

1 **3.1 AESTHETICS**

<b>AESTHETICS – Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 **3.1.1 Environmental Setting**

3 The Project is located in San Pablo Bay (Bay), in the northwest portion of Contra Costa  
 4 County (County). Views of the Project area are visible from residences along the  
 5 shoreline in Rodeo, as well as from the city of Hercules (City) including Victoria by the  
 6 Bay Subdivision (Subdivision), commercial facilities in the City, public roads, and  
 7 developed and undeveloped parts of the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail).

8 From the shore, the views of the offshore Project area consist primarily of open water;  
 9 marine traffic including commercial vessels and recreational boats; and two sets of  
 10 Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks in the UPRR Right-of-Way (ROW) along the  
 11 shoreline. Project vessels would be visible when working offshore.

12 The shoreline area of the Project is covered with riprap. The riprap extends east and  
 13 west of the pipeline area. Southeast of the pipeline, the upland area is barren to the  
 14 railroad tracks and then slopes upward to the fenced undeveloped Shoreline Park  
 15 (Park). The slope of the shoreline blocks most of the views of the area where pipeline  
 16 cutting and grouting work would occur; however, some residences located higher on the  
 17 slope may have views of the work area, especially from second and third stories of the  
 18 residences. While the proposed Project may not be easily visible from the shoreline  
 19 residences, it would be visible to the individuals in the fenced undeveloped Park) and  
 20 the Bay Trail with the developed and undeveloped parts (see Figure 2-1). The Project  
 21 may also be visible from the town of Rodeo residences to the east.

1 **3.1.2 Regulatory Setting**

2 Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the  
3 Project are identified in Table 3-1. Local goals, policies, and/or regulations applicable to  
4 this issue area are described below.

5 The Project area is located within scenic areas designated by both the City and County.  
6 In its General Plan, the City’s Scenic Resources objective is to “Preserve and enhance  
7 scenic views within the community” (City of Hercules 1998). The waterway and the  
8 shoreline in the Project area are part of County’s ‘Scenic Waterways’ system, as  
9 designated in the Open Space Element of its General Plan (Contra Costa County 2005).

10 **3.1.3 Impact Analysis**

11 ***a) Have a substantial effect on a scenic vista?***

12 **Less than Significant Impact.** The Project area is located in a County-designated  
13 scenic waterway. Pipeline removal activities would result in short-term (approximately 3  
14 weeks) impacts during construction periods to views of the scenic waterway. There  
15 would be no permanent impacts to the views of the scenic waterway. During removal of  
16 the pipeline submerged in the Bay, several marine vessels would be located offshore.  
17 However, the presence of these vessels would be consistent with other views in the  
18 Bay, and would be temporary and short-term, occurring only during the construction  
19 period. During preparation of the onshore pipeline for abandonment, one to two barges  
20 and/or supporting vessels would be anchored close to the shore as the base for  
21 removal/abandonment activities. The presence of these vessels would also be short-  
22 term and temporary, lasting approximately 1 week. Consequently, the impact from the  
23 Project would be less than significant.

24 The Project would have a positive impact by helping make the subject waterway and the  
25 shoreline compliant with the County’s ‘Scenic Waterways’ system, as designated in the  
26 Open Space Element of its General Plan (Contra Costa County 2005) as discussed  
27 above in Section 3.1.2.

28 ***b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to tress,  
29 rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?***

30 **No Impact.** No Federal, State or locally designated scenic routes are located in, or are  
31 visible from, the Project area. The Project would thus have no impact on scenic  
32 resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings  
33 within a State scenic highway corridor.

34 ***c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its  
35 surroundings?***

1 **Less than Significant Impact.** There are no permanent above-ground features  
2 associated with the Project. The Project would remove the submerged pipeline and  
3 would have limited short-term effect (approximately 3 weeks) on views from the scenic  
4 waterway or surrounding land uses. Riprap relocated onsite for the project would be  
5 replaced (resulting in shoreline similar to existing conditions) at the onshore pipeline  
6 area when the work is finished. Because of the short-term work period for pipeline  
7 removal activities, the Project would have a less than significant impact on the existing  
8 visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

9 The Project would have a positive impact by contributing to make the subject waterway  
10 and shoreline compliant with the County's 'Scenic Waterways' system, as designated in  
11 the Open Space Element of its General Plan (Contra Costa County 2005) as discussed  
12 above in Section 3.1.2.

13 ***d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect***  
14 ***day or nighttime views in the area?***

15 **No Impact.** No new source of visual glare or substantial light would occur due to the  
16 proposed Project. Work hours would adhere to City's requirements and would be  
17 conducted between approximately 7 AM and 5 PM during weekdays unless specifically  
18 approved by the City; no sources of substantial night-time lighting would be anticipated.  
19 The Applicant proposes no work at night or any lights or noise from the barge once the  
20 work has shut down each day, other than safety-related lighting required to comply with  
21 USCG regulations. As a result, there would be no impact with respect to visual glare or  
22 lighting in the area.

### 23 **3.1.4 Mitigation Summary**

24 The Project would not result in significant impacts; therefore, no mitigation is required.