

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

(760) 375-5086

POST OFFICE BOX 1329
RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA 93556-1329

500 WEST RIDGECREST BOULEVARD
RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA 93555

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
INITIAL STUDY AND
DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
ARSENIC RULE COMPLIANCE
FOR WELLS 9A, 10, 11, AND 13 PROJECT

JANUARY 2008

Prepared by

KRIEGER & STEWART, INCORPORATED
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS
3602 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501
(951) 684-6900

SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

1/21/08



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
PART 1 - PROJECT INFORMATION	
A. INTRODUCTION.....	1
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	3
C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	6
D. LEAD AGENCY.....	7
E. AUTHORITY.....	7
F. COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA.....	8
PART 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST	
A. PROJECT INFORMATION.....	9
B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED.....	11
C. DETERMINATION.....	12
D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.....	13
E. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST.....	15
PART 3 - REFERENCES AND SOURCES.....	51
FIGURES	
FIGURE 1 PROJECT VICINITY	
FIGURE 2 PROJECT LOCATION	
APPENDIX A – DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION	

PART 1
PROJECT INFORMATION

PART 1 - PROJECT INFORMATION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Indian Wells Valley Water District

Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD) is the primary supplier of water service for domestic consumption, landscape irrigation, and fire protection for the City of Ridgecrest and surrounding areas in Kern County and San Bernardino County, California. IWWVD was formed in 1953 for the purpose of providing public potable water service to the residents of its service area.

IWWVD's service area comprises approximately 38 square miles, with a population of approximately 29,000 people. IWWVD's domestic water system consists of eleven well pumping plants, nine booster pumping plants, ten water storage reservoirs, over 1,000,000 linear feet of transmission and distribution pipelines, and approximately 11,900 service connections, and is divided into five separate pressure zones. The sole source of supply for IWWVD is ground water pumped from the Indian Wells Valley Ground Water Basin. This is the case as well for all other water users in the Indian Wells Valley, including agricultural users, industry, and the federal government.

2. Arsenic Treatment Requirements

On January 22, 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted the Arsenic and Clarifications to Compliance and New Source Monitoring Rule 66 FR 6976 (Arsenic Rule). The Arsenic Rule reduced the federal arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) from 50 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) to 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$, and required monitoring for new systems and new drinking water sources. The rule became effective on February 22, 2002, and systems under EPA's jurisdiction were required to begin compliance with the new 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$ standard by January 23, 2006, with compliance based on a running average of four quarterly samples.

In California, EPA has ceded primacy for enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act to the State, where it is administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH,

formerly the California Department of Health Services). California Health and Safety Code §116361 required that CDPH establish its own revised arsenic MCL by June 2004, which MCL may not be less stringent than that of the federal Arsenic Rule. According to Mike McKibben, CDPH Regulations Coordinator (on December 12, 2007), CDPH has proposed a revised arsenic MCL of 10 µg/L, the same as that of the federal Arsenic Rule. It is estimated that the 45-day public comment period for the revised MCL will commence during the first quarter in 2008; and that CDPH will adopt the revised MCL as early as mid-2008 to as late as 2010. In the interim, CDPH is implementing the revised federal MCL of 10 µg/L but leaving enforcement of said MCL to the US EPA. The first of the quarterly compliance samples was due by December 31, 2007. IWWWD submitted its first quarterly sampling results to CDPH on December 28, 2007.

3. IWWWD Compliance with Revised Arsenic Standard

Based on data from 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2007, four IWWWD wells exceed, or periodically exceed, the 10 µg/L standard, as follows:

Well 9A

Well 9A, with a capacity of approximately 1,300 gallons per minute (gpm), was constructed in 2003 to a depth of 796 feet. The current arsenic concentration in water produced by Well 9A has ranged between 11 and 26 µg/L. The arsenic concentration from the first quarterly sampling of Well 9A in December 2007 was 26 µg/L.

Well 10

Well 10, with a capacity of approximately 1,400 gpm, was constructed in 1974 to a depth of 800 feet. The current arsenic concentration in water produced by Well 10 has ranged between 5.8 and 24 µg/L. The arsenic concentration from the first quarterly sampling of Well 10 in December 2007 was 5.8 µg/L. Because the result was less than the MCL, IWWWD is not required to submit further arsenic sampling results for Well 10 to the CDPH for three years. Nevertheless, due to past exceedances of the MCL, Well 10 will still be included in the Project.

Well 11

Well 11, with a capacity of approximately 1,000 gpm, was constructed in 1977 to a depth of 620 feet. The current arsenic concentration in water produced by Well 11 has ranged between 6 and 13 µg/L. The arsenic concentration from the first quarterly sampling of Well 11 in December 2007 was 12 µg/L.

Well 13

Well 13, with a capacity of approximately 1,300 gpm, was constructed in 1983 to a depth of 720 feet. The current arsenic concentration in water produced by Well 13 has ranged between 16 and 22 µg/L. The arsenic concentration from the first quarterly sampling of Well 13 in December 2007 was 19 µg/L.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Proposed Project

IWVWD's proposed Arsenic Rule Compliance for Wells 9A, 10, 11, and 13 Project (the Project) consists of constructing and operating arsenic treatment facilities at existing Wells 9A and 13, the two IWVWD wells with the highest arsenic concentrations. Each treatment facility will consist of an oxidation, coagulation, and filtration treatment system for arsenic removal, and each will be designed to accommodate flows of approximately 1,200 to 1,500 gpm.

Untreated water produced by Well 10 will be conveyed via a proposed 12-inch diameter pipeline to the treatment facility at the nearby Well 9A site for blending with treated Well 9A water, and the blended water will then enter IWVWD's distribution system via a short section of proposed 16-inch diameter pipe.

Untreated water produced by Well 11 will be conveyed to the treatment facility at the Well 13 site via a proposed 12" pipeline for blending with treated Well 13 water, and the blended flows from Well 11 and 13 will then enter IWVWD's distribution system near Well 13.

2. Project Construction

Project construction is anticipated to include the following:

- Clearing and grading treatment facility sites adjacent to Wells 9A and 13 (already fenced);
- Installing water treatment facilities at the Well 9A and 13 sites, consisting of:
 - Conditioning and chlorination equipment;
 - Oxidation, coagulation, and filtration equipment;
 - Storage tanks with secondary containment for the storage of coagulant (ferric chloride or similar chemical) and either sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid;
 - Storage tanks with secondary containment for backwash and residuals storage;
 - Associated valves, piping, controls, and appurtenances; and
 - Constructing concrete pads and enclosure buildings for the water treatment facilities;
- Constructing a 12" pipeline from Well 11 discharge to Well 13 treatment facility for blending;
- Constructing a 12" pipeline from Well 10 discharge to Well 9A treatment facility for blending;
- Constructing a short 16" pipeline from the Wells 9A and 10 blended discharge to connect to the distribution system;
- Constructing all necessary pipes, valves, fittings, and appurtenances at both arsenic treatment facilities; and
- Testing and startup of the two arsenic treatment facilities.

3. Project Operation

Raw water from Wells 9A and 13 will be oxidized using liquid chlorine solution and coagulated using ferric chloride or a similar coagulant chemical. The pH of the raw water will be adjusted for optimum treatment using either sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid. All treatment chemicals will be transported to the facilities by licensed haulers and stored onsite in tanks with secondary containment.

After pH adjustment, oxidation, and coagulation, water from Wells 9A and 13 will be filtered through granular media in pressure filtration vessels. The treated water from

Well 9A will be blended with untreated water from Well 10, and the treated water from Well 13 will be blended with untreated water from Well 11. In the event that either Well 9A or Well 13 need to be removed from service, the system will allow water from Well 10 or Well 11 to be diverted through the treatment facilities.

The filters will be periodically backwashed to remove treatment residuals and maintain operability of the filter beds. Backwash water will be settled in holding tanks with secondary containment facilities, and the supernatant will be recycled back through the treatment process. Solid arsenic treatment residuals (approximately 11,000 pounds per year for both facilities, based on preliminary estimates) resulting from the treatment process will be stored onsite in tanks with secondary containment facilities. Said residuals will be transported by licensed haulers in solid form at less than hazardous concentrations for disposal at a licensed solid waste disposal facility approximately three to four times per year.

All containment, use, transportation, and disposal of treatment chemicals and residuals will be performed in accordance with all applicable regulations.

4. Purpose

The Project is necessary to reduce arsenic concentrations in blended water produced by Wells 9A, 10, 11, and 13 to levels consistently below 10 µg/L in compliance with the federal Arsenic Rule and the anticipated revised California arsenic standard.

Two treatment facilities are being proposed instead of a single treatment facility for the following reasons:

- a) To maintain flows at levels that can be accommodated by the existing pipelines in the area.
- b) To provide redundancy in the event of an outage at one of the treatment facilities.

5. Location

The Project sites are located near the westerly boundary of the City of Ridgecrest in Sections 30 and 32, Township 26 South, Range 40 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Kern County, California, as shown on Figures 1 and 2.

The arsenic treatment facilities will be constructed at IWWWD's existing Well 9A and Well 13 sites.

The Well 9A site is located in the southeasterly quarter of Section 30, northeasterly of the intersection of Primavera Street and Sydnor Avenue. Well 10 is located approximately 350 feet easterly of Well 9A. A 12" pipeline will be installed between Wells 10 and 9A to convey untreated Well 10 discharge to the treatment facility at the Well 9A site for blending prior to entering IWWWD's distribution system.

The Well 13 site is located in Section 32 southeasterly of the intersection of Felspar Avenue and Garth Street. Well 11 is also located in Section 32, southeasterly of the intersection of Mahan Street and Las Flores Avenue. A 12" pipeline (approximately 1/2 mile in length) will be installed in Mahan Street and Felspar Avenue in order to convey untreated Well 11 discharge to the treatment facility at the Well 13 site for blending prior to entering IWWWD's distribution system.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Project Area

The environment of the Project area is typical of the high desert of Southern California. The climate is characterized by periodic high winds, with high temperatures often exceeding 100°F during summer months and averaging about 55°F during winter months, with lows below 30°F. Average annual daytime temperature is approximately 80°F. Rainfall is infrequent, averaging between 3 and 6 inches per year. Most rainfall occurs between November and April, although there are occasional thunder showers during the summer months.

The Indian Wells Valley is a seismically active area in California. The South Sierra Nevada Fault Zone is located approximately eight kilometers westerly of the Project site, and the Little Lake Fault is located approximately two kilometers easterly of the Project site. Both faults are classified as Type B Faults as described in Maps of Known Active Fault Near-Source Zones in California and Adjacent Portions of Nevada (California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology; 1998). All facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable California seismic building standards.

Project facilities will be constructed and operated on sites of existing, fenced well pumping plants located within IWWWD-owned parcels and within existing streets; therefore, additional areas disturbed as a result of the Project are limited to said IWWWD-owned parcels and existing nearby streets.

D. LEAD AGENCY

IWWWD is lead agency for the Project, as it is the public agency with the primary responsibility for preparing environmental documents and for approving, constructing, and operating the Project.

E. AUTHORITY

IWWWD is organized in accordance with State of California County Water District Law (Water Code Section 30000 et seq.) for the purpose of providing domestic water supplies. IWWWD is empowered to plan, construct, operate, maintain, repair, and replace water system facilities as needed to provide water service in compliance with applicable standards and regulations. IWWWD routinely plans and constructs new facilities, maintains them, and replaces them as necessary to maintain adequate, reliable, and safe water service to its customers. The Project is a continuation of the authority that IWWWD has exercised in the past.

F. COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

This is a public information document. Information contained herein is intended to explain the environmental impacts expected to result from construction and operation of the Project, and to satisfy the disclosure requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines.

PART 2
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST

PART 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:

Arsenic Rule Compliance for Wells 9A, 10, 11, and 13 Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

Indian Wells Valley Water District
Post Office Box 1329
Ridgecrest, CA 93356-1329

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Thomas F. Mulvihill
(760) 375-5086

4. Project Location:

Proposed arsenic treatment facilities will be located at the sites of existing IWVWD Wells 9A and 13 (see below). Pipelines (12-inch diameter) and appurtenances will be constructed between Wells 9A and 10 (on IWVWD property) and between Wells 11 and 13 (in Mahan Street and Felspar Avenue). See Figures 1 and 2.

Existing Well 9A site:

Located northeasterly of the intersection of Primavera Street and Sydnor Avenue, just westerly of the City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, California, within Section 30, Township 26 South, Range 40 East, Mount Diablo Meridian (MDM), APN 456-020-05-00.

Existing Well 10 site:

Located northeasterly of the intersection of Primavera Street and Sydnor Avenue (in close proximity to Well 9A) just westerly of the City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, California, within Section 30, Township 26 South, Range 40 East, MDM, APN 456-020-05-00.

Existing Well 11 site:

Located southeasterly of the intersection of Mahan Street and Las Flores Avenue in the City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, California, within Section 32, Township 26 South, Range 40 East, MDM, APN 454-090-20-00.

Existing Well 13 site:

Located southeasterly of the intersection of Felspar Avenue and Garth Street just westerly of the City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, California within Section 32, Township 26 South, Range 40 East, MDM, APN 455-100-01-00.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

Indian Wells Valley Water District
Post Office Box 1329
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1329

6. General Plan Designation: Public (NEC)

7. Zoning: N/A

Note: General Plan Designations and zoning restrictions are not applicable to water facilities per California Government Code, Section 53091.

8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheet(s) if necessary.)

See Pages 3 – 8.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings.)

Project facilities will be constructed on IWVWD-owned parcels at the existing Well 9A, 10, 11, and 13 sites, and within existing public street rights-of-way. Wells 9A and 10 are situated in an existing well field located northeasterly of the intersection of Sydnor Avenue and Primavera Street. Said well field is surrounded by vacant desert land. The Well 13 site, located southeasterly of the intersection of Felspar Avenue and Garth Street, is surrounded by sparse residential development to the west, vacant desert land to the north and south, and vacant land to the east, with residential development beyond. The Well 11 site, located southeasterly of the intersection of Mahan Street and Las Flores Avenue, is surrounded by vacant desert land to the west, sparse residential development to the north and south, and more dense residential development to the east.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

California Department of Public Health

B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED


The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

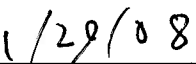
C. DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency):

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



David F. Scriven
KRIEGER & STEWART, INCORPORATED
District Consulting Engineer
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



Date

D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g. the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

- b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of, and adequately analyzed in, an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated", describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g. general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7. Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached and other sources used, or individuals contacted, should be cited in the discussion.
- 8. This is only a suggested form and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
Source(s): <i>The Project will not be constructed in or near any designated scenic vista, and thus will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
Source(s): <i>The Project consists primarily of constructing and operating low-lying and belowground facilities, which will be relatively small and unobtrusive. No trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway will need to be removed as part of the Project. U.S. Highway 395, which is eligible for State Scenic Highway designation, is located approximately 3.5 miles southwesterly of Wells 9A and 10 and is approximately 4.0 miles southwesterly of Wells 11 and 13; far enough away to avoid any potential for aesthetic impacts. For the reasons stated above, the Project does not have the potential to substantially damage any scenic resources.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? Source(s): <i>The visible portions of the Project will be located within the existing Well 9A and Well 13 sites, which</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>are fenced, sparsely-vegetated, IWWWD-owned parcels. The Project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the sites or their surroundings. See also I.a. and I.b. above.</i></p>				

<p>d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include any facilities that will generate significant light or glare. Minimal lighting will be required during construction of Project facilities, and construction lighting will be removed after completion of construction. Security lighting, if any, will be minimal and directed downward.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

<p>a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? Source(s): <i>Project facilities will be constructed</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>generally within existing streets and within IWVWD-owned parcels that currently accommodate existing IWVWD wells. Said parcels are not farmland, and the Project will not convert any farmland to non-agricultural use.</i></p>				
<p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? Source(s): <i>The Project site is not zoned for agricultural use. The Project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act contract. See also II.a. above.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use? Source(s): <i>The Project site is not used for agricultural purposes (see II.a. above). The Project will not require or result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</p>				
<p>a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? Source(s): <i>Including short-term impacts during construction, the Project</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>will have minimal effects upon air quality. The Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.</i></p>				
<p>b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? Source(s): <i>The Project site is located within eastern Kern County, which is under the jurisdiction of the Kern County Air Pollution Control District (KCAPCD). Under state standards, the KCAPCD is currently designated "moderate nonattainment" for ozone and designated "nonattainment" for PM₁₀. Construction of the Project will result in a temporary increase in the quantity of airborne dust. Dust will be mitigated to the extent possible using dust palliatives and best management practices specified in IWWWD's standard construction contract documents. The Project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. See also III.a. above.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? Source(s): <i>Neither construction nor operation of the Project will result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of either</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>PM₁₀ or ozone, for which the Project region is in non-attainment under applicable federal or state ambient air quality standards. See also III.b. above.</i>				
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? Source(s): <i>See III.a. and III.b. above. The Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? Source(s): <i>The Project will not create objectionable odors.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? Source(s): <i>Although Mohave ground squirrels (<u>Spermophilus mohavensis</u>; designated as Threatened by the California Department of Fish and Game) are known from the area, Project facilities are proposed for construction on existing fenced well sites and within existing roads. Therefore, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any candidate, sensitive, or</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>special-status species.</i>				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? Source(s): <i>The well sites and vicinity do not contain any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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? Source(s): <i>The Project site is located in an arid, desert environment that is devoid of wetlands; therefore, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? Source(s): <i>There are no wildlife corridors through IWWWD property where Project facilities will be constructed. The Project will not interfere substantially with the movement of</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. See also IV. a., IV. b., and IV. c. above.</i></p>				
<p>e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? Source(s): <i>The Project does not conflict with any known local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? Source(s): <i>There are no conflicts between the Project and environmental plans or policies that have been adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over any aspect of the Project.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</p>				
<p>a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? Source(s): <i>The existing well sites have been and are currently used by IWWVD for domestic water production; therefore, soils at the sites have been highly disturbed during</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>construction, operation, and maintenance of the wells. Any cultural resources at the Project site would likely have been uncovered during previous grading activities. Further, the Well 11 and 13 sites have been previously surveyed for cultural resources, and no historical or archaeological resources were found at the sites. However, if buried historical or archeological materials are discovered during Project construction, all work in the area will be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.</i></p>				
<p>b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? Source(s): <i>See V.a. above. The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known archaeological resource pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? Source(s): <i>There are no known paleontological resources in the Project area, and such resources would be unlikely due to the alluvial nature of the local soils. Further, any paleontological resources, if present, would likely have been uncovered during previous grading and construction activities. However, if any</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>paleontological resources are discovered during Project construction, all construction activities will be halted or diverted until a qualified paleontologist can determine the nature and significance of the finds. The Project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.</i></p>				
<p>d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? Source(s): <i>No known cemeteries or burial grounds exist in the Project vicinity. If human remains are encountered during Project construction, the County Coroner will be notified immediately, and all work in the area will be halted or diverted until the remains are removed, or a qualified archaeologist and historian can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds. The Project will comply with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:</p> | | | | |
| <p>i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. Source(s): <i>According to <u>Maps of Known Active Fault Near-Source Zones in California and Adjacent Portions of Nevada</u> (California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology; 1998) and <u>Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42</u>, the Project site is located approximately 5 miles easterly of the South Sierra Nevada Fault and approximately 1.2 miles westerly of the Little Lake Fault zone. However, the Project does not include constructing any facilities that are intended for human occupancy. The Project will not conflict with any Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone requirements, and will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault.</i></p>				
<p>ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? Source(s): <i>The Project site is located approximately 5 miles easterly of the South Sierra Nevada Fault, and approximately 1.2 miles westerly of the Little Lake Fault Zone. Both the South Sierra Nevada Fault and the Little Lake Fault are classified as Type B Faults as</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>described in <u>Maps of Known Active Fault Near-Source Zones in California and Adjacent Portions of Nevada</u> (California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology; 1998). Therefore, the Project site may experience strong seismic ground shaking during the life of the Project. As required for any development, including this Project, construction must comply with standard seismic design parameters that are specified by the California Building Code. The Project consists of low-lying and belowground facilities and does not include any structures that are intended for human occupancy; therefore, the Project will not expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of strong seismic ground shaking.</i></p>				
<p>iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? Source(s): <i>The Project site is not located on expansive soils. The Project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure or liquefaction. See also VI.a.i. and VI.a.ii. above.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>iv) Landslides? Source(s): <i>According to Figure</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>12, "Overlay Constraints: Seismic, Landslides, and Steep Slope Hazards" of the <u>Kern County General Plan</u> (2004), the Project site is not located within an area identified as susceptible to seismically-induced landslides and rockfalls.</p>				
<p>b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? Source(s): <i>IWVWD's standard construction contract documents require construction contractors to use dust palliatives (such as water) to prevent wind erosion, and to return soil conditions at construction sites to near preconstruction conditions (e.g. through soil compaction) to prevent changes in topography or soil instability. After Project completion, the property surrounding the structures will be finish-graded to approximate pre-construction conditions. Therefore, the Project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? Source(s): <i>The Project site is not underlain by unstable soils, nor is the area affected by landslides, lateral spreading, or collapse. Further, construction of the Project does not have the potential to increase soil instability, and the</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>Project does not include any structures that are intended for human occupancy.</i>				
<p>d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property? Source(s): <i>The Project site is not underlain by expansive soils. Project facilities are not intended for human occupancy; therefore, Project facilities will not create substantial risks to life or property. See also VI. c. above.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? Source(s): <i>No septic tanks or onsite alternative wastewater disposal systems are proposed.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

Would the project:

<p>a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? Source(s): <i>The Project will not use, generate, transport, or dispose of any hazardous materials in amounts capable of creating a hazard to the public or to the environment. Small quantities of paint, lubricants, fuel, and adhesives will be used during construction,</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Issues:

said use will be strictly controlled, and waste materials will be properly disposed of. Ferric chloride (or other similar coagulants) and either sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid will be used onsite as part of the treatment process. Said chemicals will be stored onsite in storage tanks with secondary containment, and will be transported to the site by licensed transporters in accordance with all applicable regulations. Arsenic residuals resulting from the treatment process will be stored onsite in storage tanks with secondary containment, transported by licensed haulers in solid form at less than hazardous concentrations, and will be properly contained, transported, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable regulations.

- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
 Source(s): *Only small quantities of paint, lubricants, fuel, and adhesives will be used during construction. Treatment chemicals will be kept in properly-designed containers with secondary containment and transported by licensed haulers in accordance with all applicable regulations. Treatment residuals will be kept in properly-designed containers with secondary containment and transported and disposed of by licensed haulers in accordance with all applicable regulations.*

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>Therefore, there is no potential for a significant hazard to the public involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. See also VII.a. above.</i></p>				
<p>c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? Source(s): <i>There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the Project site.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? Source(s): <i>The Project site is not included on the list of hazardous materials sites maintained by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The Well 9A and 10 sites are located approximately 0.7 mile southerly of the boundary of China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS). The Well 11 and 13 sites are located 1.5 miles and 1.3 miles southerly of NAWS, respectively. NAWS is included on the aforementioned list of hazardous materials sites. NAWS is an open military base with confirmed releases of contaminants from some of its onsite facilities. The NAWS site is scheduled for certification with DTSC in 2015. No groundwater contamination from</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>NAWS has been detected in the water pumped from the existing Project wells.</i></p>				
<p>e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? Source(s): <i>The Project consists of constructing and operating arsenic removal facilities at two existing IWVWD wells, consisting of water treatment equipment contained in low-profile building enclosures, along with belowground water pipelines. The Project site is located approximately six miles easterly of the Inyokern Airport. The Project site is located within the designated restricted airspace known as R-2505, which is immediate and adjacent airspace to NAWS. R-2505 is located within the Joint Service Restricted R-2508 Complex, which is a vast restricted airspace encompassing 20,000 square miles of electronically-surveillanced ranges, permitting unrestricted flight testing by NAWS and by Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB). As required by the <u>County of Kern Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP)</u>, NAWS and EAFB will be provided copies of this Initial Study and any subsequent environmental documents pertaining to this or related Projects. The Project will comply with all F.A.R. Part 77 standards, and will not result in a</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area.</i>				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? Source(s): <i>The Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? Source(s): <i>Transportation corridors will remain open throughout Project construction, and will not be affected by Project operation once the completed facilities are placed into service. The Project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wild land fires, including where wild lands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wild lands? Source(s): <i>There is a slight risk of a fire occurring during construction of Project facilities; however, the risk will be less than significant and short-term. In addition, IWVWD's standard construction contract documents will require construction contractors to comply with safety</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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standards specified in Title 8, California Code of Regulations, and that any equipment or machinery that poses a risk of emitting sparks or flame be equipped with an arrestor, thereby further limiting potential impacts. Operation of Project facilities will not pose a risk of fire, as it will not involve the use or storage of flammable materials.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? Source(s): <i>The Project includes the construction of arsenic removal facilities at existing IWVWD well sites. Arsenic treatment residuals (approximately 11,000 pounds per year for both facilities, based on preliminary estimates) resulting from the treatment process will contain less than hazardous concentrations and will be properly contained, transported, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable regulations at an appropriate licensed solid waste disposal facility approximately three to four times per year. The Project does not include features that would result in a violation of any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>b) Substantially deplete ground water supplies or interfere substantially with ground water recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local ground water table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? Source(s): <i>Project facilities will not increase groundwater production from Project wells or from the underlying aquifer. Therefore, the Project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. See also VIII. a. above.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? Source(s): <i>Only minimal site grading will be performed. The site grading will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, and will not alter the course of a stream or river.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? Source(s): <i>Project grading will be minimal</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>and will not substantially alter the drainage pattern of the site or area, and will not alter the course of a stream or river.</i>				
<p>e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? Source(s): <i>Runoff produced by the roofs of the treatment facilities enclosure buildings and other non-permeable surfaces associated with the Project will percolate into the sandy soil onsite. Such runoff will be minimal and will not be sufficient to exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include any features that would have the potential to substantially degrade water quality. The Project consists of arsenic removal facilities designed to treat water produced by IWVWD wells in order to comply with existing federal, and forthcoming state, arsenic regulations.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? Source(s): <i>Project facilities do not include housing.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? Source(s): <i>According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Kern County, California (Unincorporated Areas), Community-Panel Numbers 060075 0585 B and 060075 0595 B, the Well 9A, 10, 11, and 13 sites are located in Zone C (defined as "areas of minimal flooding"). The Well 13 site is located adjacent to an area designated Zone A (defined as "areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined"); however, said Zone A area is not in a floodway; therefore, the Project does not have the potential to impede or redirect flood flows.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include constructing any facilities that are intended for human occupancy. The Project does not have the potential to expose people or structures to</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding. See also VIII.h. above.</i>				
j) Expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? Source(s): <i>There are no significant bodies of surface water in the Project vicinity; therefore, the Project has no potential to expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community? Source(s): <i>Due to the location and small size of the Project facilities, the Project does not have the potential to physically divide an established community.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? Source(s): <i>General Plan designations and zoning restrictions are not applicable to water facilities, per Section 53091 of the California Government Code. The Project will not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? Source(s): <i>The Project will not conflict with any adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

X. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? Source(s): <i>There are no known mineral resources in the Project area that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Further, the Project is being constructed on sites currently used for water production. The Project will not result in the loss of a known mineral resource.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? Source(s): <i>There are no designated mineral resource recovery sites within the Project vicinity. The Project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. See also X.a. above.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XI. NOISE. Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? Source(s): *There will be some noise generated during construction and operation of the Project; however, said noise will be less than significant for the following reasons:*

- *The Project will comply with the Noise Element of the Kern County General Plan (2004) and any other applicable noise ordinances.*
- *IWVWD's standard construction contract documents require contractors to equip all machinery and equipment with appropriate noise control devices (e.g. mufflers and sound attenuation panels), thereby further limiting potential impacts.*
- *To protect its employees and contractors, IWVWD will comply with all applicable safety standards pertaining to employee noise exposure specified in Article 105, Title 8, California Code of Regulations.*
- *Noise generated by operation of the Project will be minimal.*

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels? Source(s): <i>See XI.a. above for a discussion of noise. Any ground borne vibration generated during construction of the Project will be less than significant and short-term.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? Source(s): <i>Project facilities will generate minimal noise during operation; therefore, the Project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? Source(s): <i>The Project will result in an increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity during Project construction and operation; however, noise generated during construction activities will be temporary, and increases in noise due to Project operation will be minimal. All construction and operation activities will comply with the Noise Element of the <u>Kern County General Plan (2004)</u> and any other applicable noise ordinances, which will further ensure that there will be no significant noise</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>impacts. See also XI.a. above.</i>				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? Source(s): <i>Noise resulting from construction of the Project will be less than significant and short-term. Noise generated by Project operation will be minimal; therefore, the Project will not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels. See also XI.d. above.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? Source(s): <i>The Project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of road or other infrastructure)? Source(s): <i>The Project is intended to provide water treatment facilities designed to remove arsenic from water produced by existing IWVWD wells. The Project will allow IWVWD to comply with the</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p><i>federal Arsenic Rule and the anticipated new state arsenic standard. Project facilities are water treatment facilities and will not increase the production capacities of the Project wells. Therefore, the Project will not induce any population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly.</i></p>				
<p>b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? Source(s): <i>Project facilities will be located on existing IWWWD-owned well sites and within existing roads. The Project does not include any features that will require the destruction or relocation of existing housing.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include any features that will require the displacement or relocation of people or the construction of replacement housing.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:

Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include any features or facilities that will require additional or unusual fire protection resources.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include any features or facilities that will be occupied for more than a few hours at a time or that will otherwise require enhanced levels of police protection.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools? Source(s): <i>The Project does not have the potential to induce either an increase or a decrease in population in the Project area; therefore, the Project will not result in a greater or lesser demand for schools.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks? Source(s): <i>The Project does not have the potential to induce either an increase or a decrease in population in the Project area; therefore, the Project will not result in a greater or lesser demand for parks.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities? Source(s): <i>The Project does not require the construction or alteration of any other public facilities, nor will it create an increased use of other public facilities.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIV. RECREATION. Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? Source(s): <i>Project facilities do not have the potential to increase the population of the area; therefore, the Project will not increase the use of parks or other recreation facilities.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which have an adverse physical effect on the environment? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include recreational facilities and will not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities. See also XIV.a. above.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC. Would the project:

- a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? Source(s): *The Project will result in a minor, short-term increase in the number of vehicle trips over the course of construction as a result of construction traffic; however, the impact upon traffic congestion will be less than significant and short-term. Additional vehicle trips for maintenance of the treatment facilities and for delivery of treatment chemicals and hauling of treatment residuals will be minimal. Residuals will be removed from the sites for disposal at a landfill approximately three to four times annually. Therefore, the Project will not cause a substantial increase in traffic. Further, IWVWD's standard construction contract documents require the construction contractor(s) to provide adequate and safe traffic control measures that will both accommodate local traffic and ensure the safety of travelers within the Project area, thereby further limiting potential impacts.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? Source(s): <i>See XV.a. above. The Project will not exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks? Source(s): <i>Air traffic patterns will not be affected by the Project.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? Source(s): <i>The Project will include low-lying and belowground facilities, and will not substantially increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. All streets will be returned to preconstruction conditions once Project construction has been completed.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Result in inadequate emergency access? Source(s): <i>The Project will be designed according to requirements and standards of the Kern County Fire and Transportation Departments. Compliance with applicable standards ensures that the Project will not result in inadequate emergency access. Local roads will be returned to preconstruction conditions upon completion of the Project. See also XV.a. and XV.d. above.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? Source(s): <i>The Project will have no impact on parking capacity. Adequate parking for service personnel will be allocated at the Project sites.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? Source(s): <i>The Project does not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Local roads will be returned to preconstruction conditions upon completion of the Project. See also XV.a. and XV.d. above.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
Source(s): <i>Project facilities will not generate wastewater. Arsenic residuals will be in solid form and will be disposed of in accordance with all applicable regulations.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? Source(s): <i>The Project will not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. See also XVI.a. above.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? Source(s): <i>The Project will not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities, or the expansion or alteration of existing storm water drainage facilities.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? Source(s): <i>A short-term water supply for construction and operation of the Project will be provided by existing onsite wells. No new or expanded entitlements are needed.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>e) 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? Source(s): <i>See XVI.a. and XVI.b. above. The Project will not generate wastewater.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? Source(s): <i>The arsenic treatment facilities will together generate a total of approximately 11,000 pounds (5.5 tons) of solid residuals per year (based on preliminary estimates), which will be removed from the treatment facilities approximately three to four times annually for disposal at a licensed landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? Source(s): <i>Solid waste generated by the Project will total approximately 11,000 pounds (5.5 tons) per year (based on preliminary estimates) and will be accommodated by existing solid waste disposal facilities. The Project will comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? Source(s): <i>The Project is not anticipated to have substantial adverse impacts upon any biological resources. See IV.a. and IV.b. above for a more detailed discussion of potential impacts to biological resources. The Project is not anticipated to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory (CRM Tech, 2006). See V.a. above for a more</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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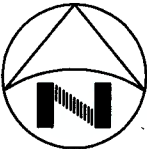
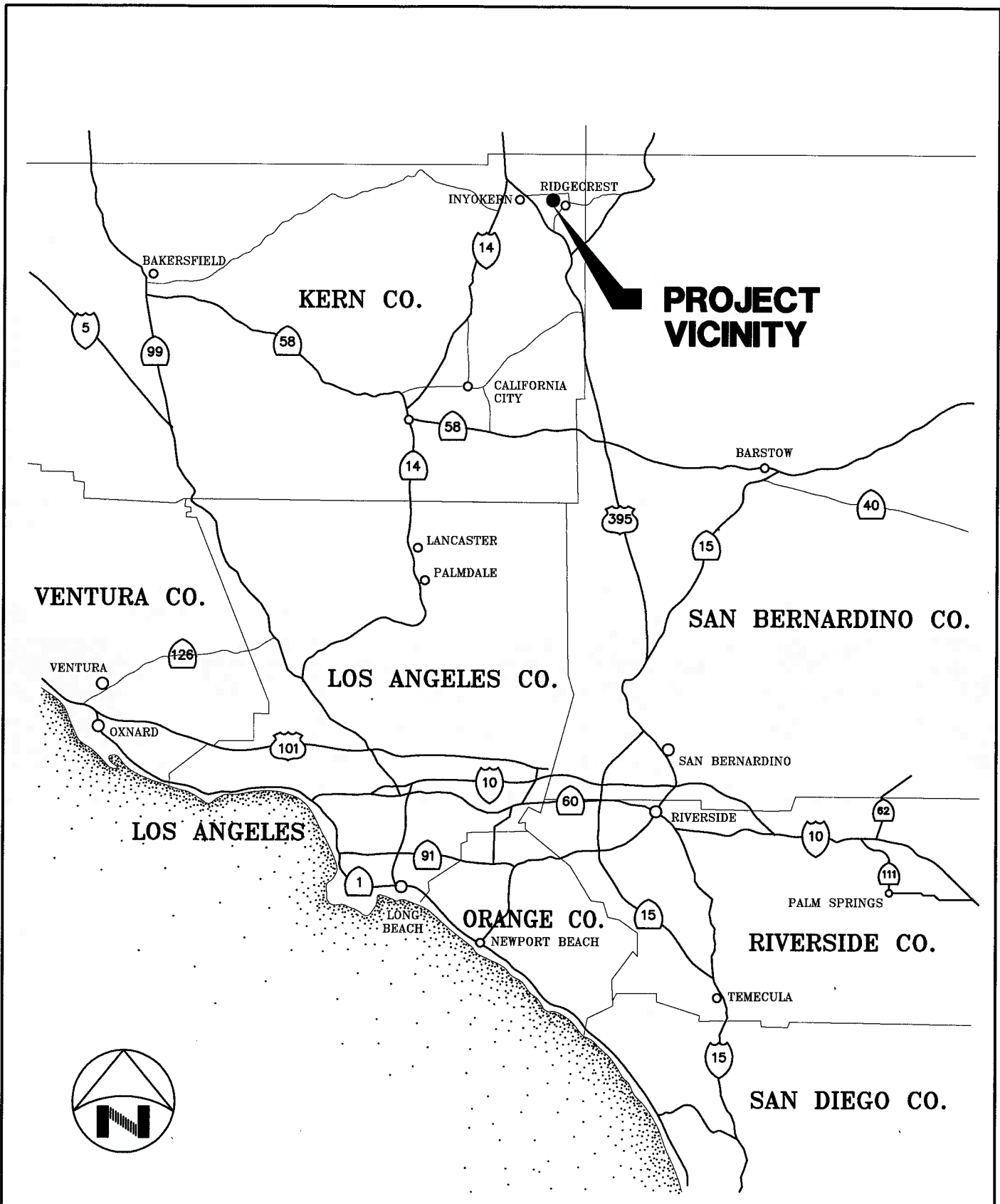
Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>detailed discussion of potential impacts to cultural resources.</i>				
<p>b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.) Source(s): <i>None of the less than significant impacts of the Project are cumulatively considerable.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? Source(s): <i>The Project does not include any components or elements that will have any adverse effects upon human beings. The Project will potentially result in a beneficial effect upon human beings in that it will reduce arsenic levels in water produced by existing IWVWD wells in order to continue to provide a safe and reliable domestic water supply, in compliance with federal and anticipated state arsenic requirements, to its customers.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PART 3
REFERENCES AND SOURCES

PART 3 - REFERENCES AND SOURCES

- California Department of Toxic Substances Control Website, <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>
- California Department of Transportation Website, http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/
- California Government Code, Section 53091
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map, Kern County, California (Unincorporated Areas), Community-Panel Number 060075 0585B, Effective September 29, 1986, as revised
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map, Kern County, California (Unincorporated Areas), Community-Panel Number 060075 0595B, Effective September 29, 1986, as revised
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map, City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, California, Community-Panel Number 060081 0005B, Effective January 6, 1982, as revised
- Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3; November 16, 2000
- Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as Amended, Kern County Air Pollution Control District, Adopted July 11, 1996, Amended July 1, 1999
- Indian Wells Valley Water District Domestic Water System 1997 Water General Plan, 1998
- Kern County General Plan, Kern County Planning Department, June 2004
- Maps of Known Active Fault Near-Source Zones in California and Adjacent Portions of Nevada, California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, February 1998
- USGS Topographic Map, Ridgecrest North, California 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, 1972
- Western Regional Climate Center Website, <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>

FIGURES



KRIEGER

STEWART

INCORPORATED

3602 University Ave. • Riverside, CA. 92501 • 951-684-6900

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ARSENIC RULE COMPLIANCE FOR WELLS 9A, 10, 11, AND 13

PROJECT VICINITY

FIGURE

1

OF 2

SCALE: N.T.S.

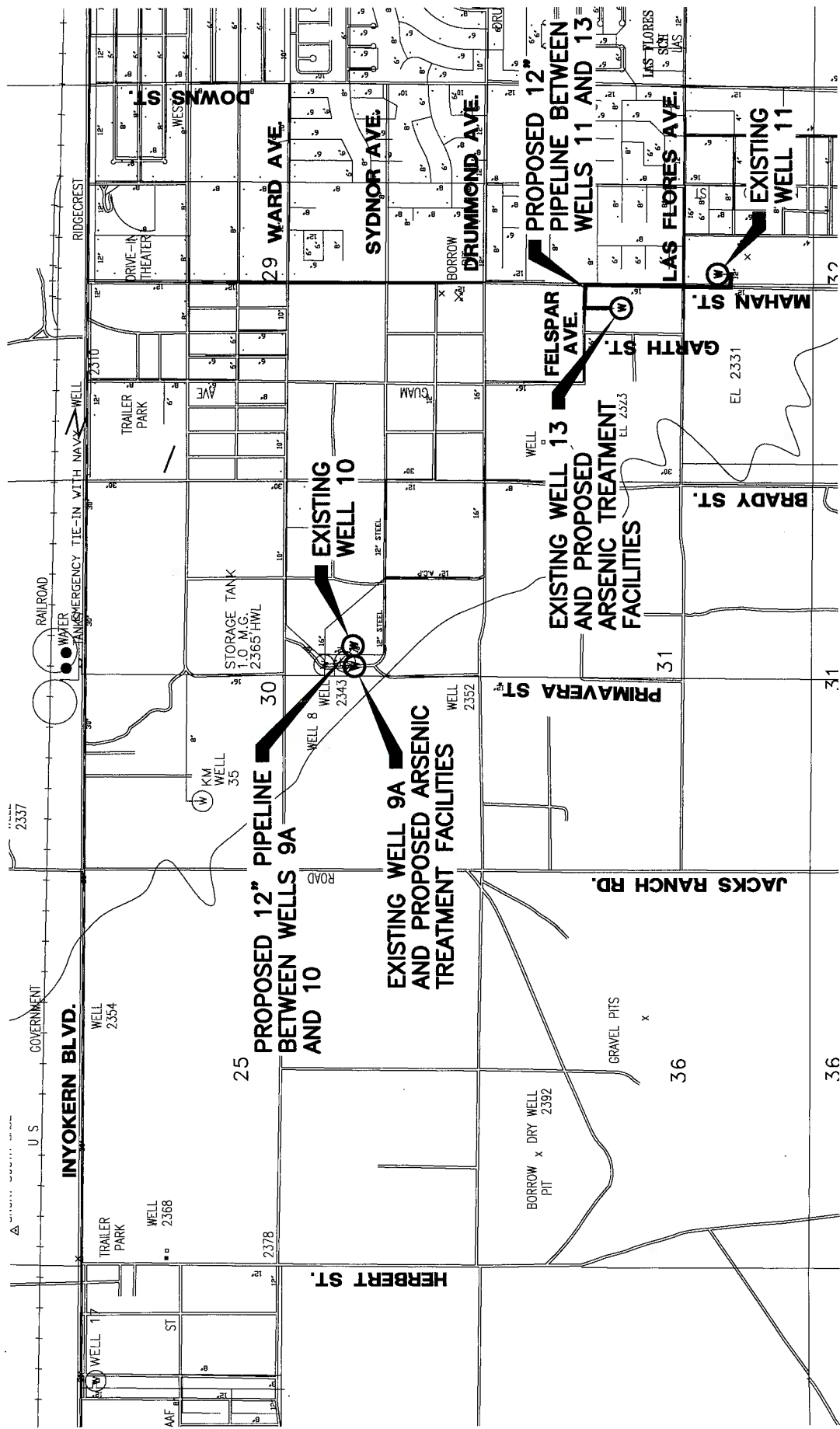
DATE: 01/10/08

DRAWN BY: EM

CHECKED BY: VEM

W.O.: 178-121.9

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SEC. 30 & 32, T26S, R40E, MDM USGS 7.5 MIN. RIDGECREST NORTH QUADRANGLE

FIGURE 2 OF 2

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ARSENIC RULE COMPLIANCE FOR WELLS 9A, 10, 11, AND 13

PROJECT LOCATION

KRUEGER & STEWART INCORPORATED
 3602 University Ave. • Riverside, CA. 92501 • 951-884-6000



SCALE: 1"=2000' DATE: 12/18/07 DRAWN BY: EM CHECKED BY: DFS W.O.: 178-121.9

APPENDIX A

DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Project: IWVWD's proposed Arsenic Rule Compliance for Wells 9A, 10, 11, and 13 Project (the Project) consists of constructing and operating arsenic treatment facilities at existing Wells 9A and 13, the two IWVWD wells with the highest arsenic concentrations. Each treatment facility will consist of an oxidation, coagulation, and filtration treatment system for arsenic removal, and each will be designed to accommodate flows of approximately 1,200 to 1,500 gpm.

Untreated water produced by Well 10 will be conveyed via a proposed 12-inch diameter pipeline to the treatment facility at the nearby Well 9A site for blending with treated Well 9A water, and the blended water will then enter IWVWD's distribution system via a short section of proposed 16-inch diameter pipe.

Untreated water produced by Well 11 will be conveyed to the treatment facility at the Well 13 site via a proposed 12" pipeline for blending with treated Well 13 water, and the blended flows from Well 11 and 13 will then enter IWVWD's distribution system near Well 13.

Project construction is anticipated to include the following:

- Clearing and grading treatment facility sites adjacent to Wells 9A and 13 (already fenced);
- Installing water treatment facilities at the Well 9A and 13 sites, consisting of:
 - Conditioning and chlorination equipment;
 - Oxidation, coagulation, and filtration equipment;
 - Storage tanks with secondary containment for the storage of coagulant (ferric chloride or similar chemical) and either sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid;
 - Storage tanks with secondary containment for backwash and residuals storage;
 - Associated valves, piping, controls, and appurtenances; and
 - Constructing concrete pads and enclosure buildings for the water treatment facilities;
- Constructing a 12" pipeline from Well 11 discharge to Well 13 treatment facility for blending;
- Constructing a 12" pipeline from Well 10 discharge to Well 9A treatment facility for blending;
- Constructing a short 16" pipeline from the Wells 9A and 10 blended discharge to connect to the distribution system;
- Constructing all necessary pipes, valves, fittings, and appurtenances at both arsenic treatment facilities; and
- Testing and startup of the two arsenic treatment facilities.

Anticipated operation of Project facilities is as follows:

Raw water from Wells 9A and 13 will be oxidized using liquid chlorine solution and coagulated using ferric chloride or a similar coagulant chemical. The pH of the raw water will be adjusted for optimum treatment using either sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid. All treatment chemicals will be transported to the facilities by licensed haulers and stored onsite in tanks with secondary containment.

After pH adjustment, oxidation and coagulation, water from Wells 9A and 13 will be filtered through granular media in pressure filtration vessels. The treated water from Well 9A will be blended with untreated water from Well 10, and the treated water from Well 13 will be blended with untreated water from Well 11. In the event that either Well 9A or Well 13 needs to be removed from service, the system will allow water from Well 10 or Well 11 to be diverted through the treatment facilities.

The filters will be periodically backwashed to remove treatment residuals and maintain operability of the filter beds. Backwash water will be settled in holding tanks with secondary containment facilities, and the supernatant will be recycled back through the treatment process. Solid arsenic treatment residuals (approximately 11,000 pounds per year for both facilities, based on preliminary estimates) resulting from the treatment process will be stored onsite in tanks with secondary containment facilities. Said residuals will be transported by licensed haulers in solid form at less than hazardous concentrations for disposal at a licensed solid waste disposal facility approximately three to four times per year.

Location: The Project sites are located near the westerly boundary of the City of Ridgecrest in Sections 30 and 32, Township 26 South, Range 40 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Kern County, California. The arsenic treatment facilities will be constructed at IWVWD's existing Well 9A and Well 13 sites. The Well 9A site is located in the southeasterly quarter of Section 30, northeasterly of the intersection of Primavera Street and Sydnor Avenue. A 12" pipeline, approximately 350' long, will be installed between Wells 10 and 9A. The Well 13 site is located in Section 32 southeasterly of the intersection of Felspar Avenue and Garth Street. A 12" pipeline (approximately 1/2 mile in length) will be installed in Mahan Street and Felspar Avenue between Wells 11 and 13. Well 11 is also located in Section 32, southeasterly of the intersection of Mahan Street and Las Flores Avenue.

Entity: Indian Wells Valley Water District

The Board of Directors, having conducted a careful and independent review of the Initial Study for the Project, having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the Board, and having heard at a public meeting of the Board the comments of any and all concerned persons or entities including the recommendation of IWVWD staff, does hereby find and declare that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the Board's findings is as follows:

Construction and operation of the Project will not result in significant adverse impacts upon any threatened or endangered species of plants or animals, nor will it result in damage to or destruction of any significant examples of California history or prehistory.

The Board of Directors hereby finds that the Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment. The Initial Study was prepared by David F. Scriven with Krieger & Stewart, IWVWD's Consulting Engineer. A copy of the Initial Study is attached and may also be obtained at the offices of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, located at 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California, 93555.

DATED: _____

Thomas F. Mulvihill, General Manager
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT