

## **2.0 Introduction and Purpose**





## 2.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

### 2.1 PURPOSE OF THE EIR



The Project, which was substantially completed in November 2014 and is currently operational, considers the construction and continued operation of the Sustainable Water Facility (SWF) at the Cambria Community Services District's (CCSD) existing San Simeon well field and percolation pond system property, located southeast of the San Simeon Monterey Creek Road/Van Gordon Creek Road intersection, at 990 San Simeon Monterey Creek Road.

The key Project facilities are: Extraction Well; Advanced Water Treatment Plant (AWTP); Recharge Injection Well (RIW-1); Evaporation Pond and Evaporators; Lagoon Surface Discharge; Monitoring Wells; and Pipelines (five interconnecting). In addition, implementation of mitigation measures (Project modifications) would modify some of the Project operations, including the following: Evaporation Pond Repurposing; Mechanical Spray Evaporator Removal; Offsite RO Concentrate Disposal; Surface Water Treatment; and Modified Surface Discharge. For more detailed information regarding the facility and operations; refer to Section 3.0, Project Description.

The CCSD undertook analysis of the proposed Sustainable Water Facility Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2014061073) and associated entitlement requests, and evaluated these against the standards set forth in Public Resources Code, Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162. That analysis is set forth in the Notice of Preparation attached hereto as Appendix A, Notice of Preparation, Project Information Packet/Environmental Checklist, and NOP Comment Letters. The CCSD is the Lead Agency under CEQA and has determined that a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) is required for the proposed Project. This SEIR has been prepared in conformance with CEQA (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.); CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.); and the rules, regulations, and procedures for implementation of CEQA, as adopted by the CCSD. The principal CEQA Guidelines sections governing content of this document include Article 9 (Contents of Environmental Impact Reports) (Sections 15120 through 15132), and Section 15162 (Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations).

The purpose of this SEIR is to identify the existing conditions, analyze potential environmental impacts, and identify feasible mitigation measures to avoid or lessen the Project's potentially



significant effects. As referenced in CEQA Guidelines Section 15121(a), the primary purposes of this SEIR are to:

- Inform decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of the Project;
- Identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects of the Project; and
- Describe reasonable alternatives to the Project.

This document analyzes the Project's environmental effects to the degree of specificity appropriate to the current proposed actions, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15146. The analysis considers the activities associated with the Project to determine the short-term and long-term effects associated with their implementation. This SEIR discusses both the direct and indirect impacts of the Project, as well as the cumulative impacts associated with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

The mitigation measures that are specified may be adopted as conditions of approval to minimize the significance of Project impacts. In addition, this SEIR is the primary reference document in the formulation and implementation of the Project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

The CCSD (which has the principal responsibility of processing and approving the Project) and other public (i.e., responsible and trustee) agencies that may use this SEIR in the decision-making or permit process will consider the information in this SEIR, along with other information that may be presented during the CEQA process. Environmental impacts are not always mitigatable to a level considered less than significant; in those cases, impacts are considered significant unavoidable impacts. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15093(b), if a public agency approves a project that has significant impacts that are not substantially mitigated (i.e., significant unavoidable impacts), the agency must state in writing the specific reasons for approving the Project, based on the Final SEIR and any other information in the public record for the Project. CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 requires a "statement of overriding considerations" where the Agency specifies the findings and public benefits for the project that outweigh the impacts.

## **2.2 CEQA DOCUMENT TIERING AND WATER MASTER PLAN**

The CCSD adopted the Recycled Water Distribution System Plan, Potable Water System Distribution Analysis and Assessment of Long-Term Water Supply Alternatives in August 2008 to provide a framework for their long-term water supply strategy. Project components were analyzed together as part of CCSD's Water Master Plan [Program] Environmental Impact Report



(WMP PEIR), including the following elements: seawater desalination; recycled water system; water demand management; potable water distribution system improvements; and buildout reduction program (BRP). The WMP PEIR (State Clearinghouse [SCH] Number 2004071009) analyzed the environmental impacts resulting from implementation of these water improvements. The WMP PEIR was certified on August 21, 2008, and is available on the CCSD website at: [http://www.cambriacsd.org/cm/water\\_wastewater/Water%20Master%20Plan.html](http://www.cambriacsd.org/cm/water_wastewater/Water%20Master%20Plan.html).

According to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168(c), subsequent activities in the program must be examined in the light of the Program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared. If the lead agency finds that pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, no new effects could occur or no new mitigation measures would be required, then the lead agency can approve the activity as being within the scope of the project covered by the Program EIR. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15168[c][2].) Otherwise, further environmental review would be required if circumstances under Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 are triggered. The CEQA Guidelines go on to state that where subsequent activities involve site specific operations, the lead agency should use a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the Program EIR (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168[c][4].)

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(d), the Program EIR can be used to simplify the task of preparing environmental documents on later parts of the program. The Program EIR provides the basis in an Initial Study for determining whether the later activity may have any significant effects; and be incorporated by reference to deal with regional influences, secondary effects, cumulative impacts, broad alternatives, and other factors that apply to the program as a whole.

## **THE TIERING PROCESS**

To avoid repetition, wasted time, and unnecessary speculation, a lead agency may “tier” EIRs for a sequence of actions so that the later EIRs incorporate and build on the information in the previous EIRs (PRC Sections 21068.5 and 21093, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15152). In particular, tiering may be used when the sequence of environmental review begins with an EIR prepared for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance, such as the WMP PEIR (PRC Section 21094(a) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(d)). The first-tier EIR may be followed by an EIR for another plan or policy of lesser scope, or a site-specific EIR for a specific project (PRC Section 21094(a), and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15152(b) and 15385(a)).

Once a first-tier EIR, such as the WMP PEIR, has been certified for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance, the significant environmental effects of a later plan or policy of lesser scope or a later development project must be examined using a tiered EIR (PRC Section 21094(a)). The second-tier EIR, here the SEIR for the Project, is limited to significant environmental effects that were (1) not examined in the WMP PEIR, or (2) previously examined and that are susceptible to substantial



reduction or avoidance through project revisions, mitigation measures, or other means (PRC Section 21068.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(d)).

The SEIR need not examine significant environmental effects that were previously determined as either: 1) mitigated or avoided as a result of findings adopted under PRC Section 21081(a)(1) for the WMP PEIR; 2) examined in a sufficient level of detail in the WMP PEIR to allow it to be mitigated or avoided through revisions to the project, imposition of conditions, or other means when the later project is approved (PRC Section 21094(a)(1)). Further, the CCSD must determine whether the Project may cause significant environmental effects that were not adequately addressed in the WMP PEIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(f)). The CCSD may conclude that a significant environmental effect has been adequately addressed in the WMP PEIR if it determines, based on an initial study or other analysis, that either of these statutory standards is met (CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(f)(3)).

Accordingly, as a second-tier EIR, the SEIR should not reexamine significant project-related environmental effects that would be mitigated or avoided through measures resulting from the WMP PEIR, or impacts that were examined in sufficient detail that they can be mitigated or avoided when the later project is approved (PRC Section 21094(a)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(f)(3)). The discussion and analysis in the SEIR is therefore limited to significant environmental effects that were not examined in the WMP PEIR, and significant effects that were not examined in sufficient detail to allow mitigation measures to be devised, but that can be mitigated or avoided after further study (PRC Section 21068.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(d)). As such, where the WMP PEIR examined impacts at a general programmatic level and did not evaluate project-level impacts, this SEIR provides an independent analysis of the Project's significant environmental impacts (see e.g., *In re Bay-Delta Programmatic Environmental Impact Report Coordinated Proceedings* (2008) 43 Cal. 4th 1143, 1173).

## **TIERING FROM THE WMP PEIR**

Where appropriate, this SEIR tiers from the WMP PEIR. As discussed above, under CEQA Guidelines Section 15152, tiering is appropriate when the sequence of analysis follows from an EIR prepared for a general plan, policy, or program to an EIR of a lesser scope, or to a site-specific EIR. Under CEQA, the WMP PEIR is considered a first tier document and this SEIR for the proposed Project is considered a second tier document. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15152(d)(1) and (2), the standard review for an SEIR is defined as follows:

- (d) Where an EIR has been prepared and certified for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance consistent with the requirements of this section, any lead agency for a later project pursuant to or consistent with the program, plan, policy, or ordinance should limit the EIR or negative declaration on the later project to effects which:*
- (1) Were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR; or*



- (2) *Are susceptible to substantial reduction or avoidance by the choice of specific revisions in the project, by the imposition of conditions, or other means.*

Accordingly, this SEIR will address current site-specific conditions and focus its analysis on changes to the Project or the surrounding circumstances that may have occurred, since the certification of the WMP PEIR. Under principles of tiering, if a first tier document found significant impacts, then the second tier EIR must require implementation of the first tier mitigation measures unless the analysis explains that the measures are not applicable or that other mitigation measures can replace the previous measures and similarly reduce the impacts to a level of insignificance. The WMP PEIR is further described in [Section 2.7, \*Incorporation by Reference\*](#), below.

CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines encourage the use of tiered EIRs to reduce delays and excessive paperwork in the environmental review process. This is accomplished in tiered EIRs by eliminating repetitive analyses of issues that were adequately addressed in the Program EIR and by incorporating those analyses by reference. The tiering of environmental analysis for the proposed Project allows this SEIR to rely on the WMP PEIR (incorporated by reference) for: 1) a discussion of general background and setting information for environmental topic areas; 2) overall growth-related issues; 3) issues that were previously evaluated in sufficient detail in the WMP PEIR and for which there is no significant new information or changed circumstances that would require further analysis; and 4) cumulative impacts evaluated in the WMP PEIR. The WMP PEIR environmental analyses/conclusions are summarized in this SEIR to provide a comprehensive analysis of the environmental factors, but the inclusion of such analyses is not intended to provide a basis for reconsidering certification of the WMP PEIR.

## **CCSD Review of the Project**

Since the CCSD's certification of the WMP PEIR in 2008, new information has become known and changes in environmental setting potentially affecting the severity of environmental impacts have occurred. Therefore, this SEIR has been prepared in the context of the physical conditions that were present at the time the NOP was issued, prior to Project construction and operation, and as subsequent to the WMP PEIR.

## **2.3 NOTICE OF PREPARATION/ EARLY CONSULTATION (SCOPING)**

In compliance with the CEQA Guidelines, the CCSD provided opportunities for various agencies and the public to participate in the environmental review process. During preparation of the Draft SEIR, efforts were made to contact various Federal, State, regional, and local government agencies and other interested parties to solicit comments on the scope of review in this document.





In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a), the CCSD circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), responsible and trustee agencies, and members of the public who had requested such notice; see [Appendix A](#). The NOP was released on March 6, 2015 for a 30-day public review period that concluded on April 6, 2015. The purpose of the NOP was to formally announce the preparation of a Draft EIR for the proposed Project, and that, as the Lead Agency, the CCSD was soliciting input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. The NOP provided a summary description of the Project and its location, and identified the probable environmental effects of the Project.

As permitted by CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, *Initial Study*), the CCSD determined that, absent the Project's emergency exemption, an EIR would be required for the Project, thus, an Initial Study was not prepared. However, a Project Information Packet and Environmental Checklist were released along with the NOP; see [Appendix A](#). The following issues identified as "potentially significant impact" in the Environmental Checklist are addressed in detail in this EIR:

- Aesthetics;
- Air Quality;
- Biological Resources;
- Cultural Resources;
- Hydrology and Water Quality;
- Land Use and LCP Compliance; and
- Noise.

The following issues identified as "no impact" or "less than significant impact" in the Environmental Checklist are addressed in [Section 8.0, \*Effects Found Not To Be Significant\*](#):

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources;
- Geology and Soils;
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- Mineral Resources;
- Population and Housing;<sup>1</sup>
- Public Services and Recreation;
- Traffic and Transportation; and
- Utilities and Service Systems.

As previously noted, the NOP was released on March 6, 2015 for a 30-day public review period that concluded on April 6, 2015. A total of 84 comment letters were received during the NOP comment period. Additionally, an NOP Scoping Meeting was held on March 26, 2015 at the Veterans Hall in Cambria. A total of nine persons presented their oral comments at the meeting. The comment letters and oral comments received during the NOP comment period, along with a table summarizing the environmental issues raised by the comments, are included in [Appendix A](#). The NOP/early consultation process was used to further determine the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in this EIR. This EIR has taken into consideration all of the comments received in response to the NOP.

<sup>1</sup> An analysis of the Project's potential growth-inducing impacts is provided in [Subsection 6.3, \*Growth-Inducing Impacts\*](#).





## 2.4 COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

### PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT SEIR

The Draft SEIR is available to the general public for review at the locations listed below hours and on the CCSD website at <http://www.cambriacsd.org/cm/projects/Emergency%20Water%20Supply/Home.html>.

- Cambria Community Services District  
1316 Tamson Drive, Suite 201  
Cambria, California 93428  
805.927.6223  
(9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday)
- Cambria Library  
1043 Main Street  
Cambria, California 93428  
805.927.4336  
(Please contact the Branch or visit their website [<http://slolibrary.org/branch.htm>] for hours of operation)

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15087 and 15105, this Draft SEIR is being circulated for a 45-day public review period. Public agencies, persons, and organizations are invited to provide written comments on the information contained in this Draft SEIR to the following CCSD contact:

Mr. Robert C. Gresens, P.E.  
Cambria Community Services District  
P.O. Box 65  
Cambria, California 93428-0065  
805.927.36223

In accordance with CEQA requirements, the CCSD requests comments and concerns from public agencies, persons, and organizations regarding the environmental issues associated with construction and operation of the Project.

### FINAL EIR

Upon completion of the 45-day Draft SEIR public review period, the CCSD will evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the Draft SEIR and will prepare a written response. The written response will describe the disposition of significant environmental issues raised (e.g., revisions to the proposed project to mitigate anticipated



impacts or objections). A Final EIR will then be prepared incorporating all of the comments received during the Draft SEIR public review period, responses to comments on significant environmental issues raised, and any changes to the Draft SEIR that may result from the comments received. The CCSD will provide a written proposed response to each public agency on comments made by that public agency at least ten (10) days prior to certifying the Final EIR.

## **CERTIFICATION OF THE FINAL EIR**

The Draft SEIR, as revised by the Final EIR, will be considered by the CCSD for certification, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15090, which specifies the following:

*Prior to approving a project the lead agency shall certify that:*

- 1) *The final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA;*
- 2) *The final EIR was presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency, and that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information contained in the final EIR prior to approving the project; and*
- 3) *The final EIR reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.*

Regarding the adequacy of an EIR, CEQA Guidelines Section 15151 states the following:

*An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an EIR inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts. The courts have looked not for perfection but for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure.*

## **PROJECT CONSIDERATION**

After certification of the Final EIR, the CCSD may consider approval of the proposed Project. A decision to approve the Project would be accompanied by specific, written findings, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and a specific, written statement of overriding considerations, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, if necessary.

## **2.5 FORMAT OF THE DRAFT SEIR**

The scope of the EIR was determined based upon CCSD staff knowledge of environmental issues associated with the Project, consultation with the EIR consultant, consultation with responsible



agencies, and comments received in response to the NOP, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15126.2 and 15126.4.

This EIR is organized into 13 sections, as follows:

- Section 1.0, *Executive Summary*, contains a brief summary of the proposed Project, identifies each significant Project effect with proposed mitigation measures, and summarizes the Project alternatives. The areas of controversy and issues to be resolved are also included.
- Section 2.0, *Introduction and Purpose*, provides CEQA compliance information.
- Section 3.0, *Project Description*, provides a detailed Project description, including the Project location, background and history, characteristics, phasing, and objectives, as well as associated discretionary actions required.
- Section 4.0, *Basis of Cumulative Analysis*, describes the approach and methodology for the cumulative analysis.
- Section 5.0, *Environmental Analysis*, contains a description of the existing conditions, analysis of Project impacts, recommended mitigation measures, and unavoidable adverse impacts for various environmental topic areas.
- Section 6.0, *Other CEQA Considerations*, discusses significant environmental changes that would be involved in the proposed Project, should it be implemented. The Project's growth-inducing impacts are also discussed. Energy conservation (CEQA Appendix F) issues are also addressed in this section.
- Section 7.0, *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*, describes a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project or to the Project's location that could avoid or substantially lessen the Project's significant impacts and still feasibly attain the basic Project objectives.
- Section 8.0, *Effects Found Not To Be Significant*, provides an explanation of potential impacts that have been determined not to be significant.
- Section 9.0, *Organizations and Persons Consulted*, identifies all Federal, State, or local agencies, other organizations, and individuals consulted.
- Section 10.0, *List of Preparers*, lists the preparers of the EIR.
- Section 11.0, *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*, includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the EIR.



- Section 12.0, Comments and Responses, includes: a list of public agencies, and persons and organizations commenting on the Draft SEIR; each of the comment letters received on the Draft SEIR; the CCSD responses to significant environmental points raised by the comment letters; any changes to the Draft SEIR resulting from the comments received; any other information added by the CCSD.
- Technical Appendices, contains the Project's technical documentation.

## 2.6 RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES

The Lead Agency for the Sustainable Water Facility is the CCSD. Certain projects or actions undertaken by a Lead Agency require subsequent oversight, approvals, or permits from other public agencies in order to be implemented. Such other agencies are referred to as Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15381 and 15386, as amended, Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies are defined as follows:

*"Responsible Agency" means a public agency, which proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which a Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR or Negative Declaration. For the purposes of CEQA, the term "Responsible Agency" includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency, which have discretionary approval power over the project (Section 15381).*

*"Trustee Agency" means a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, which are held in trust for the people of the State of California (Section 15386).*

Trustee Agencies for the Project include the following:

- California Air Resources Board;
- California Coastal Commission;
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- California Department of Parks and Recreation; and
- State Water Resources Control Board.

Other entities that may use this EIR in their decision-making process or for informational purposes include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- County of San Luis Obispo;
- San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District; and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



## 2.7 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pertinent documents relating to this EIR have been cited in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15150, which encourages incorporation by reference as a means of reducing redundancy and the length of environmental reports. The following documents are hereby incorporated by reference into this EIR. Information contained within these documents has been utilized for each section of this EIR. These documents are available for review on the CCSD's website ([www.cambriacsd.org/cm/Home.html](http://www.cambriacsd.org/cm/Home.html)) and at the CCSD offices located at 1316 Tamson Drive, Suite 201, Cambria, California 93428. The following summarizes the referenced reports:

**Local Coastal Program Documents.** In accordance with the 1976 Coastal Act, the County of San Luis Obispo (SLO County) has been implementing a Local Coastal Program (LCP). The policies and guidelines within the LCP are intended to protect coastal resources. The County's LCP is part of the County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, and applies to those areas within the Coastal Zone. Generally, the County applies its Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLUO) while reviewing and evaluating projects within areas subject to the Coastal Act. Consistent with State law, the County's LCP also functions as the mandatory General Plan Land Use and Circulation Elements. Key LCP documents that are incorporated by reference include the following, as amended:

- Local Coastal Program Policy Document provides overall policy direction for the management of land use within the coastal zone.
- Framework for Planning serves as an organizational document, linking land use, resource management, and circulation. The Framework also provides general goals for County decisions on land use, development, and circulation.
- Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLUO) supplements the established Coastal Zone Land Use Element. The CZLUO also provides provisions typically found in zoning ordinances, including permit and appeal requirements, site design, development, and operational standards, and enforcement provisions.
- Area Plans work with the other elements of the LCP and County General Plan. The Area Plans replaced the former community general plans and provide goals, objectives, policies, programs, and standards unique to each area. Key provisions found in the Area Plans are land use maps, programs, and standards guiding development. The County's Coastal Zone is divided into four planning areas- the Project site is located in the North Coast (NC) Planning Area, within the Rural North Coast (RNC) community. The NC Planning Area is addressed in the North Coast Area Plan (NCAP).



**North Coast Area Plan.** The NCAP was adopted by the SLO County Board of Supervisors on September 22, 1980 (Resolution 80-350) and subsequently revised on August 24, 2008. The NCAP constitutes the County's General Plan Land Use and Circulation Elements for the NC Planning Area. The NCAP describes County land use policies for the NC Planning Area, including regulations, which are also adopted as part of the Land Use Ordinances and Local Coastal Program. The NCAP allocates land use throughout the planning area by land use categories, which determine the varieties of land use that may be established on a parcel of land, as well as defining their allowable density and intensity. The NCAP is referenced for baseline data and RNC standards throughout this EIR.

**Preliminary Draft EIR for Proposed Van Gordon Creek Effluent Reservoir for Cambria Community Services District.** The project analyzed in this EIR (Boyle Engineering Corporation, June 1979) was part of a larger project involving expansion and modification of wastewater treatment and disposal facilities serving Cambria. An EIR was prepared for the larger project in 1975. Subsequent changes to the original project involving the location of the effluent storage reservoir and method of effluent disposal necessitated the preparation of this EIR as a Supplement to the 1975 EIR. This 1979 Supplemental EIR analyzes impacts associated with a wastewater effluent reservoir and discharging treated effluent from the reservoir to nearby agricultural land (Bonomi Ranch) and Van Gordon Creek. The project included construction of an 80 acre-foot effluent storage reservoir on a 17-acre portion of Molinari Ranch, northeast of the San Simeon Monterey Creek Road/Van Gordon Creek Road intersection. The treated effluent from the CCSD's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) would be stored at the proposed reservoir and allowed to percolate to the groundwater basin through the bottom of the reservoir. During periods of heavy rain, the treated effluent would be disposed of by spray irrigation on Bonomi Ranch and surface discharge to Van Gordon Creek located southeast/southwest of the San Simeon Monterey Creek Road/Van Gordon Creek Road intersection. The reservoir that was eventually constructed immediately south of the location originally proposed in this 1979 Supplemental EIR, is the Van Gordon Reservoir located at the western portion of the current Project site, where the Project proposes to dispose of the RO Concentrate generated by the proposed AWTP. Additionally, Bonomi Ranch encompasses (in part) the western portion of the current Project site. Therefore, this 1979 Supplemental EIR was utilized in this EIR as a source of baseline and potential impact data associated with the Project's proposed the effluent storage reservoir.

**Draft Supplemental EIR for Proposed Van Gordon Creek Reclaimed Water Reservoir for Cambria Community Services District.** This Supplemental EIR (Boyle Engineering Corporation, May 1980) was part of the larger project, analyzed in the 1975 EIR. Subsequent to preparation of the 1979 Supplemental EIR discussed above, the proposed site of the effluent storage reservoir was relocated from Molinari Ranch (northeast of the San Simeon Monterey Creek Road/Van Gordon Creek Road intersection) to Bonomi Ranch (southeast of the San Simeon Monterey Creek Road/Van Gordon Creek Road intersection). Additionally, the size of the proposed reservoir was reduced from 80 acre-feet to 45 acre-feet. This 1980 Supplemental EIR addresses





the impacts associated with the effluent storage reservoir's changed location and size. This reservoir (Van Gordon Reservoir) is the reservoir where the Project proposes to dispose of the RO Concentrate generated by the proposed AWTP. Therefore, this 1980 Supplemental EIR was utilized in this EIR as a source of baseline and potential impact data associated with the Project's proposed the effluent storage reservoir.

**Groundwater Recharge Project Environmental Impact Report.** This EIR (Robert Bein, William Frost & Associates, December 1991) analyzes environmental impacts resulting from recharging the San Simeon Creek groundwater basin by discharging reclaimed water extracted from the Van Gordon [effluent storage] Reservoir. Reclaimed water would be treated through a reverse osmosis facility. A negotiation impasse with local landowners to recharge the groundwater basin resulted in the CCSD placing the project on hold.

**Draft Environmental Impact Report and Appendices Effluent Disposal Field and Stream Restoration Improvements Project.** The project analyzed in this EIR (Robert Bein, William Frost & Associates, August 1993) consisted of two components. The first component involved the conversion of a portion of the existing effluent spray disposal fields located generally southeast of the San Simeon Monterey Creek Road/Van Gordon Creek Road intersection into a percolation pond system. The second component involved restoration of two sites along San Simeon Creek containing unstable channel conditions and riverbank erosion which threatened CCSD facilities. The percolation pond system proposed in this 1993 EIR, which was constructed in 1994, was converted from effluent spray disposal fields. This is the pond system located at the southwestern portion of the current Project site. Therefore, this 1993 Supplemental EIR was utilized in this EIR as a source of baseline data associated with the Project site.

**Water Master Plan Program EIR (WMP PEIR).** The CCSD used a phased approach to develop their Water Master Plan, which involved three key documents: Potable Water Distribution System Analysis (July 2004); Recycled Water Distribution System Master Plan (July 2004); and Assessment of Long Term Water Supply Alternatives (March 2004). The Assessment of Long Term Water Supply Alternatives recommended that CCSD's long-term water supply strategy consist of the following elements: seawater desalination; recycled water; and water demand management. These elements, along with the proposed Potable Water Distribution System improvements, comprise the WMP components evaluated in the WMP PEIR (RBF Consulting, July 2008) (SCH #2004071009). The WMP PEIR evaluated the environmental impacts resulting from development of a Seawater Desalination Facility, including the construction of a subterranean seawater intake, pumping and pipeline facilities to transport the seawater to a desalination plant, an RO desalination treatment process, a groundwater blending system, and pumping facilities to pump the treated water into the distribution system. WMP PEIR Exhibit 3-2, *Conceptual Seawater Desalination Facilities*, illustrates the conceptual seawater desalination system and indicates it was proposed southeast of the San Simeon Monterey Creek Road/Van Gordon Creek Road intersection, on CCSD-owned property used as their San Simeon well field and treated wastewater effluent land disposal system site. The SWF Project site subject of this



SEIR is the same as the site proposed for development of a Seawater Desalination Facility. Additionally, to mitigate the WMP's potential growth-inducing impacts, the WMP PEIR incorporated a Buildout Reduction Program (BRP), as the tool to cap the maximum number of existing and potential residential connections within the CCSD service area to 4,650; see also WMP PEIR Appendix 14.3, *Buildout Reduction Program Information*. The SWF Project subject of this SEIR similarly relies on the BRP as a mitigation for addressing growth inducing impacts. Where appropriate, this SEIR tiers from the WMP PEIR; refer to [Section 2.2, CEQA Document Tiering and Water Master Plan](#). The WMP PEIR conclusions are summarized where relevant throughout this SEIR.

**Cambria Water Supply Alternatives Engineering Technical Memorandum.** Cambria Water Supply Alternatives Engineering Technical Memorandum (TM) (CDM Smith, November 27, 2013), was prepared to present a range of water supply alternatives for the CCSD for the purpose of providing long-term drought protection and seasonally augmenting Cambria's potable water supply. The TM also summarizes the four facilitated public workshops that were conducted on water supply alternatives and describes the technical two-step screening process that was applied. Through the screening process, 8 out of 28 original water supply concepts were selected for further evaluation through formal environmental review. The TM ranked the brackish water alternative (Alternative Concept 5 - San Simeon Creek Road Brackish Water) the highest technically. Alternative Concept 5 was used as a starting point in the development of the SWF, with the SWF being further reduced in scope when compared to Alternative Concept 5. The SWF Project plans, supporting design technical memoranda, as well as the TM were used in this SEIR to develop the Project Description and Project Alternatives.

**Cambria Emergency Water Supply Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.** The CCSD proposed the Cambria Emergency Water Supply project in response to the CCSD Board of Directors' declaration of a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency Condition in Cambria. The Governor also issued Executive Orders during 2014, which allowed for the project to proceed based on the concurrence granted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The project involved construction and operation of emergency water facilities at the CCSD's effluent percolation ponds and San Simeon well field property. The project was proposed to avoid projected water supply shortages anticipated by summer/early fall 2014. The Cambria Emergency Water Supply Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (RBF Consulting, June 20, 2014) (2014 IS/MND) was prepared to support a Regular Coastal Development Permit for the emergency water supply project. Although circulated for public review, the CCSD Board did not consider adoption of the 2014 IS/MND. Subsequent to release of the 2014 IS/MND, the project was further modified and additional design features were added in response to NOP comment letters and consultation with public agencies. The SWF Project subject of this SEIR is for a modified version of the project that was analyzed within the 2014 IS/MND.



**Cambria Community Services District Groundwater Management Plan.** The Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) (Cambria Community Services District, November 19, 2015), describes groundwater planning for the area's San Simeon Creek groundwater basin and Santa Rosa Creek groundwater basin. This effort was intended to bring the CCSD up to date and in compliance with the planning requirements described within California Water Code Sections 10753 through 10753.11. The overall purpose of the GMP is to work with groundwater basin stakeholders in maintaining a sustainable, reliable, and high quality groundwater supply. The proposed Project was designed and constructed to treat brackish groundwater and recharge the San Simeon well field aquifer with advanced treated water. The Project is also intended to augment and improve the reliability of Cambria's potable water supply and enable the CCSD to efficiently manage the San Simeon Creek Aquifer. Thus, relevant discussions from the GMP are incorporated into this SEIR.

**Draft EIR for Cambria County Water District Water System Improvements.** This Draft EIR (Coastal Valley Engineering, Inc., May 1976) was prepared as part of a feasibility report within the formal application for Davis-Grunsky Act funds. This Draft EIR analyzes potential environmental impacts from multiple CCSD-wide improvements including the following: 1) replacement of all deteriorated and undersized mains (approximately 276,630 feet); 2) provision of proper pressure zone separation; 3) installation of new fire hydrants; and 4) provision of a new system of wells near San Simeon Creek to mitigate requirements for water treatment and provide a supplemental water source. The system of wells noted in this 1976 Draft EIR involved construction of a well field in the San Simeon Creek groundwater basin, in order to provide water from a larger storage groundwater basin than what was then utilized (the Santa Rosa Creek groundwater basin). This well field, which was ultimately constructed in 1979, is the well field located at the eastern portion of the current Project site, where the Project's potable water recharge injection well (RIW) is proposed. Therefore, this 1976 Draft EIR was utilized in this EIR as a source of baseline data for the Project site.



**SUSTAINABLE WATER FACILITY PROJECT**



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