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## INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

### Chevron Horizontal Directional Drill 3 (HDD3) Pipeline Replacement Project

January 2019

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**CEQA Lead Agency:**

California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Applicant:**

Chevron Pipe Line Company  
1400 Smith Street  
Houston, TX 77002



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The California State Lands Commission provides the people of California with effective stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources entrusted to its care through preservation, restoration, enhancement, responsible economic development, and the promotion of public access.

## **CEQA DOCUMENT WEBSITE**

[www.slc.ca.gov/Info/CEQA.html](http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/CEQA.html)

## **Geographic Location (Lease PRC 3277):**

### Grizzly Island Work Site

Latitude: N121.917826

Longitude: 38.097002

### Birds Landing Work Site

Latitude: N121.897836

Longitude: 38.1348354

NAD83 Datum

Cover photo: Birds Landing Area  
(Photo courtesy of AECOM)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1 This mitigated negative declaration (MND) has been prepared by the California State  
2 Lands Commission (Commission or CSLC), as lead agency under the California  
3 Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), to analyze  
4 and disclose the environmental effects associated with the Chevron Horizontal  
5 Directional Drill 3 (HDD3) Pipeline Replacement Project (Project). The Project would  
6 authorize Chevron Pipe Line Company (CPL or Applicant) to replace, in kind, part of  
7 CPL's Bay Area Products Line (BAPL) system,<sup>1</sup> specifically a segment of the 8-inch  
8 Pittsburg-to-Sacramento lateral pipeline that traverses an area located in Solano County  
9 (Figure ES-1). The pipeline segment is covered under General Lease – Right-of-Way  
10 Use No. PRC 3277.1, which the CSLC issued to Chevron on October 13, 2016, and  
11 expires on October 12, 2041.

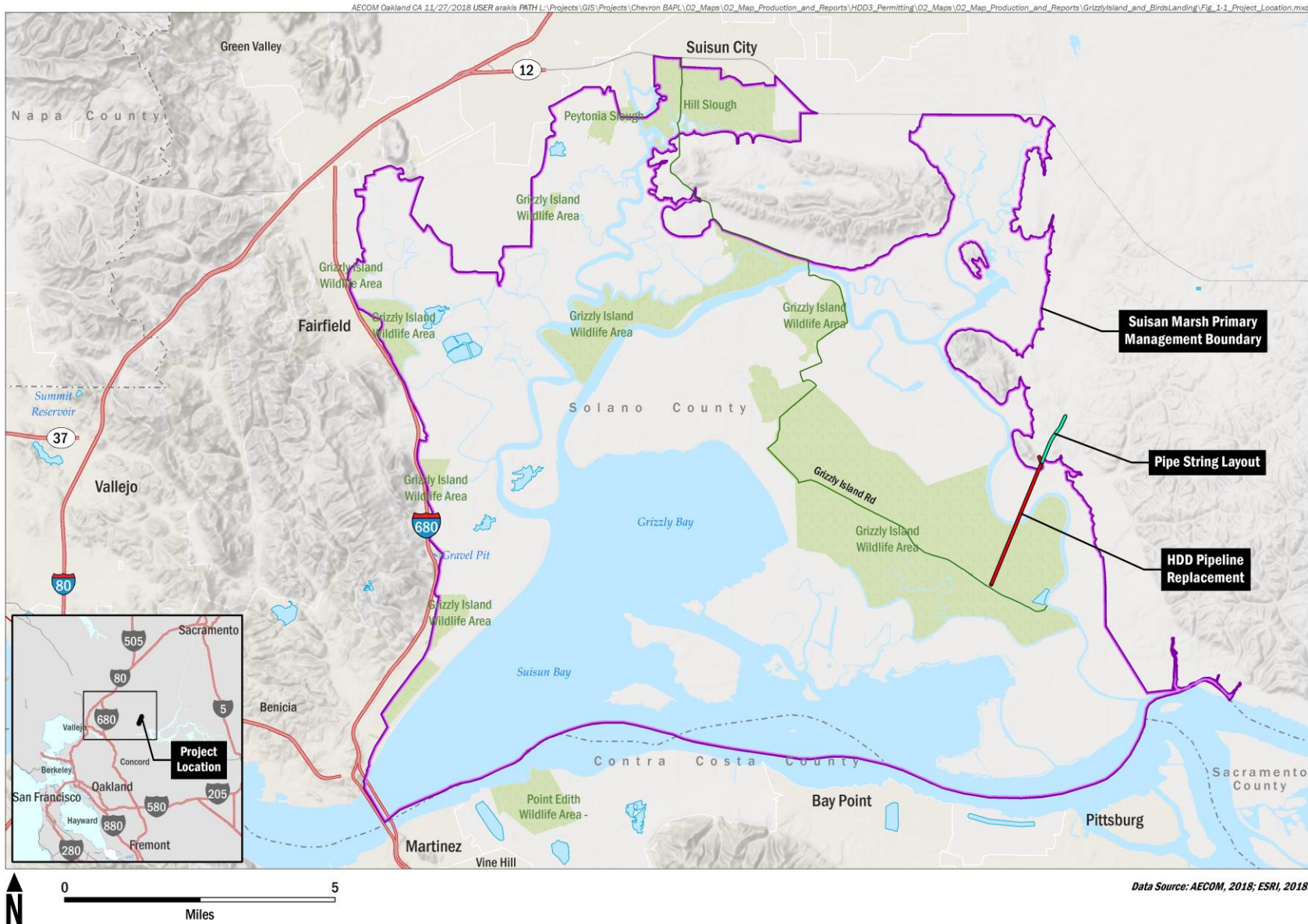
12 Recent inspections on the Pittsburg-to-Sacramento lateral pipeline, installed in 1966,  
13 identified pipeline anomalies (i.e., potential minor imperfections of the pipe's walls). To  
14 eliminate the anomalies, CPL proposes to replace an approximately 2.5-mile pipeline  
15 segment that runs through the Grizzly Island Wildlife and Birds Landing Areas in Solano  
16 County. The replacement pipeline would be the same diameter as the existing pipe. The  
17 Project would not increase the capacity or throughput of the BAPL. The new pipe would  
18 be installed by using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under Suisun Marsh from two  
19 entry points located at the Birds Landing Work Site (BLWS) and Grizzly Island Work  
20 Site (GIWS).

21 The CSLC concluded that an MND is the appropriate CEQA document for the Project.  
22 The initial study identifies potentially significant impacts related to pipeline replacement;  
23 however, after analyzing all of the impacts, the CSLC staff believes that mitigation  
24 measures (MMs) incorporated into the Project and agreed to by CPL would avoid or  
25 mitigate those impacts to a point that no significant impacts would occur.

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<sup>1</sup> The BAPL pipeline system consists of a trunk line that originates at the Richmond Refinery in Richmond and runs to Bethany Station near Brentwood. Three pipeline legs branch from the trunk line: one line from Pittsburg north to Sacramento; a second line from Bethany Station south to the community of Banta in San Joaquin County; and the third line from Bethany Station to San Jose. The BAPL is used to transport refined products (e.g., gasoline, diesel, jet fuel) from the Richmond Refinery to the locations described above.

Figure ES-1. Project Location



1 **PROPOSED PROJECT**

2 CPL is proposing to replace an approximately 2.5-mile portion of an 8-inch lateral  
3 pipeline that traverses an area primarily within Suisun Marsh from Grizzly Island Road  
4 to Birds Landing Road in Solano County. The Project would replace this portion of  
5 CPL's Pittsburg-to-Sacramento lateral pipeline with a new segment of the same  
6 diameter as the existing pipe to address anomalies in that portion of the pipeline and  
7 reduce the potential for impacts from future maintenance and repairs in Suisun Marsh.

8 The Project area would have two entry points from which the horizontal drilling would  
9 occur, located at the Birds Landing Work Site (BLWS) and Grizzly Island Work Site  
10 (GIWS) (Figure ES-2). As described further below, the BLWS is located north of Birds  
11 Landing Road in Solano County and is predominantly disturbed farmland. The GIWS is  
12 a predominantly upland area located north of Grizzly Island Road, within the Grizzly  
13 Island Wildlife Area. The wildlife area is under the jurisdiction of the California  
14 Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and managed pursuant to the Suisun Marsh  
15 Preservation Agreement.

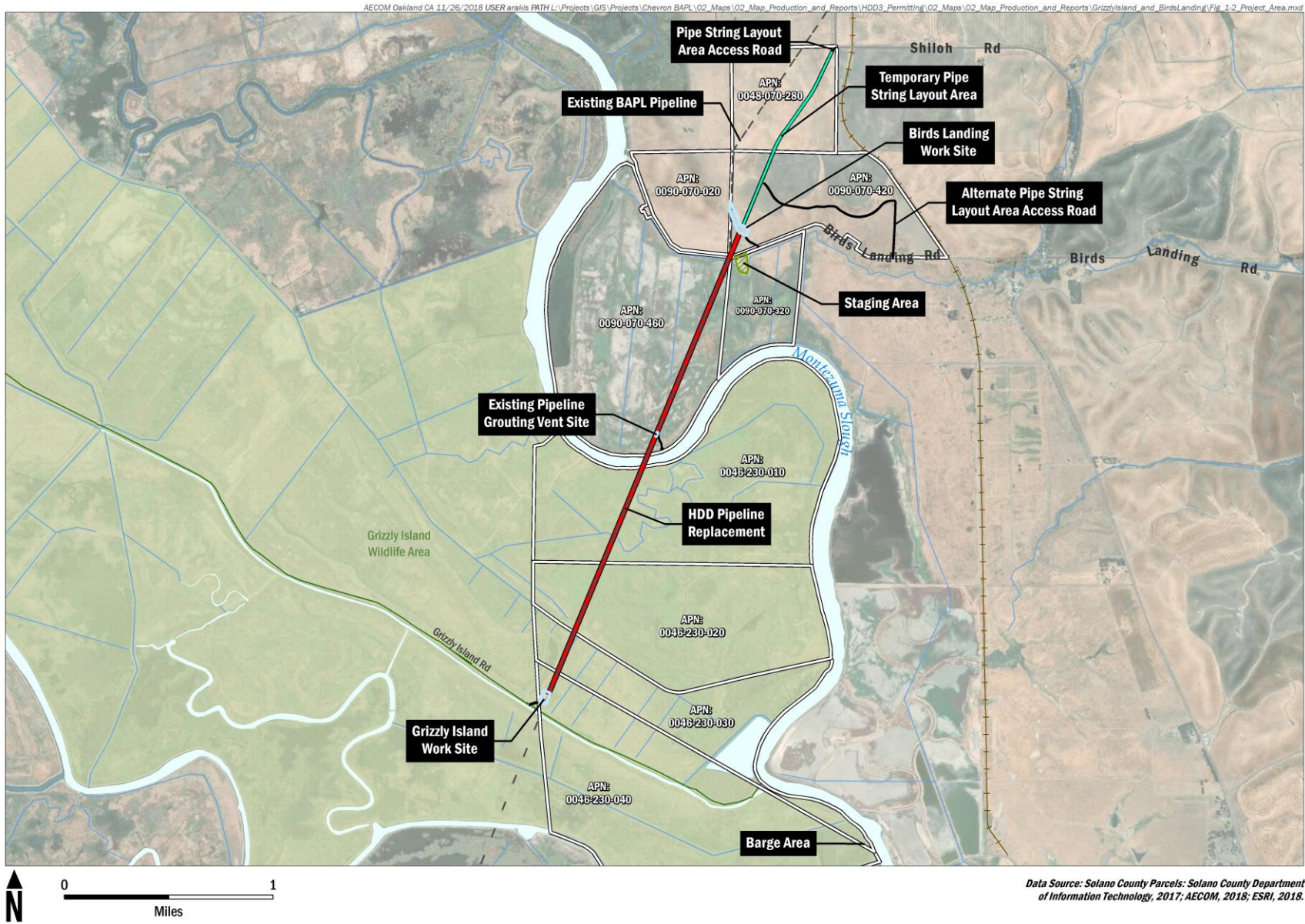
16 **Birds Landing Work Site**

17 The BLWS is an approximately 20-acre work site located north of Birds Landing Road  
18 on privately owned, non-irrigated farmland and grazing land (Figure ES-2). Portions of  
19 the site and access road are within the Primary Management Area of Suisun Marsh.  
20 The Project would require creation of a work site, which would be placed directly on the  
21 ground surface. Vegetation trimming may be necessary, but the ground surface would  
22 not be cleared to bare ground. Construction mats and temporary fill may be placed if  
23 needed to provide a stable work surface that would accommodate the drilling rig and  
24 other equipment and materials at the work site.

25 Equipment at the BLWS would include an approximately 50-foot long drilling rig driven  
26 by an approximately 1,700-horsepower diesel power unit, and has a 750,000-pound or  
27 greater pushing/ pulling capacity. The rig would include a "dead-man" system consisting  
28 of steel road plates or similar for load distribution and installed in front of the drilling rig  
29 for counterbalance. Other equipment stationed on the work site during construction  
30 would include containers, tanks for mixing drilling fluid or "drilling mud", pumps to  
31 transfer the drilling fluid through the system, and several water tanks.

32 The BLWS would include a system to clean the drilling fluid for reuse (recycling) during  
33 drilling. A control unit mounted on a drop deck trailer would provide climate-controlled  
34 housing for the drill operator and surveyor. All rig controls and monitoring gauges would  
35 be housed in the control unit, along with the equipment used to monitor and record the  
36 signals received from the down-hole directional equipment. Portable sanitary facilities  
37 for workers and covered, latched trash receptacles would also be available on-site.

Figure ES-2. Project Area



1 An approximately 150-foot-wide by 4,500-foot-long, temporary work area for pipe string  
2 fabrication would be located north of the BLWS drilling rig (Figure ES-2). The pipe string  
3 would be assembled from 40-foot sections of pipe and laid out on rollers in three parallel  
4 segments along the pipe string layout area, before installation in the borehole.

### 5 **Grizzly Island Work Site**

6 The Grizzly Island Work Site is an existing work site that was used previously for the  
7 Mallard Farms HDD project. This work site would be reused for the HDD3 Project  
8 before being removed and restored. The pad was constructed using clean fill material to  
9 provide a level, stable work surface for the drilling operation.

10 The GIWS measures approximately 200 by 300 feet and is located north of Grizzly  
11 Island Road, within the boundaries of the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Figure ES-2). The  
12 wildlife area is under the jurisdiction of CDFW. The surrounding wildlife area consists of  
13 seasonally inundated managed brackish marsh, but the habitat in the immediate work  
14 site is predominantly upland.

15 Equipment used at this site would be similar to the equipment at the BLWS, including a  
16 similarly sized drilling rig.

### 17 **Horizontal Directional Drilling and Pipeline Installation**

18 The Project would use an “intersecting drill” method of horizontal directional drilling  
19 (HDD) consisting of two entry points, one at the BLWS and the other at the GIWS.  
20 Drilling would be completed in three stages:

- 21 • The first stage would consist of directionally drilling a pilot hole at  
22 approximately 120 feet below the surface and along the existing pipeline  
23 alignment. Drilling of this hole would start from each end and would meet at  
24 an intersection point along the drilling path.
- 25 • The second stage would involve reaming the smaller, conjoined pilot hole to  
26 the appropriate size for the outer diameter of the new pipe to be installed.
- 27 • The third stage would be the installation of the new section of pipe (also  
28 known as the pipe string or back string). The new pipeline would be pulled  
29 through the drilled hole, beginning from the BLWS, and pulled southward to  
30 the GIWS. This pipe string would be constructed of 40-foot pipe joints laid out  
31 and welded together north of the BLWS.

1    **Grouting of Existing Pipeline and Relocation of Valve Site**

2    The existing segment of pipe between the BLWS and GIWS would not remain in  
3    operation and would be filled with grout. A temporary air vent would be placed onto the  
4    existing line to allow air to escape and grout to fill the line completely. A portion of the  
5    line would be excavated just north of Montezuma Slough to install the vent.

6    When installed, the proposed replacement pipeline would bypass an existing valve  
7    station currently located on Birds Landing Road. These valves are required for safe  
8    pipeline operation. The existing valve station would be relocated approximately 650 feet  
9    northward to the proposed BLWS drill site, to accommodate the new pipeline alignment.  
10   The existing valve station would be dismantled and the portion of the existing BAPL  
11   pipe between the valve station and the BLWS tie-in point would be removed. The site  
12   would be restored in accordance with landowner and right-of-way agreements.

13   **Demobilization and Site Restoration**

14   After completion of construction activities, all equipment and materials would be  
15   removed from the work sites, the location of the pipeline grouting vent, and the  
16   construction staging areas. All materials used to create the drill pads at the GIWS and  
17   BLWS, including any construction mats, drill casing, rock fill, and filter fabric, would be  
18   removed.

19   After completion of the tie-ins and pipeline testing, all temporary structures on-site to  
20   support drilling would be removed. As described above, the valve station currently  
21   located at the edge of Birds Landing Road would be relocated approximately 650 feet to  
22   the northwest.

23   Drilling fluid/drilling mud waste and soil cuttings would be hauled by truck from the work  
24   sites for disposal at an appropriate, permitted disposal facility consistent with a waste  
25   management plan that would be developed to support the Project.

26   All areas of disturbed ground would be restored at the completion of Project work.

27   **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES**

28   The environmental issues checked in Table ES-1 have the potential to be affected by  
29   this Project. A checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a “potentially  
30   significant impact.” The Applicant has agreed to Project revisions, including  
31   implementation of mitigation measures, that would reduce the impacts to “less than  
32   significant with mitigation,” as detailed in Section 3.0, *Environmental Checklist and*  
33   *Analysis*, of this MND. Table ES-2 lists the proposed MMs designed to reduce or avoid



- 1 potentially significant impacts. With implementation of the proposed MMs, all Project-related impacts would be reduced to less than significant.
- 2

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

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources                | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources (Terrestrial and Marine) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural and Paleontological Resources | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources              | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance            |  |   |

**Table ES-2. Summary of Proposed Mitigation Measures**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Aesthetics   | <b>MM AES-1:</b> Night-Lighting Spillage Minimization   |
| Biological Resources   | <b>MM BIO-1:</b> Environmental Awareness Training<br><b>MM BIO-2:</b> Biological Monitoring and Surveying<br><b>MM BIO-3:</b> Wildlife Exclusion Fencing<br><b>MM BIO-4:</b> Revegetation and Monitoring Plan<br><b>MM AES-1:</b> Night-Lighting Spillage Minimization<br><b>MM HYDRO-1:</b> Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan |
| Cultural and Paleontological Resources and Cultural Resources – Tribal | <b>MM CUL-1:</b> Cultural Resource Training<br><b>MM CUL-2:</b> Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural Resources<br><b>MM CUL-3:</b> Discovery of Previously Unknown Paleontological Resources<br><b>MM CUL-4:</b> Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains   |
| Geology and Soils  | <b>MM HYDRO-1:</b> Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan   |
| Hazards and Hazardous Materials  | <b>MM HAZ-1:</b> Pipeline Cleaning and Containment<br><b>MM HAZ-2:</b> Asbestos Handling Procedures<br><b>MM HAZ-3:</b> Wildland Fire Prevention  |
| Hydrology and Water Quality  | <b>MM HYDRO-1:</b> Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan<br><b>MM HYDRO-2:</b> Inadvertent-Return Contingency Plan   |
| Land Use and Planning  | <b>MM BIO-1:</b> Environmental Awareness Training<br><b>MM BIO-2:</b> Biological Monitoring and Surveying<br><b>MM BIO-3:</b> Wildlife Exclusion Fencing<br><b>MM BIO-4:</b> Revegetation and Monitoring Plan   |