UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AND THE
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

CSLC EIR No. 719
BLM Serial No. CACA-42649
CSLC Files: WP6783;W30141
SCH # 2002101069

NOTICE OF INTENT/PREPARATION TO PREPARE A JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT(EIR/EA) FOR THE PROPOSED EL PASO LINE No.1903 PIPELINE CONVERSION PROJECT; REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Date: October 15, 2002

To: Responsible Agencies, Affected Landowners and Interested Parties

Project: Conversion of an existing pipeline from crude oil transport to natural gas transport (State Leases PRC 7527.2 and 6783.1)

Applicant: El Paso Natural Gas Company
2 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Project Location: From Ehrenberg, Arizona, 303 miles through Riverside, San Bernardino and Kern Counties, ending at Emidio Station south of Bakersfield.

The staffs of the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) will jointly prepare an EIR/EA that will discuss the potential environmental impacts of El Paso Natural Gas Company's (El Paso) planned conversion of Line No. 1903 from crude oil to natural gas transmission in La Paz county, Arizona, and Kern, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California. This project will involve testing an existing 30 inch diameter pipeline, installing new valves, inspection and rewrapping of worn or pitted pipe wrap and replacing five miles of the existing 303 mile pipeline. The BLM will use this EIR/EA in its decision making process to determine if the right-of-way permit should be amended and what stipulations should be applied for federal lands, and the CSLC will use the document to consider El Paso's application for amending the leases of State School lands.

The BLM will be the Federal lead agency in the preparation of this EIR/EA while the CSLC will be the State Lead Agency. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Department of the Air Force, Edwards Air Force Base will be cooperating agencies in the preparation of the document. The joint document will avoid duplication of environmental analyses, and will satisfy the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The purpose of this Notice of Intent/Preparation / Notice of Public Scoping Meetings is to obtain agency and the public's views as to the scope and content of the environmental information and analysis, including the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures, that should be included in the draft EIR. Applicable agencies will use the EIR/EA when considering related permits or other approvals for the Project.

The Project description, location, and potential environmental effects are discussed in the attached Scoping Document. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, **written comments must be received by 1:00 pm on November 22, 2002**. Please send your comments at the earliest possible date to either of the following:

Goodyear K. Walker	Tom Hurshman
California State Lands Commission	Bureau of Land Management
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South	2505 South Townsend Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95825	Montrose, CO 81401
FAX: (916) 574-1885	FAX: (970) 240-5367
E-mail: walkerk@slc.ca.gov	E-mail:Tom_Hurshman@co.blm.gov

Pursuant to Section 15083, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, the CSLC and the BLM will also conduct public scoping meetings for the proposed Project to receive oral testimony at the times and places listed below:

DATE:	November 12, 2002	November 13, 2002	November 14, 2002
TIME:	6:00 pm	6:00 pm	6:00 pm
LOCATION:	DoubleTree Hotel 3100 Camino del Rio Ct. Bakersfield, Calif.	Ramada Inn 1511 E. Main St. Barstow, Calif.	Comfort Suites 545 Hobson Way Blythe, Calif.

If you have any questions or would like a copy of this notice, please contact Goodyear Walker at the above address or by calling (916) 574-1893. Copies of this notice will also be available at the Public Scoping Meetings.

Signature:

_____ Date: October 15, 2002

Goodyear K. Walker
Staff Environmental Scientist

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
El Paso's Line No. 1903 Conversion Project
(State Oil and Gas Lease PRC 7527.2 and 6783.1)

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) is seeking approval from the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) and the Federal Bureau of Land Management to convert the former All American Pipeline that they purchased from crude oil transport to natural gas transport. The line has been re-named by El Paso as line No. 1903.

2. PROJECT LOCATION

El Paso's Line No.1903 extends just over 303 miles from Ehrenberg, Arizona across the Colorado River, part of Riverside County and San Bernardino County to Daggett, California, into Kern County and terminates at Emidio, California (see Figure 1).

3. LEASE HISTORY

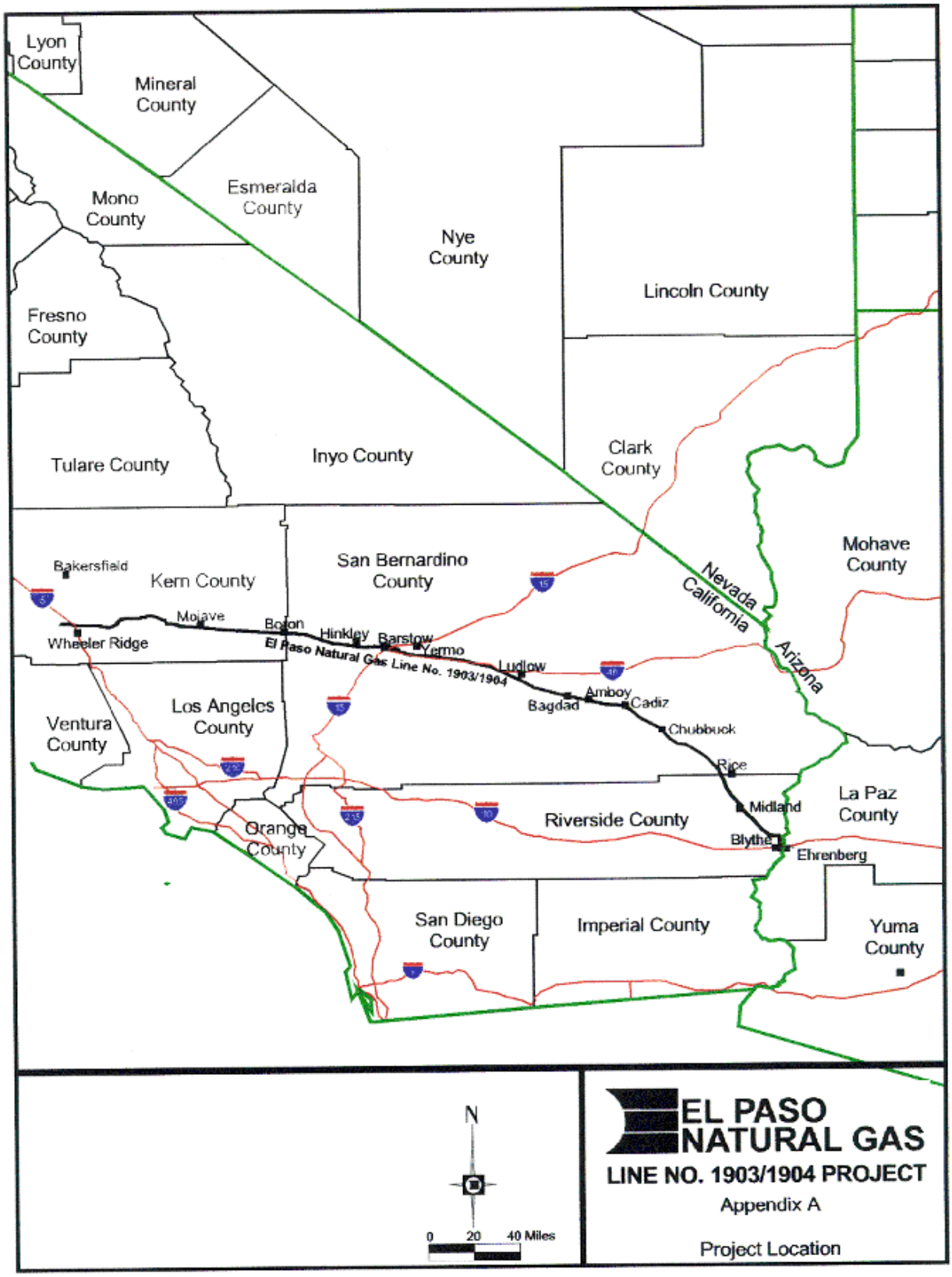
El Paso is the lessee of State Leases PRC 7527.2 and 6783.1. These leases were originally issued to Plains All American Pipeline, LP. The original pipeline was constructed to transport crude oil from California offshore leases to Texas for refining. The total lease was assigned to El Paso Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of El Paso Natural Gas Company.

4. PROPOSED PROJECT

El Paso proposes to convert just over 303 miles of existing 30" pipe from crude oil transport to natural gas transport. The line will connect with existing natural gas lines at three locations in Arizona and California.

Internal cleaning of the pipeline has been completed. El Paso plans to install and/or replace approximately 5,000 feet of pipeline in several small sections where the pipe has suffered some damage. El Paso also wishes to relocate approximately 3,400 feet of pipeline at three fault crossings to improve separation from other adjacent gas pipelines. This will consist of one change of 1,800 feet and two changes of approximately 800 feet each.

The conversion will also entail three pipeline tie-ins, the removal of 9 mainline valves, 11 vent valves and 5 pig signals, the installation of 19 new valves, and the inspection and rewrapping of worn or pitted pipe wrap. El Paso will also hydrostatically test the pipeline in segments prior to operations in order to ensure the integrity of the pipeline. With the exception of the three pipeline tie-in locations, all construction activities, approximately 110 total, will take place within the original 100-foot construction corridor. Most activities will require approximately 300 feet in length for disturbance. At each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Inyo County
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Mohave County
Bakersfield
Kern County
San Bernardino County
Nevada
California
Arizona
Mojave
Boron
Hinkley
Barstow
Yermo
Wheeler Ridge
El Paso Natural Gas Line No. 1903/1904
Ludlow
Amboy
Bagdad
Cadiz
Chubbuck
Ventura County
Los Angeles County
Rice
Midland
La Paz County
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Orange County
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Ehrenberg
San Diego County
Imperial County
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EL PASO NATURAL GAS
LINE NO. 1903/1904 PROJECT
Appendix A
Project Location

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location the trench will be excavated using backhoes and trenching equipment down to the pipeline. Depending on the operation at that location various types of cutting and welding equipment would be used. The trench would then be backfilled and the disturbed area restored. A listing of all locations at which work is planned is attached as Table 1.

Once the conversion is complete, El Paso intends to operate the line as a bi-directional gas transmission facility without compression. El Paso has determined that compression will not be needed to operate the pipeline system at this time; however, predicted long term growth in the gas market in the region will likely result in a future need for additional compression located near Ehrenberg, in La Paz county, Arizona. Therefore, a new compressor station will be considered as a project alternative for the analysis of the project to provide El Paso with flexibility should market conditions drive the need for additional gas.

El Paso has begun or completed several surveys that will be of use in preparing the EIR/EA. The BLM Plan of Development, the Seismic Hazards Evaluation and Mitigation Plan and route photo alignment sheets have been completed. The FERC environmental resource reports, wetlands delineation report, T&E plant surveys and detailed topographic maps are in preparation, and will be available in the next few weeks.

5. PERMITS AND PERMITTING AGENCIES

According to El Paso, Project facilities are currently in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements. Local, State and federal agencies that have permits or approvals associated with existing operations, and that have, or may have, approval or oversight over aspects of the proposed Project, include:

- California State Lands Commission (CEQA lead agency)
- Bureau of Land Management (NEPA lead agency)
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- Riverside, San Bernardino and Kern Counties
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California State Fire Marshall
- Lahontan River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

6. SCOPE OF EIR/EA

NEPA requires federal agencies to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a permit or certificate. For this project this includes a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by FERC and various Right-of-Way permits issued by the BLM. The CSLC, as State

Lead Agency, is required to consider the same potential impacts within the State of California under CEQA. The EIR/EA that the BLM and CSLC is preparing will give both agencies and other responsible and cooperating agencies the required information to take the necessary actions.

NEPA and CEQA also require the BLM and CSLC to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This is called "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EIR/EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the BLM and CSLC are requesting public comments on the scope of the issues to be analyzed and presented in the EIR/EA.

The agencies' independent analysis of the issues will result in the publication of a Draft EIR/EA. The Draft will be mailed to Federal, State and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; landowners and abutters; local libraries, newspapers and television stations; and other interested parties. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIR/EA. All comments on the Draft EIR/EA will be considered and the document revised, as necessary, before a Final EIR/EA is issued. The Final EIR/EA will include a response to all comments received.

6.1 Potentially Significant Impacts to be Addressed in the EIR/EA

The analysis will address both short-term and long-term impacts associated with construction and operation of the natural gas line. Generally, this will include ground disturbance, potential biological disturbance, risk of pipeline rupture and equipment operational factors. Environmental issues that will require detailed analysis include, but are not necessarily limited to:

6.1.1 Hazards and Hazardous Materials/Risk of Upset

Due to the small amount of actual construction during the conversion process, there is very little risk of exposure to hazardous materials during the initial construction phase.

Operation of a natural gas pipeline includes a small but measurable risk of upset, leading to a release of gas and potential explosion or fire.

6.1.2 Geology and Soils

Seismic and soil studies have been carried out along the length of the existing pipeline, and additional valves are being placed to limit the length of pipeline that could be emptied in case of rupture. Minor re-routing is planned at three fault crossings to increase separation from other existing pipelines.

6.1.3 Biological Resources

The primary impact of the project on wildlife habitat would be the cutting, clearing and/or removal of existing vegetation within the construction work area. The removal of desert vegetation could have a localized, but potentially significant long-term impact on wildlife. The reestablishment of woody desert plants may take decades, and this could result in long-term habitat loss for those species that utilize these habitats. The limited nature of the proposed construction, coupled with appropriate mitigation measures, should reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) have identified special status species that may occur in the general vicinity of the proposed project.

6.1.4 Energy

Potential beneficial and adverse energy impacts will be addressed in the EIR. Since El Paso proposes to make the existing pipeline a bi-directional facility, the proposed Project may have the capability to provide additional energy supply due to increased transportation of natural gas into California. This is a potentially significant beneficial impact. The use of fossil fuels during construction could be a potentially adverse impact.

6.1.5 Land Use and Planning

The project is a modification of the use of an already existing pipeline. No changes in land use are proposed. However, a subdivision near Stallion Springs has been constructed over the pipeline since it was built. The EIR/EA will identify any relevant land uses that might be adversely affected by the proposed project, and ensure that appropriate mitigation measures and/or reasonable alternatives (see 6.3.3) are identified.

6.1.6 Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is defined by State law as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”

The EIR/EA will identify any relevant populations that might be adversely affected by the proposed project, and ensure that a range of reasonable alternatives is identified.

6.2 No Impact/Less Than Significant Impacts

Based on its preliminary review, the CSLC staff has determined that the proposed Project, with incorporation of mitigation historically known to be effective, would have a less than significant impact or no impact on the CEQA issue areas identified below. The primary reasons for this preliminary determination are as follows.

- The construction for the project will be limited to replacing valves and short lengths of pipe in an already existing system.

- The continued use of an existing pipeline will cause few new impacts.
- The pipeline route does not go through densely populated areas.

Additional information on these issue areas is summarized below.

6.2.1 Aesthetics/Lighting

Construction will only take place during daylight hours. If a compressor station is added at Ehrenberg, there would likely be the need for lighting at the site for maintenance and security purposes. This aspect will be addressed under the alternative discussed in 6.3.2 below.

6.2.2 Agricultural Resources

No agricultural activities are present in the Project vicinity where work is planned.

6.2.3 Air Quality

Only a minor amount of surface disturbing activities will take place during construction activities. Mitigation for dust control and emissions from construction equipment will reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

6.2.4 Cultural Resources

Minor construction along an existing right-of-way should not disturb any new cultural resources. Standard mitigation measures will be implemented where any ground disturbance is planned, including Native American consultation for all areas where surface disturbance would occur, per a discussion with the BLM State Archaeologist.

6.2.5 Hydrology and Water Quality

Implementation of the proposed Project will use existing water allotments for hydrostatic testing. No open cut stream crossings will occur as the pipeline is in place.

6.2.6 Noise

Construction will be limited in both time and location, and no construction is planned near sensitive receptors. On the possibility that compression will be added at the Ehrenberg location, the impacts of additional noise will be analyzed under the alternative discussed in 6.3.2 below.

6.2.7 Population and Housing

Construction will take place over a limited time and will not generate any significant use of existing housing. The operation of the pipeline will use existing personnel and will not generate any need for additional housing.

6.2.8 Public Services

Project implementation is not expected to have any impact on public service providers, e.g., fire protection, law enforcement, emergency medical services, or on schools, parks, governmental facilities, or other public facilities in any of the three counties through which the project goes.

6.2.9 Recreation

Implementation of the proposed Project will not result in any net increase in the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities in the area.

6.2.10 Transportation and Traffic

Implementation of the proposed Project will result in only minor increases in traffic during the limited construction period.

6.3 POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

6.3.1 No Project Alternative

The EIR/EA will examine the impacts of not converting the existing pipeline to natural gas delivery.

6.3.2 Additional Compression

The EIR/EA will examine the impacts of providing additional compression at the Ehrenberg station to meet future needs for increasing the amount of gas transported by the pipeline.

6.3.3 Re-route Around Horsethief Flat (near Stallion Springs)

Since the All American pipeline was built, and before it was acquired by El Paso, a residential subdivision has been approved over the pipeline route. Several houses have been built on or near the pipeline right-of-way. The EIR/EA will examine the need for any re-routing of the pipeline or inclusion of special mitigations on this portion of the route.

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Table 1-2
El Paso Line No. 1903/1904 Project
Construction Activity Land Disturbance

Milepost Begin	Location/Activity	Constr. Length (ft)	Const. Disturb. Width	Const. Disturb. (acres)	Perm. Length (ft.)	Perm. Disturb. Width	Perm. Disturb. (acres)
0.00	Emidio Pump Station*	300	100	0.69	50**	50**	0.06**
2.10	Wheeler Ridge	300	200	1.38	200	175	0.80
17.56	Multiple Activities	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
22.00	Remove/Cap Pig Signal	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
22.48	Tejon Pump Station	1500	100	3.44	0	0	0
22.54	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	*	*	*	0	0	0
24.70	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
24.80	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
26.00	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
29.50	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
29.80	Sleeve Removal/Repair	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
31.00	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
31.70	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
32.56	Multiple Activities	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
33.00	Hydrostatic Test Water Discharge***	?	?	?	350***	350***	2.81***
40.20	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
43.10	Remove/Cap 4" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
44.00	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
45.45	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
47.73	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
50.36	Multiple Activities	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
50.46	Replace or Recondition Pipe	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
50.65	Replace or Recondition Pipe	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
52.32	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0

56.00	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
56.07	Remove Interconnect/Replace	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
62.58	Remove/Cap Pig Signal	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
62.80	New Valve 5	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
63.06	Mojave Heat Station	950	100	2.18	0	0	0
63.70	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
65.60	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
82.70	New Valve 4	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
94.50	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
98.70	New Valve 3	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
105.73	Remove/Cap Pig Signal	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
105.80	Twelve Gauge Heat Station	2000	100	4.59	0	0	0
109.80	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
117.05	New Valve 2	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
121.20	Replace or Recondition Pipe	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
126.00	Remove Existing Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
126.70	Remove 30" Check Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
132.14	Daggett	1000	400	9.18	200	175	0.80
132.50	Sleeve Removal/Repair	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
138.87	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
146.50	Pipe Storage/Staging	500	500	5.74	0	0	0
147.94	Replace or Recondition Pipe	36,326	100	83.39	0	0	0
151.90	New Valve 9	*	*	*	50	50	0.06
154.90	Replace Pipe Under Road	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
160.80	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
163.90	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
169.39	Remove/Cap Pig Signal	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
169.56	Ludlow Pump Station	950	100	2.18	50	50	0.06
173.80	Replace Pipe Under Road	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
173.99	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
175.00	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
177.30	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0

180.45	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
187.45	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
188.70	New Valve 7	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
197.82	Replace or Recondition Pipe	36,890	100	84.69	0	0	0
199.80	Pipe Storage/Staging	500	500	5.74	0	0	0
208.00	New Valve 6	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
215.57	Remove/Cap Pig Signal	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
215.75	Cadiz Pump Station	1025	100	2.35	0	0	0
216.67	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
228.00	New Valve 5	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
228.60	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
233.60	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
247.60	New Valve 4	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
255.00	Remove Existing MLV #3	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
255.78	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
261.60	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
265.58	Replace Pipe Under Road	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
265.70	Replace or Recondition Pipe	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
266.12	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
267.00	New Valve 3	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
275.15	Remove/Cap 2" Vent Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
276.00	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
279.47	Remove Existing MLV #4	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
285.00	Hydrostatic Test Cut-in	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
286.30	New Valve 2	300	100	0.69	50	50	0.06
294.00	Hydrostatic Test Water Source	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
296.23	Replace or Recondition Pipe	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
296.24	Replace or Recondition Pipe	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
298.81	Replace or Recondition Pipe	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
299.00	Hydrostatic Test Water Source	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
300.00	Replace Pipe Under Road	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
302.68	Remove Existing MLV #5	300	100	0.69	0	0	0

303.40	Remove 30" Check Valve	300	100	0.69	0	0	0
303.50	Tie-in @ Ehrenberg	900	200	4.13	200	175	0.80
	TOTAL FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES			261.40			6.14

* At Emidio, in addition to removing pig facilities, the pipe will be cut and capped and a vent valve will be installed on the pipe.

** Temporary and/or permanent disturbance is within, and accounted for by, other activities at the same location.

*** The disturbance associated with laying the irrigation pipe at MP 33 will be temporary disturbance. The construction of the 350' X 350' evaporation pond is presented as permanent disturbance.