1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for the Desert Valley Company Monofill Expansion Project, Cell 4; located in Brawley, California. This document analyzes the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the project (including direct and indirect impacts, secondary impacts, and cumulative effects).

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Environmental Impact Report

This Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department (ICPDSD), with the County of Imperial (County) acting as the lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15050 and 15367, to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed Desert Valley Company Monofill Expansion Project, Cell 4.

An EIR is a public informational document used in the planning and decision-making process. The purpose of the EIR is to demonstrate that the County has made a good faith effort at disclosing the potential for the project to result in significant impacts to the physical environment. As such, the EIR does not consider potential fiscal impacts, cost-benefit assessment, or social impacts. Nor does the EIR present recommendations to the decision-making bodies for approval or denial of the project based on the environmental findings. Rather, the EIR is intended to provide additional information about the project when, if, and at which time it is reviewed and considered by the County in its discretionary decision-making.

This EIR provides decision-makers, public agencies, and the public in general with detailed information about the potential significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed Desert Valley Company Monofill Expansion Project, Cell 4. By recognizing the environmental impacts of the proposed project, decisionmakers will have a better understanding of the physical and environmental changes that would accompany the project should it be approved. The EIR includes recommended mitigation measures which, when implemented, would provide the lead agency with ways to substantially lessen or avoid significant effects of the project on the environment, whenever feasible. Alternatives to the proposed project are presented to evaluate alternative development scenarios that can further reduce or avoid significant impacts associated with the project.

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the County prepared and distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed project that was circulated for public review on December 26, 2019. The NOP comment period is intended to notify responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the public that the County, acting as the lead agency, was going to prepare an EIR. The scope of the analysis for this EIR was determined by the County as a result of initial project review and consideration of agency and public comments received in response to the NOP. A copy of the NOP and comments received during the public comment period are included in Appendix A-1 to this EIR.

The County will consider the information in the EIR, public and agency comments on the EIR, and testimony at public hearings in their decision-making process. As a legislative action, the final decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny the proposed project is made by the Board of Supervisors. Other discretionary actions, approvals and permits are described in Chapter 4.0, Project Description.

1.2. Project Location and Setting

The Project site is located at 3301 West Highway 86 in the city of Brawley in Imperial County (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 019-100-004-001). Imperial County is bordered on the north by Riverside County, the west by San Diego County, the east by the Arizona border, and the south by the United States/Mexican border. The proposed project site for Cell 4 is located immediately adjacent the existing DVM to the west. The existing Desert Valley Company Monofill facilities are located on 181.5 acres of land, near the southwest corner of the Salton Sea, southwest of Highway 86 and northwest of the cities of Westmorland and Brawley. The Project site is similar to the existing DVM. The site and surrounding areas contain limited man-made disturbances, such as the Kane Springs Jeep Trail, which crosses Section 29 northeast of Section 33, and a power transmission line and maintenance road crossing Sections 27, 28 and 34, less than a mile from Section 33. No other man-made features are evident in the immediately adjacent sections to the existing DVM or future Cell 4 expansion site. The most significant development in the area is State Route 86, which is located to the north and east of the facility.

1.3. Project Objectives

Specific objectives developed for the Project are as follows:

- Maintain and expand cost-effective disposal for Cal Energy's geothermal facility operations beyond 2025;
- Minimize haul distances for waste collection vehicles to reduce traffic, air quality, energy, and climate change impacts by providing up to 2.6 million cubic yards of additional waste disposal capacity at the Desert Valley Company Monofill;
- Utilize existing disposal facilities to minimize land use conflicts and impacts to the environment;
- Minimize the negative impacts of solid waste disposal at the expanded monofill through an environmentally sound operation that incorporates modern engineering and design techniques.

1.4. Project Synopsis

The Desert Valley Company Monofill (DVCM or Monofill) is an active Class II Solid Waste Management Facility used for the disposal of certain geothermal non-hazardous waste streams and byproducts generated by CalEnergy Operating Corporation's (CalEnergy) geothermal power plant operations in Imperial County, California. The Desert Valley Company Monofill facilities are

located on 181.5 acres of private land at 3301 West State Route 86 in Brawley, near the southwest corner of the Salton Sea, southwest of Highway 86 and northwest of the cities of Westmorland and Brawley. The Monofill is permitted under Solid Waste Facility (SWF) Permit No. 13-AA-0022 [(1)]; Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 05-0020 [(2)]; and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) R7-2016-0016 [(3)].

The Project proposes the expansion of the existing Monofill with the addition of a new waste storage Cell 4 and associated facilities. No change in the daily (750 tons per day) volumes of waste accepted at the facility, as identified in the SWF permit, is proposed; however, the location of the disposal cells and length of the disposal period would be extended to account for the estimated lifespan of the proposed Cell 4. The existing monofill is projected to reach capacity in 2025. The proposed expansion would increase the disposal capacity of the monofill by 2.6 million cubic yards (CY) and extend its operational life to approximately 2080.

In addition to modifications of the above referenced permits, the Project also requires an Imperial County General Plan Amendment and Zoning Change at the Project site to change the General Plan land use designation of Recreation/Open Space to Special Purpose Facility (SPF) and change the current S-2 (Open Space/Preservation) Zoning to M-2 (Medium Industrial) zoning. Additionally, a new water well CUP would also be required to provide a new groundwater well for use during construction and operation of the expansion and for the capping and closure of existing Cell 3. No modification to the daily or annual volumes of waste accepted at the facility, as identified in the solid waste facility permit, is proposed; however, the location of the disposal site and length of the disposal period would be extended to account for the estimated lifespan of the proposed Cell 4.

1.5. Summary of Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Based on the analysis contained in Chapter 5 of this EIR, the proposed Desert Valley Monofil Expansion, Cell 4 Project would result in the potential for significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, hydrology and water quality, and tribal cultural resources. Mitigation measures have been identified which would reduce impacts to all resources to below a level of significance.

Table 1-1 summarizes the potential environmental impacts of the Desert Valley Monofil Expansion, Cell 4 Project by impact area. It also provides a summary of the mitigation measures proposed to avoid or reduce significant adverse impacts and the level of significance after mitigation.

[1] Issued by the Imperial County Public Health Department, Division of Environmental Health (DEH) in 2020 (as modified). DEH is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for the California Dept. of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

[2] Issued by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department in December 2005 (as modified).

[3] Issued the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region 7 (as modified).

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
5.1 Air Quality			
Impact 5.1-1: Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.	Less than Significant.	**MM AQ-1: Prepare and Implement Dust Control Plan** Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant shall be required to submit a Dust Control Plan to the ICAPCD for approval. The Dust Control Plan will identify all sources of PM10 emissions and associated mitigation measures during the construction and operational phases (see Rule 801 F.2). The Applicant shall submit a "Construction Notification Form" to the ICAPCD 10 days prior to the commencement of any earthmoving activity. The Dust Control Plan submitted to the ICAPCD shall meet all applicable requirements for control of fugitive dust emissions, including the following measures designed to achieve the no greater than 20-percent opacity performance standard for dust control and address the following parameters: • All disturbed areas, including bulk material storage that is not being actively used, shall be effectively stabilized; and visible emissions shall be limited to no greater than 20-percent opacity for dust emissions by using water, chemical stabilizers, dust suppressants, tarps or other suitable material, such as vegetative groundcover. Bulk material is defined as earth, rock, silt, sediment, and other organic and/or inorganic material consisting of or containing particulate matter with 5 percent or greater silt content. For modeling purposes, it was assumed that watering would occur twice daily. • All on-site unpaved roads segments or areas used for hauling materials shall be effectively stabilized. Visible emissions shall be limited to no greater than 20 percent opacity for dust	Less than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		emissions by restricting vehicle access, paving, application of chemical stabilizers, dust suppressants and/or watering. • The transport of bulk materials on public roads shall be completely covered, unless 6 inches of freeboard space from the top of the container is maintained with no spillage and loss of bulk material. In addition, the cargo compartment of all haul trucks shall be cleaned and/or washed at the delivery site after removal of bulk material, prior to using the trucks to haul material on public roadways. • All track-out or carry-out on paved public roads, which includes bulk materials that adhere to the exterior surfaces of motor vehicles and/or equipment (including tires) that may then fall onto the pavement, shall be cleaned at the end of each workday or immediately when mud or dirt extends a cumulative distance of 50 linear feet or more onto a paved road within an urban area. • Movement of bulk material handling or transfer shall be stabilized prior to handling or at points of transfer with application of sufficient water, chemical stabilizers, or by sheltering or enclosing the operation and transfer line except where such material or activity is exempted from stabilization by the rules of ICAPCD. **MM AQ-2: NOx Emission Controls** The Applicant shall implement all applicable standard measures for construction combustion equipment for the reduction of excess NOx emissions as contained in the Imperial County CEQA Air Quality Handbook and associated regulations. These measures include:	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Use alternative-fueled or catalyst-equipped diesel construction equipment, including all off-road and portable diesel-powered equipment. • Minimize idling time, either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to five minutes at a maximum. • Limit the hours of operation of heavy-duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use. Replace fossil-fueled equipment with electrically driven equivalents (assuming powered by a portable generator set and are available, cost effective, and capable of performing the task in an effective, timely manner). • Curtail construction during periods of high ambient 1 pollutant concentrations; this may include ceasing construction activity during the peak hour of vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways. • Implement activity management (e.g., rescheduling activities to avoid overlap of construction phases, which would reduce short-term impacts).	
Impact 5.1-2: Cumulatively considerable net increase of 1 any criteria pollutant.	Potentially Significant.	**MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-2**	Less than Significant.
Impact 5.1-3: Other emissions, such as odors that adversely affect a substantial number of people.	Less than Significant.	None.	Less than Significant.
Impact 5.1-4: Exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.	Less than Significant.	None.	Less than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
5.2 Biological Resources			
Impact 5.2-1: Substantial effect on candidate, sensitive, or special status species.	Potentially Significant.	**MM BIO-1a: Mitigation of Impacts to flat-tailed horned lizards, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and their habitat.** Prior to the initiation of any ground disturbances and the issuance of grading permits for Cells 4A or 4B, a Capture/Relocation Plan for flat-tailed horned lizard shall be prepared by a qualified biologist. The plan shall include preconstruction survey and monitoring methods, capture and relocation methods, and suitable relocation areas. The plan may include additional protection measures during construction including: • Creating areas of land or small paths/culverts between project facilities for wildlife movement, • Installing silt fencing around work areas to prevent migration of adjacent wildlife into impact areas, • Installing pitfall traps in spring/summer/fall to trap any individuals that remain on the site for removal from work areas), and/or • Biological monitoring during construction to inspect fencing and pitfall traps and relocate wildlife species out of harm's way, if required The plan shall be approved by CDFW and the County of Imperial (or an agency delegated to oversee this program). Prior to Construction, a Capture/Relocation Plan for Palm Springs pocket mouse shall be prepared by a qualified biologist. The plan shall include preconstruction survey and monitoring methods, capture methods, and suitable relocation areas. The plan may include additional protection measures during construction including:	Less than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Creating areas of land or small paths/culverts between project facilities for wildlife movement, • Installing silt fencing around work areas to prevent migration of adjacent wildlife into impact areas, • Implementing vegetation removal and initial ground disturbance activities between September and December if possible, avoiding the peak breeding season (March to May), and limiting activity as much as possible during the rest of the breeding season (January to February and June to August) to allow dispersing juveniles to potentially move out of the impact area, and/or biological monitoring during construction to inspect fencing, if required. • The plan shall be approved by CDFW and the County of Imperial (or an agency delegated by the department to oversee this program). An environmental training program shall be developed and presented to all crew members prior to the beginning of all project construction. (See MM BIO-5) A biological monitor shall be present prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities to demark limit of disturbance boundaries. Flagging and/or staking will be used to clearly define the work area boundaries and avoid impacts to adjacent native communities. The biological monitor will conduct preconstruction sweeps and inspect compliance with project measures. If a sensitive species is found, the species shall be relocated out of harm's way according to the capture/ relocation plan. Any mortalities shall be reported to the agencies and County of Imperial. A final monitoring report will be submitted to CDFW and	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		County of Imperial. The annual report shall include a summary of preconstruction surveys, measures were effective. A qualified biologist shall work with construction crews to determine access routes that will avoid native habitat and burrows as much as feasible. Furthermore, during construction activities, the biological monitor shall ensure that connected, native habitat with sandy soils are avoided and remain intact to the greatest extent possible. If vegetation removal cannot be avoided, clearing of habitat shall be avoided during the peak breeding season (March to May), and activity shall be limited as much as possible during the rest of the breeding season (January to February and June to 10 August). **MM BIO-1b Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Surveys** While the 2019 Burrowing Owl Survey concluded that this species is absent from the project area, given the phased approach for construction of Cells 4A and 4B, Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Surveys will be required. Pre-construction focused surveys for the burrowing owl shall be conducted, pursuant to the CDFW 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (Staff Report), no less than 3 days prior to the start of initial ground disturbing activities for Cells 4A and Cell 4B, respectively, to ensure no portion of the construction footprint is being utilized by western burrowing owls. The survey shall be conducted by an experienced and qualified biologist, knowledgeable with the species. In conformance with federal and State regulations regarding the protection of raptors, surveys for burrowing owls shall be conducted in conformance with the California Staff Report's protocols, or updated guidelines as they become available.	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		If burrowing owls are detected on site, no ground-disturbing activities will be permitted within 656 feet of an occupied burrow during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31), unless otherwise authorized by CDFW. During the nonbreeding season (September 1 to January 31), ground-disturbing work can proceed near active burrows as long as the work occurs no closer than 165 feet from the burrow. Depending on the level of disturbance, a smaller buffer may be established in consultation with CDFW. If avoidance of active burrows is infeasible during the nonbreeding season, then, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after the burrow is confirmed empty by site surveillance and/or scoping, a qualified biologist shall implement a passive relocation program in accordance with Appendix E (i.e., Example Components for Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow and Exclusion Plans) of the 2012 Staff Report. Passive relocation consists of excluding burrowing owls from occupied burrows by closing or collapsing the burrows and providing suitable artificial burrows nearby for the excluded burrowing owls. Where required buffering will not be feasible, passive relocation is an option in consultation with CDFW, but it is preferred to install appropriate artificial burrows (in accordance with the negotiated Plan) and then let the owls decide whether they would like to abandon the existing burrow. Only burrows that are in danger by construction shall be collapsed if at all possible. A Burrowing Owl Relocation Plan will be prepared and approved by CDFW prior to commencement of burrowing owl exclusion activities if this method of mitigation is required. The plan will detail the procedures of the passive relocation effort, the location of constructed	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		replacement burrows, design of replacement burrows, and post relocation monitoring requirements. **MM BIO-2: Mitigation of Impacts to Le Conte Thrasher, Nesting Birds and Breeding Birds** While the 2019 surveys concluded that Le Conte Trasher is absent from the project area, given the phased approach for construction of Cells 4A and 4B, Preconstruction Surveys will be required. Prior to onsite any site disturbance (i.e., mobilization, staging, grading or construction) the Applicant shall retain a County qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds and Le Conte Thrasher in all areas within 500 feet of construction activities to comply with CDFW Code 3503 and 3503.5 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Surveys for raptors shall be conducted for all areas from February 1 to August 15. The survey shall occur no more than 7 days prior to initiation of proposed Project activities, and any occupied passerine and/or raptor nests occurring within or adjacent to the proposed Project area shall be delineated. Additional follow-up surveys may be required by the resource agencies and the County of Imperial. If breeding birds with active nests are found prior to or during construction, a biological monitor shall establish a 300-foot buffer around the nest for ground-based construction activities (or within a buffer determined by the avian biologist). In all cases, the buffer zone shall be sufficient in size to prevent impacts to the nest and no activities will be allowed within the buffer(s) until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails.	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		Once nesting has ceased, the buffer may be removed. A nesting bird survey report shall be provided to the County of Imperial within 30 days of survey completion. If active Le Conte's Thrasher nests are located on the project site or within a 500-foot buffer, then a 500-foot no-work buffer will be established around the nest during the Le Conte's thrasher breeding season until it is no longer active. **MM BIO-3: Mitigation of Impacts to Creosote Bush Scrub, Creosote Bush – Honey Mesquite Scrub, Rigid Spineflower – Hairy Desert Sunflower Sparsely Vegetated Desert Pavement Alliance, and Riparian Habitat (Tamarisk – Honey Mesquite – Four Wing Saltbush Scrub)** Prior to construction, a qualified restoration specialist shall evaluate the habitats within the areas to be temporarily disturbed/impacted to determine if habitat restoration is possible. Habitat restoration may not be possible given prevailing winds and the potential inoculation of additional invasive species from adjacent areas. If the specialist determines restoration is possible, then a Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP) for the temporarily impacted area shall be prepared. The plan shall include sufficient detail to address all aspects of the restoration effort (further site evaluation, site preparation, planting, maintenance, and monitoring to determine success (i.e., plant survival, etc.) and additional maintenance needs. In general restoration of temporarily impacted areas involves recontouring the land, decompaction, replacing the topsoil (if collected), planting seed and/or container stock, maintaining (i.e., weeding, replacement). Locations within Section 27, adjacent to the Project site and under the	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		control of the Applicant, will be used for off-site restoration, if on-site restoration is not feasible. **MM BIO-4: Mitigation of Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters** • Permanent impacts to all jurisdictional resources shall be compensated through a combination of habitat creation (i.e., establishment), enhancement, preservation, and/or and restoration at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio or as required by the permitting agencies. Any creation, enhancement, preservation, and/or restoration effort shall be implemented pursuant to an HRP, which shall include success criteria and monitoring specifications, and shall be submitted to and reviewed/approved by the California Dept. of Fish and Game and the County of Imperial Planning and Development Services Department (permitting agencies). A habitat restoration specialist will be designated and approved by the permitting agencies and will determine the most appropriate method of restoration. • Temporarily impacted drainage features shall be recontoured to preconstruction conditions. Temporary impacts shall be restored sufficient to compensate for the impact to the satisfaction of the permitting agencies (depending on the location of the impact). If restoration of temporary impact areas is not possible to the satisfaction of the appropriate agency, the temporary impact shall be considered a permanent impact and compensated accordingly. • A biological monitor shall be present prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities to demark limit of disturbance boundaries. Flagging and/or staking will be used to clearly define the work area boundaries and avoid impacts to adjacent drainage features.	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Erosion protection and sediment control BMPs would be implemented in compliance with the General Construction General Permit and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). • Graded areas would be stabilized to promote infiltration and reduce run-off potential. • Any excess soil would be spread on site outside of jurisdictional drainages. **MM BIO-5: Prepare and Implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).** The Applicant shall prepare and implement a project-specific Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) to educate on-site workers about the Proposed Project's sensitive environmental issues. The WEAP shall be presented by the lead biologist or a biological monitor to all personnel on-site during the construction phase(s). If the WEAP presentation is recorded on video, it may be presented by any competent project personnel. Throughout the duration of construction, the Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all on-site project personnel receive this training prior to beginning work. A construction worker may work in the field along with a WEAP-trained crew for up to 5 days prior to attending the WEAP training. The Applicant shall maintain a list of all personnel who have completed the WEAP training. This list shall be provided to the County ICPDSD personnel upon request. The WEAP shall consist of a training presentation, with supporting written materials provided to all participants. At least 60 days prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities, the Applicant shall submit the WEAP presentation and associated materials to the County	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		ICPDSD for review and approval in consultation with the USFWS and CDFW. The WEAP training shall include, at minimum: • Overview of the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the consequences of non-compliance with these acts. • Overview of the project mitigation and biological permit requirements, and the consequences of non-compliance with these requirements. • Sensitive biological resources on the project site and adjacent areas, including nesting birds, special-status plants and wildlife and sensitive habitats known or likely to occur on the project site, project requirements for protecting these resources, and the consequences of non-compliance. • Construction restrictions such as limited operating periods, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), and buffers and associated restrictions, and other restrictions such as no grading areas, flagging or signage designations, and consequences of non-compliance. • Avoidance of invasive weed introductions onto the project site and surrounding areas, and description of the project's weed control plan and associated compliance requirements for workers on the site. • Function, responsibilities, and authority of biological and environmental monitors and how they interact with construction crews.	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Requirement to remain within authorized work areas and on approved roads, with examples of the flagging and signage used to designate these areas and roads, and the consequences of non-compliance. • Procedure for obtaining clearance from a biological monitor to enter a work site and begin work (including moving equipment), and the requirement to wait for that clearance. • Nest buffers and associated restrictions and the consequences of non-compliance. Procedure and time frame for halting work and removing equipment when a new buffer is established. Discussion of nest deterrents. • Explanation that wildlife must not be harmed or harassed. What to do and who to contact if dead, injured, or entrapped animals are encountered. • General safety protocols such as hazardous substance spill prevention, containment, and cleanup measures; fire prevention and protection measures; designated smoking areas (if any) and cigarette disposal; safety hazards that may be caused by plants and animals. • Project requirements that have resulted in repeated compliance issues on other recent transmission line projects, such as dust control, speed limits, track out (dirt or mud tracked from access roads or work sites onto paved public roads or other areas), personal protective equipment (PPE), work hours, working prior to clearance, and waste containment and disposal.	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Printed training materials, including photographs and brief descriptions of all special status plants and animals that may be encountered on the project, including behavior, ecology, sensitivity to human activities, legal protection, penalties for violations, reporting requirements, and protection measures • Contact information for construction management, and contractor environmental personnel, and who to contact with questions. • Training acknowledgment form to be signed by each worker indicating that they understand and will abide by the guidelines, and a hardhat sticker so WEAP attendance may be easily verified in the field. **WEAP Lite.** An abbreviated version of WEAP training ("WEAP lite") may be used for individuals who are exclusively delivery drivers or visitors to the project site, and will be provided by a qualified project biologist, biological monitor, or environmental field staff prior to those individuals entering or working on the project. Short-term visitors (total of 5 days or less per year) to the project site who will be riding with and in the company of WEAP-trained project personnel for the entire duration of their visit(s) are not required to attend WEAP or WEAP lite training. WEAP lite presentations shall be tailored to delivery/concrete truck drivers and visitors as well as the situation and emphasize project requirements that are relevant to those individuals and that situation.	

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Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		WEAP Refreshers. Biological monitors or environmental field staff will periodically present brief WEAP refresher presentations at tailboards to help construction crews and other personnel maintain awareness of environmental sensitivities and requirements. A 5- to 10-minute informal talk will be presented at each of the project's main contractor/ subcontractor tailboards at least once a week. When a contractor or subcontractor resumes work after a long break, a biological monitor or environmental field staff will provide an extended WEAP refresher presentation (10-20 minutes) at each of the contractor/subcontractor tailboards on the first day back to work.	
Impact 5.2-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	Potentially Significant.	**MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-5.**	Less than Significant.
Impact 5.2-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.	Potentially Significant.	**MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-5.**	Less than Significant.
Impact 5.2-4: Interfere substantially with movement of any native resident or migratory fish / wildlife species, wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.	No impact.	**None.**	No Impact.

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Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Impact 5.2-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.	Potentially Significant.	**MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-5.**	Less than Significant.
5.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Impact 5.3-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.	Potentially Significant.	**MM CUL-1: Cultural Resources Construction Monitor** A cultural resources monitor shall be present during all initial excavation or other earth-moving activities associated with construction of Cell 4A and Cell 4B and ancillary improvements. The monitoring shall consist of the full-time presence of a Qualified Archaeologist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualifications Standards as an archaeologist and a TCA (traditionally and culturally affiliated) Native American Monitor. The Applicant shall immediately notify the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department if any undocumented and/or buried prehistoric or historic resource is uncovered. All construction must stop in the vicinity of the find until the find can be evaluated for its eligibility for listing in the CRHR. The cultural resources monitor shall have the authority to halt construction activity in the immediate vicinity of the encountered historic resource for a sufficient interval of time to allow avoidance or recovery of the encountered historic resources and shall also have the authority to redirect construction equipment in the event that any cultural resource is inadvertently encountered. All cultural resources are assumed to be eligible for the CRHR until determined otherwise by the monitor. Work will not resume in the area of the discovery until authorized by the monitor.	No Impact.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		MM CUL-2: Delineate Environmentally Sensitive Areas Prior to the construction permit issuance, the Applicant shall delineate on a confidential copy of project plans provided to the County, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). ESAs will encompass the site boundary of two sites deemed significant under CEQA (CA-IMP-6141 and CA-IMP-6145) plus a 200-foot buffer around the site(s). ESAs shall be staked and/or flagged in a conspicuous manner. To ensure the integrity of these areas from unauthorized disturbance or collection, the delineated areas shall not be labeled with regard to the specific type of cultural resource identified as sensitive. Spot checking by a qualified archaeologist shall be completed throughout construction to ensure ESAs are not entered. If it is necessary for the Project to encroach on any ESA, full time monitoring by a qualified archaeologist, who is approved by the County, will be required to ensure there are no impacts to the archaeological site. If avoidance is not an option, then a data recovery program shall be undertaken.	
		MM CUL-3: Data Recovery Program The Project was designed to avoid and preserve archaeological resources in place where possible. Where avoidance and preservation is not possible, data recovery shall occur. Prior to excavation, a data recovery plan must be prepared that makes provision for adequately recovering the scientifically consequential information from and about the historical resource. Data recovery includes the documentation, recordation, and removal of the archeological deposit from a project site in a manner consistent with professional (and regulatory) standards. It also includes the subsequent inventorying,	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		cataloguing, analysis, identification, dating, interpretation of the artifacts and "ecofacts" & the production of a report of findings.	
Impact 5.3-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.	Potentially Significant.	**MM CUL-1, CUL-2, and CUL-3**	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.3-3: Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.	Potentially Significant.	**MM CUL-4: Unanticipated Discovery – Human Remains** In the event that evidence of human remains is discovered during construction, construction activities within 200 feet of the discovery will be halted or diverted and the Imperial County Coroner will be notified (Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will designate a most likely descendant (MLD) for the project (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD then has 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains (AB 2641). If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (Section 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641).	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
5.4 Geology and Soils			
Impact 5.4-1: Substantial adverse effects from the rupture of a known earthquake fault.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.4-2: Substantial adverse effects from strong seismic ground shaking.	Potentially Significant.	**MM GEO-1: Reduce Effects of Groundshaking** Prior to issuance of construction permits, the design-level geotechnical investigations shall be conducted and shall include site-specific seismic analyses to evaluate ground accelerations for design of project components. Based on these findings, project structure designs shall be modified/strengthened to: • Comply with all California Code of Regulations, Title 27, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and County of Imperial standards regarding the nature, location, and construction of proposed facilities, including, but not limited to Section 20370, which requires all Class II waste disposal facilities to be designed to withstand the maximum credible earthquake (MCE) without damage to the foundation or to the structures which control leachate, surface drainage, or erosion, or gas. • Incorporate peak ground acceleration loading values of 0.905 g unless a site-specific seismic hazard analysis provides a different value of PGA or modified recommendations are provided by the geotechnical consultant. • Incorporate all measures deemed appropriate by the geotechnical engineer. Prior to the issuance of building permits, additional analysis of the project site shall be conducted to evaluate potential impacts associated with repeatable high ground acceleration, localized liquefaction potential, expansive and	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		reactive soils, and wind generated erosion. Mitigation measures derived from these analyses may include the following types of requirements: – Overexcavation of unsuitable base materials and replacement with approved and properly compacted structural fill – Use of moisture, chemical, engineering, and/or drainage methods to control expansive behavior of underlying clay soil, if appropriate – Use of non-steel or coated (usually polyethylene encasement) conduits, sulfate resistant cement, or other protective materials in areas of corrosive soils – Appropriate design of fill slopes associated with berms, storage/disposal facilities, building pads, etc., to minimize the potential for seismically-induced landsliding. This may include measures such as establishing maximum slope grades and the use of stabilizing materials or buttressing – Proper design of surface and subsurface drainage devices. Initiation of settlement monitoring if appropriate – Appropriate design, location, and construction of erosion control methods and devices – Scarification and recompaction of the native soils in all fill areas to reduce erosion potential – Identification of appropriate wind erosion mitigation measures (if necessary) such as the use of chemical or physical stabilizers, appropriate operating schedules, etc.	
Impact 5.4-3: Substantial adverse effects from seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.	Less Than Significant.	No significant effects related to liquefaction and dynamic settlement are anticipated due to the depth to groundwater and the seismicity of	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		the Salton Trough. However, in the event that localized loose granular cohesionless materials (e.g., in alluvial washes) are encountered during final design, implementation of MM-GEO-1 will reduce impacts to below a level of significance.	
Impact 5.4-4 Substantial adverse effects from landslides.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.4-5: Substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.	Potentially Significant.	**MM-GEO-1** **MM AIR-1**	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.4-6: Landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.	Less Than Significant.	**MM-GEO-1**	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.4-7: Substantial risks to life or property due to expansive soil.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.4-8: Direct or indirect destruction of a unique paleontological resource, site or unique geologic feature.	Potentially Significant.	**MM PAL-1: Retain Qualified Project Paleontologist** Prior to the start of ground disturbance for the construction of 4A and prior to the start of ground disturbance for Cell 4B, a qualified paleontologist shall be retained by the Applicant to serve as the Project Paleontologist. The qualifications of the Project Paleontologist shall be submitted to the ICPDSD for approval. This individual shall have the following qualifications: • Professional instruction in a field of paleontology relevant to the work proposed (vertebrate, invertebrate, trace, paleobotany, etc.), obtained through: • Formal education resulting in a graduate degree from an accredited institution in paleontology, or in geology, biology, botany, zoology or anthropology if the major emphasis is in paleontology; or	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Equivalent paleontological training and experience including at least 24 months under the guidance of a professional paleontologist who meets qualification; and • Demonstrated experience in collecting, analyzing, and reporting paleontological data; • Demonstrated experience in planning, equipping, staffing, organizing, and supervising crews; • Demonstrated experience in carrying paleontological projects to completion as evidenced by completion and/or publication of theses, research reports, scientific papers and similar documents. The Project Paleontologist will serve as the Principal Investigator and is responsible for the performance of all other personnel. This person is also the contact person for the Applicant and the ICPDSD. Additional Paleontological Staff – The Project Paleontologist may obtain the services of Paleontological Field Agents, Field Monitors, and Field Assistants, if needed, to assist in mitigation, monitoring, and curation activities. **MM PAL-2: Provide Paleontological Environmental Awareness Training** The Applicant will provide worker's environmental awareness training on paleontological resources protection as part of its Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) required under Mitigation Measure BIO-5 - Prepare and implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program. This training may be administered by the Project Paleontologist as a stand-alone training or included as part of the overall worker's environmental awareness training. At a minimum, the training shall include the following:	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Types of fossils that could occur at the project site; • Types of lithologies in which the fossils could be preserved; • Procedures that shall be followed in the event of a fossil discovery; and • Penalties for disturbing paleontological resources. **MM PAL-3: Prepare and Implement a Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan** Prior to the start of construction of Cell 4A, the Applicant shall submit a Paleontological Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) for the project to the ICPDSD for review and approval. The PRMMP shall be prepared and implemented during the construction of Cell 4A and Cell 4B under the direction of the Project Paleontologist and shall address and incorporate mitigation measures PAL-1, PAL¬3 and PAL-4. The PRMMP shall be based on Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) assessment and mitigation guidelines and meet all regulatory requirements. A monitoring plan indicates the avoidance or treatments recommended for the area of the proposed disturbance and must at a minimum address the following: • Identification and mapping of impact areas of high paleontological sensitivity that will be monitored during construction; • A coordination strategy to ensure that a qualified paleontologist will conduct monitoring at the appropriate locations at the appropriate intensity; • The significance criteria to be used to determine which resources will be avoided or recovered for their data potential;	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• Procedures for the discovery, recovery, preparation, and analysis of paleontological resources encountered during construction, in accordance with standards for recovery established by the SVP; • Provisions for verification that the Applicant has an agreement with a recognized museum repository for the disposition of any recovered fossils • Specifications that all paleontological work undertaken shall be carried out by qualified paleontologists; • Description of monitoring reports that will be prepared which shall include daily logs, monthly reports, and a final monitoring report with an itemized list of specimens found to be submitted to the ICPDSD, the Applicant and the designated repository within 90 days of the completion of monitoring; • The implementation sequence and the estimated time frames needed to accomplish all project-related tasks during the ground-disturbance phases; and • Person(s) expected to perform each of the tasks, and their responsibilities, shall be identified. • All impact-avoidance measures (such as flagging or fencing) to prohibit or otherwise restrict access to sensitive resource areas that are to be avoided (if any) during ground disturbance/ construction shall be described. Any areas where these measures are to be implemented shall be identified. The description shall address how these measures would be implemented prior to the start of ground disturbance and how long they would be needed to protect the resources from project-related impacts.	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		MM PAL-4: Paleontological Monitoring The Applicant shall continuously comply with the following during all ground disturbing activities during the project: • Areas within the Project work areas with high paleontological sensitivity shall be plotted on the main project map and all ground disturbing activity in these areas shall be monitored on a full-time basis by an ICPDSD approved Paleontological Field Agent who will work under the supervision of the paleontologist and principal investigator. • The level of effort and intensity for monitoring shall be modified as needed by the Project Paleontologist, based on the sediment types, depths, and distributions observed. • Project activities shall be diverted when data recovery of significant fossils is warranted, as determined by the Project Paleontologist. Monitoring shall be conducted as follows: • Monitoring of ground disturbance shall consist of the surface collection of visible vertebrate and significant invertebrate fossils within the project site. Upon discovery of paleontological resources by paleontologists or construction personnel, work in the immediate area of the find shall be halted and diverted and the Project Paleontologist shall be notified. Once the find has been inspected and a preliminary assessment has been made, the Project Paleontologist will notify the Applicant. The Applicant will notify the ICPDSD of the discovery within 24 hours. • Recovered specimens shall be prepared to a point of identification and curated into a repository with retrievable storage.	

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		• All significant fossil specimens recovered from the Project site shall be treated (prepared, identified, curated, and catalogued) in accordance with the designated repository requirements. • Samples shall be submitted to a laboratory, acceptable to the designated repository, for identification, dating, and microfossil and pollen analysis. • Upon completion of the monitoring efforts, • Within 90 days of the completion of monitoring effort(s), monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to the ICPDSD, the Applicant and the designated repository.	
5.5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
Impact 5.5-1: Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.5-2: Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
5.6 Hazards and hazardous materials			
Impact 5.5-1: Create a significant hazard through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.5-2: Create a significant hazard through release of hazardous materials into the environment.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.5-3: Located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites.	No Impact.	None.	No Impact.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Impact 5.5-4: Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
5.7 Hydrology/Water Quality			
Impact 5.7-1: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade water quality.	Potentially Significant.	**MM HWQ-1: Water Quality Monitoring for Iron** The Applicant shall monitor for iron in qualifying storm events at Cell 4 after initiation of the Project, as required under the Industrial General Permit. If iron concentrations exceed the annual numeric action level for two successive years, DVC shall implement an investigation program that consists of the following: • Analyze the stormwater samples for both total and dissolved iron. If the stormwater analysis indicates that the iron is primarily in suspended (i.e. total iron result) form, then additional BMPs shall be installed to minimize the amount of fine sediment present in the qualifying storm event samples, and the I-SWPPP shall be revised accordingly. If the stormwater analysis indicates that the iron is primarily dissolved, then DVC shall conduct the following additional testing: • Analyze soils samples for soluble iron using a deionized water leach (e.g. DI- WET). Samples shall be collected from the stormwater swale within the facility boundary, from the liner/cap material at the perimeter of Cell 4, from the stormwater diversion berm installed along the south and west sides of Cell 4, and from the waste material.	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		Based on the results of the additional testing, DVC shall propose measures to minimize stormwater contact with the specific soil or waste medium that is leaching iron. These measures may include use of a different soil material, where applicable, or covering of the source soils with soils that do not leach iron. These measures shall be submitted to the County and to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for review and approval before implementation. To assist the County in verifying compliance with Mitigation Measure H-1, the qualifying storm event sampling results shall be submitted for review to the State Water Resources Control Board's Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) and to the County Department of Environmental Health, and the Planning and Development Services Department. The actions required under this mitigation measure would be in addition to, but could supplement, any requirements for Exceedance Response Actions associated with the Industrial General Stormwater Permit (IGP).	
Impact 5.7-2: Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.7-3: Substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern which would result in:	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
a) substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; b) flooding on- or off-site; c) substantial increase of surface runoff; d) exceedance of stormwater drainage system capacity; e) impede or redirect flood flows.			
Impact 5.7-4: Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
5.8 Land Use and Planning			
Impact 5.8-1: Physically divide an established community.	No Impact.	None.	No Impact.
Impact 5.8-2: Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
5.9 Noise			
Impact 5.9-1: Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.9-2: Result in generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
5.10 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC			
Impact 5.10-1: Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.10-2: Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b).	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.10-3: Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.10-4: Result in inadequate emergency access.	No Impact.	None.	No Impact.
5.11 Tribal Cultural Resources			
Impact 5.11-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource.	Potentially Significant.	**MM CUL-1 through 4.**	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.11-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource.	Potentially Significant.	**MM CUL-1 through 4.**	Less Than Significant.
5.12 Utilities and Service Systems			
Impact 5.12-1: Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Potentially Significant.	**MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-2** **MM BIO-1 through 5** **MM CUL-1 through 4** **MM PAL-1 through 4** **MM HWQ-1**	Less Than Significant.

TABLE 1-1: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Environmental Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Impact 5.12-2: Have sufficient water supplies to serve the project.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.12-3: 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.	No Impact.	None.	No Impact.
Impact 5.12-4: Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.	Less Than Significant.	None.	Less Than Significant.
Impact 5.12-5: Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.	No Impact.	None.	No Impact.

1.6. Effects Not Found To Be Significant

Several environmental topics were found to be less than significant without mitigation including aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, energy, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and wildfires. These topics are described in Chapter 8.0, Effects Not Found to be Significant.

1.7. Areas Of Controversy

Pursuant to CEQA Section 15123(b)(2), an EIR shall identify areas of controversy known to the lead agency, including issues raised by the agencies, and the public, and issues to be resolved. The NOP for the EIR was distributed on December 26, 2019. The 35-day public review and comment period began on December 26, 2019, and a scoping meeting was held on January 9, 2020. Public comments were received on the NOP that reflect controversy on several environmental issues.

Issues of controversy raised include concerns related to hazardous materials, biological resources, and hydrology and water quality. The NOP and comment letters received are included in this EIR as Appendix A-1.

1.8. Issues to Be Resolved by the Decision-Making Body

Section 15123(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR contain issues to be resolved, which includes the choice among alternatives and whether or how to mitigate significant impacts. The following major issues are to be resolved:

- Determine whether the EIR adequately describes the environmental impacts of the proposed Project;
- Choose among the Project alternatives;
- Determine whether the recommended mitigation measures should be adopted or modified; and
- Determine whether additional mitigation measures need to be applied to the proposed Project.

1.9 Summary of Alternatives

The Alternatives section (Chapter 9.0) of this EIR focuses on alternatives capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any of the significant effects of the Project, even if the alternatives would impede, to some degree, the attainment of project objectives. This chapter also includes a discussion of alternatives which were considered but rejected, including: Modified Footprint to Avoid Cultural Impacts, Reduced Waste Generate – Operational Modifications to Geothermal Plants, and Additional Compaction to Reduce Required Footprint. These three alternatives were eliminated from further consideration due to a lack of meeting most of the project objectives and will not be discussed further here. The Alternatives section discusses the three (3) project alternatives that were determined to represent the range of reasonable alternatives to the Project that have the potential to

feasibly attain most of the basic Project objectives, but which may avoid or substantially lessen one or more the Project's significant effects. A brief summary is provided below.

1.9.1. No Project/No Expansion Alternative (Alternative 1)

Under this alternative, the Proposed Project would not occur, and the monofill would not be expanded to provide a new Cell 4. Operations of the monofill would continue as authorized under the existing conditional use permit, solid waste facility permit and waste discharge report. Permitted non-hazardous geothermal waste from CalEnergy geothermal plants would continue to be disposed of within Cell 3, until its capacity is reached in January 2025. After that Cell 3 would be closed in compliance with the Preliminary Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan. Once Cell 3 reaches capacity, the landfill cap will be installed, which will require four to six months to complete. All structures involved in the security, monitoring and maintenance and all existing environmental control (vadose zone monitoring wells, groundwater monitoring wells, ambient air monitoring stations, etc.) will remain in place during the post-closure period and will be maintained in accordance with the approved Closure Plan.

Implementation of the No Project Alternative would avoid environmental impacts to biological resources, cultural and tribal resources, geology/soils (paleontological resources); and hydrology and water quality. However, the No Project Alternative could also result in greater long-term impacts associated with air quality, GHG emissions and traffic/transportation due to the increased waste haul route which be significant impacts. The No Project Alternative would not satisfy any of the Project objectives.

1.9.2 Alternative Project Site (Section 27) (Alternative 2)

Under this alternative, the Proposed Project would be developed at an alternative site, Section 27. Section 27, a site owned by CalEnergy, was considered as an alternate candidate location for Cell 4 of the Desert Valley Company Monofill. During the siting process, both Sections 27 and 33 were screened for multiple factors, including geology, biology, drainage, cultural resources, access, groundwater, water supply, location, and operations, to assess their viability as a future landfill site. One candidate site in each Section was identified for possible development. After review, the candidate site in Section 33 was selected as the preferred location. Development of the Project in Section 27 would likely result in a greater impact on scenic views from Highway 86, increased storm runoff flow rates, higher operational costs, and would likely be classified as a new facility, requiring additional permitting. The candidate site in Section 27 is not considered a feasible alternative for development for the aesthetic, economic, and environmental reasons. Under this alternative, the Project objectives would still be met.

1.9.3 Reduced Footprint Alternative (Alternative 3)

This alternative evaluated the environmental impact of developing only half of the area of the proposed expansion. Cell 4 is proposed to be developed in two phases, as Cell 4A and Cell 4B; this alternative would allow for development, use and closure of either Cell 4A or Cell 4B, but not both.

Under Alternative 3, Reduced Footprint Alternative, the same expansion of the monofill would occur as described for the proposed Project; however, it would only include the construction of one waste disposal cell, either Cell 4A or 4B. As a result, there would be less site disturbance compared to the proposed Project. Other features of the proposed project (water use, chemical use, etc.) would be reduced proportionally. All environmental protection features described in Chapter 4.0 would be similar to those of the proposed Project. The Reduced Footprint Alternative would reduce impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, hydrology and water quality, traffic and transportation, utilities and GHGs, when compared to the proposed Project. The Reduced Project Alternative would have equivalent or no impacts associated with land use and planning and noise when compared to the proposed Project. Therefore, the Reduced Project Alternative would slightly reduce impacts in most environmental issue areas as compared to the proposed Project. The Reduced Project Alternative would meet all project objectives to a slightly lesser degree than the proposed Project. Because the alternative would be approximately half the size of the proposed Project, it would only provide half of the waste disposal capacity and therefore only half of the lifespan of the Proposed Project.

1.9.4 Environmentally Superior Alternative

Section 15126.6(e)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines states that if the No Project Alternative is the environmentally superior alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative from among the other alternatives. The context of an environmentally superior alternative is based on consideration of several factors, including the project's objectives and the ability to fulfill the goals while reducing potential impacts to the environment.

Table ES-2 summarizes the potential impacts of the alternatives evaluated as compared to the potential impacts of the Project. As shown in **ES-2**, Alternative 1 (No Project/No Expansion Alternative), would be environmentally superior to the proposed Project for 7 resource areas analyzed in the EIR. As required by CEQA, the next environmentally superior alternative is Alternative 3 (Reduced Footprint) Alternative. Therefore, Alternative 3 would be environmentally superior to the proposed Project under 3 resource areas and environmentally similar to the Project under 6 resource areas. However, Alternative 3 would not substantially lessen the significant air quality, biological, paleontological or hydrological resource effects of the Project; therefore, decision-makers are not obliged by CEQA to select this alternative.

TABLE ES-2 SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES COMPARED TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Environmental Resource	Proposed Project	No Project/ No Expansion (Alternative 1)	Alternative Project Site (Alternative 2)	Reduced Footprint Alterative (Alternative 3)
1. Air Quality	**LTS-MM**	**SI / -**	**LTS-MM / =**	**LTS-MM / -**
2. Biological Resources	**LTS-MM**	**NI / +**	**LTS-MM /+**	**LTS-MM / -**
3. Cultural Resources	**LTS-MM**	**NI / +**	**LTS-MM / =**	**LTS-MM / -**
4. Geology and Soils	**LTS-MM**	**NI / +**	**LTS-MM / =**	**LTS-MM / -**
5. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	**LTS**	**SU / -**	**LTS / =**	**LTS / -**
6. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	**LTS**	**NI / +**	**LTS / =**	**LTS / =**
7. Hydrology/Water Quality	**LTS-MM**	**NI / +**	**LTS-MM / =**	**LTS-MM / =**
8. Land Use and Planning	**LTS**	**NI / +**	**LTS / =**	**LTS / =**
9. Noise	**LTS**	**NI / +**	**LTS / =**	**LTS / =**
10. Traffic/ Transportation	**LTS**	**SU / -**	**LTS / =**	**LTS / =**
11. Tribal Cultural Resources	**LTS-MM**	**NI / +**	**LTS-MM / =**	**LTS-MM / -**
12. Utilities and Service Systems	**LTS-MM**	**NI / +**	**LTS-MM / +**	**LTS / =**
TOTALS		**+ 7 - 3 = 0**	**+ 2 - 0 = 10**	**+ 0 - 6 = 6**
Meets Most of the Basic Project Objectives?	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**

Notes:

NI	Finding of no environmental impact
LTS	Finding of less than significant environmental impact
LTS-MM	Finding of less than significant environmental impact with mitigation measure(s)
SU	Finding of significant and unmitigable impact
+	Alternative is superior (reduced impacts compared) to the proposed Project
-	Alternative is inferior (greater impacts compared) to the proposed Project
=	Alternative is environmentally similar to the proposed Project or there is not enough information to make a superior or inferior determination.