



4.10 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This Subsection addresses the topics of water service and supply; wastewater collection and treatment; stormwater drainage management; solid waste collection and disposal; and utilities. The analysis contained in this Subsection is based in part on information obtained from the 2010 Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) (EVMWD, 2011a). A complete list of references can be found in EIR Section 7.0, *References*.

4.10.1 SCOPE OF REVIEW

The Nichols Canyon Mine, as discussed in Section 2.0, *Environmental Setting*, is an existing, ongoing surface mining operation operating pursuant to vested mining rights and an approved reclamation plan (RP 2006-01A1), which was analyzed in a prior MND. Although the City has chosen to prepare an EIR for the Project here, the scope of review addresses those impacts resulting from the Project as described in Section 3.0, *Project Description*, and not impacts related to existing, approved operations, which form the environmental baseline, as discussed in Section 2.7, Existing Physical Site Conditions. Accordingly, this Subsection analyzes utilities and service systems impacts related to the Project specifically. This Subsection does not analyze utilities and service systems impacts related to existing, approved operations.

4.10.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Water Service and Supply

☐ Existing Site and Area Conditions

The Nichols Canyon Mine is located within the service area of the EVMWD. At the time the EVMWD's UWMP was prepared in 2010, the EVMWD estimated that there were approximately 123,375 people within its 96 square mile service area (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 1 and Table ES-1). The EVMWD owns and maintains approximately 37,250 potable water connections, and projects that potable water demands will double by year 2035 (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 3-4).

Based on historical data for the Project site between 2007 and 2014, the water usage on-site averaged approximately 64,000 gallons per day for dust control, which corresponds to approximately 71.7 acre-feet of water per year (Project Applicant, 2015b).

☐ Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Urban Water Management Plan

UWMP Overview and Water Shortage Contingency Planning

Water Code Section 1062(a) of the California Urban Water Management Planning Act requires every urban water supplier to prepare and adopt an urban water management plan and conduct updates every five years. In addition to meeting the requirements of this Act, urban water management plans are to be used to support water supply assessments and verifications required by Senate Bills 610 and 221 of 2001. These bills require that water supply information be provided to counties and cities for projects of a certain size prior to their approval.

EVMWD has prepared a UWMP dated July 2011 that provides for the long-range planning efforts of water purveyance within its district. The EVMWD UWMP is herein incorporated by reference and is available for review at the EVMWD offices at 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531. The UWMP includes a water system analysis, identifies improvements to correct existing



deficiencies and serve projected future growth, and identifies contingency measures to ensure the EVMWD's continued ability to provide potable water service during multiple-year drought conditions. As concluded by the UWMP, the EVMWD anticipates that it will be able to meet projected demand for water within its service boundaries until at least the year 2035 in all types of climate situations, including normal, dry, and multiple consecutive dry weather years. (EVMWD, 2011a, Tables 5-14 through 5-16)

A Water Shortage Contingency Plan is included in the UWMP, which would be implemented by the EVMWD in cases of future water deficiencies caused by limitations on supply or the EVMWD's delivery system. The key elements of the EVMWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan are ordinances with phased water use restrictions and a drought rate structure. EVMWD has two water shortage ordinances: Ordinance Nos. 78 and 81, which are presented in Appendix D to the UWMP. The drought plan stages and reduction goals (applied to the base years specified in the ordinances) are presented in UWMP Table 5-4, and establish five "stages" of drought conditions. Determination of a Stage I, II, III, IV, or V condition is at the discretion of EVMWD's General Manager in consultation with the Board of Directors. EVMWD does not have a Stage V reduction for its retail customers. For its wholesale customers, a Stage V reduction would result in a mandatory reduction of 20 percent. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 5-5 and 5-6)

Water Supply Sources

As disclosed in the UWMP (and shown in Table 4.10-1, *Existing EVMWD Potable Water Sources*, below), EVMWD obtains its potable water supplies from imported water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) (via the Temescal Valley Pipeline and Auld Valley Pipeline), local surface water from Canyon Lake, and local groundwater from Elsinore Basin. As disclosed by the UWMP, during an average year, the EVMWD has 43,800 acre-feet per year (acre-ft/yr) of potable water supplies, with a total capacity of 66,500 acre-ft/year. In average years, the EVMWD obtains approximately 80.4% of its potable water supply from MWD, approximately 8.5% from groundwater extraction, and 11.2% from Canyon Lake. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-1 and Table 4-1)

Table 4.10-1 Existing EVMWD Potable Water Sources

Water Supply Source	Capacity (acre-ft/yr)	Average Year (acre-ft/yr)
Canyon Lake ⁽¹⁾	7,900	4,900
Groundwater Extraction	17,300	3,700
Groundwater Injection ⁽²⁾	-7,600	-4,600
TVP	14,200	12,700 ⁽³⁾
AVP	27,000	22,500 ⁽³⁾
Total Potable Supplies	66,500	43,800

(1) Natural inflow volumes for Canyon Lake are developed using hydrology data from 1993-2009

(2) Assumes that surplus water is available for injection only during average and wet year hydrologies. Injection volumes are obtained from EVMWD's Water Supply Optimization Plan (WSOP).

(3) Assumes that only 83 percent of capacity at TVP and AVP is available during average years. (EVMWD, 2011a, Table 4-1)



☐ **Treated Import Water**

As a member agency of Western Municipal Water District (WMWD), EVMWD purchases treated imported Metropolitan water from Western MWD through the Auld Valley Pipeline (AVP) and the Temescal Valley Pipeline (TVP). The AVP and the TVP are located on the southeastern and northwestern end of EVMWD's distribution system, respectively. Table 4.10-2, *UVWMD Existing and Planned Sources of Water (Wholesale)*, presents the projected imported water supplies that will be obtained via the TVP and the AVP during average year hydrologies. The AVP and TVP are discussed below. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-4)

Table 4.10-2 UVMWD Existing and Planned Sources of Water (Wholesale)

Wholesale sources	Maximum Capacity (acre-ft/yr)	2015 (acre-ft/yr)	2020 (acre-ft/yr)	2025 (acre-ft/yr)	2030 (acre-ft/yr)	2035 (acre-ft/yr)
Western Municipal Water District (Temescal Valley Pipeline) ⁽¹⁾	14,200	12,700	12,700	12,700	12,700	12,700
Eastern Municipal Water District (Auld Valley Pipeline) ⁽¹⁾	27,000	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500
WR 31	50,000	7,900	7,900	7,900	7,900	7,900

(1) Assumes that only 83 percent of capacity at TVP and AVP is available during average years (EVMWD, 2011a, Table 4-2)

- **Auld Valley Pipeline (AVP):** Based on a Water Facility Capacity Agreement between the EVMWD and the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), EVMWD has the rights to purchase or acquire a maximum flow rate of 37.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) (24.2 million gallons per day (mgd) or approximately 27,100 acre-ft/yr if used continuously) from EMWD through the Metropolitan Connection EM-17. EMWD sells imported water for the AVP to WMWD, which in turn sells the water to EVMWD through an Interagency Water Sales Agreement. This imported water is a blend of State Water Project (SWP) and Colorado River Aqueduct water. Prior to conveyance to the AVP, the water is treated at Metropolitan's R. A. Skinner Filtration Plant. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-4)
- **Temescal Valley Pipeline (TVP):** In addition to the AVP, EVMWD obtains imported water from the TVP through WMWD. The source of this water is State Water Project water that originates from Metropolitan's Mills Filtration Plant in Riverside. According to the Water Distribution System Master Plan (WDSMP) the EVMWD connection to the Mills Gravity Pipeline (also known as the Woodcrest Pipeline) has a design capacity of 41 cfs (26.5 mgd or approximately 29,700 acre-ft/yr). The current hydraulic capacity of the TVP is 19.6 cfs (12.7 mgd or 14,190 acre-ft/yr) based on gravity flow from the Woodcrest Pipeline. The TVP was designed to convey up to 41 cfs (26.5 mgd or 29,700 acre-ft/yr) with the construction of a booster pumping station. The TVP project was developed to provide additional water supplies from sources located north of the EVMWD service area. It includes an 8 million gallon (MG) terminal storage reservoir, transmission mains, and appurtenances. On August 23, 2001, EVMWD entered into a reciprocal use agreement with WMWD that provided EVMWD with a conditional right to use 9 cfs of capacity in the Mills Gravity Pipeline. In return for the imported water capacity, EVMWD granted WMWD entitlement to water acquired from the Meeks and Daley rights. A separate



lease agreement between EVMWD and WMWD provides EVMWD with the ability to use up to 5 cfs (3.2 mgd or 3,620 acre-ft/yr) of additional capacity from the Mills Gravity Pipeline on a temporary basis. On August 8, 2002, the EVMWD Board of Directors approved an amendment to the lease agreement to lease an additional 7 cfs (4.5 mgd or 5,068 acre-ft/yr) from the Mills Pipeline, increasing the total lease capacity to 12 cfs (7.8 mgd or 8,688 acre-ft/yr). In addition to the lease capacity from the Mills Pipeline, EVMWD also has an “exchange of assets” with its Temescal Water Division to supply a capacity of 9 cfs (5.8 mgd or 6,516 acre-ft/yr) (EVMWD, 2002c). Thus, EVMWD can currently obtain up to 21 cfs (13.6 mgd or approximately 15,200 acre-ft/yr) of water from the TVP. However, it would require additional pumping capacity for supply greater than 14,200 acre-ft/yr. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-4 to 4-5)

❑ Local Surface Water

The second water supply source for EVMWD is surface water obtained from Canyon Lake, also referred to as the Railroad Canyon Reservoir. Canyon Lake was constructed in 1928 by the Temescal Water Company (TWC) to store water for agricultural use in the area, and impounds water from the San Jacinto River, Salt Creek, and local surface runoff. Siltation has decreased the capacity of the lake as compared to historic conditions. Based on information in EVMWD’s Water Distribution System Master Plan (WDSMP), Canyon Lake’s current storage capacity is approximately 4,600 acre-feet (1,500 MG). The lake is being dredged to restore a portion of the lost capacity. The Railroad Canyon Storage Agreement between EVMWD and TWC that was approved in October 1955 allowed EVMWD to store approximately 3,000 acre-feet of water in Canyon Lake and treat that water at the Canyon Lake Water Treatment Plant (CLWTP) before distribution. In August 1989, EVMWD acquired the assets and water rights of the TWC including Canyon Lake. The Canyon Lake Property Owners Association (POA) leases the surface rights to the lake and fringe land around the lake for recreational purposes under an agreement dating from 1968. The lease agreement between EVMWD and the Canyon Lake POA requires that the minimum lake elevation be kept at 1372 ft. above mean sea level (amsl) at any time of the year. EVMWD typically discontinues operation of its WTP if the lake level is expected to drop below 1,372 ft. If the level falls below 1,372 feet, EVMWD is required to purchase Metropolitan water to maintain the minimum lake elevation. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-5 to 4-6)

During periods of high runoff, Canyon Lake fills and spills into the San Jacinto River where it flows into Lake Elsinore. Through the acquisition of the TWC, EVMWD has the rights to divert up to 12,000 acre-ft/yr of natural drainage from the San Jacinto River from about December 1 to about June 1 of each season and store that water in the Railroad Canyon Reservoir pursuant to Water Rights License 1533. A subsequent license allows the diversion 2.4 cfs of San Jacinto River water from about April 1 to about May 31 of each season pursuant to Water Rights License 6327. In settlement of litigation regarding the release of water into Lake Elsinore, EVMWD and the City of Lake Elsinore agreed that EVMWD would not treat more than 8,000 acre-ft/yr (about 7.1 mgd continuous flow) of San Jacinto River flows in any water year at EVMWD’s Canyon Lake Water Treatment Plant. This 8,000 acre-ft/yr limit applies only to San Jacinto River runoff and excludes any imported water conveyed in the river channel. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-6)

Other sources of water for Canyon Lake include untreated imported water from Metropolitan connections WR-18A (Colorado River water) and WR-31 (SWP water). Each of these two imported water connections has a capacity of 69 cfs (44.6 mgd). EVMWD could purchase the imported water from Metropolitan through Western MWD, which would be discharged into the San Jacinto River



near Nuevo and flow downstream to Canyon Lake. EVMWD has not purchased water from the Metropolitan connection WR-18A since 1989 because the high total dissolved solids (TDS) in Colorado River supply adversely affects wastewater effluent quality. In recent years, EVMWD has purchased imported raw water via the WR-31 connection for treatment at the Canyon Lake water treatment plant (WTP). (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-6)

Some percentage of the water released into the San Jacinto River percolates into the intervening groundwater basins before it reaches Canyon Lake. It is estimated that approximately 89 percent of any water purchased from these connections reaches the lake. Consequently, such releases are typically made in the wet season when the river has natural flows to minimize losses. In spite of the lack of recent use, EVMWD currently has the ability to supplement its Canyon Lake supply with raw imported water in the event of a water shortage. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-6 to 4-7)

The Canyon Lake WTP has a design capacity of 9 mgd (13.9 cfs). However, running the plant at capacity greater than 7 mgd (10.9 cfs) adversely affects the treated water quality and quality can be maintained as long as plant is operated at a maximum flow of 7 mgd (10.9 cfs). Water from Canyon Lake is pumped to the treatment plant through the intake pumping station. The plant normally operates between April and October to provide additional water for summer demands. The UWMP estimates that between 2015 and 2035, an average of 4,900 acre-ft/yr would be supplied to EVMWD via the Canyon Lake WTP. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-7 to 4-8)

□ **Groundwater**

EVMWD has access to groundwater from Elsinore Basin, Coldwater Basin, San Bernardino Bunker Hill Basin, Rialto-Colton and Riverside-North Basin. Table 4.10-3, EVWMD Groundwater – Volume Projected to be Pumped, summarizes the amount of groundwater pumped from these basins. As shown, almost all of the groundwater production that is used for potable water use occurs in the Elsinore Basin. Groundwater resources utilized by the EVMWD are discussed below.

Table 4.10-3 EVWMD Groundwater – Volume Projected to be Pumped

Basin name(s)	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Elsinore Groundwater Basin ⁽¹⁾	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
San Bernardino Bunker Hill Basin ⁽²⁾	0	0	0	0	0
Rialto-Colton and Riverside North Basins ⁽²⁾	0	0	0	0	0
Coldwater Basin ⁽³⁾	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
Total groundwater pumped	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750
Percent of total water supply	9.8%	9.64%	9.56%	9.56%	9.56%

(1) `The estimated safe yield of the Elsinore Basin is 5,500 acre-ft/yr.

(2) `EVMWD does not have conveyance facilities to transfer water from these basins to EVMWD's service area.

(3) `The value here is based on the upper limit of the estimated safe yield and historical share of total withdrawal by EVMWD.

(EVMWD, 2011a, Table 4-7)

- **Elsinore Basin:** The Elsinore Basin is the major source of potable groundwater supply for EVMWD, Elsinore Water District (EWD), and other private groundwater producers. The groundwater basin encompasses approximately 25 square miles of valley fill including Lake



Elsinore, which covers about 3,600 acres of the basin. The surface water drainage area tributary to the basin consists of 42 square miles of mountain and valley area. Major streams include McVicker Canyon, Leach Canyon, Dickey Canyon, and the San Jacinto River, which drain into Lake Elsinore and provide a portion of the basin recharge. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-8 to 4-9)

Historically, groundwater accounts for approximately 30 percent to 40 percent of EVMWD's total supplies. In the Elsinore Basin, EVMWD has seven operating potable groundwater wells with a total production capacity of 17,140 acre-ft/yr (15.4 mgd). Summerly and Diamond are the most recently equipped production wells and began production in 2008. In the recent past, three groundwater wells went out of service due to water quality and operational issues. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-10)

Water rights for the Elsinore Basin are not adjudicated. According to EVMWD's Elsinore Basin Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP), approximately 94 percent of groundwater produced by the basin is pumped by EVMWD, which serves a 96 mile square area in western Riverside County. Other groundwater producers include Elsinore Water District (EWD) and private well owners. Historically, EWD, which supplies water to customers in two detached service areas one located north of the lake with the City of Lake Elsinore and the Lakeland Village community, pumped approximately five percent of total groundwater production from the basin. However, due to low water levels, EWD purchases all of its water requirements from EVMWD. Local pumpers with private wells only account for less than one percent of basin production. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-11)

The GWMP also summarizes inflows to the Elsinore Basin which include infiltration of local precipitation, runoff from the surrounding watershed, infiltration from the San Jacinto River prior to reaching Lake Elsinore, and return flows from either irrigation or domestic use. Groundwater inflows are estimated to average 5,500 acre-ft/yr based on a 41-year (1961-2001) hydrologic analysis conducted for the GWMP. This natural inflow is roughly equal to the average yield of the basin because there are no natural outflows from the basin. Groundwater pumping to meet water demands accounts for essentially the entire outflow from the basin. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-11 to 4-12)

EVMWD adopted a Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) in 2005 which identified conjunctive use projects as an important element of basin management. Direct recharge projects that utilize the groundwater basin as a storage facility and allow for the extraction of stored water for use during drought and high demand periods were identified, designed, and constructed. These direct recharge projects were funded by the Metropolitan as part of a groundwater storage program. During any fiscal year (beginning on July 1st and ending on June 30th) Metropolitan may deliver up to 3,000 acre-ft of water for storage in the Elsinore Basin. EVMWD's dual-purpose wells are used to inject these deliveries in the Elsinore Basin. Metropolitan may also extract up to 4,000 acre-ft of water stored in the Elsinore Basin as part of the Groundwater Storage Program. During a fiscal year when stored Metropolitan deliveries are extracted, supply from the EVMWD's imported water sources is reduced by an equal amount. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-12)

- Coldwater Basin: EVMWD pumps groundwater from wells located in the Temescal Valley to serve users in its Temescal Division. The wells draw from the Coldwater Basin, Lee Lake Basin,



and the Bedford Basin. Only three wells, all in Coldwater Basin, are used for potable supply. The rest of the wells are used for non-potable purposes. The Coldwater Basin is an unadjudicated basin located within the Temescal Valley southwest of Interstate 15. The basin covers about 1,680 acres. Major surface water drainages include Coldwater, Anderson, Bixby, Mayhew, and Brown Canyons, which surround the western and southern boundaries of the groundwater basin. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-13)

The Coldwater Basin lies within a down-dropped block between the North Glen Ivy and South Glen Ivy faults, which are associated with the right lateral strike-slip-dominated Elsinore Fault Zone (EFZ). The EFZ extends approximately 200 km from Baja California north to the Corona area. The Coldwater Basin is surrounded by the metamorphic, volcanic, and granitic basement rocks of the Santa Ana Mountains to the south and west, and the Bedford groundwater basin, which is located to the north and east and is separated from the Coldwater Basin by the North Glen Ivy fault. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-13)

Currently, water levels are generally declining throughout the basin. However, historical records indicate that the basin is very responsive to changes in operational and climatic conditions. Recharge to the alluvium, which contains potable groundwater, occurs along the margins of the basin through Mayhew, Coldwater, Anderson, Bixby, and Brown Canyons. Faults within the basin appear to be complete barriers to subsurface flow except where gravel pits cross the faults. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-13)

The total basin storage volume is estimated to be approximately 74,800 acre-ft based upon a specific yield ranging from 7 to 9 percent. The estimated groundwater in storage as of September 2000 was 41,600 acre-ft (about 55 percent full). The estimated cumulative loss in storage in the Coldwater Basin between 1977 and 2000 was approximately 10,000 acre-ft. For the period between 1991 and 2000, an average of 6,300 acre-ft/yr of groundwater was produced from the basin. The principal groundwater producers in the basin are the EVMWD and the City of Corona, which account for all but about 200 acre-ft/yr of the total average groundwater production in the basin. Other pumpers in the basin are agricultural users and the gravel pit owners. Approximately one-third of the total basin groundwater extraction from 1991 to 2000 was produced from EVMWD's wells, while two-thirds of the total groundwater production was produced from the City of Corona's wells. District wells serve agricultural and municipal users in the Coldwater Basin area. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-13 to 4-14)

Since 1998, groundwater levels within the Coldwater Basin have been declining at a rate of about 50 feet per year throughout the basin. Groundwater levels in many wells are at or below the previous historic low levels of the mid-1970s. Most shallow groundwater wells, particularly in the center of the basin, are currently dry. This water level decline is the result of both an extended period of low rainfall and increased groundwater production in the basin. More groundwater is being extracted each year than is being replenished naturally causing groundwater to be taken from storage. Previous estimates of the basin yield have ranged from 3,100 acre-ft/yr to 5,300 acre-ft/yr. Groundwater extraction over the past several years has exceeded these estimates. Because the groundwater basin is only 800 feet deep, this supply, if not augmented, will not be available in the future at current extraction rates. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-14)



EVMWD has withdrawn about 25 percent of the total volume pumped from the Coldwater Basin. Assuming the total basin yield is about 5,200 acre-ft/tr, EVMWD could expect to have about 1,250 acre-ft/year available. Since the EVMWD's combined well capacity supplying potable water is below safe yield estimates of the Coldwater Basin, the total pumping capacity is assumed as the projected supply availability for the Temescal Domestic Service Area (TDSA), defined as the portion of Temescal Division using potable supply. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 4-14)

- Other Groundwater Supplies: EVMWD's acquisition of the Temescal Water Company (TWC) in August 1989 resulted in its ownership of 51.9 percent of the stock in three mutual water companies – Meeks and Daley Water Company, Agua Mansa Water Company and Alta Mesa Water Company. This stock provides water rights and production/conveyance capacity from these three mutual water companies' to use its facilities and water supply sources. The TWC acquisition also provided EVMWD entitlements to "canal carrying rights" in the Gage Canal and the Riverside Canal, including rights to the Palm Avenue Well that is located in Grand Terrace, Riverside County. The mutual water companies also have rights to pump 7,833 acre-ft/yr of water from the San Bernardino Bunker Hill Basin of which 7,515 acre-ft/yr may be exported to Riverside County. Through its shareholder ownership, EVMWD's annual allotment from the Bunker Hill Basin is approximately 3,900 acre-feet. In addition, EVMWD's stock ownership entitles it to groundwater in the unadjudicated Rialto-Colton and Riverside-North Basins. EVMWD's Water Resources Development Plan (WRDP) estimated the total water available to EVMWD from these basins to be 7,152 acre-ft/yr. Presently, EVMWD does not have the infrastructure available to deliver water available from these groundwater basins to its service area in the Elsinore Division. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 4-14 to 4-15)

❑ ***Drought Conditions***

At the present time, California is experiencing severe drought conditions. In response, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted emergency statewide urban water conservation regulations that became effective in July 2014 and remained in place until April 2015. Subsequently, the California Governor issued a State of Emergency and Continued State of Emergency in 2014 in response to the persistent state-wide drought. On April 1, 2015, California Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-29-15 which orders the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to impose mandatory water use restrictions to achieve a 25 percent reduction in potable urban water usage through February 18, 2016. It addresses facilitating funding for projects designed to increase local water supplies and improve water supply reliability. It also orders more frequent reporting and modifications to the State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance; mandates Agricultural water suppliers to prepare their Agricultural Water Management Plans by specific dates; and orders the State to coordinate their water conservation related goals with other State departments like the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Energy Commission. In addition, Executive Order B-29-15 requires that the SWRCB impose restrictions that require commercial, industrial, and institutional properties to implement water efficiency measures to reduce potable water usage to meet this mandated water usage reduction target.

B. Wastewater Service and Treatment

The EVMWD Sewer District provides service to the City of Lake Elsinore. The "backbone" of the system consists of trunk sewers, generally 10 inches in diameter and larger, that convey the collected wastewater to EVMWD's WRFs. EVMWD's existing wastewater collection systems consist of



approximately 358 miles of sewer mains up to 54 inches in diameter, 33 lift stations and three WRF. EVMWD's current service area is delineated into four separate collection systems. These are the Regional, Canyon Lake, Horsethief, and Southern collection systems. The flows conveyed in the Regional, Canyon Lake, and Horsethief collection systems are treated by EVMWD's Regional, Railroad Canyon, and Horsethief WRFs, respectively. The EVMWD Wastewater Management Plan makes recommendations for improvements, such as gravity sewer mains, force mains, lift stations, and wastewater treatment facilities. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, 3.16-1)

Under existing conditions, wastewater treatment at the Nichols Canyon Mine is handled by portable toilets, which are regularly emptied by a rental service company. Waste from these portable toilets is disposed of in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements.

C. Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

Project-generated solid waste would be conveyed to one of several landfills operated or managed by the Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD). The landfills typically used by the City of Lake Elsinore are the El Sobrante, Badlands, and Lamb Canyon Landfills. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, p. 3.16-5) These existing landfills are required to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Landfills within RCWMD's jurisdiction adhere to state guidelines which specify that a minimum of 15 years of system-wide landfill capacity shall be provided. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, p. 3-16-5)

D. Stormwater Drainage Facilities

Under existing conditions, all runoff from the disturbed portions of the portion of the Mine located north of Nichols Road (Nichols North) is conveyed to an on-site retention basin. In its current condition there is not significant run-off from the disturbed portions of the Nichols North site. Runoff from the undisturbed portions of Nichols North is currently conveyed in two different directions. A portion of the runoff is conveyed through the disturbed areas and ultimately discharges through two existing 48" reinforced concrete pipes (RCP) with a headwall and discharges into existing drainage channels located west of I-15. The remaining runoff from Nichols North would discharge into Stove Pipe Creek.

Disturbed areas south of Nichol Road (Nichols South) currently drain in two different directions. A small portion of runoff from the Nichols South combines with runoff from Nichols North and is currently conveyed to the two 48" RCP pipes with headwall, discharging into existing drainage facilities located west of I-15. The majority of the Nichols South site conveys flows to Stovepipe Creek. Stovepipe Creek is conveyed southwesterly across the Nichols South site and beneath the I-15 via an existing 6'x14' box culvert, ultimately discharging into existing drainage facilities located west of I-15. (Bonadiman, 2015, p. 6)

E. Utilities

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity to the City of Lake Elsinore and Southern California Gas Company (The Gas Company) provides gas to the City of Lake Elsinore. Both SCE and The Gas Company anticipate the ability to accommodate future growth within the City. Verizon provides local landline telephone service and long distance service is available from a number of other providers. In addition, Time Warner Cable provides cable television as well as high-speed internet. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, pp. 3.16-6 through 3.16-7).



Under existing conditions, electricity is provided to the site via private power poles from a connection near the Mine's southern boundary. The site is not provided with cable television, internet service, telephone service, or natural gas under existing conditions.

F. Applicable Regulatory Requirements

☐ Water Supply and Water Quality Regulations

1. California Senate Bill 610

The California Water Code (Water Code) §§ 10910 through 10915 were amended by the enactment of Senate Bill 610 (SB 610) in 2002. SB 610 requires an assessment of whether available water supplies are sufficient to serve the demand generated by a proposed project, as well as the reasonably foreseeable cumulative demand in the region over the next 20 years under average normal year, single dry year and multiple dry year conditions. Under SB 610, water supply assessments must be furnished to local governments for inclusion in any environmental documentation for certain projects (as defined in Water Code 10912 [a]) subject to CEQA. For the purposes of SB 610, "project" means any of the following:

1. A proposed residential development of more than 500 dwelling units.
2. A proposed shopping center or business establishment employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 500,000 sf of floor space.
3. A proposed commercial office building employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 250,000 sf of floor space.
4. A proposed hotel or motel, or both, having more than 500 rooms.
5. A proposed industrial, manufacturing, or processing plant, or industrial park planned to house more than 1,000 persons, occupying more than 40 acres of land, or having more than 650,000 sf of floor area.
6. A mixed-use project that includes one or more of the projects specified in this subdivision.
7. A project that would demand an amount of water equivalent to, or greater than, the amount of water required by a 500 dwelling unit project.

The proposed Project does not meet the definition of a project that is subject to the Water Supply Assessment requirements set forth by SB 610. Moreover, the site's water usage would decrease under the Project as compared to baseline conditions.

2. California Senate Bill 221

Signed into law on October 8, 2001, Senate Bill 221 (SB 221) established a process whereby sufficient water supply must be identified and available for new development for any residential development of 500 homes or more, or, in the case wherein a water supplier has fewer than 5,000 service connections or the proposed development would increase the number of connections by at least 10 percent, unless there is proof of adequate water over at least the next 20 years, including long periods of drought. The proposed Project is not subject to the provisions of (SB 221) because it does not involve the development of 500 or more homes, the EVWMD has more than 5,000 service connections, and the Project would result in a net decrease of water usage at the Mine.



3. *California Assembly Bill 1881 (Water Conservation in Landscaping Act)*

The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act was established to ensure adequate water supplies are available for future uses. To promote the conservation and efficient use of water, the Act requires local agencies to adopt a water efficient landscape ordinance. When such an ordinance had not been adopted, a finding as to why (based on the climatic, geologic, or topographical conditions) such an ordinance is not necessary, must be adopted. In the absence of such an ordinance or findings, the policies and requirements contained in the “model” ordinance drafted by the State of California shall apply within the affected jurisdiction.

4. *California Senate Bill 2095 (Water Recycling in Landscaping Act)*

This Act requires that a water producer capable of providing recycled water that meets all of the conditions described in the State Water Code, § 13550 et. seq. to notify local agencies of the area(s) eligible to receive the recycled water, and the necessary infrastructure that the recycled water producer or retail water supplier will provide to support the delivery of recycled water. Within 180 days of receipt of such a notification from a recycled water producer, a local agency shall adopt and enforce a recycled water ordinance pursuant to this Act. Additionally, it requires local, regional, or State agencies to not use water from any source of quality for non-potable uses if suitable recycled water is available as provided in Water Code § 13550.

5. *Urban Water Management Planning Act*

Since 1984, the Urban Water Management Planning Act, has required “urban water suppliers” to develop written “urban water management plans.” While generally aimed at encouraging water suppliers to implement water conservation measures, it also created long-term planning obligations. In preparing urban water management plans, urban water suppliers must describe the following:

- Existing and planned water supply and demand;
- Water conservation measures and a schedule for implementing and evaluating such measures; and
- Water shortage contingency measures.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act requires urban water suppliers to use a 20-year planning horizon and to update the data in the urban water plans every 5 years. Urban Water Management Plans are exempt from CEQA, and thus do not generate any EIRs of use for future land use or water planning. In preparing their 20-year management plans, water suppliers must directly address the subject of future population growth. The suppliers must also identify sources of supply to meet demand. The plan must “identify and quantify, to the extent practicable, the existing and planned sources of water available to the supplier.”

6. *California Senate Bill 901*

Signed into law on October 16, 1995, Senate Bill 901 (SB 901) required every urban water supplier to identify as part of its urban water management plan, the existing and planned sources of water available to the supplier over a prescribed 5-year period. The code requires the water service purveyor to assess the projected water demand associated with a proposed project under environmental review. Later provisions of SB 901 required compliance in the event that the proposed Project involved the adoption of a specific plan, amendment to, or revision of the land use



element of a general plan or specific plan that would result in a net increase in the state population density. Upon completion of the water assessment, cities and counties may agree or disagree with the conclusions of the water service purveyors, but cannot approve projects in the face of documented water shortfalls without first making certain findings.

7. *Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974*

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water. The EPA, states, and water systems work in collaboration to ensure the standards are met.

8. *California Water Code § 10910*

This portion of the California Water Code applies to any project proposing more than 500 residential dwelling units, 500 hotel rooms, 500,000 s.f. of commercial space, 650,000 s.f. of industrial or manufacturing space, or any project employing more than 1,000 persons or having a mix of uses equivalent in water usage to more than 500 residential dwelling units. If the project is subject to CEQA, the Lead Agency is required to request that the water agency determine whether the projected water demand associated with the proposed project was included as part of the most recently adopted urban water management plan (UWMP) of the water agency. If the projected water demand was not accounted for in the most recently adopted UWMP, or the public water system has no UWMP, a water supply assessment is required to be prepared to determine if the public water system's total projected water supplies available during normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years during a 20-year projection will meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project, in addition to the public water system's existing and planned future uses, including agricultural and manufacturing uses. California Water Code § 10910 does not apply to the proposed Project because the proposed Project does not involve any of the project types described above.

9. *California Water Conservation Act of 2009*

The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SB X7-7 2009) requires all California urban water agencies to set and meet certain demand reduction targets in order to assist the State in reducing urban water use by 20 percent by 2020. The Act also requires each agency to monitor its progress toward its targets. This was implemented for the purpose of meeting the mandate to reduce per capita urban water consumption by 20 percent statewide.

10. *Executive Order B-29-15*

On April 1, 2015, California Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-29-15 which orders the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to impose mandatory water use restrictions to achieve a 25 percent reduction in potable urban water usage through February 18, 2016. It addresses facilitating funding for projects designed to increase local water supplies and improve water supply reliability. It also orders more frequent reporting and modifications to the State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance; mandates Agricultural water suppliers to prepare their Agricultural Water Management Plans by specific dates; and orders the State to coordinate their water conservation related goals with other State departments like the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Energy Commission. In addition, Executive Order B-29-15 requires that the SWRCB impose restrictions that require commercial, industrial, and



institutional properties to implement water efficiency measures to reduce potable water usage to meet this mandated water usage reduction target.

11. *Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act)*

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act [CWA]) is the principal federal statute that addresses water resources. The statute employs a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory tools to reduce direct pollutant discharges into waterways, finance municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and manage polluted runoff. The broad goal is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters so that they can support "the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water."

Section 402 of the CWA authorizes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program that covers point sources of pollution discharging to a water body. The NPDES program also requires operators of construction sites one acre or larger to prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction activities and obtain authorization to discharge storm water under an NPDES construction storm water permit. The NPDES program also requires certain land uses (e.g., industrial uses) to prepare a SWPPP for operational activities and to implement a long-term water quality sampling and monitoring program, unless an exemption has been granted.

12. *Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Urban Water Management Plan*

EVMWD prepared an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) in year 2000 in compliance with the Urban Water Management Act which was adopted by EVMWD's Board of Directors on December 22, 1999. An update to the 2000 UWMP was prepared in 2005 and adopted on June 9, 2011. The EVMWD UWMP complies with the requirements of the Urban Water Management Planning Act. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 1)

13. *Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Best Management Practices*

EVMWD became a signatory to the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding urban water conservation on December 11, 2002. As part of the MOU, EVMWD is required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) as part of its water conservation program. The MOU was amended in June 2010 and full implementation of BMPs are required by 2018. EVMWD intends to achieve full coverage of each BMP no later than Fiscal Year 2018. (EVMWD, 2011a, pp. 10-11)

14. *Lake Elsinore Municipal Code (LEMC) – Title 19, Chapter 19.08*

Lake Elsinore Municipal Code (LEMC) Chapter 19.08 (Water Efficiency Landscaping Requirements) implements the requirements necessary to meet the State of California Efficiency in Landscaping Act and the California Code of Regulations Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7. The purpose and intent of Chapter 2.7 is also to: 1) establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention; 2) establish a structure for planning, designing, installing, maintaining, and managing water efficient landscapes in new construction and rehabilitated projects; 3) reduce the water demand from landscapes with a decline in landscape quality or quantity; 4) retain flexibility and encourage creativity through appropriate design; 5) assure the attainment of water efficient



landscape goals by requiring that landscapes not exceed a maximum water demand of 70 percent of their reference evapotranspiration or any lower percentage as may be required by water purveyor policy or state legislation whichever is stricter; 6) eliminate water waste from overspray and/or runoff; and 7) achieve water conservation by raising the public awareness of the need to conserve water through education and motivation to embrace an effective water demand management program. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, pp. 3.16-14 through 3.16-15)

☐ **Solid Waste Regulations**

1. *California Solid Waste Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939)*

Signed into law in 1989, the California Integrated Waste Management Act (Assembly Bill 939 [AB 939]) established an integrated waste management system that focused on source reduction, recycling, composting, and land disposal of waste. In addition, the bill established a 50% waste reduction requirement for cities and counties by the year 2000, along with a process to ensure environmentally safe disposal of waste that could not be diverted.

2. *California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Act (AB 1327)*

Signed into law in 1991, the California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act (Assembly Bill 1327 [AB 1327]) added Chapter 18 to Part 3 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code. Chapter 18 required the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to develop a model ordinance for adoption of recyclable materials in development projects (it should be noted that the CIWMB no longer exists and its duties have been assumed by CalRecycle). Local agencies were then required to adopt the model, or an ordinance of their own, in order to govern adequate areas for collection and loading of recyclable materials in development projects. This Act requires all development projects that are commercial, industrial, institutional, or marina in nature, and where solid waste is collected and loaded, to provide an adequate area for collecting and loading recyclable materials over the lifetime of the project.

3. *Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program*

Signed into law in 2011, Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341) sets forth the requirements of the statewide mandatory commercial recycling program. The purpose of the law is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts and to expand the opportunity for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California. Any business that generates four (4) cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week is required to arrange for recycling services.

4. *Riverside Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan*

The Riverside Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) outline the goals, policies, and programs the County and its cities will implement to create an integrated and cost effective waste management system that complies with the provisions of AB 939 and its diversion mandates. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, 3.16-15)



5. Household Hazardous Waste Program

The Household Hazardous Waste Program is administered by the Riverside County Waste Management Department. The Waste Management Department educates businesses and residents on how to reduce the amount of hazardous waste. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, 3.16-15)

4.10.3 BASIS FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Project would result in a significant impact to the utilities and service systems if the Project or any Project-related component would:

- a. *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.*
- b. *Require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.*
- c. *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed.*
- d. *Require or result in the construction of new water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.*
- e. *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project, that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.*
- f. *Not be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.*
- g. *Fails to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.*
- h. *Require or result in the construction of new electrical, natural gas or telecommunication facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects.*

The above-listed thresholds are derived directly from Section XVII of Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines and address typical adverse project effects due to the need for new or expanded utilities and service systems. (OPR, 2009).

4.10.4 IMPACT ANALYSIS

<i>Threshold a. Would the Project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?</i>

The proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in wastewater generated from the site because there would be only a net increase of two employees with implementation of the Project. Also, under existing conditions, wastewater treatment at the Nichols Canyon Mine is handled by portable toilets, which are regularly emptied by a rental service company. Waste from these portable toilets is disposed of in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements. Portable toilets would continue to be operated on-site for the duration of mining and reclamation activities. There are no other potential sources of wastewater associated with the proposed Project. Therefore,



implementation of the proposed Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

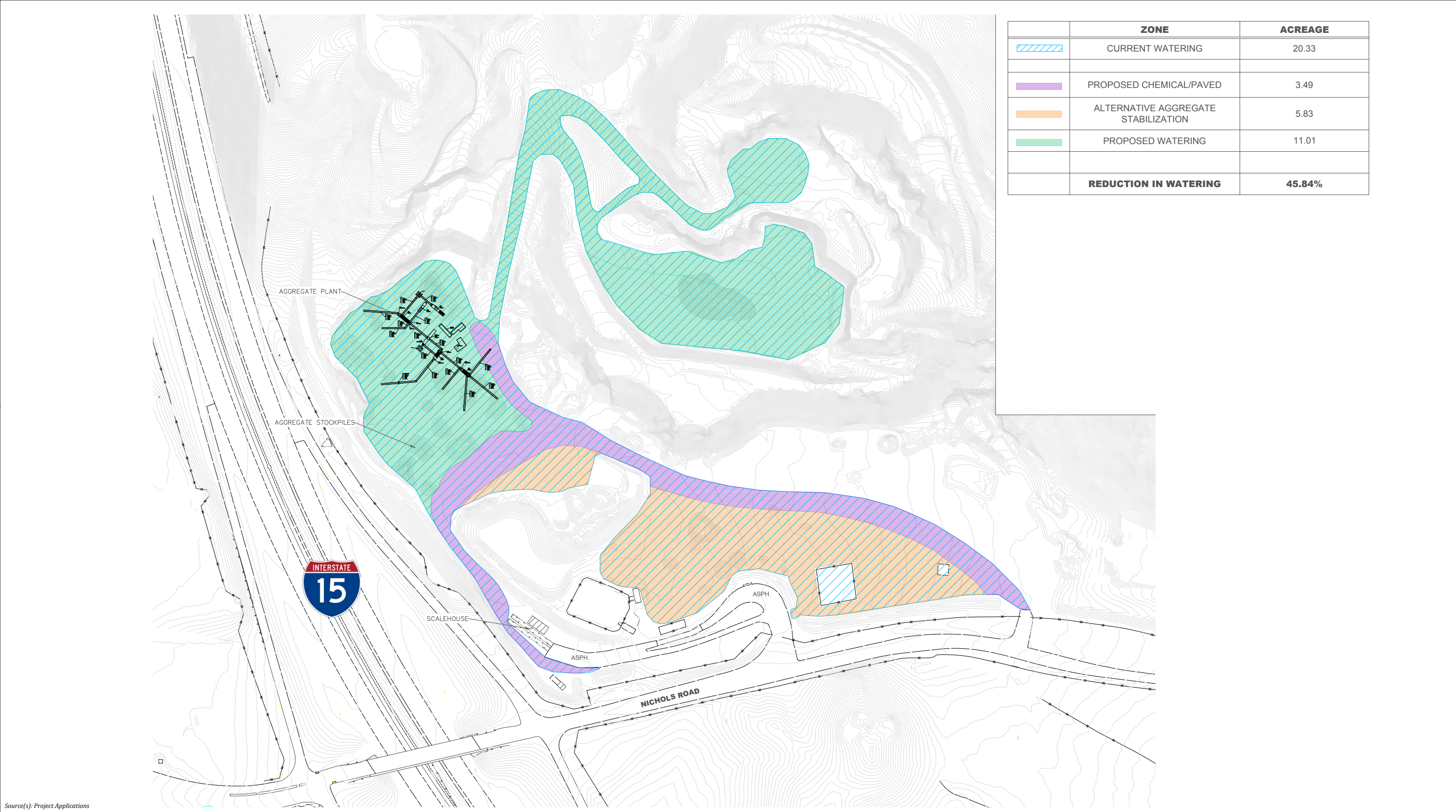
Threshold b. Would the Project require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed Project would result in a net increase of two employees as compared to baseline conditions. Such an increase would have no effect on existing wastewater treatment facilities, as wastewater treatment at the Nichols Canyon Mine is handled by portable toilets, which are regularly emptied by a rental service company. In the unlikely event a wastewater treatment provider is at or above capacity, the rental service company would identify an alternative treatment facility to handle Project-related wastewater. Because the Project does not propose any wastewater facilities, would not utilize EVMWD's sewer system, and would have no potential to exceed the capacity of any wastewater treatment facilities, no impact would occur.

Threshold c. Would the Project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

Water to the Nichols Canyon Mine is provided by the EVMWD via an existing fire hydrant. EVMWD has prepared an UWMP dated July 2011, that provides for the long-range planning efforts of water purveyance within its district. The UWMP includes an analysis of water supply sufficiency that concludes that sufficient supply exists to meet the demand for projected normal year, singly-dry year, and multiple-dry-year supply through 2035, with dry years assumed to result in an approximately nine percent increase in demands as compared to normal year demands. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 10)

Under baseline conditions, the Nichols Canyon Mine utilized approximately 64,000 gallons per day (gpd). SMP No. 2015-01 includes new watering restrictions for soil stabilization, as shown on Figure 4.10-1, *Surface Mining Permit No. 2015-01 Dust Control Plan*, implementation of the proposed Project would result in a net decrease in areas subject to watering from 20.33 acres under existing conditions to 11.01 acres under the proposed Project. The reduction in water usage on-site would occur because SMP No. 2015-01 requires the use of soil binding chemicals, pavement, and other stabilization techniques to provide for adequate dust control while resulting in a net decrease in water used at the site. In total, it can be assumed that because areas on-site that require water for dust control would be reduced by approximately 45.8% as compared to baseline conditions; therefore, it can be assumed that total water use at the mine would decrease under the proposed Project from approximately 64,000 gpd to approximately 34,660 gpd. Although approval of the Project would extend the duration of mining activities on-site as necessary to mine and reclaim the proposed Expanded Disturbance Area (EDA), the EVWMD has determined that it has sufficient supplies to meet the demand for projected normal year, singly-dry year, and multiple-dry-year supply through 2035. This determination was made by the EVWMD based on future population and employment estimates within the EVMWD service area, and accounts for on-going mining activities at the Nichols Canyon Mine. (EVMWD, 2011a, Tables ES-9, ES-10, and ES-11) Therefore, because total water usage on-site would decrease under the proposed Project as compared to baseline conditions, and because the EVMWD has sufficient supplies through 2035, including during dry and multiple-dry years, the Project has no potential to result in a determination by the EVWMD that it does not





have sufficient water supplies to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources; therefore, no impact would occur.

Threshold d. Would the Project require or result in the construction of new water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Refer to the response for Threshold 4.10.c). As indicated, implementation of the proposed Project would result in a net decrease of 29,340 gpd as compared to baseline conditions. Also, the UWMP concludes that sufficient supply exists to meet the demand for projected normal year, singly-dry year, and multiple-dry-year supply through 2035. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 10) Because water treatment facilities have adequate water supplies to serve the Mine under existing conditions, and because total water used at the Mine would decrease under the proposed Project by 29,340 gpd, the proposed Project has no potential to result in the construction of new or expanded water treatment facilities, and no impact would occur.

Threshold e. Would the Project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Implementation of the proposed Project would result in the net increase of two employees as compared to baseline conditions, and the Project is not expected to result in a substantial increase in the amount of wastewater generated at the site. Furthermore, wastewater generated at the site under existing conditions is handled via portable toilets, and there would be no need for additional portable toilets as a result of the Project, nor would there be a discernible change in the number of times the service provider would need to service the Mine. The wastewater haul company would dispose of all wastewater generated by the Project at permitted facilities with sufficient capacity to handle Project-generated wastewater. The Project does not directly utilize EVMWD's sewer system and there are no components of the Project that would cause or contribute to deficient wastewater treatment capacity; therefore, no impact would occur.

Threshold f. Would the Project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Nichols Canyon Mine generates nominal amounts of solid waste under baseline conditions. The proposed Project would generate an incremental increase in solid waste volumes requiring off-site disposal due to the increased number of workers onsite (i.e., the addition of two employees). Project-generated solid waste would be conveyed to one of several landfills (El Sobrante, Badlands, or Lamb Canyon Landfills) operated or managed by the RCWMD. These existing landfills are required to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Landfills within RCWMD's jurisdiction adhere to state guidelines which specify that a minimum of 15 years of system-wide landfill capacity shall be provided. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, p. 3-16-5). Therefore, because the Project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste, and because the Project's incremental increase in solid waste generation would be negligible, impacts would be less than significant.



Threshold g. Would the Project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The Project would be required to comply with City and County waste reduction programs pursuant to the State's Integrated Waste Management Act and Chapter 14.12 of the City of Lake Elsinore Municipal Code. Project-generated solid waste would be conveyed to one of several landfills operated or managed by RCWMD. These existing landfills are required to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Compliance with federal, state, and local statutes would reduce the amount of solid waste generated by the proposed Project and diverted to landfills which in turn will aid in the extension of the life of affected disposal sites. The Project would comply with all applicable solid waste statutes and regulations; as such, impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold h. Would the Project require or result in the construction of new electrical, natural gas or telecommunication facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed Project would involve the continuation and expansion of an existing mining operation, and would not result in a substantial increase in daily operational characteristics at the site. All utilities needed to serve the Nichols Canyon Mine are currently in place. Specifically, electricity is provided to the site via private power poles from a connection near the Mine's southern boundary, and these existing power poles would not require expansion as a result of the Project. There are no other utilities needed in support of mining operations that would have the potential to cause significant environmental effects. Accordingly, no impact would occur.

4.10.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

The analysis of potential cumulative impacts to utilities and service systems is divided into four general topics of discussion by combining the Thresholds of Significance (listed above in Subsection 4.10.4) into groupings of like topics, as follows: 1) wastewater treatment; 2) water supplies and water treatment; 3) solid waste collection and disposal; and 4) utilities. For purposes of analysis herein, the Project's cumulative study area comprises all portions of the EVWMD's service area for water and wastewater services; western Riverside County for solid waste service and electrical service; and the Project's watershed for impacts due to stormwater runoff.

☐ **Wastewater Treatment (Thresholds a, b and e)**

The proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in wastewater generated from the site because there would be only a net increase of two employees with implementation of the Project. Also, under existing conditions, wastewater treatment at the Nichols Canyon Mine is handled by portable toilets, which are regularly emptied by a rental service company. Waste from these portable toilets is disposed of in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements. Because the Project does not utilize EVMWD's sewer system and because the Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand for wastewater treatment facilities, cumulatively considerable impacts due to inadequate wastewater treatment capacity would be less than significant.



☐ **Water Supplies and Water Treatment (Thresholds c and d)**

As discussed above, during the baseline period the Nichols Canyon Mine utilized approximately 64,000 gallons per day (gpd) on average, while SMP No. 2015-01 requires a net reduction in areas subject to watering for dust control purposes by approximately 45.84% as compared to baseline conditions; therefore, it can reasonably be assumed that total daily water usage at the Mine would decrease from 64,000 gpd to approximately 34,660 gpd. Additionally, the UWMP concludes that sufficient supply exists to meet the demand for projected normal year, singly-dry year, and multiple-dry-year supply through 2035. (EVMWD, 2011a, p. 10). Therefore, the Project's impacts to water supply and treatment capacity would be less than cumulatively considerable.

☐ **Solid Waste Collection and Disposal (Thresholds f and g)**

As discussed above, Project-generated solid waste would be conveyed to one of several landfills (El Sobrante, Badlands, and Lamb Canyon Landfills) operated or managed by RCWMD. With implementation of the proposed Project, there would be a nominal increase in the amount of solid waste generated on-site associated with the anticipated two new employees, but such an incremental increase would not result in inadequate capacity at any of the RCWMD landfills. Landfills within RCWMD's jurisdiction adhere to state guidelines which specify that a minimum of 15 years of system-wide landfill capacity shall be provided. Additionally, the RCWMD landfills are required to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. (Lake Elsinore, 2011b, p. 3-16-5). As such, impacts due to solid waste collection and disposal would be less-than-cumulatively considerable.

☐ **Utilities (Threshold h)**

The proposed Project would involve the continuation and expansion of an existing mining operation and would not result or require any new utility connections at the Mine. All utilities needed to serve the Nichols Canyon Mine are currently in place. As such, the proposed Project has no potential to result in a cumulatively considerable impact associated with the construction or expansion of any utilities.

4.10.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACTS BEFORE MITIGATION

Threshold a): Less-than-Significant Impact. The Project would result in only a nominal increase in demand for wastewater treatment capacity due to the addition of two new employees. Additionally, all wastewater generated on-site would be collected by a wastewater haul company that would dispose of the wastewater at a treatment plant that meets the wastewater treatment requirements of the Santa Ana RWQCB.

Threshold b): No Impact. The Project would not require the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

Threshold c): No Impact. The Project would result in a net decrease in demand for water resources, as SMP No. 2015-01 requires the use of soil binders in lieu of water trucks to meet a portion of the Mine's demands for dust suppression. Specifically, areas subject to water usage for dust control would decrease from approximately 20.33 acres to approximately 11.01 acres. Accordingly, the Project would therefore have no potential to result in or require new or expanded entitlements.



Threshold d): No Impact. The Project would result in a net decrease in demand for water on-site, and would therefore not require or result in the construction of new or expanded water treatment facilities.

Threshold e): No impact. The wastewater haul company would dispose of all wastewater generated by the Project at permitted facilities with sufficient capacity to handle Project-generated wastewater, and the Project would not result in or require expanded wastewater treatment capacity.

Threshold f): Less-than-Significant Impact. The Project would generate a nominal increase in the amount of solid waste produced on-site due to the addition of two new employees. This nominal increase in solid waste generation would not cause or substantially contribute to diminished landfill capacity.

Threshold g): Less-than-Significant Impact. The Project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste disposal, reduction, and recycling.

Threshold h): No Impact. The Project would not result in the construction of new electrical, natural gas or telecommunication facilities or expansion existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects.

4.10.7 MITIGATION

Significant impacts would not occur; therefore, mitigation is not required.