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ADDENDUM 3
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
MISSION TRAILS FRS II, PIPELINE TUNNEL, AND VENT DEMOLITION PROJECT
(SCH No. 2005041025)

Prepared for:

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SDCWA Project No.	C0603	SDCWA Project Name	Mission Trails FRS II Project
SDCWA ENV No.	E2017-02	SDCWA Contract ID/Task No.	061904/02
Associated Permits	2810-2011-001-05; TE03216A-0; SPL-2019-00526-PJB; 1600-2019-0130-R5		

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FCF	flow control facility
I-15	Interstate 15
MTRP	Mission Trails Regional Park
NCCP/HCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan
ROW	right-of-way
SDG&E	San Diego Gas & Electric
SR-52	State Route 52
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan

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1 Introduction

The San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) has undertaken a multi-component project to upgrade Pipelines 3 and 4 facilities along the Water Authority's Second San Diego Aqueduct (Second Aqueduct). The project is located in Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) in the northeastern portion of the City of San Diego, just south of State Route 52 (SR-52). The project was originally planned as featuring four main components, as analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Mission Trails FRS II, Pipeline Tunnel, and Vent Demolition Project (EIR) (SCH No. 2005041025):

1. construction of an up to 18-million-gallon, belowground flow regulatory structure (FRS II) for Pipelines 3 and 4, an aboveground access/control building, and inlet and outlet piping;
2. construction of new inlet/outlet pipeline sections (pipeline tunnels) to connect the FRS II to Pipelines 3 and 4, replacement of approximately 5,000 feet of existing Pipelines 3 and 4 with a single 96-inch welded steel pipeline, and construction of associated shafts and portals;
3. removal of existing aboveground vents and blow-off valve structures, which are generally referred to as "appurtenances," located along the affected reach of Pipelines 3 and 4 and replacement of some of the vents with smaller structures that are less visually obtrusive; and
4. construction of a stabilized crossing of the San Diego River to enable safe access for construction and maintenance vehicles working on the proposed facilities.

The Water Authority Board of Directors certified the EIR on August 24, 2006, and permits were issued for the project subsequent to EIR certification. Work began on the pipeline tunnel portion of the project in October 2008, including the new inlet/outlet pipeline construction, the new river crossing, and the pipeline interconnect reconfiguration. Work on these portions of the project was complete in 2011. Due to economic conditions at the time of implementation, related uncertainty of the scale of future demand, and shifting priority to other projects, the Water Authority decided to delay construction of the following components: FRS II reservoir, access/control building, on-site pipeline, and appurtenance demolition/replacement. The Water Authority prepared Addendum 1 to the EIR dated February 24, 2009, to document the project changes.

After several years of additional planning and analysis, the Water Authority identified a reduction in the size of the FRS II and completed final design. In July 2019, the Water Authority prepared Addendum 2 to the EIR to document minor project design refinements, including reducing the FRS II storage capacity, relocating a planned flow control facility (FCF) along the Water Authority right-of-way (ROW) in MTRP that was previously planned for location farther downstream, and installing additional electrical conduit to reach the FCF. As discussed in Addendum 2, it was determined that the project refinements would not result in new impacts or increase the severity of previously identified impacts. Construction of the remaining and modified project components began in December 2020 and is ongoing at the time of writing. Construction is expected to be complete in March 2022.

During construction of the remaining project components, the Water Authority determined that the corridor of vegetation clearing necessary to install the electrical conduit would need to be wider than was analyzed in Addendum 2, 40 feet instead of 5 feet, as a result of constructability concerns with the original narrower corridor. The Water Authority also determined the conduit alignment could be moved to the eastern side of the Second Aqueduct right-of-way (ROW) alignment instead of the western side, as previously assumed. The widened and relocated alignment are within the project's impact area assumed in the 2006 EIR, and would not result in new impacts or increase the severity of previously identified impacts.

In addition to this slight increase in conduit installation work area, compared with the area identified in Addendum 2, the Water Authority also identified a reduction in construction work area at the site of the FRS II tank installation. The northern corner of the Water Authority property previously assumed for project-related impacts in the 2006 EIR was identified for contractor avoidance due to the presence of a jurisdictional waters feature that had not been incorporated into the project's permits with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The contractor confirmed they would not need to use this area, and the project boundaries were adjusted accordingly.

These project changes do not constitute "substantial changes…which will require major revisions of the previous EIR," so the Water Authority is not required to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Government Code (California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines). Water Authority staff members have determined that an addendum to the EIR is the appropriate CEQA document to address the project changes presented by the conduit constructability refinements.

2 Project Changes, Changed Circumstance, or New Information

2.1 Previously Approved Project

The Mission Trails FRS II and FCF project is located along a segment of the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct within the northwestern portion of MTRP, just east of the City of San Diego community of Tierrasanta. SR-52 is just north of the northern project boundary and Mission Gorge Road forms the southern project boundary. Interstate 15 (I-15) is 2.8 miles to the west.

With the exception of the electrical conduit intended to provide power to the FRS II and FCF, components of the Mission Trails FRS II, Pipeline Tunnel, and Vent Demolition Project discussed in Addendum 1 and Addendum 2 are unchanged since preparation of Addendum 2, and are not further discussed in this addendum. Details related to the previously proposed conduit and associated construction is provided below. As documented in Addendum 2, electrical conduit would be installed from existing San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) facilities at the northeast terminus of Corte Playa Catalina running to the existing FRS I, and a new line would be installed from the SDG&E connection to the FRS II and farther south to the FCF. Conduit would be installed within the Second Aqueduct right-of-way (ROW), except for the SDG&E connection in the north which would extend a very short segment beyond the ROW and in the public pedestrian entrances to MTRP at the end of Corte Playa Catalina.

Electrical conduit was planned to be installed by excavating trenches approximately 16 inches wide and 30 inches deep, generally running within the western edge of the Second Aqueduct ROW. Following construction, the trenches would be backfilled, and the disturbed areas would be returned to their original conditions. A 5-foot-wide work area corridor was identified for contractor installation of the conduit. As with the rest of the project, cleared area would be restored with native habitat by application of hydroseed, pursuant to requirement of the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP).

2.2 Project Changes

The Water Authority plans to proceed with implementing the electrical conduit as analyzed in the EIR and Addendum 1, but with an increase in width from 5 feet to 40 feet, and a shift in the alignment toward the east. These changes are addressed in this Addendum (Addendum 3) to the 2006 EIR. This revised component of the project is referred to in this Addendum as the "modified conduit alignment." The effects of the proposed changes on the impacts identified for the project in the EIR, Addendum 1, and Addendum 2 are discussed below in Section 3, Environmental Assessment, of this Addendum. The proposed changes occur within the project's impact area considered in the 2006 EIR, and would not result in new impacts or substantially increase the severity of any previously identified impacts. Figure 1, Modified Project Impacts, depicts the modified conduit location and associated temporary work area corridor.

Same as described in Addendum 2, underground electrical conduit would still be installed from the existing SDG&E facilities at the northeast terminus of Corte Playa Catalina running to the existing FRS I, from FRS I to the FRS II,

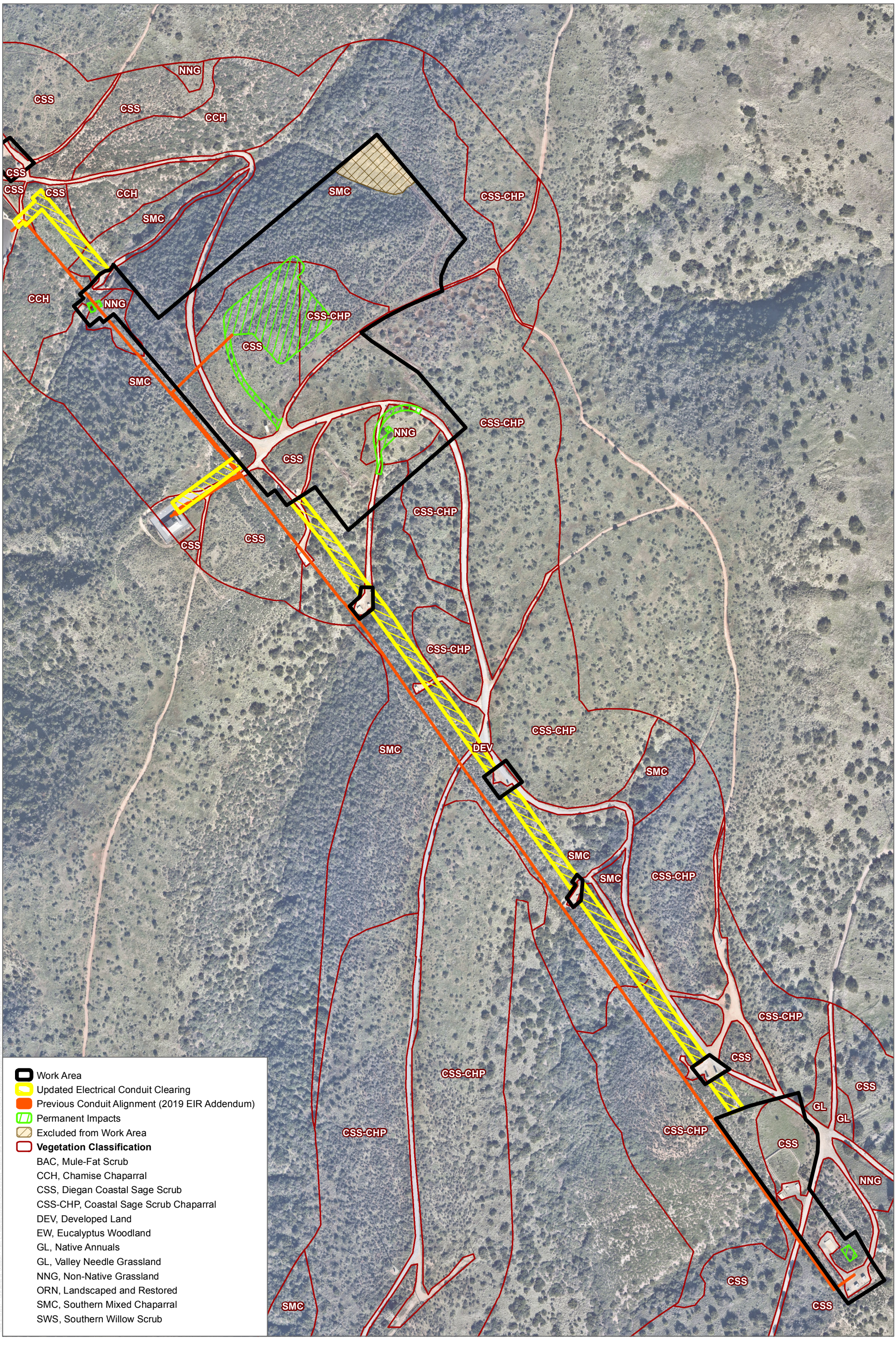
and from FRS I south to the FCF. Conduit would also remain located entirely within the Second Aqueduct right-of-way, except for the SDG&E connection in the north, as previously proposed and discussed.

Electrical conduit installation would entail clearing and grubbing the linear conduit work area corridor, followed by excavating trenches approximately 16 inches wide and 30 inches deep to house the conduit duct bank. The conduit alignment is now planned to be shifted to the eastern edge of the Second Aqueduct ROW instead of being installed on the western edge as analyzed in Addendum 2. As previously assumed, trenches would be backfilled following completion of installation, the disturbed areas would be returned to their original conditions, including native habitat restoration pursuant to the Water Authority's NCCP/HCP. The wider corridor resulted in adding approximately 1.98 acres that was not assumed in Addendum 2, but was part of the impact area assumed in the 2006 EIR.

During initial vegetation clearing and fence installation at the main FRS II tank site in January 2020, project biologists identified a narrow drainage located at the northern corner of the site that was within the previously approved work area but was not addressed in the permits obtained by the Water Authority for project-related impacts on jurisdictional waters. The drainage is located at the bottom of steep and densely vegetated slopes, which the Water Authority's construction contractor confirmed could be excluded from their work area for excavating and constructing the FRS II tank. As a result, the project's work area was revised to exclude approximately 0.57 acres in this location, as shown in Figure 1. Considering this reduction with the additional acreage from the wider conduit area, the project's total temporary impact area increased by approximately 1.41 acres.

2.3 Standard Specifications, Project Design Features, and Mitigation Measures

The measures included in the EIR and updated in Addendum 2 would apply to the modified conduit. There are no changes to these measures included in this addendum.



SOURCE: SanGIS 2019; AECOM 2019

DUDEK

0 140 280 Feet

FIGURE 1

Modified Project Impacts

Mission Trails FRS II EIR Addendum 3

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3 Environmental Assessment

This section presents a discussion of how the proposed minor changes to the conduit affect the analysis and impact conclusions of the environmental issues analyzed in the EIR and addenda.

3.1 Land Use

The modified conduit alignment would remain within the Water Authority ROW, as previously proposed, in an area that was considered for project impacts in the 2006 EIR. Therefore, there would be no additional or changed impacts to the project's consistency with the Tierrasanta Community Plan, the MTRP Master Plan, or the Water Authority's Master Plan. The project changes would not result in any considerable changes to land use impacts compared with those described in the EIR.

3.2 Aesthetics/Visual Quality

The wider conduit alignment would result in a limited increase in the amount of cleared vegetation visible to park users from certain vantage points in MTRP compared to what was anticipated in Addendum 2, but not to the extent that it would result in new significant impacts pursuant to CEQA. The modified conduit alignment is within the area anticipated for project-related impacts in the 2006 EIR. Avoiding vegetation clearing and construction activity in the northern corner of the FRS II tank site would result in a beneficial change to the temporary visual quality in that part of MTRP. The project changes would not result in any considerable changes to aesthetics/visual quality impacts compared with those described in the EIR.

3.3 Traffic/Circulation

The modified conduit alignment would have no bearing on environmental impact analysis and conclusions of the 2006 EIR or Addendum 2 with respect to traffic/circulation.

3.4 Air Quality

The wider conduit alignment would require a slight increase in construction equipment operation during vegetation clearing and hydroseed application compared with what was anticipated in Addendum 2. This would in turn result in a slight increase in temporary emission of air pollutants compared with what was analyzed in Addendum 2, which would also be balanced out by a reduction due to not operating equipment to clear the northern corner of the FRS II tank site. The resulting change would not result in a new significant impact pursuant to CEQA.

3.5 Noise and Vibration

The wider conduit alignment would require a slight increase in construction equipment operation during vegetation clearing and hydroseed application compared with what was anticipated in Addendum 2. This would in turn result in a slight increase in temporary noise generation compared with what was analyzed in Addendum 2, which would

also be balanced out by a reduction due to not operating equipment to clear the northern corner of the FRS II tank site. The resulting change would not result in a new significant impact pursuant to CEQA.

3.6 Recreation

The modified conduit alignment would have no bearing on environmental impact analysis and conclusions of the 2006 EIR or Addendum 2 with respect to recreation. As with the previously anticipated conduit alignment, much of the modified conduit alignment is located adjacent to or overlapping with Water Authority access roads that are also used as recreational trails. These trails are closed during construction, so the change in work would have no effect on availability of trails to the public. The northern corner of the FRS II tank site is in an area of MTRP that is not accessible to the public, so that change would also have no effect on park use. The project changes would not result in a new significant impact pursuant to CEQA.

3.7 Water Resources

The modified conduit alignment would not result in any new impacts on water resources. As with the rest of the project, the vegetation clearing and conduit installation is required to comply with the General Construction Stormwater Permit and provisions of the project-specific stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) prepared by the Water Authority's contractor. The modified conduit alignment was moved to the west in part to reduce or prevent new impacts on a streams crossed by the aqueduct ROW, as incorporated into the project's waters permits, and the change in configuration of the FRS II tank site work area was made with the express intent of avoiding an impact on the on-site drainage identified at the start of the project. The project changes would not result in a new significant impact pursuant to CEQA.

3.8 Biological Resources

The modified conduit alignment would entail a slight increase in vegetation clearing compared with what was anticipated in Addendum 2, but in an area that was included in impact assumptions in the 2006 EIR. This would be balanced by avoiding vegetation clearing in the northern corner of the FRS II tank site, which was also anticipated for impacts in the 2006 EIR. Overall, temporary impacts would increase slightly compared with Addendum 2, as shown in Table 1. Temporary impacts on chamise chaparral (granitic) and non-native grassland are anticipated to reduce slightly because of shifting the conduit alignment toward the east; impacts on other vegetation communities would increase, with the greatest increase being to Tier III southern mixed chaparral. Overall the project's temporary impacts would increase by 1.41, including 1.31 acres of native habitat and 0.10 acre of urban/developed land cover. The changes in the project would not result in any change to the project's permanent impacts on vegetation communities.

Table 1. One-Time Temporary Impacts on Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Vegetation Community and Land Cover Types	NCCP/HCP Tier	Total Temporary Impacts (acres)	Change in Total Temporary Impacts (acres)[1]
Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub	II	4.95	+0.18
Coastal Sage-Scrub Chaparral	II	3.71	+0.30
Mule-Fat Scrub	II	0.01	—
Chamise Chaparral (Granitic)	III	0.09	-0.02
Southern Mixed Chaparral	III	9.01	+0.87
Non-Native Grassland	III	1.45	-0.01
Urban/Developed	IV	3.85	+0.10
Total		**23.13**	**+1.41**

Notes: NCCP/HCP = Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan.
[1] Change compares revised project and analysis presented in Addendum 2.

All impacts are subject to compliance with the NCCP/HCP, including conducting pre-activity surveys, monitoring vegetation clearing, and restoring native habitat at the completion of the project. The project changes would not result in new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts with respect to biological resources.

3.9 Cultural Resources

The modified project components addressed in this addendum are not located near cultural resources identified in the 2006 EIR. The project changes would not result in new significant impacts or increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts with respect to cultural resources.

3.10 Geology and Soils

The revised conduit alignment is located overtop of Pipeline 3, in an area that was previous trenched and backfilled for installation of that pipeline. The project changes would not result in new significant impacts with respect to geology and soils.

3.11 Paleontological Resources

The revised conduit alignment is located overtop of Pipeline 3, in an area that was previous trenched and backfilled for installation of that pipeline. The project changes would not result in new significant impacts with respect to paleontological resources.

3.12 Public Safety and Hazardous Materials

The changes in the project would have no bearing on public safety and hazardous materials analysis or conclusions in the 2006 EIR or Addendum 3.

3.13 Utilities and Public Services

The changes in the project would have no bearing on utilities and public services analysis or conclusions in the 2006 EIR or Addendum 3.

3.14 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

See discussion above in Section 3.4, Air Quality. The changes in the project would have a similar effect relative to greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in a very slight increase of temporary emissions but not to the extent that the project would result in a new significant impact.

4 Findings

		Yes	No
A.	Do the project changes, changes in circumstances and/or new information considered fall within a CEQA exemption and/or NEPA exclusion? (If [ ] yes, set forth the exemption(s) and/or exclusion(s) below.)	☐	☒
For all of the project changes, changes in circumstances, and/or new information that are not covered by an exemption or exclusion, complete the following based upon the factual information set forth above:		☐	☐
B.	If your assessment included review of project changes or changes in circumstances under which the project will be undertaken, complete the following:	☐	☐
B-1	Is the project change or change in circumstance substantial?	☐	☒
B-2	Does the project change or change in circumstance involve new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects?	☐	☒
B-3	Will the project change or change in circumstance require major revisions to the project EIR due to new or more severe impacts identified in Paragraph B.2 above?	☐	☒
C.	If your assessment involved evaluation of new information (i.e., facts, calculations, study results, laws, regulations, etc. that were unknown or unavailable at the time the project EIR was certified and approved), complete the following:	☐	☐
C-1	Does the new information reveal significant effects not discussed in the project EIR?	☐	☒
C-2	Does the new information reveal that significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the project EIR?	☐	☒
C-3	Does the new information reveal that mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project?	☐	☒
C-4	Does the new information reveal that mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR and that substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment?	☐	☒
D.	For all project changes, changes m circumstances, and new information considered, complete the following:	☐	☐
D-1	Are there other project changes, changes in circumstances under which the project will be undertaken, or new information not included in this assessment that concern the project components or resources considered in this assessment? *(If the answer is yes, describe the other project changes, changes in circumstances and/or new information below.)*	☐	☒
D-2	If the answer to the question above was "yes", when considered in conjunction with other project changes, changes in circumstances under which the project will be undertaken and new information, does the information considered in this assessment reveal cumulatively significant impacts or impacts substantially more severe than those considered in the project EIR?	☐	☒

_____
Signature

August 24, 2006
Date of Final EIR Certification

Kelley Gage
Director of Water Resources
San Diego County Water Authority

February 16, 2021
Date of EIR Addendum

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5 Determination Regarding Further Environmental Review

The Water Authority's decision to prepare this Addendum to the Mission Trails FRS II, Pipeline Tunnel, and Vent Demolition Project EIR is made pursuant to Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, which "provides clear authority for an addendum as a way of making minor corrections in EIRs and negative declarations without recirculating the EIR or negative declaration." Specifically, CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (a) states:

> The lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

The modified conduit would not result in the need for substantial changes to the EIR, as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (a); therefore, this Addendum is the proper procedure for documenting these changes and achieving CEQA compliance for the changes in the project.

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