

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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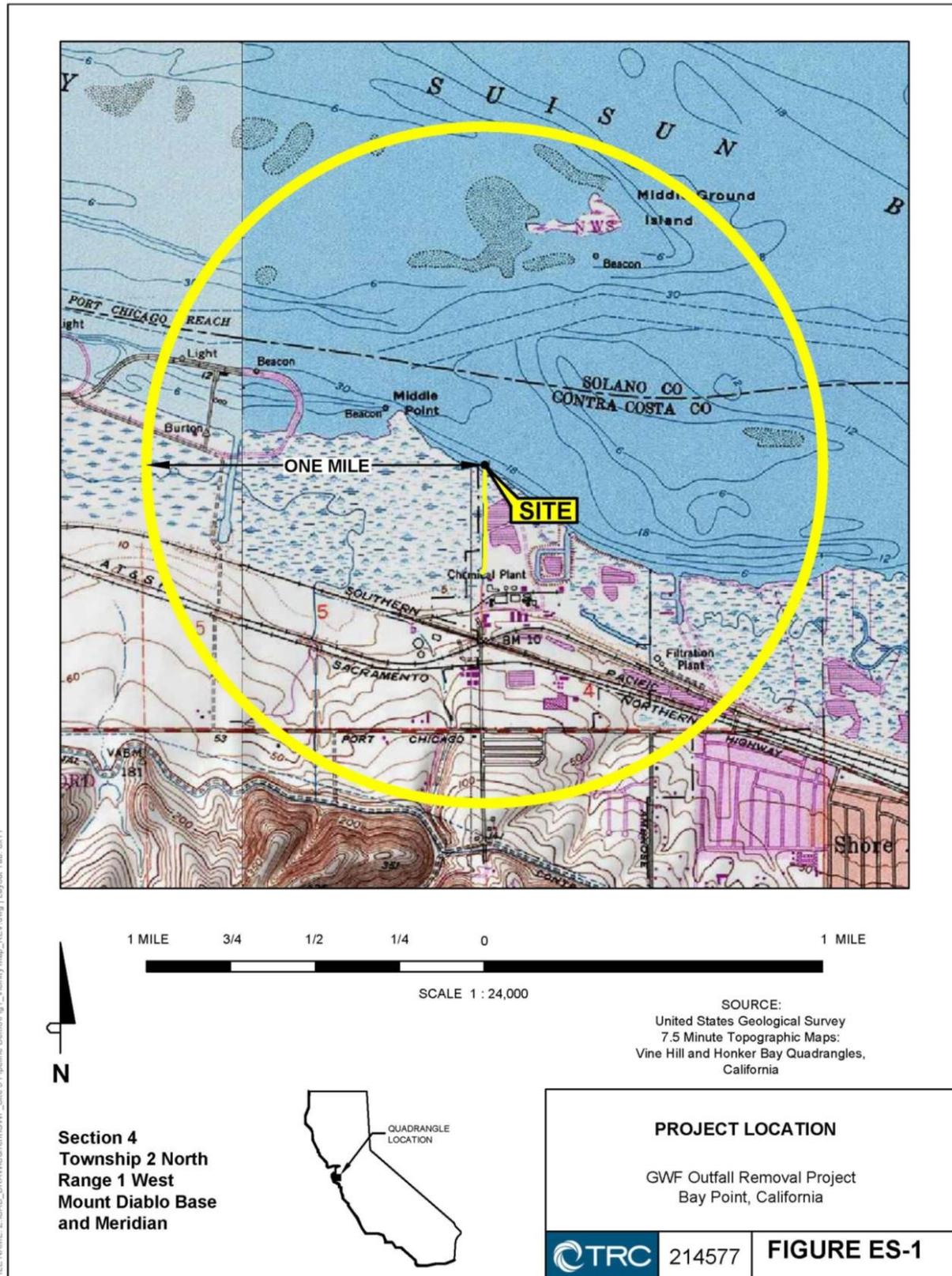
2 This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared by the California State  
3 Lands Commission (CSLC), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality  
4 Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), to analyze and disclose the  
5 environmental effects associated with the proposed GWF Outfall Removal (Project).  
6 The Project would authorize GWF Power Systems, L.P. (GWF or Applicant) to remove  
7 an existing outfall structure (i.e., piping, diffusers and timber pile markers) that is no  
8 longer in service, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the existing CSLC  
9 lease (PRC 7230.1).

10 The proposed Project is located on sovereign land in Suisun Bay connected by an  
11 easement to 555 Nichols Road, near Bay Point, in unincorporated Contra Costa County  
12 (see Figure ES-1). The property at 555 Nichols Road is a former GWF power plant that  
13 has been decommissioned and demolished. Removal and demolition of the outfall pipe  
14 is expected to occur from September 1 to October 31, 2014, and take approximately  
15 two consecutive weeks to complete, including mobilization, demolition, and  
16 demobilization.

17 The goal of the Project is the safe removal of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) piping,  
18 wood, and steel materials associated with the outfall structure that remain offshore  
19 within CSLC jurisdiction, while minimizing potential environmental impacts of the Project  
20 on the environment. The CSLC prepared an MND because it determined that, while the  
21 Initial Study (IS) identified potentially significant impacts related to the outfall removal  
22 activities, measures have been incorporated into the Project proposal and agreed to by  
23 GWF that avoid or mitigate those impacts to a point where no significant impacts would  
24 occur.

### 25 PROPOSED PROJECT

26 On August 10, 1988, the CSLC authorized a 30-year General Lease – Right-of-Way  
27 Use for the use and maintenance of three submerged pipe outfalls at three sites in  
28 Suisun Bay, named sites III, IV, and V. Of the three outfalls authorized, only the outfall  
29 at Site V was constructed. The outfall was used to discharge process wastewater from  
30 an electrical generating power plant in the unincorporated community of Bay Point,  
31 Contra Costa County. The outfall has been decommissioned since the power plant  
32 ceased operation in 2012 and, in 2013, the plant was demolished. On March 25, 2014,  
33 GWF submitted an application to the CSLC for the proposed removal of the outfall  
34 facilities and subsequent lease termination under the terms of the lease. The application  
35 includes the complete removal of in-water-HDPE pipe materials below mean high water  
36 (MHW), including steel and concrete ballast weight “baskets” and two wood pilings  
37 demarking the outfall landward of the Suisun Bay.



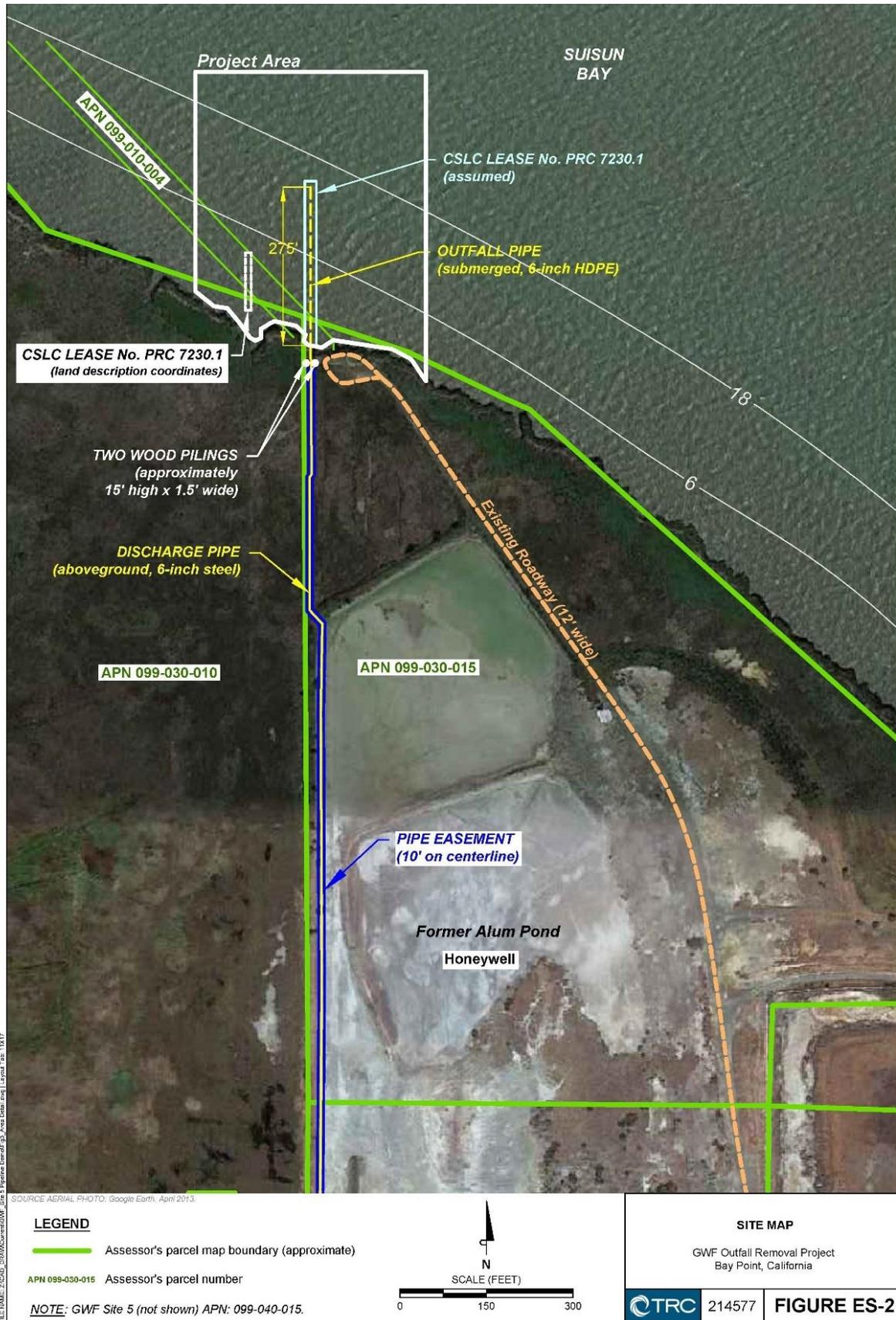
1 Elements of the outfall structure to be removed include:

- 2 • An approximately 275-foot-long by 6-inch-diameter HDPE pipe running  
3 perpendicular to the shoreline into Suisun Bay with 15, 3-inch-diameter HDPE  
4 diffuser risers spaced at 30-inch intervals beginning at approximately 220 feet  
5 offshore; and
- 6 • Two 16-foot-high by one-foot-diameter wood piles on the shoreline below MHW,  
7 marking the point where the discharge pipe enters into Suisun Bay.

8 The piping will be removed in its entirety to the shoreline terminus at the MHW mark,  
9 where it connects to the onshore pipe. The two wood pile structures marking and  
10 protecting the outfall at the shoreline will be removed to at least 24 inches below the  
11 mud line. Removal activities will also include installation of a blind flange closure plate  
12 onto the land-portion terminus flange. None of the armor cover rock or bedding gravel  
13 will be removed from the pipe corridor and no other substrate fill, grade, levelling, or  
14 other restoration will be performed.

15 The removal activities will primarily be carried out from floating equipment staged from  
16 the water near the shoreline with the exception of a light utility work vehicle parked  
17 onshore that would be used to assist with servicing of equipment, providing equipment  
18 and support for cutting the wood piles, or for the expedient evacuation of an injured  
19 worker. This temporary vehicular access would use the existing 12-foot-wide levee  
20 road, shown in Figure ES-2. This existing road will also allow for access from onshore  
21 for the Applicant, its contractors, site monitors, agency representatives or other  
22 authorized personnel observing operations. The temporary access roadway is on  
23 private land and use is subject to authorization by the landowner (Honeywell  
24 International). All removal vessels, equipment and other materials would be removed at  
25 the Project completion.

26 Prior to initiating pipe removal, with the floating barge stationary (with anchor spuds in  
27 place) and securely moored adjacent to the pipe terminus, water jetting will be  
28 completed around the underside of the pipe, approximately five feet from the pipe  
29 terminus. A suitable, sturdy chain will be positioned around the pipe (a “choke”) to grip  
30 and enable lifting. The pipe will be lifted and peeled back (in 10- to 20-foot sections),  
31 and divers will relocate the choke/lifting chain along the pipe alignment as the pipe is  
32 recovered while working toward the shoreline. Water jetting activities are expected to  
33 occur only at the beginning of pipe removal activities. Divers will locate the diffuser  
34 section and install mechanical plugs into the top of the 3-inch vertical riser ports to  
35 contain the sediment.



1 The 6-inch HDPE submarine pipe will be disconnected from the land-portion  
2 aboveground steel pipe. This shoreline terminus of the 6-inch HDPE pipe will then be  
3 secured to the two timber pilings. A 100-foot-long semi-circular silt/turbidity curtain will  
4 be connected to the shoreline (east and west of the wood pilings) by driven stakes to  
5 encompass the wood pilings and outfall connection at the shoreline. An anchor will be  
6 placed near the apex of the semi-circle and at the end of each 50-foot section to hold  
7 the silt curtain in place.

8 Buoys will be affixed to the HDPE pipe section to help it float and keep it visible while  
9 securing the 6-inch outfall terminus to a larger buoy and mooring at the furthest point  
10 offshore. When the on-barge equipment is no longer able to “peel” the buried pipe off  
11 the bottom at the appropriate angle, the barge will be relocated closer to the shoreline  
12 and secured in place with the anchor spuds.

13 During low tidal cycles, particularly when working close to the shore in shallow water  
14 depths, the “peeling” back of the HDPE pipe from its corridor will be temporarily secured  
15 in order to recover the floating section of the pipe. The section of floating pipe will be  
16 lifted onto the deck of the barge. Mechanical “stopper” plugs will be placed at both ends  
17 of each pipe section to contain sediment.

18 The two timber piles located along the shoreline (next to the 6-inch steel flange  
19 connection) will be extracted and/or cut to 24 inches below the mud-line, floated and  
20 recovered onto the barge, and cut into manageable pieces as necessary. The timber  
21 piles are assumed to be coated with creosote residue and will be transported and  
22 properly disposed at Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg.

23 Several environmental controls to be implemented include (but are not limited to):

- 24 • All engine-powered equipment used and operated upon and from the deck of the  
25 barge will use drip-pans or other means to retain fluids beneath the equipment.
- 26 • Only approved and certified fuel cans with “no-spill” spring loaded lids will be  
27 used when fueling up diesel or gas engines. Engines will be turned OFF and  
28 fueling will not be done over the water. A spill kit with absorbent diapers will be  
29 readily available next to each filling area.
- 30 • A continuous floating oil-absorbent sock will be deployed and maintained around  
31 the entire barge to contain any accidental leakage of fuel or hydraulic fluids.
- 32 • A turbidity curtain (100 linear feet) shall be installed and maintained around the  
33 shoreline terminus flange of the pipe to maximize sediment containment that may  
34 discharge from the pipe and/or be resuspended from the water bottom during  
35 removal. Additionally, turbidity will be minimized by removing the pipe with slow,  
36 controlled movements. Sawdust generated during timber piling cutting and

1 removal will also be contained in this curtain and/or skimmed and removed if  
2 floating in water (and disposed of in plastic bags).

- 3 • Cutting and removal of the timber piles 24 inches below the mudline will follow  
4 the methods identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in its Best  
5 Management Practices for Pile Removal (dated March 1, 2007) to control  
6 turbidity and sediments re-entering the water column during pile removal, capture  
7 debris, and dispose of removed piles and debris.
- 8 • Native bay mud will be repositioned to accommodate wood pile cutting and will  
9 be replaced within the minor voids after cutting and piling removal is complete.
- 10 • The piles will be placed in a containment basin on the barge to capture any  
11 adhering sediment immediately after the pile is removed from the water. Piles will  
12 be cut into manageable lengths.
- 13 • The Project will use U.S. Coast Guard compliant stationary barge mooring  
14 equipment, including marker flags and nighttime illumination and flashers.
- 15 • A plastics recycling company will be hired by the Applicant to transport an  
16 estimated as 1,950 pounds (275 linear feet at 7.09 pounds per linear foot) of  
17 HDPE pipe materials. In the event recycling is not feasible, the pipe materials will  
18 be delivered to an off-site landfill.

19 The work will be scheduled during a time of year that minimizes effects to sensitive  
20 ecological resources, including threatened and endangered species as designated by  
21 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),  
22 and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (further described in Section  
23 3.4, Biological Resources). Onshore activities will be designed to avoid disturbance of  
24 tidal marsh habitat (identified in Section 3.4, Biological Resources).

## 25 **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

26 The proposed Project is located in Suisun Bay, in unincorporated Contra Costa County  
27 approximately 0.6 mile east of the Concord Naval Weapons Station Military Ocean  
28 Terminal, 0.8 mile south of Middle Ground Island, 3 miles west of the mouth of the  
29 Sacramento River, and 0.9 mile north of Port Chicago Highway. The general Project  
30 area is located on approximately 4 acres of ungranted sovereign lands, including an  
31 approximately 200-foot buffer surrounding the outfall/diffuser, which has an “actual”  
32 footprint of 0.003 acre (139.5 square feet). The Project will remove approximately 275  
33 feet of HDPE pipe. The Project area of disturbance used for analyzing impacts is  
34 approximately 0.06 acre of waters of the United States and State of California (i.e., 275  
35 feet by 10-foot corridor).

1 The Project site is located primarily offshore, with the only onshore portion being an  
2 existing levee road that may provide onshore access for emergency services. The  
3 contractor's shore base is anticipated to be at an existing marina facility no more than  
4 10 miles from the Project site.

5 The outfall is the terminus of an existing 6-inch steel discharge pipe which begins at the  
6 site of the now demolished power plant. It runs northerly on footings where it becomes  
7 aboveground, along relatively level ground berm above an aluminum sulfate pond and  
8 further north, a widespread coastal marsh with only small topographic changes as the  
9 land uses change from industrial, on a berm past the depressed aluminum sulfate pond,  
10 through coastal marsh, and to the shoreline. The Project does not include removal of  
11 this 1,400-foot, aboveground, 6-inch-diameter carbon steel pipe, as it is located entirely  
12 on private property not under the control of the Applicant.

13 There is no safe access to the Project site from upland locations. To the south of the  
14 Project is ChemTrade – Bay Point Works. The facility occupies approximately 26 acres,  
15 and is an operating sulfuric acid plant. Access to the property is controlled at the gate.  
16 Honeywell property is adjacent to the property and is an additional industrial use. To the  
17 west, the federally-controlled Port Chicago Military Ocean Terminal property is adjacent  
18 to the GWF pipe right-of-way.

19 The Contra Costa General Plan designates the area for Heavy Industrial and  
20 Public/Semi-Public land use which previously included the now demolished GWF power  
21 plant. Public/Semi-Public land is located to the southwest of the Project site within which  
22 is active use by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad and Union Pacific  
23 Railroad (UPRR). Residential uses are located more than 1 mile away. There are no  
24 sensitive land uses such as hospitals, retirement communities, or schools located  
25 adjacent to or within 1 mile of the Project site. Open Space surrounds the Project site,  
26 however, this Open Space designation serves as a conservation measure for the  
27 coastal marsh that is prevalent in the area, and is generally not accessible to the public.

## 28 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES**

29 The environmental factors checked below in Table ES-1 would be potentially affected  
30 by this Project; a checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a "Potentially  
31 Significant Impact" except that the Applicant has incorporated Project revisions,  
32 including the implementation of mitigation measures (MMs), that reduce the impact to  
33 "Less than Significant with Mitigation," as detailed in Section 3 of this MND. Table ES-2  
34 lists proposed MMs designed to reduce or avoid potentially significant impacts. With  
35 implementation of the proposed MMs, all Project-related impacts would be reduced to  
36 less than significant.

**Table ES-1 Environmental Issues and Potentially Significant Impacts**

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forest Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Major Areas of Concern: Environmental Justice		

**Table ES-2 Summary of Proposed Project Mitigation Measures (MM)**

<b>Biological Resources</b>
MM BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program
MM BIO-2: Work Windows
MM BIO-3: In Water Turbidity Protections
MM BIO-4: Protection from Release of Toxic Substances
MM BIO-5: Confine Vehicle Use to Established Roadway.
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>
MM BIO-3: In Water Turbidity Protections
MM BIO-4: Protection from Release of Toxic Substances
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b>
MM BIO-3: In Water Turbidity Protections
MM BIO-4: Protection from Release of Toxic Substances