pool called the Alhambra Oasis in this area. Equestrians and hikers skirt around the oasis which contains water throughout the year. Therefore, this project would formalize and better define the multi-use trail with a combination of fencing, trail footing improvements, landscaping with native trees and shrubs, and signage. These improvements would attract more recreational users and deter the vagrant camps that have steadily increased in number on the west side of the Rio Hondo.

13. Rosemead Boulevard Access Ramp

Project 13 would construct an ADA accessible ramp on the east side of Rosemead Boulevard connecting to the Westside Multi-Use Trail (now named the Rio Hondo River Trail) on the Rio Hondo Channel. Rosemead Boulevard rises on an embankment to cross the Rio Hondo; the ramp would be constructed adjacent to the sidewalk on the embankment in the Caltrans ROW. The ramp would be approximately 300 feet in length. Materials for construction of the ramp would match the Garvey Bridge ramp, consisting of concrete and metal. The ramp would require retaining walls and would be separated from the road by a fence with a gate for security. The reconfiguration of the underpass and grading design of Project 14, *Rosemead Boulevard Underpass*, would determine the length and layout of the access ramp.

14. Rosemead Boulevard Underpass

This project proposes re-contouring the backside of the levee and improving the underpass at Rosemead Boulevard to ensure a wide and safe multi-use trail on the west side of the Rio Hondo. Trail construction would meet Los Angeles County Trails Manual standards. Project coordination with the construction of a ramp or ramps on the back side of the levee is also

necessary to ensure that the design and final location of the ramp(s) conform to the underpass improvements.

15. Multi-Use Trail from Rosemead Boulevard to Valley Boulevard

Project 15 would assemble a continuous, unimpeded trail (now called the Rio Hondo River Trail) on the west side of the Rio Hondo from Rosemead Boulevard to Valley Boulevard for equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers. This project would formalize and better define the multi-use trail with a combination of fencing, trail footing improvements, landscaping with native trees and shrubs, and signage. The multi-use trail would be constructed in DPR riding and hiking easement located behind the asphalt levee maintenance road following the river channel alignment.

16. Interstate 10 Freeway Underpass Improvements

Development of the West Side Multi-Use Trail (now named the Rio Hondo River Trail) would require trail improvements at the I-10 underpass currently utilized LACFCD maintenance vehicles. The underpass has recently (2016) been renovated and the new tunnel height exceeds the County of Los Angeles Trails Manual standard of 12-foot clearance on multi-use trails. This project would connect the new multi-use trail in the hiking and riding easement to the maintenance roadway, allowing recreational trail user access through the renovated underpass tunnel.

ES.5 AREAS OF CONTROVERSY

CEQA requires the EIR to identify areas of controversy or public interest. Prior to the preparation of this EIR, an Initial Study and Notice of Preparation (NOP) were prepared for the project (Appendix A). The Initial Study and NOP were distributed for review and comment to Responsible and Trustee Agencies, the State Clearinghouse, and other interested parties for a 30-day scoping period from March 19, 2013 to April 18, 2013.

Based on information and comments received from the general public and other public agencies in response to the NOP, the following issues are considered to be either controversial or require further resolution prior to making an informed decision on the Proposed Project:

- ◆ Impacts to sensitive biological resources
- ◆ Impacts to wildlife connectivity
- ◆ Impacts to cultural resources
- ◆ Impacts to tribal cultural resources
- ◆ Noise impacts to surrounding areas
- ◆ Safety of visitors
- ◆ Traffic impacts

ES.6 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

A Feasibility Study was completed to systematically evaluate the existing elements of the Emerald Necklace and to identify a large number of feasible projects that support the vision of the Emerald Necklace. The Proposed Project is composed of 15 individual projects that best met the project objectives out of the 44 projects that were evaluated in the Feasibility Study.

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The Feasibility Study prioritized the 44 projects based on how well a project would meet the Proposed Project's goals. It should be noted that each project goal is linked to a geographical region of the Emerald Necklace. For example, Goal 1 is the completion of a trail loop through a "Clasp" at the northern portion of the Emerald Necklace. Rather than prioritizing all 44 projects based on this goal, only projects that would be located in the Quarry Clasp area were evaluated on how critical a project would be to reach the goal. Furthermore, the order of the Proposed Project's goals also describes their priority. For example, completing the trail loop by a clasp was considered the highest priority.

Potential alternatives would be composed of a combination of the 44 projects that were evaluated; however, the 15 projects that were selected and compose the Proposed Project best met the criteria of the project goals. The remaining 29 projects would have similar project characteristics and impacts and would not substantially reduce or eliminate significant adverse impacts. Any other potential combination of projects would not meet the project goals when compared to the Proposed Project; therefore, no other alternatives, other than the No Project Alternative, were carried forward for analysis.

ES.6.1 No Project Alternative

CEQA requires that the No Project Alternative be analyzed in an EIR. In accordance with Section 15126.6(e)(3)(B), the No Project Alternative consist of an analysis of the circumstance under which the project does not proceed.

With the No Project Alternative no trails or access infrastructure would be constructed and no park development would occur. No trail connections would occur at the northern portion of the Emerald Necklace and a non-continuous loop around the San Gabriel River Trail and the Rio Hondo Bike Path would continue to exist. Proposed connectivity improvements within the Whittier Narrows area would not occur and existing park resources would continue to be disconnected and inaccessible to all user groups. Communities surrounding the Emerald Necklace, especially communities on the east side of the San Gabriel River and on the western side of the Rio Hondo, would continue to face access issues due to the lack of safe and formal river crossings and connections to existing trails. The No Project Alternative would not meet any of the goals of the Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase I.

ES.6.2 Comparison of Project Alternatives

Table ES-1 provides a comparison of anticipated impacts of the No Project Alternative with the Proposed Project. Table ES-2 provides a comparison of project goals between the Proposed Project and the No Project Alternative.

Table ES-1. Comparison of Alternative 1 with Proposed Project

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO PROJECT)
Aesthetics	+
Air Quality	– (construction) + (operation)
Biological Resources	–
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	–
Geology and Soils	–
Greenhouse Gas	– (construction) + (operation)
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	–
Hydrology and Water Quality	–
Land Use and Planning	+
Noise	–
Public Services	–
Recreation	+
Transportation/Traffic	–
Utilities and Service Systems	–

Notes:

- + = Impacts would be greater than the Proposed Project
- O = Impacts would be the same as the Proposed Project
- = Impacts would be less than the Proposed Project

Table ES-2. Comparison of Project Objectives by Alternative

PROJECT OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED PROJECT	NO PROJECT
1) Complete of a trail loop through a “Clasp” at the northern portion of the Emerald Necklace	Y	N
2) Connect the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area to the Emerald Necklace	Y	N
3) Provide access to the Emerald Necklace for surrounding communities	Y	N
4) Provide access points, missing multi-use/equestrian trail elements, and other park elements	Y	N

Notes: Y = meets objective; N = does not meet objective

ES.7 ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED BY THE LEAD AGENCY

The major issues to be resolved by the DPR as Lead Agency include the following:

- ◆ Whether the PEIR adequately describes the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project
- ◆ Whether the recommended mitigation measures should be modified/adopted
- ◆ Which Alternative, Proposed Project or No Project Alternative, should be selected for approval

ES.8 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Table ES-3 presents a summary of environmental impacts analyzed and identified in this PEIR, the mitigation measures proposed for those impacts (if required), and the level of significance after mitigation.

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Table ES-3. Impact and Mitigation Summary Table

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	RESIDUAL IMPACT
AESTHETICS		
<i>Impacts to Scenic Vistas.</i> The Proposed Project would not obstruct views of the San Gabriel Mountains, natural areas of the Rio Hondo or San Gabriel River, or other natural scenic views in the project area. Therefore, no impacts to scenic vistas would occur.	None required.	No impact would occur.
<i>Impacts to the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.</i> Visible elements of the Proposed Project (bicycle and multi-use trails, access ramps) would be visually compatible with the surrounding land uses (urban development). No significant changes to the visual environment would occur. As such, impacts to the visual character of the area from bicycle and multi-use trails and access ramps would be less than significant. The Proposed Project includes several bridges (Projects 9 and 10) which would change the visual character of the area from the removal of existing vegetation and the addition of the bridge structures. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure A-1 this impact would be less than significant.	A-1: Project structures shall be designed to reduce visual contrast with the project's surroundings by repeating forms, colors, lines and textures of the project's location. This can be achieved by using materials and color schemes that blend with the natural landscape and vegetation.	Less than significant.
<i>Impacts from the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.</i> Any proposed lighting would be directed downward to minimize light spillover effects on surrounding areas. Impacts would be less than significant.	None required.	Less than significant.

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AIR QUALITY		
<p><i>Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans.</i> The Proposed Project is intended to close gaps in the existing regional recreational trails network, thereby improving connectivity. The Proposed Project would not result in an exceedance of regional thresholds for operational emissions, and the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact. Development of the Proposed Project would be consistent with the growth projections in the local general plans; therefore, the Proposed Project would be consistent with the AQMP.</p>	None required.	No impact.
<p><i>Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.</i> The Proposed Project's construction and operation emissions would not exceed regional thresholds. Therefore, a less than significant regional air quality impact would occur from construction and operation of the Proposed Project.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.
<p><i>Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in a criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.</i> The Proposed Project would not exceed the applicable SCAQMD regional threshold for construction and operational emissions, the Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively significant impact.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	RESIDUAL IMPACT
<p><i>Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.</i> The Proposed Project would include the operation of a park, numerous trails (bicycle paths, pedestrian paths, and multi-use trails), trail access improvements, and bridges. Localized Significance Thresholds (LST) were developed in response to environmental justice and health concerns raised by the public regarding exposure of individuals to criteria pollutants in local communities. According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) LST methodology, LSTs would apply to the operational phase of a project if the project includes stationary sources, or attracts mobile sources that may spend long periods queuing and idling at the site (e.g., transfer facilities and warehouse buildings). The Proposed Project would not include such uses; therefore, due to the lack of significant stationary source emissions, no long-term LST analysis is needed, and no impact would occur.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>
<p><i>Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.</i> Substantial odor-generating sources include agricultural activities, feedlots, wastewater treatment facilities, landfills, or various heavy industrial uses. The Proposed Project would not include any such uses or activities, and would not result in potentially significant operational-source odor impacts. Potential sources of operational odors generated by the Proposed Project would include disposal of miscellaneous commercial refuse. Consistent with City/County requirements, all Project-generated refuse would be stored in covered containers and removed at regular intervals in compliance with solid waste regulations, thereby precluding substantial generation of odors due to temporary holding of on-site refuse. In addition, SCAQMD Rule 402 acts to prevent occurrences of odor nuisances.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
<p><i>Special Status Species.</i></p> <p><u>Special Status Vegetation Communities</u></p> <p>There are two special-status vegetation communities that are considered sensitive that were identified. These two habitats include coastal sage scrub (California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub) and riparian areas (mulefat thickets and riparian woodland). These communities are considered sensitive by the CDFW because of their scarcity and because they provide habitat to state and federally listed endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants, birds, and reptile species. These communities have the potential to be affected or incidentally affected by construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub. Within the project areas, California sagebrush-California buckwheat scrub is found within portions of the Quarry Clasp project area (Projects 1 and 2), along the northwestern end of the Whittier Narrows project area (Project 7) and San Jose Creek project area (Project 10), and along the southern end of the Westside project area (Project 12). Although this plant community is considered sensitive, it is not protected by local or County of Los Angeles regulations unless sensitive species are present. The habitat within the project areas is too fragmented to support sensitive species. However, if impacts to sensitive plant species would occur implementation of Mitigation Measure B-1 would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.</p>	<p>B-1: Conduct Focused Rare Plant Surveys.</p> <p><u>Nevin's Barberry</u></p> <p>Prior to ground disturbing construction activities (e.g. grading, vegetation removal) for Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12 a focused rare plant survey for Nevin's Barberry shall be conducted. Because this plant is a shrub species that is obvious at any time of the year, the survey may be conducted during any season.</p> <p><u>Brand's Phacelia</u></p> <p>Prior to ground disturbing construction activities (e.g. grading, vegetation removal) for Projects 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 a focused rare plant survey for Brand's phacelia shall be conducted. The survey shall take place during the blooming period for Brand's phacelia (March through June). Biologists will use a nearby population as a reference, if feasible, to verify that the target rare plant is blooming at the time of the survey.</p> <p>If sensitive plant species are not found during the surveys, then no further mitigation is required. In the event a listed plant is discovered onsite, the location and numbers of the species shall be recorded by a qualified biologist. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) shall be formally notified and consulted regarding the presence of either the federal and/or state listed or candidate species onsite.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>Riparian Woodland and Mule Fat Thickets. Riparian woodland and mule fat thickets are located in Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12. Ground disturbing activities associated with Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12 can result in the direct loss of these riparian communities. These communities are considered jurisdictional to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). In addition, the riparian woodland areas have the potential to support sensitive riparian bird species. The loss of these communities, because of their jurisdictional status, would result in a significant impact. Removal of riparian woodlands or mule fat thickets that support sensitive riparian bird species or nesting bird species, would also be a significant impact. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, and B-7 impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p><u><i>Special Status Plant Species</i></u></p> <p>No sensitive plant species were observed during the biological field assessment. Two special status plant species that are also formally listed at either state or federal levels have been documented previously on or adjacent to the project areas, including Nevin's barberry, and Brand's phacelia (ECORP 2016a).</p> <p>Nevin's Barberry. This species is state and federally endangered. There is a low potential for this species to occur in Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12. If this species is present in the impact footprint of Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12, direct effects to this species could occur from the removal of individual plants during ground disturbing construction activities (e.g. grading, vegetation removal). With implementation of Mitigation Measure B-1 impacts</p>	<p>If the plant can be avoided by construction, a Preservation and Management Plan for the species found will be prepared and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provision of protective fencing or buffers between development and any listed plant that may be found onsite as required by CDFW or USFWS. This buffer zone shall be designated with appropriate fencing to exclude construction vehicles and public access, but not wildlife access; 2) The size of the buffer depends upon the use of the immediately adjacent lands, and includes consideration of the plant's ecological requirements (e.g., sunlight, moisture, shade tolerance, edaphic physical and chemical characteristics) that are identified by a qualified plant ecologist and/or botanist. At minimum, the buffer shall be at least ten feet and demarcated by fencing that is installed with the assistance of a qualified plant ecologist. A smaller buffer may be established, provided there are adequate measures in place to avoid the take of the species, with the approval of the USFWS and/or CDFW; 3) Stormwater runoff, irrigation runoff, and other drainage from developed areas shall not pass through areas populated by the listed species; 4) Listed species areas shall not be artificially shaded by structures or landscaping within the adjacent 	

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<p>would be less than significant.</p> <p>Brand’s Phacelia. This species is a federal candidate for listing. There is a low potential for this species to occur within Projects 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. If this species is present in the impact footprint of Projects 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, direct effects to this species could occur from the removal of individual plants during ground disturbing construction activities (e.g. grading, vegetation removal). With implementation of Mitigation Measure B-1 impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p><u><i>Special Status Wildlife Species</i></u></p> <p>The following 12 special status wildlife species are those with a potential or that otherwise pose a constraint to the Proposed project (ECORP 2016a). No sensitive wildlife species were detected within the project areas or in adjacent survey buffer areas (ECORP 2016a).</p> <p>Santa Ana Sucker. This fish species prefers streams with sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water, and algae. Although it is known from the upper San Gabriel River, its passage into the project area is blocked by several dam structures. Therefore, it is considered to be absent from the project area. No impact to this species from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p> <p>Coastal California Gnatcatcher. Within the project area, the species is considered absent because the coastal sage scrub present is considered too fragmented to support the species. No impact from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p>	<p>development areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Pesticide use shall not be permitted within listed plants areas; 6) The WCA will be responsible for monitoring the listed plant areas during construction and after project completion to ensure avoidance. <p>If the plant cannot be avoided by construction, the CDFW and/or USFWS will be consulted. The following steps will be needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) For direct impacts to the federal-listed and state-listed Nevin’s barberry, the CDFW will be consulted regarding the potential need for a permit under the CESA and the USFWS will be consulted for the potential need for a permit under the ESA. Mitigation for the impact will be developed through this process and could include payment of in-lieu fee, preservation of another population of the plant, transplantation, or creation of a preserve. 2) For direct impacts to plants that are candidate species for listing (Brand’s phacelia), the USFWS will be consulted for the potential need for a permit under the ESA. Mitigation for the impact will be developed through this process and could include payment of in-lieu fee, preservation of another population of the plant, transplantation, or creation of a preserve. 	

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<p>Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. This species occurs within dense and extensive riparian woodlands in southern California, usually with a thick, almost impenetrable character and some running water nearby. The species is not currently known to nest in the project area. Riparian habitat with limited potential to support this species can be found within or adjacent to (within 500 feet) the Whittier Narrows project area (Projects 9), the San Jose project area (Project 10), and the southern portion of the Westside project area (Project 12). Construction and operation activities associated with Projects 9, 10, and 12 may result in direct impacts to this species from the loss of individuals or habitat or indirect impacts from nest abandonment due to increase in noise, dust, and human activity. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure B-3 for Projects 9, 10, and 12, these impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Riparian habitat with limited potential to support this species can be found in the Whittier Narrows project area (Project 9), the San Jose project area (Project 10), and the southern portion of the Westside project area (Project 12). Construction and operation activities associated with Projects 9, 10, and 12 may result in direct impacts to this species from the loss of individuals and habitat or indirect impacts from nest abandonment due to increase in noise, dust, or human activity. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure B-4 for Projects 9, 10, and 12, these impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Least Bell's Vireo. Riparian habitat with limited potential to support this species can be found in the Whittier Narrows project area (Project 9), the San Jose project area (Project 10), and the southern portion of the Westside project area (Project 12).</p>	<p>B-2: Conduct nesting bird surveys to ensure that there would be not significant impacts to nesting birds and no violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.</p> <p>If activities with the potential to destroy nests or cause birds to abandon nests are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (February 1 – August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the footprint for all Projects and within a buffer of 500 feet of the Project limits. A qualified biologist is one having at least one year of nesting bird survey experience. The survey area shall include all potential bird nesting areas, including grasslands, scrub habitat, woodlands, and isolated trees that are within 500 feet of ground disturbance and vegetation clearing activities. The survey shall be conducted within the nesting season and no more than 30 days prior to commencement of ground disturbance activities.</p> <p>If active bird nests are found, the qualified biologist will recommend measures to avoid impacts to the nest while it is active. At a minimum the nest itself will be protected while it is active and a no-disturbance buffer will be established around the nest to protect it from indirect Project effects due to noise and dust. Recommended buffers are 500 feet for raptors and sensitive species and 300 feet for all other birds. The biologist can adjust the buffer limits based on the setting, topography, exposure of the nest to adverse effects, and other factors. Direct removal of the nest and construction activities within the buffer zone will be avoided until the nest is deemed no</p>	

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<p>Construction and operation activities associated with Projects 9, 10, and 12 may result in direct impacts to this species from the loss of individuals or habitat or indirect impacts from nest abandonment due to increase in noise, dust, and human activity. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure B-5 for Projects 9, 10, and 12, these impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Arroyo Toad. Arroyo toads occur within larger stream systems, sandy washes with scattered riparian vegetation and sandy or gravel bottoms, typically in upland and riparian habitats with willows, sycamores, oaks, and cottonwoods. It breeds within alluvial braided channels that are slow-moving but well-oxygenated. Suitable habitat is considered absent throughout the project area. No impact from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p> <p>Bank Swallow. Not many nesting areas are known in the southern California area and none have been identified within any of the project areas. Therefore, this species is considered to be absent from all project areas. No impact from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p> <p>Red-legged Frog. Their habitat requirements do not associate well with managed flood control systems; therefore, this species is considered absent from all project areas. No impact from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p> <p>Mountain yellow-legged Frog. Like the red-legged frog, their habitat requirements do not associate well with managed flood control systems; therefore, species is considered absent from all project areas. No impact from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p>	<p>longer active by the qualified biologist.</p> <p>B-3: Conduct a habitat assessment for Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo.</p> <p>A habitat assessment shall be conducted for Projects 9, 10, and 12 a year prior to planned ground disturbing activities. If the habitat assessment determines that suitable habitat for western yellow-billed cuckoo is present and would be directly impacted by Projects 9, 10, or 12 then a United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) protocol survey shall be conducted to ensure compliance with federal and state Endangered Species Acts (ESA and CESA). The survey period for western yellow-billed cuckoo extends from June 15 to August 15, consisting of four surveys. If western yellow-billed cuckoo are located during the survey, and their occupied habitat may be impacted by the Project, a request for take authorization must be submitted, processed, and approved with the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prior to the ground disturbance activities that may affect this species. This will involve a consultation process under the ESA and CESA.</p> <p>B-4: Conduct a habitat assessment for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.</p> <p>A habitat assessment shall be conducted for Projects 9, 10, and 12 within a year prior to ground disturbing activities. If the habitat assessment determines that suitable habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher is present and would be directly impacted by Projects 9, 10, or 12 then United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) protocol surveys shall be</p>	

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<p>Peregrine Falcon. Within all of the project areas, the species potential to occur is considered low and only as a migrant and wintering species. Only its nesting areas are protected, and these are not expected within the project area. No impact from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p> <p>Swainson’s Hawk. Within all of the project areas, the species potential to occur is considered low and only as a migrant and wintering species. Impacts to this species may occur if present during construction. Only its nesting areas are protected, and these are not expected within the project area. No impact from construction and operation of the Proposed Project would occur.</p> <p>Burrowing Owl. Burrowing owls are associated with low-lying vegetation, open scrub, grassland, and agricultural habitats. They frequently can be found in vacant lots in otherwise urban zones. Potential for burrowing owl is considered low at all project areas, other than those that are heavily urbanized, due to their ability to inhabit multiple habitat types and areas directly adjacent to development (Projects 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13). Impacts to this species may occur if present during construction. With implementation of Mitigation Measure B-6 impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Nesting Birds. Construction activities could result in the direct loss of active bird nests or the abandonment of active nests by adult birds as they may utilize any of habitats across the project site including disturbed/developed areas (e.g., killdeer). In particular, raptor species are prone to nest abandonment. Migratory birds and raptors are protected by the MBTA [USFWS 1918] and all raptors are protected from “take” pursuant to CFG Code Section 3503.5.</p>	<p>conducted to ensure compliance with federal and state Endangered Species Acts (ESA and CESA). The survey period for southwestern willow flycatcher extends from May 15 to July 17, consisting of five surveys. If southwestern willow flycatcher are located during the survey, and their occupied habitat may be impacted by a Project, a request for take authorization must be submitted, processed, and approved with the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prior to the ground disturbing activities that may affect this species. This will involve a consultation process under the ESA and CESA.</p> <p>B-5: Conduct a habitat assessment for Least Bell’s Vireo.</p> <p>A habitat assessment shall be conducted for Projects 9, 10, and 12 within a year prior to proposed ground disturbing activities. If the habitat assessment determines that suitable habitat for the least Bell’s vireo is present and would be directly impacted by Projects 9, 10, or 12 then United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) protocol surveys shall be conducted to ensure compliance with federal and state endangered species acts (ESA and CESA). The survey period for least Bell’s vireo extends from April 10 to July 31, consisting of eight surveys. If least Bell’s vireo are located during the survey, and their occupied habitat may be impacted by the Project, a request for take authorization must be submitted, processed, and approved with the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prior to the ground disturbance activities that may affect this species. This will involve a consultation process</p>	

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<p>Specific provisions of the statute include the establishment of a federal prohibition, unless permitted, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of the Convention for the protection of migratory birds or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird (16 U.S.C. 703).</p> <p>The large trees found throughout the project area provide potential nesting habitat for several raptors including red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, and owls. Potential nesting sites for migratory birds are also present throughout the project site. Raptors in the vicinity of the Proposed Project typically breed from February 1 through August 31 while non-raptor birds protected under the MBTA generally nest from March 1 through August 31.</p> <p>Any vegetation removal, grubbing, or tree trimming conducted during the breeding season for raptors (February 1 through August 31) or other migratory birds (March 1 through August 31) could have impacts on nesting birds, including raptors, that would be considered significant. Mitigation Measures B-2 will be implemented to reduce this impact to a less than significant level.</p>	<p>under the ESA and CESA.</p> <p>B-6: Conduct a habitat assessment and pre-construction survey for burrowing owls.</p> <p>Prior to ground disturbing activities within the burrowing owl breeding season (March 1 through August 31), a habitat assessment and pre-construction burrowing owl survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist within suitable habitat within the Project footprint and a 500-foot buffer surrounding the footprint for Projects 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and/or 12. A qualified biologist must have at least one year of experience conducting burrowing owl surveys. The assessment and pre-construction survey shall conform to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012). If burrowing owls are located during the survey, and may be impacted by the Projects 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and/or 12 then measures to avoid the a burrowing owl will be developed prior to any ground disturbance that might affect the owl or it is burrows, as determined by a qualified biologist. At a minimum a burrowing owl mitigation plan shall be prepared to be submitted to the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for review and approval. The approved plan shall be implemented prior to the ground disturbance activities that may affect this species.</p>	

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<p><i>Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community.</i> Vegetation communities within the project areas included five plant communities: California annual grassland, California sagebrush-California buckwheat scrub, chamise chaparral, mulefat thickets, and riparian woodland. The project areas also contain disturbed and developed areas. The loss of riparian (riparian woodland and mulefat thickets), if it were to occur, would constitute an adverse and significant impact. However, because these communities represent suitable habitat for western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures B-2, B-3, B-4, and B-5 this impact would be less than significant.</p>	<p>Please refer to Mitigation Measure B-2, B-3, B-4, and B-5.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>
<p><i>Wetlands.</i> Jurisdictional areas are those that contain an Ordinary High Water Mark and are regulated by the USACE under the federal CWA, contain lakes or streams and are regulated by the CDFW under the CFGC (Section 1600) or (all waterbodies) by the RWQCB. Impacts to jurisdictional areas are only anticipated to correspond with Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12. Project 7 would cross Mission Creek, Projects 9 and 10 would bridge the San Gabriel River, Project 10 would also bridge San Jose Creek, and Project 12 would parallel the Rio Hondo. Mission Creek is a tributary to the Rio Hondo which is a tributary to the Los Angeles River, a river under the jurisdiction of the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB. San Jose Creek is a tributary to the San Gabriel River, a river under the jurisdiction to the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB. If Projects 7, 9, 10, or 12 would result in the direct removal, filling, or hydrological interruption of any of these hydrological features then permitting with the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB would be required. Impacts to jurisdictional resources would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure B-7.</p>	<p>B-7: Conduct a jurisdictional delineation and prepare regulatory permit applications.</p> <p>Due to the potential of Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12 to affect potentially jurisdictional features of the Rio Hondo, San Gabriel River, and San Jose Creek or tributaries thereto, a jurisdictional delineation shall be conducted within each of these project areas prior to the implementation of each Project to determine the extent of jurisdiction present and the extent to which a Project footprint affects jurisdictional resources. If such resources are planned to be impacted by a Project, then regulatory permits will be required for that Project by submitting applications to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA) Permit, to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for a Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement, and to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Once the permits have been issued, the</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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	impacts to jurisdictional features can occur.	
<p>Wildlife Movement. The Rio Hondo, San Jose Creek, and San Gabriel River connect all of the project areas and could support wildlife movement corridors. The San Gabriel River flows from the San Gabriel Mountains and is considered an important wildlife linkage and resident habitat area for regional wildlife populations. Wildlife using the rivers as corridors has the potential to use the project areas as part of the corridor as well. Because much of the course of these rivers is channelized and lined with cement, these reaches are considered to be a little value to larger wildlife. The Proposed Project is not anticipated to diminish the corridor values in the project area given their current conditions. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.
<p>Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources. The Puente Hills SEA occurs throughout the Whittier Narrows project area (Projects 6, 7, 8, and 9) and the southern parts of the San Jose Creek (Projects 10 and 11) and Westside (Project 12) project areas. The Quarry Clasp project area is not within an SEA. The Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary SEA is located approximately one mile to the south of the Proposed Project. Recreational uses, such as hiking and wildlife watching are compatible by definition with the long-term sustainability of biological resources within the SEAs (County of Los Angeles 2015a). Projects 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are all infrastructure projects (bicycle paths, multi-use trails, and bridges) that would support recreational uses, such as hiking and wildlife watching. As such these projects would not conflict with the County of Los Angeles SEA program. No impact would occur.</p>	<p>B-8: Protection of oak trees.</p> <p>An oak tree survey and report shall be conducted by an oak tree consultant, as deemed acceptable by the Los Angeles County Director of Regional Planning and County Forester & Fire Warden, to document the trees being proposed to be impacted for Projects 7, 9, 10 and 12. An oak tree permit is required prior to cutting, destroying, removing, relocating, inflicting damage, or encroaching into the protected zone of any oak trees with a dbh of eight inches or more. All protection and replacement measures shall be consistent with the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance.</p>	Less than significant.

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<p>Oak trees were identified during the biological assessment within the footprints of Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12 (ECORP 2016a). The loss of individual oak trees would be subject to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance, and therefore would require an oak tree permit. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure B-8 for Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12 impacts would be less than significant.</p>		
<p>Habitat Conservation Plans. The site is not located within the limits of any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or approved local, regional, or state conservation plan. No impact would occur.</p>	None required.	No impact.
CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
<p>Cultural Resources</p> <p>All projects that would result in ground disturbing activities have the potential to impact unknown cultural resources if ground disturbing activities beyond the depth of previous disturbances occur. Surveys in areas that are currently unpaved and/or lack ornamental vegetation should be performed to identify unknown cultural resources in these areas.</p> <p><u>Quarry Clasp</u></p> <p>Two electrical transmission lines have been previously recorded within one-quarter mile of the Quarry Clasp area. There are no constraints from known or potential cultural resources in the area (ECORP 2016b). Projects 1 and 2 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that are currently unpaved and/or do</p>	<p>CR-1: All projects resulting in ground disturbing activities in areas that are unpaved and/or lack ornamental vegetation shall be surveyed by qualified archaeologists and the results shall be provided in subsequent environmental documents that will be prepared for the individual projects of the Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase I (Projects 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12). If cultural resources are identified as a result of the surveys, they shall be evaluated using California Register of Historical Resources eligibility criteria to determine whether they are Historical Resources for the purposes of CEQA. An impacts analysis shall be carried out for identified Historical Resources and mitigation measures shall be provided for Historical Resources that will be significantly impacted. The results of the evaluation and the impacts analysis, as well as the mitigation measures, shall be provided in the specific environmental document</p>	Less than significant.

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<p>not contain ornamental vegetation, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources. With implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 (cultural resources survey) impacts would be less than significant. Project 3 would be implemented within an existing paved area on Peck Road. This area was previously disturbed and is not expected to contain unknown cultural resources. As such, impacts to cultural resources would be less than significant.</p> <p><u>Whittier Narrows</u></p> <p>Projects 5, 6, and 7 in the western part of the Whittier Narrows area are in an area that is very sensitive for cultural resources. These projects are in the vicinity of prehistoric archaeological sites, possibly including the Gabrielino village of Lisanchanga and other Gabrielino settlements. Other historical archaeological sites in the area include the first site of the San Gabriel Mission (Mission Vieja) and places associated with late 19th-century settlement near the site of the Mission Vieja and at Temple Corners. Human burials could be encountered at the prehistoric sites and at the Mission Vieja site. Projects 6 and 7 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that are not paved and/or do not contain ornamental vegetation, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1 (cultural resources survey) impacts would be less than significant. If the cultural resources survey finds cultural resources or determines that the project area has a moderate to high potential to contain cultural resources, then CR-2 (archaeological and Native American monitoring) shall be implemented, as recommended in the cultural resources survey report.</p>	<p>written for the project.</p> <p>CR-2: All ground-disturbing activities below previously disturbed areas necessary for construction of Projects 6 and 7 shall be monitored by an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor from a Gabrielino group, as recommended by the cultural resources survey report (CR-1). The archaeological monitor shall have the power to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow for recording and evaluation of any encountered resources. If evaluated as eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and determined eligible by the Watershed Conservation Authority, the archaeological site must be avoided and preserved. If this is not feasible, an archeological data recovery program shall be developed and implemented by a qualified archaeologist. The data recovery report shall be submitted to the South Central Coastal Information Center.</p>	

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<p>Impacts to unknown cultural resources from Project 5 are not anticipated because this project would be located on the shoulder of Rosemead Boulevard adjacent to and partially within an agricultural field. Furthermore, Project 5 would not require deep excavations. As such, unknown cultural resources are not expected to be encountered during project construction. Impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>There are no known cultural resources constraints associated with the project sites for Projects 8 and 9 in the eastern part of the Whittier Narrows area (ECORP 2016b). However, Projects 8 and 9 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that are not paved and/or do not contain ornamental vegetation, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1 (cultural resources survey) impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p><u>San Jose Creek</u></p> <p>Previously recorded cultural resources in the San Jose Creek area consist of electric power transmission lines and a railroad. These resources would not be affected by the Proposed Project (ECORP 2016b). Project 10 would be located along the edge of Woodland Farms (the Duck Farm) between the farm and the San Gabriel River. All of the facilities from the Duck Farm have been removed and there is little or no potential for significant subsurface archaeological deposits; therefore, the presence of the Duck farm site would not pose a cultural resources constraint for the Proposed Project (ECORP 2016b). Projects 10 and 11 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that are not paved and/or do not contain ornamental vegetation, which could result</p>		

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<p>in potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1 (cultural resources survey) impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p><u>Westside</u></p> <p>A prehistoric habitation site (CA-LAN-1009/H) has been previously recorded near the south end of the Westside area which could pose a constraint to the development of Project 12. The southern portion of Project 12 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that are not paved and/or do not contain ornamental vegetation, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1 (cultural resources survey) impacts would be less than significant. Project 12 would be located in a previously disturbed area that is currently being used as a trail and would not require deep excavations; as such, construction of Project 12 is not anticipated to encounter unknown subsurface cultural resources. Therefore, Project 12 would not require archaeological or Native American monitoring.</p> <p>The original settlement of El Monte is on the east side of the Rio Hondo at Valley Boulevard/Valley Mall. Projects 13, 14, 15, and 16 would all be located on the west side of the Rio Hondo. These projects would not affect any subsurface historic archaeological deposits that may be associated with the original settlement of El Monte. There are no known constraints from known or potential cultural resources in the rest of the Westside area (ECORP 2016b). Projects 13, 14, 15, and 16 would occur in areas that are currently paved or have been previously disturbed during the channelization of the Rio Hondo or construction of transportation infrastructure. Furthermore, the proposed improvements would</p>		

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<p>not require deep excavations beyond previously disturbed ground surfaces. Impacts to unknown cultural resources would be less than significant.</p>		
<p><i>Unknown Human Remains</i></p> <p><u><i>Quarry Clasp</i></u></p> <p>Projects 1 and 2 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that have not been previously disturbed, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown human remains. With implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-3 impacts would be less than significant. Project 3 would be implemented within an existing paved area on Peck Road. This area was previously disturbed and is not expected to contain unknown human remains. As such, no impact would occur.</p> <p><u><i>Whittier Narrows</i></u></p> <p>Projects 5, 6, and 7 in the western part of the Whittier Narrows area are in an area that is very sensitive for cultural resources. As previously stated, these projects are in the vicinity of prehistoric archaeological sites, possibly including the Gabrielino village of Iisanchanga and other Gabrielino settlements. Other historical archaeological sites in the area include the first site of the San Gabriel Mission (Mission Vieja) and places associated with late 19th-century settlement near the site of the Mission Vieja and at Temple Corners. Human burials could be encountered at the prehistoric sites and at the Mission Vieja site. Projects 6 and 7 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that have not been previously disturbed, which could result in potentially</p>	<p>CR-3: If human remains of any kind are found during construction activities, all activities must cease immediately and the Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified, as required by state law (Section 7050.5 of Health and Safety Code). If the coroner determines the remains to be of Native American origin, he or she will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will then identify the most likely descendant(s) (MLD) to be consulted regarding treatment and/or reburial of the remains (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). Work may resume once the MLD's recommendations have been implemented or the remains have been reburied by the landowner if no agreement can be reached with the MLD (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code).</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>significant impacts to unknown human remains. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-3 impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Impacts to unknown human remains from Projects 5 and 8 are not anticipated because these projects would be located in previously disturbed areas would not require deep excavations. As such, unknown human remains are not expected to be encountered during project construction. Impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Project 9 would result in ground disturbing activities, including deep excavations, in areas that have not been previously disturbed, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown human remains. With implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-3 impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p><u>San Jose Creek</u></p> <p>Project 10 would result in ground disturbing activities, including deep excavations, in areas that have not been previously disturbed, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown human remains. With implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-3 impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Impacts to unknown human remains from Project 11 are not anticipated because this project would be located in previously disturbed areas and would not require deep excavations. As such, unknown human remains are not expected to be encountered during project construction. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>		

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<p><u>Westside</u></p> <p>The southern portion of Project 12 is located in an area that is very sensitive for cultural resources. Project 12 would result in ground disturbing activities in areas that have not been previously disturbed, which could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown human remains. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-3 impacts would be less than significant. Impacts to unknown human remains from Projects 13, 14, 15, and 16 are not anticipated because these projects would be located in previously disturbed areas and would not require deep excavations. As such, unknown human remains are not expected to be encountered during project construction. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>		
<p><i>Paleontological Resources</i></p> <p>The majority of the project area is composed predominantly of younger Quaternary gravels derived from the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. Younger Quaternary gravels are unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils (NHM 2013). However, older Quaternary alluvium is present beneath the younger Quaternary gravels in the Whittier Narrows and San Jose Creek areas. Exposures of the Pliocene Fernando Formation might also be present in the San Jose Creek area. Both the older Quaternary alluvium and the Pliocene Fernando Formation may contain significant vertebrate fossils. Deep excavations in the Whittier Narrows area (Projects 6, 7, and 9) and the San Jose Creek area (Projects 10) that may encounter the older Quaternary alluvium and/or the Pliocene Fernando Formation may impact significant paleontological resources. With the implementation of Mitigation</p>	<p>CR-4: A qualified vertebrate paleontologist shall monitor deep excavations that extend into the older Quaternary deposits, as well as any excavations in the exposures of older Quaternary Alluvium or in the exposures of the Fernando formation in the Whittier Narrows area (Projects 6, 7, and 9) and the San Jose Creek area (Project 10). Sediment samples shall be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential in the project area. The monitor will be equipped to recover fossils and sediment samples during excavation and will have the authority to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow for recovery of large or numerous fossils. If the final engineering design of Projects 6 and 7 determine that the older Quaternary alluvium deposits would not be disturbed then paleontological monitoring would not be necessary for</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>Measure CR-4 (Paleontological Monitoring) these impacts would be less than significant. If the final engineering design of Projects 6 and 7 determine that the older Quaternary alluvium deposits would not be disturbed then CR-4 would not be necessary for Projects 6 and 7.</p>	<p>Project 6 and 7.</p> <p>Any fossils recovered during monitoring shall be prepared to a point of identification and preservation and be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution. A report detailing the findings with an appended itemized inventory of identified specimens shall be prepared. The report and inventory shall be submitted to the Watershed Conservation Authority and the scientific institution where the fossils are deposited. When the Watershed Conservation Authority receives the report, inventory, and verification of acceptance of the specimens by the scientific institution, mitigation will be complete.</p>	
GEOLOGY AND SOILS		
<p><i>Faulting and Seismicity</i></p> <p><i>Strong Ground Shaking</i></p> <p>The Proposed Project includes the construction and installation of bridges, underpasses, restrooms, water fountains, bicycle trails, multi-use trails, signage, lighting, parking lots, and drainage improvements. Although no habitable structures are proposed as part of the Emerald Necklace, bridges, underpasses, and the restrooms could be subject to strong ground shaking or surface rupturing. There is no realistic way in which the seismic shaking hazard can be avoided; however, design and placement of structures in accordance with current County Building Code standards would reduce the effects of ground shaking to an acceptable level. While the proposed structures could be damaged during an earthquake and may need to be repaired,</p>	<p>G-1: A qualified geotechnical firm shall conduct site specific geotechnical investigations during the design of projects that contain a structural component such as bridges and foundations (Projects 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16). The geotechnical firm shall review the site and grading plans for each project that contains a structural component as the Emerald Necklace is implemented and comment further on the geotechnical aspects of the project. Geotechnical investigations shall disclose the geological conditions of project sites and recommend the appropriate measures to be incorporated into the design and construction of each project.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>they would not pose substantial risks to people or properties when built in accordance with County Building Code standards. Since failure of these structures would not result in substantial risk to people or properties, impacts from strong ground shaking are less than significant. However, the projects that contain structural components, such as bridges, improvements to levees or underpasses, new underpasses, or restrooms (Projects 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16) would require project specific evaluations by structural and geotechnical engineers to ensure their feasibility and proper design. Impacts from strong ground shaking would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure G-1.</p> <p><u>Liquefaction</u> Due to the presence of loose sandy soils deposited by the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers, most of the Proposed Project area falls within the liquefaction hazard zone. All 15 project sites are located in areas considered by the California Geological Survey to be susceptible to liquefaction based on historical occurrence of liquefaction or local geological and groundwater conditions (CDC 1999a; CDC 1999b). Because the Proposed Project is mapped in the liquefaction hazard zone, site-specific investigations of liquefaction potential should be conducted. Geotechnical investigations would disclose the geological conditions of project sites and recommend the appropriate measures to be incorporated into the design and construction of projects with structural components such as bridges and foundations. Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure G-1.</p>		

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<p><u>Landslides</u></p> <p>The Proposed Project is located in a relatively flat area along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. Most of the project sites are not located within areas that are susceptible to landslides. However, Projects 1 and 2 are located within an overlapping liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslide Zone of Required Investigation (CDC 1999a). These projects are located near the Hanson Quarry, which has steep slopes. Project 1 is the Quarry Clasp Park Development, which includes a park with a restroom, water fountain, seating area, and parking lot. Project 2 is the Quarry Clasp Multi-Use Trail and Bicycle Paths. Projects sites 1 and 2 will require further geotechnical investigations to determine if additional measures are needed to prevent landslides in the project area. Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure G-1.</p>		
<p><u>Soil Erosion</u></p> <p><u>Construction- Related Impacts</u></p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities, removal of vegetation or hardscapes, and climatic factors associated with the Proposed Project could result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Removal of soil, vegetation, and/or hardscapes exposes bare earth and can cause unstable conditions, resulting in soils that are easily disturbed by construction equipment and weather conditions. Additionally, construction activities that take place on steep slopes in areas that are underlain by unstable geology or sensitive soils are more susceptible to erosion impacts. During construction Best Management Practices (BMPs), included as part of the Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure H-1 (see hydrology section).</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>will be prepared for the Proposed Project, would be in place. Incorporation of Mitigation Measure H-1 would reduce impacts from erosion during construction of the Proposed Project to a less than significant level.</p> <p><u>User-Related Impacts</u></p> <p>Use of the trail system created by the Proposed Project can lead to the potential for soil erosion impacts. Impacts from trail usage can include soil compaction and erosion, loss of organic litter, and loss of ground cover. The trail system under the Proposed Project would be accessed by three different types of users; pedestrians, bikers, and equestrians. In addition to impacts from users, impacts can occur through water erosion or high wind erosion.</p> <p>All new and upgraded trails and park would be subject to the SWPPP that will be prepared for the Proposed Project. The SWPPP would include BMPs to prevent erosion during and after construction. The new trails and park would be maintained by the County of Los Angeles similar to the current maintenance schedule of the existing trails and parks. Impacts from erosion or loss of topsoil during the use of the Proposed Project would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure H-1.</p>		
<p>Expansive Soil</p> <p>Expansive soils generally result from specific clay minerals that have the capacity to shrink or swell in response to changes in moisture content. Based on review of regional geologic maps, the site is underlain by sandy gravelly soils. Because expansion</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure G-1.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>generally occurs in soils that contain specific clay minerals, the potential for the soils in the Proposed Project area to be expansive is considered low. However, site specific geotechnical investigations would be required during the design of projects with structural components (Projects 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16). Geotechnical investigations would disclose the geological conditions of these project sites and recommend the appropriate measures to be incorporated into the design and construction of these projects. Impacts from expansive soils would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure G-1.</p>		
GREENHOUSE GAS		
<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The annual GHG emissions associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Project are estimated to be 841.01 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). Annual GHG emissions from the Proposed Project would be substantially less than the SCAQMD significance threshold for small land use projects (3,000 MT of CO₂e per year). Accordingly, impacts associated with Project GHG emissions would be less than significant impact.</p> <p>The Proposed Project would help the County meet the goals of the Community Climate Action Plan 2020 (CCAP). The Proposed Project would contribute to GHG emissions reductions by providing recreational facilities close to residential areas. These added green spaces and recreational opportunities would reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for recreational purposes and improve the air quality. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG</p>	None required.	Less than significant.

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<p>emissions. The Proposed Project would be consistent with the area county/cities general plans' goals and policies related to GHGs. No impact would occur.</p>		
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS		
<p><i>Use or Disposal of Hazardous Materials.</i> Construction of the Proposed Project would require the use of some hazardous materials, such as diesel fuel. The transport of hazardous materials is regulated by the state and the transport of such materials to project site would be in compliance with all state regulations. These materials would only be present during construction and would be removed upon completion. A less than significant impact would occur.</p> <p>During operation, facility maintenance activities would likely require the use hazardous materials such as paints, fertilizers, and pesticides. These hazardous materials would be stored in the County maintenance yard and would be used in limited quantities during maintenance activities. County park maintenance personnel are trained in use and storage of hazardous materials. Compliance with existing hazardous material regulations would result in less than significant impacts related to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during maintenance activities.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.
<p><i>Release of Hazardous Materials.</i> During construction and operation, the use of hazardous materials could result in their accidental release and accident conditions. Hazardous material users would comply with hazardous material regulations, therefore, reducing the hazard to the public and reducing the</p>	None required.	Less than significant.

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potential release of hazardous materials into the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.		
<p><i>Hazardous Emissions/Materials within One-Quarter Mile of a School.</i> There are several schools located within one-quarter mile of the Proposed Projects. South El Monte High School is located within one-quarter mile of Project 9. Charles T. Kranz Intermediate School and Mountain View High School are located within one-quarter mile of Project 10. El Monte Head Start Preschool and Loma Elementary School are located within a one-quarter mile of Project 12. Telstar Montessori Childcare Center is located within one-quarter mile of Projects 13, 14, and 15. Cortada Elementary School is located within a quarter-mile of Proposed Project 15. Although the proposed recreation facilities and access infrastructure are not expected to result in hazardous emissions, hazardous materials may be encountered (i.e. contaminated soils) or used (i.e. diesel fuel, paint) during construction and operation activities. Any activity that may encounter or use hazardous materials could pose hazards to nearby school children in the event of an accidental release or spill. Hazardous material users would comply with hazardous material regulations; therefore, reducing the risk of exposure to the maximum extent possible. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.

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<p>Emergency Evacuation Plan. Development of the 15 Proposed Projects could potentially affect emergency response and evacuation plans during construction when road lanes or other access points are closed. Impacts to emergency access would be less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure HM-1.</p>	<p>HM-1: Prior to any lane closures, the Watershed Conservation Authority (or its contractor) shall prepare a Traffic Control Plan to ensure proper access to residences and businesses by emergency vehicles during construction and to maintain traffic flow.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>
<p>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</p>		
<p>Water Quality. During construction, water quality impacts could occur without proper controls. Soil loosened during grading, spills of fluids or fuels from vehicles and equipment or miscellaneous construction materials and debris, if mobilized and transported off-site in overland flow, could degrade surface and groundwater quality. In the event of heavy rainfall, flow from construction areas could flow off-site and reach nearby surface waters potentially degrading water quality.</p> <p>Projects that disturb one or more acres of soil or projects that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (General Permit). Even though some individual projects would impact less than one acre, the overall Proposed Project would disturb more than one acre. Therefore, the Proposed Project would be subject to the requirements of a General Permit. Construction activities subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities. The General Permit requires the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP</p>	<p>H-1: Prior to ground disturbing activities or any activity affecting federal or state waters, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) shall submit for approval to the State Water Resources Control Board, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (General Permit) in compliance with Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. As part of the General Permit, the WCA shall prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which will: (1) require implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) so as to prevent a net increase in sediment load in stormwater discharges relative to preconstruction levels; (2) prohibit discharges of stormwater or non-stormwater at levels which would cause or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standard contained in the regional basin plan; (3) discuss in detail the BMPs for the project related to control of sediment and erosion, non sediment pollutants, and potential pollutants in non-stormwater discharges; (4) describe post-construction BMPs for the project; (5) explain the monitoring and maintenance program for the project's BMPs; (6) require reporting of violations to the RWQCB; and (7) list the parties responsible</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>would list Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent construction pollutants and products from violating any water quality standard or waste discharge requirement.</p> <p>Impacts associated with construction would be short-term and with implementation of Mitigation Measure H-1 impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Stormwater BMPs would be constructed as part of the drainage plans for each project, as appropriate. Surface runoff from proposed trails and paved areas would be directed to adjacent unpaved areas where runoff would flow through stormwater management features such as bioswales aimed to improve the water quality of surface runoff. As such, a beneficial impact to water quality is anticipated during project operation compared to the existing condition. Permanent stormwater controls (e.g., bioswales) would be inspected and maintained by the County of Los Angeles. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>	<p>for SWPPP implementation and BMP maintenance both during and after construction. Upon acceptance of the NOI by the State Board, the WCA shall implement the SWPPP and will modify the SWPPP as directed by the Storm Water Permit.</p>	
<p><i>Deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.</i> Proposed Project is not considered a water intensive use and would only require minimal amounts of water during construction and during project operation for maintenance activities and landscaping irrigation. Native plants would be used to the greatest extent possible, which would only require irrigation while they are established.</p> <p>No groundwater recharge impacts are expected from projects that would be located in areas with existing paved surfaces or from projects that would include permeable surfaces, such as soft surface trails. Projects that would construct impervious surfaces</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>in areas with existing natural ground cover can potentially result in groundwater recharge impacts. However, it is expected that groundwater recharge impacts would be minimal because proposed impervious surfaces (e.g. asphalt bicycle trails) would be located adjacent to unpaved areas (e.g. landscaping, bioswales, etc.) where runoff would flow to and ground percolation would continue to occur. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>		
<p><i>Alter the existing drainage pattern resulting in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding.</i> The majority of the proposed recreational facilities would be constructed within or along existing roadways, roadway shoulders, or on access roads along flood control channels. During construction, grading of project sites would be required; however, drainage patterns would not be significantly altered from the existing conditions. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would include drainage systems designed to address existing erosion, siltation, and flooding issues at various project sites resulting in a beneficial impact. The project proponent would also implement Mitigation Measure H-1, which would require that construction controls (BMPs) be implemented during and after construction. These construction controls would help minimize or eliminate potential sources of polluted runoff including erosion and/or siltation. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure H-1 listed above.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>
<p><i>Exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.</i> The development of recreational facilities and access infrastructure would result in the increase of impervious surfaces. This increase in impervious surfaces would</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>change the amount of runoff and the rate at which it flows off the project sites. Drainage plans for the projects would be designed by a registered civil engineer to safely retain, detain, and or convey stormwater runoff. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>		
<p>Degrade Water Quality. The development of recreation facilities and access infrastructure can potentially affect water quality due to possible contaminants that could end up in surface runoff. Potential contaminants include fertilizers and chemicals associated with landscaping, as well as oil and grease associated with construction and maintenance vehicles and equipment. A SWPPP would be prepared for the Proposed Project, listing BMPs to prevent pollutants and products from violating any water quality standard or waste discharge requirement. With implementation of Mitigation Measure H-1 impacts would be less than significant. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would install permanent stormwater controls (e.g., bioswales) aimed at treating potentially contaminated (e.g., silt, erosion, horse manure) surface runoff originating from project facilities. Impacts during operation are anticipated to be less than significant and beneficial compared to the existing condition.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure H-1 listed above.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>
<p>100-year Flood Hazard. Project 6 would be located within a 100-year flood zone (FEMA 2016). Project 6 is the San Gabriel Boulevard/Rio Hondo Bike Trail Connector. Project 6 proposes to fill in the missing gap between the northern and southern portions of the Rio Hondo Class I bicycle path with a Class IV bikeway. This would be achieved by restriping the existing traffic lanes and relocation the median of the San Gabriel Boulevard Bridge over the Rio Hondo. Due to the nature of the proposed</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>No impact would occur.</p>

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improvements (restriping) this project would not impede or redirect flows. No impact would occur.		
<p><i>Flooding as a Result of the Failure of a Levee or Dam.</i> The Santa Fe Dam inundation area would encompass all Emerald Necklace projects (City of El Monte 2011). The Santa Anita Dam inundation area would encompass Project 3 (City of Arcadia 2010). The Puddingstone Dam inundation area would encompass all San Jose Creek Projects, all Whittier Narrows Projects, and Project 12 of the Westside area (City of Industry 2014). The State Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) regulates and monitors dams for structural safety. Compliance with the DSOD requirements by the USACE for the Santa Fe Dam and by the County of Los Angeles for the Puddingstone Dam and the Santa Anita Dam would reduce the potential for dam failure. Furthermore, the proposed recreational facilities and access infrastructure would not be significantly affected if a dam were to fail because of the nature of the structures that are proposed (e.g. bicycle and multi-use trails, access ramps). Impacts would be less than significant.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.
LAND USE AND PLANNING		
<p><i>Conflicts with Applicable Land Use Plans, Policies, or Regulations.</i> All projects, except Projects 2 and 3, would be located in areas designated as open space, recreation, or public facilities where the Proposed Project land uses would be allowed. Projects 2 and 3 would be located on sites with Industrial (Quarry Overlay) land use designations within the City of Irwindale (City of Irwindale 2008). The City of Irwindale’s General Plan Land Use Element identifies the Quarry Overlay land use designation to</p>	None required.	No impact would occur.

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<p>support Commercial-Recreation, Residential-Business Park, Industrial-Business Park, and Open Space land uses (City of Irwindale 2008). Therefore, recreational land uses, such as those proposed, are allowed in this area. The implementation of the Proposed Project would be consistent with local general plans. No impact would occur.</p>		
<p><i>Conflicts with Applicable Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans.</i> The Puente Hills Significant Ecological Area (SEA) is generally located in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and along portions of the San Gabriel River and San Jose Creek. Projects 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 would be located within the Puente Hills SEA. The Quarry Clasp and Westside Projects are not within a SEA. The Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary SEA is located approximately one mile to the south of the Proposed Project. Recreational uses, such as hiking and wildlife watching are compatible by definition with the long-term sustainability of biological resources within the SEAs (County of Los Angeles 2015a). Projects 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are all infrastructure projects (bicycle paths, multi-use trails, and bridges) that would support recreational uses, such as hiking and wildlife watching. As such these projects would not conflict with the County of Los Angeles SEA program. No impact would occur.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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NOISE		
<p>Expose persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance. Cause a substantial permanent, temporary, or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.</p> <p><u>Construction</u></p> <p>Noise-sensitive land uses within 167 feet of project construction activities have the potential to experience potentially significant noise level impacts, depending on the construction phase and the group of a specific project. Implementation of Mitigation Measures N-1 through N-4 would reduce construction-related noise impacts to a less than significant level.</p> <p><u>Operation</u></p> <p>Proposed Project operational noise levels would vary based on the frequency and intensity of use of each individual project. The noise analysis completed for the Proposed Project used a conservative approach using a worst-case, continuous-activity reference noise level to represent the potential operational noise levels of the Proposed Project; however, the unmitigated Proposed Project noise impacts are not expected to extend to the nearby sensitive receiver locations. In other words, the operational noise analysis for the Proposed Project indicates that the noise levels due to pedestrians, bicycles, and equestrian activities would not exceed the County of Los Angeles Municipal Code's 50 dBA L50 noise level standard at nearby sensitive receiver locations. Therefore, operational noise impacts</p>	<p>N-1: Prior to approval of grading plans and/or issuance of building permits, plans shall include a note indicating that noise-generating project construction activities shall only occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, with no activity allowed on Sundays or holidays. The project construction supervisor shall ensure compliance with the note and the County shall conduct periodic inspection at its discretion.</p> <p>N-2: Prior to Proposed Project construction, the construction contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards. The construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from the noise sensitive receptors nearest to the project site.</p> <p>N-3: The construction contractor shall locate equipment staging in areas that will create the greatest distance between construction-related noise sources and noise-sensitive receivers nearest the project site throughout the project construction period.</p> <p>N-4: The construction contractor shall limit haul truck deliveries to the same hours specified for construction equipment (between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, with no activity allowed on Sundays or holidays). The contractor shall prepare a haul route exhibit and shall design delivery routes to minimize the exposure of</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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associated with the Proposed Project would be less than significant.	sensitive land uses or residential dwellings to delivery truck-related noise.	
<p><i>Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan.</i> The El Monte Airport is located in the project study area, south of Lower Azusa Road, approximately 0.5 mile north of the Proposed Project. The Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan (LAC ALUP; County of Los Angeles Airport Land Use Commission 2004) identifies the land use compatibility policies related to the El Monte Airport and the land uses of the Proposed Project. Per Section V of the LAC ALUP, the Proposed Project’s land uses would be classified as recreation uses and considered satisfactory with noise levels below 65 dBA CNEL from aircraft noise levels from the El Monte Airport (County of Los Angeles Airport Land Use Commission 2004). Based on the noise level contours provided in the LAC ALUP, the project site would be located outside of the 65 dBA CNEL noise level contour boundaries of the El Monte Airport. Accordingly, implementation of the Proposed Project would not expose people excessive noise levels associated with the El Monte Airport, and no impact would occur.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.
<p><i>Expose persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.</i> The peak project-construction vibration levels would not exceed the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) vibration levels for building damage at the residences near the project site. In addition, impacts at the site of the closest sensitive receivers would unlikely be sustained during the entire construction period, but rather, would occur only during the times when heavy construction equipment is operating adjacent to the project site perimeter. Construction of the Proposed Project would be</p>	None required.	Less than significant.

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<p>restricted to daytime hours consistent with the County of Los Angeles' requirements, which would thereby eliminate potential vibration impacts during the sensitive nighttime hours. Accordingly, vibration impacts associated with construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant. It is anticipated that operation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts from vibration.</p>		
PUBLIC SERVICES		
<p><i>Impacts to Fire Protection, Police Protection, Schools, Parks, or Other Public Facilities.</i> The Proposed Project is not anticipated to result in the increase demand of public services or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities. The Proposed Project does not include residential development. Construction of the Proposed Project would create temporary construction related jobs but would not create a new permanent source of jobs that would induce population growth. The Proposed Project would improve existing recreational trails and construct new trail connections improving trail access for people living in the area. Improving recreational trails is not expected to induce population growth in the project area.</p> <p>Each policing entity would be responsible for patrolling their respective geographic region encompassed within the project area. Additionally, the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Riverways Task Force would continue to provide patrol services to the Emerald Necklace as needed. The Proposed Project would not induce population growth such that services ratios or response times for the LASD, LACoFD, and surrounding city police/fire departments would be affected. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an increase demand for fire</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>and police protection. Impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>The Proposed Project would not result in an increase in the regional population of school age children; therefore no impacts to schools are anticipated. It is expected that much of the additional recreational users that would use the proposed facilities would come from the existing regional population; therefore, no significant impacts to city and county libraries are anticipated. Impacts to public services would be less than significant. Impacts to parks and recreational facilities are addressed in the recreation section below.</p>		
RECREATION		
<p><i>Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities.</i> The Proposed Project would not result in the increase of the region's population because it does not include housing and would not result in the creation of a significant number of permanent jobs. Therefore, no direct increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities would occur. However, the Proposed Project would improve access to existing recreational facilities which may indirectly result in an increase of recreational users who currently have limited or no access to the facilities. The increase of recreational users can lead to an accelerated physical deterioration of recreational facilities if maintenance activities are not adjusted based on the facilities use. Local cities and the County would continue to operate and maintain the recreational facilities under their jurisdiction in conformance with their operating procedures and regulations such that accelerated physical deterioration of recreational facilities would not occur.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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Impacts would be less than significant.		
<i>Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.</i> As part of the Proposed Project, the construction and expansion of parks, trails, and other facilities would occur. The physical effect on the environment from the Proposed Project is discussed in the other sections of this Draft Program EIR. With implementation of mitigation measures as described in those sections, adverse physical effects on the environment would be less than significant.	Various mitigation measures listed in this PEIR.	Less than significant.
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC		
Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system and adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. The Proposed Project would not conflict with applicable plans, ordinances, or policies establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. The Proposed Project would improve access to the Emerald Necklace recreation system by building, modifying, or extending recreational facilities and access infrastructure. The proposed trails, connections, and park would help meet the goals of the local jurisdictions of providing alternatives means of transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. A beneficial impact would occur.	None required.	Less than significant.

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<p><i>Conflict with an applicable congestion management program (CMP).</i> The CMP requires that, when an EIR is prepared for a project, traffic and transit impact analyses be conducted for select regional facilities based on the quantity of project traffic expected to use these facilities. The CMP TIA guidelines indicate that if a proposed development project would add 150 or more trips in either direction during either the morning or evening peak hours to the mainline freeway monitoring location, then a CMP freeway analysis must be conducted. If a proposed project would add 50 or more peak hour trips (during the peak hour of adjacent street traffic) to a CMP arterial intersection, then a CMP arterial intersection analysis must be conducted. The Proposed Project is anticipated to generate a total of 487 trips per day with approximately 19 AM peak hour trips and 39 PM peak hour trips. The Proposed Project would add fewer than 150 peak hour vehicles to the nearest CMP freeway monitoring locations and fewer than 50 peak hour vehicles to the nearest arterial monitoring intersection. Therefore, CMP freeway and arterial intersection analyses are not required and no impact would occur.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>
<p><i>Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature.</i> The Project proposes at-grade pedestrian, bicycle and/or equestrian crossings at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peck Road at Foothill Transit Driveway • Durfee Avenue/San Gabriel Avenue at Rosemead Boulevard 	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Gabriel Avenue at Lincoln Avenue • Rosemead Boulevard at SCE Easement trail (mid-block crosswalk) <p>Crossings would be designed per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, FHWA, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Forest Service recommendations for equestrian crossings. The proposed mid-block signalized pedestrian crossing on Rosemead Boulevard would be designed and constructed per Caltrans design standards. With these design features in place the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts.</p>		
<p><i>Result in inadequate emergency access.</i> The Proposed Project would improve regional and local access to the Emerald Necklace recreation system by building, modifying, or extending recreational facilities and access infrastructure. During the construction and operation of the Proposed Project adequate emergency access would be maintained. The proposed bridges over the San Gabriel River and San Jose Creek would provide a safe crossing for trail users, some who currently cross the river through the water. These bridges may also be used by emergency personnel to access these areas in case of an emergency. Impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>In the case of a park visitor or trail user emergency, first responders from the respective municipalities with emergency facilities would be able to access the project areas. The Proposed Project would be served by the local city police and fire stations and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)'s Parks Bureau and Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). All</p>	None required.	Less than significant.

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<p>counties of California have a local Office of Emergency Services (OES) to identify hazards and to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and help recover from both large and small local incidents. The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is a coordinating agency that brings together local agencies to focus on unified responses to disaster.</p>		
<p>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</p>		
<p><i>Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.</i> The Proposed Project would require water for drinking, restroom facilities, and landscape irrigation. Wastewater would be generated from restroom facilities. Only the Quarry Clasp Park Development (Project 1) would include a drinking fountain and a restroom facility. The remaining projects would develop transportation infrastructure, including bicycle and multi-use trails, bridges, and access ramps. These types of facilities would not require substantial water, other than water required for landscaping, or generate wastewater. It is anticipated that the existing water and wastewater infrastructure (i.e. water and wastewater treatment plants and conveyance pipelines) have the adequate capacity to meet the additional needs created by the addition of a drinking fountain and restroom facility. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>
<p>Create drainage system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The development of recreational facilities and trails would result in the increase of impervious surfaces. This increase in impervious surfaces would change the amount of</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure H-1 from the hydrology section.</p>	<p>Less than significant.</p>

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<p>runoff and the rate at which it flows off the project sites. Drainage plans for the projects would be designed by a registered civil engineer to safely retain, detain, and/or convey stormwater runoff. Construction of new storm water infrastructure would be subject to the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared for the Proposed Project, listing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent water quality impacts. Incorporation of Mitigation Measure H-1 would reduce impacts from the installation and/or upgrade of storm drains to a less than significant level.</p>		
<p><i>Need new or expanded water entitlements in order to serve the project.</i> The Proposed Project would require water for drinking fountains, restroom facilities, and for landscape irrigation. Only the Quarry Clasp Park Development (Project 1) would include a drinking fountain and a restroom facility. Landscaping is proposed for Projects 1, 2, 5, 7, 13, and 15. New landscaping would primarily comprise of native and drought tolerant plant species that would require minimal water. Although there would be a slight increase in demand for water services, the increased demand within the proposed bathrooms, water fountains, and irrigation would not be substantial. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>	None required.	Less than significant.
<p><i>Exceed the capacity of a landfill in order to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.</i> The Proposed Project would generate solid waste during the construction phase and during operation. It is anticipated that only Project 1 (Quarry Clasp Park Development) would result in an operational waste</p>	None required.	Less than significant.

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<p>source from trash generated by park visitors. The remaining 14 projects consist of transportation infrastructure, including bicycle and multi-use trails, bridges, and access ramps. These projects are not anticipated to generate significant amounts of trash during operation. As such, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to exceed the capacity of the local waste collection and disposal operations. A less than significant impact would occur.</p>		