Guadalupe River Invasive Exotic Vegetation Removal Project

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

December 2011

Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, California 95118-3614

Project Number #26072044

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Executive Summary

Pursuant to the California State Public Resources Code[1] and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines[2], as amended to date, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) has prepared this Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Guadalupe River Invasive Exotic Vegetation Removal Project located in the cities of San Jose and Santa Clara, California.

Purpose

The District is proposing the Guadalupe River Invasive Exotic Vegetation Removal Project (hereinafter proposed project), with the objective to restore/improve approximately two acres of riparian vegetation habitat in the Guadalupe River corridor by removing invasive species. The proposed project is funded by the Clean Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan.

Project Description

The proposed project would reduce the immediate threat to native plant species located in the riparian corridor, and reduce the potential for further colonization of invasive plant species in the riparian areas, which will increase wildlife habitat values. Work would be performed from October through February, largely outside of the bird nesting season; and, would be phased over three years to reduce potential construction-phase aesthetic and wildlife habitat impacts. In most instances, cut stumps and roots would be retained to promote soil and bank stability. Regular stream maintenance (flood flow conveyance/hydraulic capacity) may not allow woody vegetation to reestablish at some locations, especially in the lower reaches (i.e., 1-880 to Montague Expressway).

Construction would occur between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with no construction activity on state or federal holidays. All vegetation removal would be done using hand equipment and access into the riparian habitats would occur on foot. Construction equipment required for the proposed project would include one compactor truck for vegetation and trash removal and between three and four chain saws, as well as approximately four light duty vehicles (pick-up trucks, vans, and light duty vehicles). Vehicles would access the project area by existing maintenance roads. Based on the estimate of vegetation removal, approximately 25 to 30 people would be required for removal of invasive species in the project area.

Some of the vegetation removed would be utilized to build brush piles, with the goals of promoting wildlife use and deterring unauthorized human use in the project area. The brush piles would not be placed in or near the active channel or banks where they could be swept into the river. The remaining vegetation would be either chipped onsite or hauled to the landfill as green waste. Appropriate species of large trees removed from the project area would be used for bank stabilization projects throughout the District. Approximately ten trips per day would be necessary to remove vegetation from the project area.

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[1] California Public Resources Code, Division 13, §§ 21000 et seq.

[2] CEQA Guidelines §§ 15000 et seq.

Construction vehicles would be parked along District maintenance roads and the Guadalupe river trail. No parking areas or access roads would be constructed. Construction equipment would be maintained at the District facilities.

Vegetation removal would be conducted or managed by the District Vegetation Management Unit in consultation with the biologists currently monitoring mitigation on the Guadalupe River.

Location

The proposed project would be located in Reaches A, B, and C of the riparian corridor of the Guadalupe River (between Montague Expressway and Coleman Avenue) in the cities of San Jose, and Santa Clara. See Figures 1, 2, and 3 for location maps of the project area. See Figure 4: Photographs of the Project Area for existing conditions in the riparian corridor.

Declaration and Findings

The Initial Study for the proposed project, consisting of the attached document, indicates that the proposed project, with mitigation as outlined in this document, would not have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, on the basis of this initial evaluation, staff have determined that, although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by the District; therefore, this Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for consideration and review by the public and the District's Board of Directors.

Basis of Findings

The project would not cause significant adverse impacts related to aesthetics, agricultural resources; air quality; cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards or hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; mineral resources; noise; population and housing; public services; recreation; transportation and traffic; or utilities and service systems.

The project would not degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal species. The proposed project would not affect any important examples of cultural resources from the major periods of California prehistory or history. The project would not result in long-term cumulative impacts. In addition, no substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, would occur.

Potentially significant impacts to biological resources may occur as a result of the project. However, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level because mitigation measures proposed in this document and stipulated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration would be incorporated into the proposed project.

The proposed project includes standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) that the District incorporates into projects to avoid or minimize impacts. The list of BMPs included in this project is provided in Appendix A.

Attached is the Initial Study prepared for the proposed project. The public can obtain additional copies of the Initial Study, and review documents used in its preparation, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118-3614. Please call Michael Martin at 408-265-2607 ext. 3095 for additional information.

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List of Acronyms

BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMP	Best Management Practices
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Clean Air Plan
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
District	Santa Clara Valley Water District
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionary Species Unit
LGRP	Lower Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IS	Initial Study
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Unit
ND	Negative Declaration
NO_x	Oxides of Nitrogen
PM	Particulate Matter
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SR	State Route
SMP	Stream Maintenance Program
VMU	Vegetation Management Unit

Key Terminology

Significance Criteria: A set of criteria used by the lead agency to determine whether an impact would be considered significant. The District relied upon the significance criteria set forth in the CEQA Guidelines and criteria based on the regulatory standards of local, state and federal agencies.

Significant Impact: An impact that likely would result in a substantial adverse change in the physical conditions of the environment. Mitigation measures and/or project alternatives are identified to avoid or reduce these effects to the environment.

Beneficial Impact: A project impact is considered beneficial if it would result in the enhancement or improvement of an existing physical condition in the environment – no mitigation is required.

No Impact: This is indicated in the Initial Study where, based on the environmental setting, the stated environmental factor does not apply to the proposed project.

Less than Significant Impact: This is indicated in the Initial Study checklist where the impact does not reach the standard of significance set for that factor and the project would therefore cause no substantial change in the environment (no mitigation needed).

Potentially Significant Impact: an environmental effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the environment; however additional information is needed regarding the extent of the impact to make a determination of significance. For the purposes of review such are treated as if significant impact and mitigation measures are proposed.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation includes: (a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action. (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation. (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment. (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action. (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.[3]

Best Management Practices: Preventive measures that are incorporated into District activities and operations derived from standard operating procedures. These practices are usually vetted or accepted by other agencies and have been shown to avoid or minimize potential adverse environmental effects. BMPs are designed for routine incorporation into project designs.

[3] Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code; Reference: Sections 21002, 21002.1, 21081, and 21100(c), Public Resources Code.

Section 1: Introduction

Organization of this document

This document is organized to assist the reader in understanding the potential impacts that the project may have on the environment and to fulfill the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*).

Section 1: Introduction – Section 1 indicates the purpose under CEQA, sets forth the public participation process, and summarizes applicable state and federal regulatory requirements;

Section 2: Project Description – Section 2 describes the location and features of the project and the environmental setting;

Section 3: Environmental Evaluation – Section 3 evaluates the potential impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed project via the application of the CEQA Initial Study Checklist questions;

Section 4: Report Preparation – Section 4 lists the contributors to this document; and,

Section 5: References – Section 5 lists the references used in preparation of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and findings resulting from the evaluation are located in the Executive Summary of this document.

Purpose of the Initial Study

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), acting as the Lead Agency, prepared this Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to provide the public and responsible agencies with information about the potential environmental effects of the proposed Guadalupe River Invasives Exotic Removal Project.

This MND was prepared consistent with CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Code of Regulations 15000 *et seq.*), and District procedures for implementation of CEQA (Environmental Planning Guidance Q520D01). CEQA requires that public agencies such as the District identify the significant adverse impacts and beneficial environmental effects of their actions. Beneficial impacts should be encouraged and expanded where possible and adverse impacts should be avoided or minimized, or mitigated in cases where avoidance and minimization are not possible.

In addition to acting as the CEQA Lead Agency for its projects; the District's mission includes objectives to conduct its activities in an environmentally sensitive manner as a steward of Santa Clara Basin watersheds. The District strives to preserve the natural qualities, scenic beauty and recreational uses of Santa Clara Valley's waterways by using methods that reflect an ongoing commitment to conserving the environment. This MND is intended to allow the public to fully understand the environmental implications of the project and incorporates the CEQA process to achieve District goals, which include:

- Providing public accountability for projects it proposes or approves;
- Ensuring interagency cooperation during project planning;
- Allowing full public review and participation in project planning; and,
- Integrating environmental considerations into its decisions.

Decision to Prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this Project

The Initial Study (Section 3: Environmental Evaluation) for the project identifies potentially significant effects on aesthetics and biological resources. Mitigation measures have been proposed for the project to reduce these potential effects to a less than significant level; and therefore, an MND is consistent with CEQA Guidelines §15070 which indicate that an MND is appropriate when the project Initial Study identifies potentially-significant effects, but:

- Revisions to the project plan have been made that would avoid or reduce the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
- There is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.

Public Review Process

This MND will be circulated to local, state and federal agencies, interested organizations and individuals who may wish to review and provide comments on the proposed project and environmental evaluation. The publication will commence a 30-day public review period per the CEQA Guidelines §15105(b) beginning on December 7, 2011 and ending on January 6, 2012. The MND is available for review:

- At the following local libraries -
    - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando Street, San Jose; and,
    - Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara;
- Posted on the District website: www.valleywater.org (click on "CEQA public review documents" under "district quick links" on the home page); or
- Via written request for a copy from the District.

Electronic submittals of written comments will facilitate acknowledgement and the District's response process greatly. Consequently, comments also may be submitted electronically by:

1. Visiting the District website at www.valleywater.org; then,
    - Click on the Access Valley Water "GO" button;
    - Click on a topic (i.e., Public review documents);
    - Click on Guadalupe Exotic Invasives Removal Project;
    - Click the "Next" button;
    - Provide your contact information; and
    - Click on the "Next" button, again; then,
    - Choose "Other" from the Request Type dropdown menu; and,
    - Either enter your request or comments in the onscreen box, or attach a separate file;

OR

2. Submitting written comments to:

Michael Martin
Environmental Planner
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3614
E-mail: michaelmartin@valleywater.org

Prior to approving the project, the District will consider the MND along with any comments received during the public review process.

Interagency Collaboration and Regulatory Review

The CEQA review process is intended to provide responsible agencies with an opportunity to provide input into the proposed project. Responsible agencies are public agencies that have some responsibility or authority for carrying out or approving a project or must make a discretionary decision to issue a permit; provide right-of-way, funding or resources to the project. In this instance Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) would be considered responsible agencies. Permitting for the proposed project is listed in Table 1: Summary of Agency Approvals.

Table 1: Summary of Agency Approvals

Agency	Permit/Review Required
Regional Water Quality Control Board	401 Water Quality Certification or Waste Discharge Notification under the Porter Cologne Act
California Department of Fish and Game	Streambed Alteration Agreement

Section 2: Project Description

Project Objectives

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve and restore approximately two acres of riparian vegetation habitat in the Guadalupe River corridor by removing invasive species. The proposed project is intended to fulfill the District Board of Directors Ends Policy Number E-4.1.2 , which states: *Protect and improve watersheds, streams and natural resources* (SCVWD 2010). Accordingly, key objectives of this project are to:

- Remove over 2 acres of invasive vegetation in areas near or adjacent to existing District mitigation sites in order to improve the successful restoration of those sites with native vegetation.
- Enhance riparian habitat along the Guadalupe River by encouraging the growth of native vegetation.

Project Location

The proposed project would be located in reaches A, B and C of the Guadalupe River corridor between Montague Expressway and Coleman Avenue in the cities of San Jose, and Santa Clara, California (hereinafter "project area"). See Figure 1, which shows the location of the Guadalupe Watershed; and Figures 2 and 3, which show the reaches of the Guadalupe River.

Project Background

The project is funded under the Clean, Safe Creeks Enhancement Program, which calls for the creation of additional wetlands, riparian habitat and favorable streams conditions for fisheries and wildlife.

Objectives of the Clean, Safe, Creeks Enhancement Program include the following:

- 100 acres of tidal and/or riparian habitat created or restored;
- Protection for endangered species;
- Removal of fish migration barriers/Installation of fish ladders;
- Removal of non-native, invasive plants; and,
- Revegetation of native plant species.

The proposed project would implement several objectives of the Clean, Safe, Creeks Enhancement Program.

Project Description

The District is proposing the Guadalupe River Invasive Exotic Vegetation Removal Project to restore/improve approximately two acres of riparian vegetation habitat by removing invasive species in the riparian corridor, including weeping willow, acacia, and holly oak. These non-native, invasive plant species are threatening to displace native species that provide riparian habitat in the corridor. See Figure 4: Photographs of the Project Area for photographs of existing conditions in the riparian corridor.

Removal of these invasive species would reduce the immediate threat to native species located in the riparian corridor and would also reduce the potential for further colonization of invasive species in the riparian areas. Wildlife habitat values for native birds, insects, and other animals would also be increased. It is anticipated that the work would be performed from October through February, largely outside of the bird nesting season; and, would be phased over three years to reduce potential

construction-phase aesthetic and wildlife habitat impacts. In most instances, cut stumps and roots shall be retained to promote soil and bank stability. Regular stream maintenance to restore flood flow conveyance and hydraulic capacity may not allow woody vegetation to reestablish at some locations, especially in the lower reaches (i.e., 1-880 to Montague Expressway).

Construction would occur between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday and no construction activity on state and federal holidays. All vegetation removal would be done using hand equipment and access into the riparian habitats would occur on foot. Construction equipment required for the proposed project would include one compactor truck for vegetation and trash removal and between three and four chain saws, as well as approximately four light duty vehicles (pick-up trucks, vans, and light duty vehicles). Vehicles would access the project area by existing maintenance roads. Based on the estimate of vegetation removal, approximately 25 to 30 people would be required for removal of invasive species in the project area.

Some of the vegetation removed would be utilized to build brush piles, with the goals of promoting wildlife use and deterring unauthorized human use in the project area. The brush piles would not be placed in or near the active channel or banks where they could be swept into the river. The remaining vegetation would be either chipped onsite or hauled to the landfill as green waste. Appropriate species of large trees removed from the project area would be used for bank stabilization projects throughout the District. The proposed haul routes to the landfill include the following roadways and highways: Almaden Expressway; State Route 87 (SR 87); Coleman Avenue; Taylor Street; Hedding Street; Airport Boulevard; Highway 101; Trimble Road; and Montague Expressway. Approximately ten vehicle trips per day would be necessary to remove vegetation from the project area.

Construction vehicles would be parked along District maintenance roads and the Guadalupe river trail. The project is estimated to require 0.2 acres of existing right-of-way and no parking areas or access roads would be constructed. Construction equipment would be maintained at the District facilities.

Vegetation removal would be conducted or managed by the District's Vegetation Management Unit (VMU) in consultation with the biologists currently monitoring mitigation on the Guadalupe River.

Best Management Practices

The District has defined Best Management Practices (BMPs) as preventive measures that are regularly incorporated into District activities and operations. Generally these practices are structural treatments or non-structural behaviors, methods, actions, procedures, or other management practices that have been shown to prevent, avoid or minimize potential adverse environmental effects. BMPs are designed for routine incorporation into project designs. When a project requires additional or more specific avoidance or minimization measures not included in the District's BMP handbook, such practices and/or measures are evaluated during the environmental review process as project specific mitigation measures. BMPs to be incorporated into the proposed project are noted in the discussion of impacts in Section 3: Environmental Evaluation and are listed in Appendix A.

BMPs would be incorporated in the construction documents (plans and specifications) prepared for the project, so all contractors employed on the proposed project would be contractually required to adhere to them.

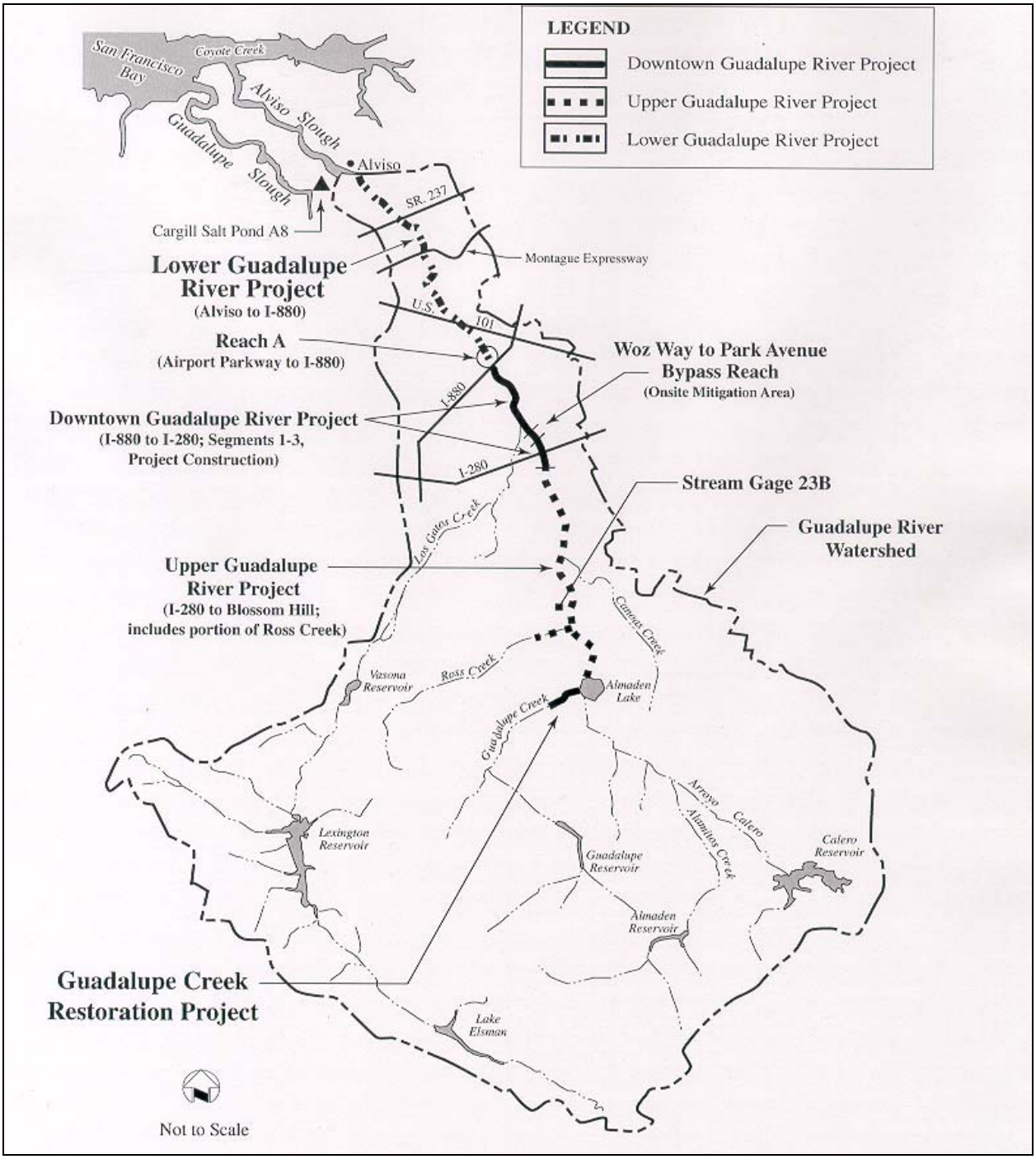

Figure 1: Guadalupe River watershed in South San Francisco Bay, Santa Clara County, California showing U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and Santa Clara Valley Water District flood protection projects.

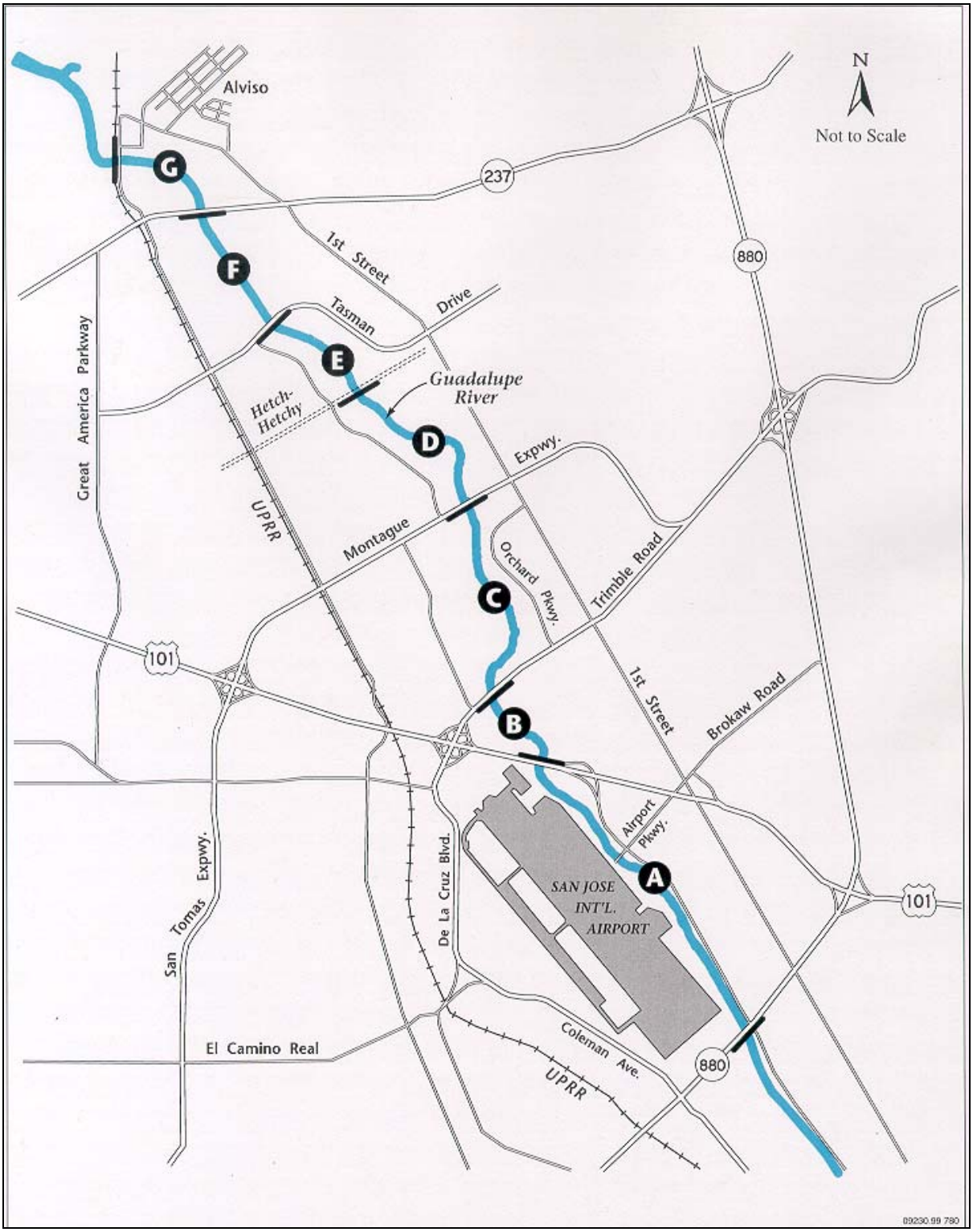

Figure 2: Location and reaches of the Lower Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project (LGRP)[4]

[4] Northern limit of the invasive exotic vegetation removal project is Montague Expressway and the southern limit of removal is Coleman Avenue.

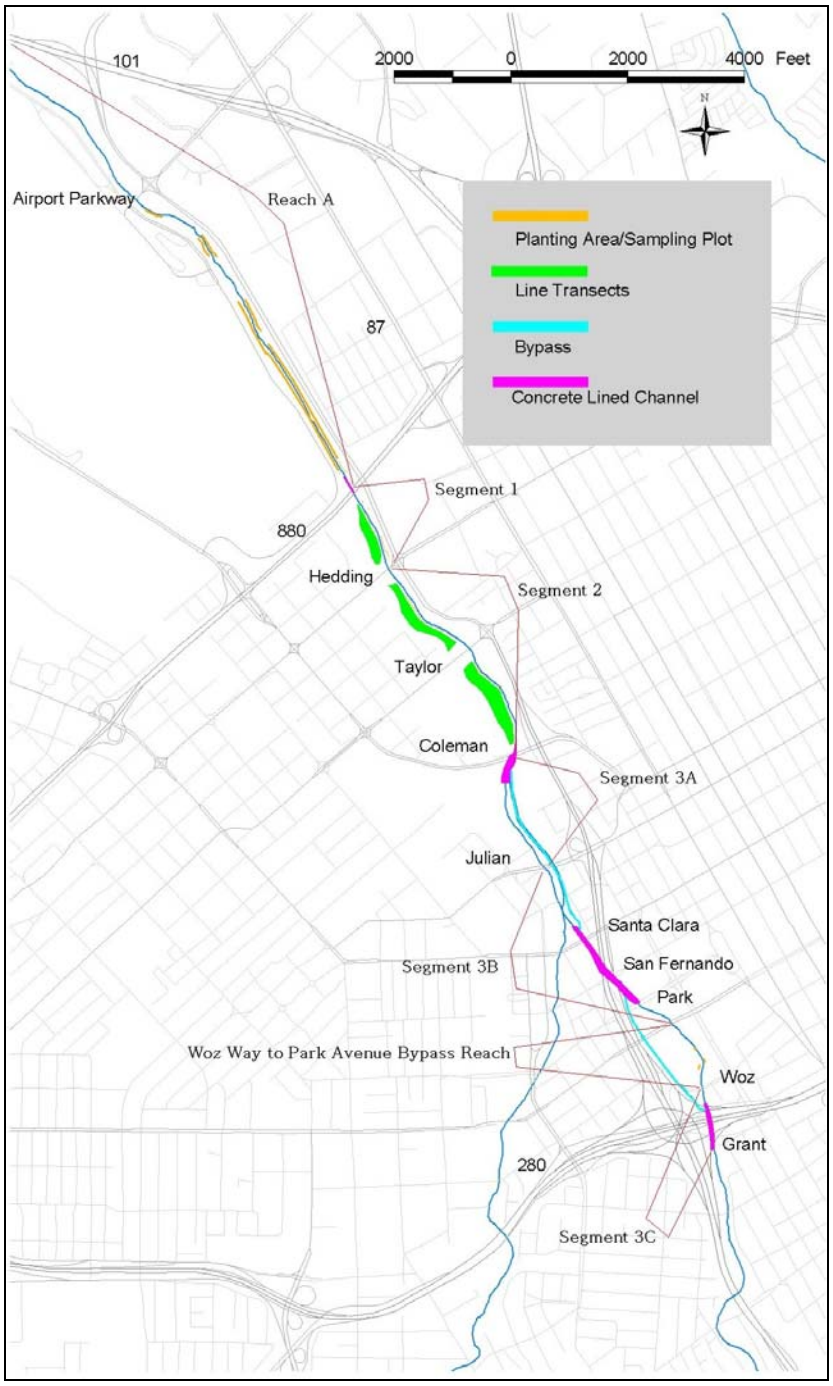

Figure 3: Location of reaches and segments of the downtown Guadalupe River Project.

Photo 1. Photograph of existing vegetation located in the project area.

Photo 2. Photograph of the Guadalupe River and existing vegetation located in the project area.

Figure 4: Two photographs of the Project Area

Section 3: Environmental Evaluation

Initial Study Checklist

In accordance with CEQA, the following Initial Study Checklist, which has been adopted by the District, is an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects to determine whether an Environmental Impact Report is needed. Answers to the checklist questions provide factual evidence and District rationale for determinations of the potential significance of impacts resulting from the proposed project.

1. Project Title: Guadalupe River Invasive Exotic Vegetation Removal Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Michael Martin, Environmental Planner
(408) 265-2600

4. Project Location: The proposed project would be located in reaches A, B and C of the Guadalupe River riparian corridor between Montague Expressway and Coleman Avenue in the cities of San Jose, and Santa Clara, California.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

6. General Plan Designation: Not applicable

7. Zoning: Not applicable

8. Description of the Project: See Section 2 – Project Description

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: Surrounding land uses include primarily residential and commercial uses, as well as Guadalupe River Gardens park and trail; highways (State Route 87), and city streets; and the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, which is located on the west side of the river adjacent to Reach A of the proposed project.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: Regional Water Quality Control Board (401 Water Quality Certification or Waste Discharge Notification under the Porter Cologne Act); and, California Department of Fish and Game (Streambed Alteration Agreement).

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	Aesthetics		Agricultural Resources		Air Quality
✓	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Geology / Soils
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Hazards & Hazardous Materials		Hydrology / Water Quality
	Land Use / Planning		Mineral Resources		Noise
	Population / Housing		Public Services		Recreation
	Transportation / Traffic		Utilities / Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

The District finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	
The District finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	✓
The District finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	
The District finds that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	
The District finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.	

Michael Martin for
Signature

December 2, 2011
Date

David W. Dunlap
Senior Environmental Planner
Santa Clara Valley Water District

1. AESTHETICS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a designated scenic highway?				✓
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			✓	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	

Discussion

a) ***No Impact.*** The project is in the Guadalupe River riparian corridor between Montague Expressway and Coleman Avenue. According to the *City of San Jose General Plan* and the *City of Santa Clara General Plan*, the project area is not located in the vicinity of a scenic vista.

b) ***No Impact.*** The project area is located adjacent to State Route 87. However, according to the *California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) Scenic Highway Mapping,* SR 87 is not designated as a State scenic highway.

c) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would restore/improve approximately two acres of riparian vegetation habitat by removing non-native species (e.g. weeping willow, acacia, and holly oak) along both banks of the Guadalupe River from Montague Expressway to Coleman Avenue. The primary views of the project area are along existing recreational trails that flank the Guadalupe River and SR 87. Surrounding land uses include residential and commercial uses, Guadalupe River Gardens park and trail, SR 87, city streets, and the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, which is located on the west side of the river adjacent to Reach A of the project. When the degree of visual change and the visual sensitivity of the project area are considered together, the change of the surrounding visual quality and character would not be substantial overall. This is due to the minor physical changes resulting from the vegetation removal in comparison to the surrounding urban environment in the project area; and, that the project would occur over a three year period.

d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Vegetation removal activities would occur during the hours between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with the exception of state and federal holidays. As vegetation removal would occur primarily during the daylight hours, there would be no adverse effects on nighttime views due to construction lighting.

Construction equipment would include approximately four construction vehicles, a compactor and chain saws for the removal of invasive vegetation. Any glare from construction equipment or vehicles would be subordinate to glare from numerous urban sources surrounding the project area that pervade the urban environment, such as windows, vehicles, and building sidings from surrounding uses. Therefore, light or glare effects associated with construction activities would be considered a less than significant impact.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

Not Applicable

2. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?				✓

Discussion

a-c) ***No Impact.*** The project area is not currently in agricultural production or zoned for agricultural use. The proposed project would not convert and cause the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance and would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)
Not Applicable

3. AIR QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans?				✓
b) Exceed any air quality standard by failing to adhere to assumptions used in the preparation of any Air Quality Plans?			✓	
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			✓	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

Discussion

a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed area is located in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin for which The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) adopted the final Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan (CAP) (BAAQMD 2010). The Bay Area is designated as a non-attainment area with respect to state 1- and 8-hour ozone standards and federal 8-hour ozone standards. The 2010 CAP explains how the Bay Area plans to meet the state- and federal standards with regard to ozone, and also discusses related air quality issues of interest including the public involvement process; climate change; fine particulate matter; the Air District's Community Air Risk Evaluation program; local benefits of ozone control measures; the environmental review process; national ozone standards; and photochemical modeling.

The Plan includes 55 control measures to improve air quality, protect public health, and protect the climate. The measures are divided into strategies relating to stationary sources, mobile sources, transportation, land use, and energy and climate. The proposed project does not include new stationary sources of air pollution, and the District does not have authority over land use or transportation issues. The project would not interfere with implementation of the control measures listed in the 2010 CAP; therefore, the project would have no impact to approved air quality plans.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would not result in long-term operational emissions, but would result in minor emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), both of which are precursors to ozone formation, as well as carbon monoxide (CO) and fine particulate matter (both PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) from equipment exhaust, construction-related vehicular activity, and construction worker automobile trips.

The proposed project would include one compactor, three to four chain saws, and four construction vehicles during vegetation removal activities. In addition, the proposed project would generate approximately twenty vehicle trips per day to haul vegetation from the project area, which would result in the short-term emission of equipment and vehicle exhaust. The proposed project may result in a slight disturbance of topsoil during vegetation removal; however, it is anticipated to be very minor and would not result in the emission of PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$. Emission levels for construction activities would vary on a daily basis depending on the number and type of equipment, duration of use, operation schedules, and the number of construction workers. Criteria pollutant emissions of ROG and NO_x from these emission sources would incrementally add to the regional atmospheric loading of ozone precursors during project construction.

For all projects, the BAAQMD 2010 CEQA Guidelines recommend implementation of all Basic Construction Mitigation Measures whether or not construction-related emissions exceed applicable thresholds of significance. The proposed project includes the application of District Best Management Practices (BMPs) including AQ-1 (Bay Area Air Quality Management District Optional Dust Control Measures), which would require that the Bay Area Air Quality Control District dust control measures for construction emissions of PM_{10} are applied for vegetation removal that results in disturbance to the soil.

Construction impacts associated with a project would be considered significant if the project were to result in 54 pounds/day reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen gas (NO_x); and/or 82 pounds/day respirable particulates (PM_{10}) from equipment exhaust. Based on the nature of the activities proposed and the screening criteria provided by the BAAQMD for a project of this nature (e.g. would not include extensive site preparation or extensive material transport of more than 10,000 cubic yards of soil per day) and the application of BAAQMD's Basic Construction Mitigation Measures (District BMP AQ-1), the proposed project

would result in a less than significant impact from criteria air pollutant and precursor emissions.

c) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Because the air basin is in non-attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), the proposed project would have the potential to contribute to a cumulatively significant impact. As previously stated herein, "if all of the control measures indicated are implemented, then air pollutant emissions from construction activities will be considered a less than significant impact" (BAAQMD, 2010). As the proposed project would include application of District BMP AQ-1, which is the BAAQMD's standard mitigation (BMPs) for construction sites, construction emissions associated with the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in any criteria pollutant for which the Bay Area is in nonattainment (e.g. ozone, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$).

d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project includes the removal of non-native vegetation which would include the use of three to four chain saws, compactor, and four construction vehicles, which would result in approximately twenty vehicle trips per day. There are sensitive receptors (e.g. residential uses) bordering the Guadalupe River riparian corridor. However, these residential uses would not be significantly affected by project construction activities, since these activities are temporary and the project includes application of District BMP AQ-1 (Use Basic Dust Control Measures For All Construction Sites), which is the BAAQMD's standard mitigation (BMPs) for construction sites. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on sensitive receptors adjacent to the project area.

e) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project includes the removal of non-native vegetation, which could result in the slight disturbance to the soil in the project area. Vegetation would either be removed from the project area or used to build brush piles. The proposed project includes the application of AQ-4 (Avoid Stockpiling Potentially Odorous Materials), which would ensure that the proposed project would not create objectionable odors that affect a substantial number of people.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

AQ-1: BAAQMD Dust Control Measures
AQ-4: Avoid Stockpiling Potentially Odorous Materials

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on an identified candidate, sensitive, listed, or special status species in any local, regional, state, or federal plan, policy, or regulation?		✓		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			✓	
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on any other sensitive natural community identified in local, regional, state, or federal plans, policies, or regulations (such as riparian habitat, oak woodlands, etc.)?		✓		

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			✓	
e) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓

Discussion

a, c) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The riparian habitat along the Guadalupe River is generally narrow and fragmented by bordering urban land uses; scattered hardscape; culvert discharges; trash and debris; maintenance operations; bridge crossings; illegal campers, human use; and District maintenance roads. The Guadalupe River trail runs along the edge of the riparian corridor. Reach C (Tasman Drive to Montague Expressway) generally has the most valuable riparian forest habitat in the project area for wildlife (wider, more contiguous, and generally denser). However, it can also be said that the entire riparian forest along the Guadalupe River provides high quality habitat as the only remaining forest through the highly urban landscape, as it is a refuge and corridor for many species. The special status species that could be adversely affected by removing non-native vegetation are described below. The intent of the proposed project, however, is to replace invasive non-native with native forest, which should benefit native wildlife, fisheries, insects, and aquatic organisms.

Plants: Special status plants that historically occurred in the project area according to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) include: robust spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta* var. *robusta*), Condon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *congdonii*), Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), showy Indian clover (*Trifolium amoenum*), hairless popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys glaber*), Hoover's button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *hooverii*), and arcuate bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus arcuatus*). However, no special status species have been observed for many years, or are expected to be found in the project area.

Wildlife and Fisheries: The Guadalupe River riparian corridor supports diverse wildlife communities in the Santa Clara Valley and functions as important pathways for wildlife movement. The abundance of wildlife species is generally greater in riparian habitats than in adjacent habitats because of the juxtaposition of aquatic and terrestrial habitats and the greater abundance and diversity of plants. The riparian corridors are generally less interrupted and altered by the dense urban landscape. Riparian habitat supports abundant aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates that are prey for amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and insectivorous birds.

Fish: Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) are special status fish species that live in the Guadalupe River. The Central California Coast steelhead evolutionary significant unit (ESU) has been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Guadalupe River is designated critical habitat for this species. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) considers the Chinook salmon in the Guadalupe River to be part of the Central Valley fall-run and late-fall-run Chinook salmon ESUs and does not warrant listing, but it is a species of concern with the NMFS and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

The Guadalupe River supports anadromous and resident fish species typical of coastal and Bay Area rivers and streams. Anadromous species are fish that mature in the ocean and migrate to freshwater before migrating to the ocean. Anadromous species found in the Guadalupe River include Chinook salmon, steelhead/rainbow trout, and Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentate*). Anadromous fish species are found primarily in the mainstream of the river because dams and other channel structures block or impede their access to tributary streams; however fish ladders at the Alamitos drop structure and Masson dam provide access for fish to Guadalupe Creek, Alamitos Creek, and Arroyo Cabero.

The term resident species refers to fish that spend their entire lives in fresh water. The Guadalupe River supports both native and introduced resident species. Native resident species include Sacramento sucker (*Catostomus occidentalis*), California roach (*Hesperoleucus symmetricus*), hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda*), prickly culpin (*Cottus asper*), and rifle sculpin (*Cottus gulosus*). Introduced resident species include largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus),* carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*), brown bullhead (*Ictalurs nebulosus*), and pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*).

<u>*Amphibians and Reptiles*</u>: Special status herpetofauna that have the potential to occur in the project area include California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), which is a Federal Threatened under the ESA and a California species of special concern; California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense),* which is a Federal and State Threatened and California species of special concern; and western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), which is a California species of special concern. There have been no observations of California red-legged frog or California tiger salamander for many years in the Guadalupe river corridor. However, Western pond turtles are seen occasionally through the project area.

Urban streams such as the Guadalupe River typically support few native amphibians and reptile species because urbanization has reduced habitat values. Common amphibian species in the project area include Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*), western toad (*Bufo boreas*), and non-native bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*).

<u>*Mammals*</u>: Common mammals in the project area typically do not require a continuous corridor from one habitat to another and are tolerant of human activity and urbanization, including the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), raccoon (*Pyocon lotor*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Trowbridge shrew (*Sorex trowbridgii*), broad-footed mole (*Scapanus latimanus*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and feral cat (*Felis domesticus*).

Many bats are state species of special concern and potentially reside or use the Guadalupe River riparian corridor, most notably the pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) and hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*). District biologists would observe for bats and bat signs when selecting sites, and trees or areas that have indications of bat use will not be cut.

<u>*Birds*</u>: Riparian habitat is very important for nesting and migrating birds. Of particular interest are raptors (hawks, osprey, owls, vultures, kites), and herons and egrets. Nesting bird surveys would be conducted by a biologist to observe for raptor nests and heron/egret rookeries pursuant to District BMP BI-8 (Avoid Impacts to Nesting Migratory Birds). None have been found to date in the project area, but use by these types of birds is relatively high. Areas with raptor, heron, and egret nests would be avoided with no work occurring within 300 feet.

Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia)*, which is a California species of special concern) nest in the vicinity of the proposed project, primarily or almost exclusively in the open fields of the San

Jose airport. However, there is a potential nesting areas in other open sites in the Guadalupe River corridor. As noted above, nesting bird surveys would be conducted by a biologist pursuant to District BMP BI-8 (Avoid Impacts to Nesting Migratory Birds) and areas having signs of burrowing owl use or nesting would be avoided with no work occurring within 300 feet.

Bird species occupying and nesting in the project area typically include the mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), belted kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) and various songbirds such as black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), various warblers (*Dendroica* spp.), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), common egret (*Casmerodius albus*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), green heron (*Butorides virescens*), woodpeckers (*Picoides* and *Melanerpes* spp.), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), and California towhee (*Pipilo maculates*).

The proposed project includes the removal of invasive vegetation during the winter months, between October and February, which is outside of the bird nesting season. Vegetation removal is proposed in order to remove those species that are threatening to displace native species that provide more highly valuable riparian habitat in the corridor. Vegetation would be removed by hand with a chain saw and would include the application of herbicides to prevent re-growth of those species. Overall, the proposed project would result in a long-term benefit to the riparian habitat, and associated wildlife and fisheries.

The proposed project would remove vegetation outside of the bird nesting season. However, to ensure protection of nesting birds in the riparian corridor District BMP BI-8 (Avoid Impacts to Nesting Migratory Birds) and BI-9 (Use Exclusion Devices to Prevent Migratory Bird Nesting) would be implemented by the District to assure that nesting birds, particularly raptors, are protected by state and federal laws from abandonment, loss, damage or destruction by requiring that bird surveys are performed by a qualified individual prior to any activity that may occur during the bird nesting season. In addition, should vegetation removal occur during the bird nesting season (e.g. girdle weeping willows in the spring, prevent erosion, or maximize potential natural recruitment of native vegetation) District BMP BI-8 (Avoid Impacts to Nesting Migratory Birds) would be implemented by the District in order to ensure that nesting birds and their nests are protected from abandonment, loss, damage, or destruction by conducting bird surveys by a qualified biologist prior to initiating work. In addition, to prevent predatory affects to wildlife, District BMP BI-17 (Minimize Predator-Attraction Effects on Wildlife) would require that all trash is removed from the site on a daily basis.

To ensure that adjacent native vegetation is not disturbed during vegetation removal activities, District BMP BI-10 (Minimize Impacts to Vegetation Whenever Clearing (or Trimming) is Necessary) and District BMP BI-11 (Minimize Root Impacts to Woody Vegetation) would be applied during vegetation removal activities. District BMP BI-13 (Plant Local Ecotypes of Native Plants and Choose Appropriate Erosion Control Mixes) would also be implemented for erosion control and re-vegetation of disturbed areas.

Although the long-term goal of the proposed project is to remove those species that are currently threatening to overcome native species, which provide riparian habitat in the corridor, the proposed project would result in some short-term, potentially-significant impacts to the riparian habitat that is currently providing cover to the Guadalupe River; as well as, pose the potential for additional sediment to enter the river from vegetation removal activities, which could affect both fish and wildlife. To protect the existing riparian habitat and assist with erosion control, the proposed project would retain stumps and roots during vegetation removal activities in order to stabilize the banks and implement mitigation measures MM BIO-1 through BIO-3 below. In addition, the District would assure the following factors are taken into consideration to as guiding methods to minimize impacts to the riparian corridor:

- Specific locations targeted for control activities would be selected based on a variety of factors including: quality of habitat, feasibility of control, access constraints, avoiding impacts to the river channel (erosion, sedimentation), etc.
- Integrated Vegetation Management techniques would be employed (e.g., mechanical, chemical, combination, etc.) to utilize the most effective method for each species while providing the greatest amount of protection to environmental resources.
- Success criteria would be developed for each site, and/or for each individual target species. Eradication of the invasive plant species would be the ultimate goal for defined sites where conditions exist to make it a realistic goal.
- Exclusion or containment strategies may be used where an invasive poses a threat to a sensitive species or habitat type, and complete eradication is deemed infeasible. These control strategies may also be used to suppress highly competitive invasive species and give existing native species the ability to thrive.
- Control work for certain species may require several years of treatment to be effective. Efforts would be made to encourage natural revegetation / recruitment at treatment sites, including suppression of other weed species. In areas where revegetation does not occur naturally within 2 years, a biological / horticultural assessment would be made to determine what impediments may exist to natural revegetation. In areas where revegetation potential exists, a plan would be developed to install site-appropriate vegetation.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-1 The District shall avoid and/or minimize impacts to native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation. Native vegetation shall be removed or pruned only if determined by a qualified biologist, or vegetation specialist that such action would improve the health and condition of the stand (e.g., diseased or injured vegetation, pest infestations, etc.). Dead snags shall not be removed unless they are a danger to human health and safety, or harbor infectious diseases, parasites, or pests.

MM BIO-2 Non-native tree and shrub removal shall be conducted in accordance with the District's Stream Maintenance Program BMP manual, 2011 version, including the Techniques for Tree Pruning and Equipment Access in Forested or Riparian Areas, except as noted in Mitigation Measure BIO-3.

MM BIO-3 Individual non-native and any injured, sick, or infested native trees removed that are visibly taller than the neighboring canopy or are less than 12 inches (1 foot) diameter at breast height (dbh) require field review by a qualified wildlife biologist prior to removal. Determinations of tree injury, illness, or infestation shall only be made by a qualified biologist or vegetation specialist. Smaller Individual nonnative and any injured, sick, or infested native trees may only be removed upon direction from a qualified vegetation specialist or biologist.

Note that 12 inches dbh is larger than the SMP (6 inches dbh) since it applies only to non-native, ill, injured, or infected trees that are reviewed by a qualified vegetation specialist, or biologist. EDAW (2009) found that most of the weeping willows less than 20 feet tall and 10 inches dbh were not of sufficient wildlife value relative to the surrounding habitat to warrant retaining.

With the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and methods incorporated into the project, potential short-term impacts to the riparian habitat that is currently providing cover

to the Guadalupe River; and impacts from increased sedimentation would be reduced to a less than significant level.

b,d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would include non-native vegetation removal that would be done using hand equipment (e.g. chain saws) with access to the riparian areas conducted on foot. With removal of the vegetation, there may be a small amount of soil disturbance. However, the proposed project would stabilize all exposed soils to prevent sedimentation into nearby waters. In most cases, stumps and roots of vegetation that might otherwise be removed would be retained to promote soil and bank stability.

The proposed project would not have an adverse effect on federally-protected wetlands as defined by the Clean Water Act, or waters of the state under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means and/or would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native or resident migratory species.

e) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

BI-8: Avoid Impacts to Nesting Migratory Birds
BI-9: Use Exclusion Devices to Prevent Migratory Bird Nesting
BI-10: Minimize Impacts to Vegetation Whenever Clearing (or Trimming) is Necessary
BI-11: Minimize Root Impacts to Woody Vegetation
BI-13: Plant Local Ecotypes of Native Plants and Choose Appropriate Erosion Control Mixes
BI-17: Minimize Predator-Attraction Effects on Wildlife

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in '15064.5?			✓	
b) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site?			✓	

Discussion

a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The Guadalupe River riparian corridor from Interstate 880 to the community of Alviso contains several known archaeological sites and several important historic sites. Definitions of archaeological site boundaries are difficult to establish in the Lower Guadalupe River area because substantial buried cultural deposits may be represented on the surface only as small patches, or in some cases, may not be represented at all. Several known archaeological sites were tested during previous studies to determine site boundaries; however, testing was conducted only to assess specific impacts of previously proposed projects resulting in fragmentary information derived from assessment of these sites. Many of these sites are immediately adjacent to the Lower Guadalupe River (SCVWD 2001).

The proposed project includes the removal of non-native vegetation with the use of approximately three to four chainsaws and a compactor. These activities could result in very minor disturbance to the topsoil in the project area; therefore the chance of discovering unknown cultural resources is minor. However, the inadvertent discovery of cultural materials cannot be entirely discounted. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of cultural materials and/or human remains, District BMPs CU-2 (Stop Work and Report Archaeological Finds) and CU-3 (Stop Work and Report Burial Finds) would be implemented, which would reduce potential impacts to unknown historical resources, archaeological resources, and human remains.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Due to the nature of the proposed project, likely to have only minimal disturbance to soils, paleontological resources would not be destroyed during vegetation removal activities. However, in the event that paleontological resources were discovered during construction activities, District BMP CU-2 would also provide an appropriate response in the event of an inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources to avoid a significant environmental effect. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact to paleontological resources.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

CU-2: Stop Work and Report
CU-3: Stop Work and Report Burial Finds

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death related to: seismic motion; liquefaction; landslides; unstable geologic or soil units?				✓
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✓	
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique geologic feature?				✓

Discussion

a) ***No Impact.*** The San Francisco Bay region is one of the most seismically active areas in North America. Thus, the potential for earthquakes to cause geologically based channel changes is high. Earthquakes can cause significant lateral and/or vertical seismic adjustment of the ground surface. Liquefaction effects associated with ground shaking may also be produced in fine grained tidal deposits or areas of loose, unconsolidated fill. This may cause localized settling of channel levees as well as redistribution of in-channel bed and bank sediments along the Guadalupe River.

The proposed project involves the removal of invasive vegetation and does not include the construction of any structures, which would expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death related to seismic motion, liquefaction, landslides, and/or unstable geologic or soil units.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would include the hand removal of invasive vegetation using chain saws to cut non-native trees and shrubs including weeping willow, acacia, and holly oak. Removal of vegetation may result in very minor disturbance of soils in the riparian corridor as part of vegetation removal, which could result in erosion into the Guadalupe River. In accordance with the District BMPs and the District's Stream Maintenance Program, the following BMPs would be applied to the proposed project: BMP WQ-9 (Minimize Local Erosion Increase from In-Channel Vegetation Removal); and, WQ-5 (Avoid Runoff from Soil Stockpiles) to ensure that any soil that is exposed during vegetation removal activities would be stabilized to prevent sedimentation to nearby waters. In most instances, cut stumps and roots would not be retained in order to promote soil and bank stability. Dead snags located in the project area would not be removed from the project area unless they are a danger to human health and safety, or harbor infectious diseases, parasites, or pests. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in substantial erosion or the loss of topsoil.

c) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project would remove non-native vegetation and would not destroy unique geologic features.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)
WQ-5: Avoid Runoff from Soil Stockpiles
WQ-9: Minimize Local Erosion Increase from In-Channel Vegetation Removal

7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purposed of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✓	

Discussion

a/b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project is a short-term vegetation removal project and would not result in any operations-related greenhouse gas emissions. The project would generate construction related greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels related to trips to and from the site, hauling green waste to an appropriate disposal site, and gasoline powered chainsaws during construction. The BAAQMD established a threshold of significance for greenhouse gas emissions of 1,100 million tons of CO_2 equivalent per year in their 2010 CEQA Guidelines. This threshold is approximately equivalent to a typical new 56 unit single-family home subdivision. The amount of emissions generated from the removal of two acres of invasive vegetation is far below the BAAQMD threshold.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)
Not Applicable

8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, storage or disposal of hazardous materials, or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			✓	
b) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within ¼ mile of an existing or proposed school?			✓	
c) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment from existing hazardous material contamination on site or nearby?			✓	
d) For a project located within two miles of an airport or in the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a substantial safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area or to aircraft utilizing the airport?				✓
e) Impair implementation of an adopted emergency response plan?				✓
f) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			✓	

Discussion

a-c) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Potentially hazardous substances related to the proposed project include automotive fuel, diesel fuel, lubricating oil and previously contaminated soils located in the Guadalupe River riparian corridor. During the time that vegetation removal activities occur, there would be the normal risk of spill, leakage or explosion related to operating a compactor and/or the chain saws proposed for vegetation removal activities. The possibility of fuel spills would be present during re-fueling procedures and fuel leaks could occur if equipment were not properly repaired and maintained. In addition, the proposed project includes the application of herbicides that would be applied directly to cut stumps and sprayed on areas where vines were located using standard District practices.

However, the District's best management practices address pollution control measures, including District BMPs BI-6 (Minimize Adverse Effects of Pesticides on Non-Target Species); HM-1 (Comply with All Pesticide Application Restrictions); HM-9 (Clean Vehicles and Equipment); HM-10 (Assure Proper Vehicle and Equipment Fueling); HM-11 (Assure Proper Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance); HM-12 (Assure Proper Hazardous Materials Management); HM-13 (Spill Prevention); and HM-14 (Know the Spill Kit Location). These mesaures would be applied during vegetation removal activities associated with the proposed project to ensure that the use of hazardous materials does not create a significant hazard to the public, nearby sensitive receptors (e.g. residential uses or school children). Implementation of these District BMPs would ensure that the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact from hazardous materials.

d) ***No Impact.*** The Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport is located on the west side of Reach A of the Guadalupe River adjacent to the project area. However, due to the nature of vegetation removal in the riparian corridor and the limited amount of construction equipment

operating in the project area, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area or to aircraft utilizing the airport.

e) ***No Impact.*** Construction activities would occur in the Lower Guadalupe River riparian corridor. Parking for construction workers would be on or adjacent to the District's maintenance roads and as such would not impair with implementation of an adopted emergency response plan.

f) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would include removal of non-native vegetation in the Guadalupe River riparian corridor. Although a fire could start in the riparian vegetation adjacent to the river, the high water table and riparian conditions make it unlikely that a fire would burn out of control. If a fire were to start, the fire department would be able to gain ready access via existing trails or District maintenance roads. Construction workers working in the project area would have an easy escape via the existing recreation trails, District maintenance roads, and/or adjacent development. Therefore the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact or hazard to construction workers in the project area from wildland fires.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

BI-6: Minimize Adverse Effects of Pesticides on Non-Target Species
HM-1: Comply with All Pesticide Application Restrictions
HM-9: Clean Vehicles and Equipment
HM-10:Assure Proper Vehicle and Equipment Fueling
HM-11:Assure Proper Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance
HM-12:Assure Proper Hazardous Materials Management
HM-13:Spill Prevention
HM-14:Know the Spill Kit Location

9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?			✓	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local ground water table level (for example, the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				✓
c) Substantially deplete surface water supplies?				✓
d) Alter existing drainage courses or patterns of the site or area, including changes to the timing or amount of runoff or alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation, or stream instability?			✓	

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?			✓	
f) Place structures within a 100-year flood-hazard area which would impede or redirect flood flows?				✓
g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				✓
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				✓

Discussion

a, d, e) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** During vegetation removal activities, runoff from disturbed surfaces may contain silts, sediments, and other pollutions from equipment and vehicles being used, and stockpiling of vegetation. The proposed project includes BMPs from the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) permit requirements including: 1) requiring that all tree and shrub removal is completed using hand equipment; 2) by accessing riparian habitats on foot and 3) limiting vehicle use to existing District maintenance roads. In addition, District BMPs would be implemented during vegetation removal activities including: WQ-1 (Conduct Work from Top of Bank); WQ-4 (Handle Sediments so as to Minimize Water Quality Impacts); WQ-5 (Avoid Runoff from Soil Stockpiles); WQ-6 (Stabilize Construction Entrances and Exits); and WQ-9 (Minimize Local Erosion Increase from In-channel Vegetation Removal) in order to stabilize all exposed soils to prevent sedimentation to nearby waters. In most instances, cut stumps and roots would not be removed in order to promote soil and bank stability.

b ,c) ***No Impact.*** The project would not utilize groundwater or create new impervious surfaces that would interfere with groundwater recharge.

e - h) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project would not include the construction of new structures or impervious surfaces which would create additional runoff; place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area; and/or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. In addition, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to significant risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

WQ-1: Conduct Work from Top of Bank
WQ-4: Handle Sediments so as to Minimize Water Quality Impacts
WQ-5: Avoid Runoff from Soil Stockpiles
WQ-6: Stabilize Construction Entrances and Exits
WQ-9: Minimize Local Erosion Increase from In-Channel Vegetation Removal

10. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the policies of the general plan, specific plan, or zoning ordinance) adopted to protect environmental resources?				✓
b) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			✓	

Discussion

a) ***No Impact.*** Surrounding land uses include primarily residential and commercial uses, as well as the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, which is located on the west side of the river in Reach A of the project area. The proposed project includes the removal of invasive vegetation in the project area and does not conflict with policies of the City of San Jose General Plan or the City of Santa Clara General Plan.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would remove trees and vegetation. However, the proposed project would not conflict with San Jose's or Santa Clara's tree preservation policies or ordinances. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

Not Applicable.

11. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of mineral resources designated priority by the State Department of Conservation or mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				✓

Discussion

a) ***No Impact.*** The project area is not designated by the State Mining and Geology Board as containing mineral deposits of regional significance, pursuant to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

Not Applicable.

12. NOISE AND VIBRATIONS

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			✓	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive vibration?				✓
c) A substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			✓	

Discussion

a, c) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would require approximately 25 construction workers, which would generate approximately twenty commute trips (ten inbound to the project area in the morning and ten away from the project area in the evening) per day. Construction activities would occur between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with the exception of state and federal holidays when there would be no activities on site. Construction equipment required for the proposed project would include one compactor truck for vegetation and trash removal and between three and four chain saws, as well as approximately four light duty vehicles (pick-up trucks, vans, and light duty vehicles).

During vegetation removal trail users would notice the noise from chain saws and compactor truck. However this noise will be temporary, and trail users have the option of avoiding the area. The work area is a sufficient distance from nearby residences and bounded by levees that will help deflect noise to avoid significant noise impacts to surrounding uses.

The District's best management practices including NOI-1 (Minimize Noise Pollution) and NOI-2 (Minimize Disturbances to Residential Neighborhoods Due to Noise) would be applied during vegetation removal activities in order to ensure that noise levels are minimized. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact.

b) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project would not include any equipment that produce substantial vibration.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

NOI-1 Minimize Noise Pollution
NOI-2: Minimize Disturbances to Residential Neighborhoods Due to Noise.

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure) that was not anticipated in approved local or regional planning documents?				✓
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing or residents, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

Discussion

a-b) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project is a vegetation removal project and would not induce substantial growth either directly or indirectly and/or displace existing housing.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

Not Applicable.

14. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in the need for additional, or physically altered, public services or facilities, the provision of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any public service:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?				✓
b) Police protection?				✓
c) Schools?				✓
d) Parks?				✓
e) Other public facilities?				✓

Discussion

a-e) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project would not result in the need for additional fire protection and/or police protection. In addition, the proposed project would not increase population in the area and would not impact existing school facilities, parks, and/or public facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on public services.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

Not Applicable.

15. RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss or deterioration of available public recreational opportunities?				✓

Discussion

a) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project would occur in the Lower Guadalupe River riparian corridor adjacent to the existing recreational trails. However, parking, staging and construction activities would occur outside of the trails and therefore would not result in a short-term impact to public recreational facilities in the project area.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

Not Applicable.

16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, level of service standards established by local or regional agencies for designated roads or highways; or otherwise cause a substantial increase in traffic in relation to the planned or designated traffic load and capacity of the circulation system?			✓	
b) Substantially increase hazards or result in substantial safety risks due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves, inadequate emergency service access, or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., haul routes through residential neighborhoods or by schools)?			✓	
c) Result in inadequate emergency access or interfere with an adopted emergency evacuation plan?				✓
d) Result in incompatible land uses through inadequate parking capacity or parking / staging activities on residential streets?				✓
e) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle lanes, bicycle racks)?			✓	

Discussion

a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would require approximately 25 construction workers, which would generate approximately twenty commute trips (ten inbound to the project area in the morning and ten away from the project area in the evening) per day. Construction activities would occur between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with the exception of state and federal holidays. Construction equipment required for the

proposed project would include one compactor truck for vegetation and trash removal and between three and four chain saws, as well as approximately four light duty vehicles (e.g., pick-up trucks, vans).

Some of the vegetation removed from the project area would be utilized to build brush piles, with the goals of promoting wildlife use and deterring human use of the project area. Any vegetation not utilized within the planning area would be removed by way of the following haul routes: Almaden Expressway; Route 87; Coleman Avenue; Taylor Street; Hedding Street; Airport Boulevard; Highway 101; Trimble Road; and Montague Expressway to an appropriate landfill. Due to the low volume of construction equipment and light-duty vehicle trips travelling to and from the project area, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in a substantial increase in traffic in relation to the planned or designated traffic load and capacity of the proposed haul routes. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on the level of service on adjacent roadway segments and intersections.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would generate approximately twenty commute trips, including the use of a compactor in the project area for the removal of vegetation and other debris. Haul routes would be primarily on arterial roadways and highways (Almaden Expressway; Route 87; Coleman Avenue; Taylor Street; Hedding Street; Airport Boulevard; Highway 101; Trimble Road; and Montague Expressway) and the proposed project is not expected to result in a safety hazard due to the slight increase in the amount of trips. In addition, the District would incorporate District BMP TR-1 (Use Suitable Public Safety Measures), which would require that fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs be installed as determined appropriate by the public agency with jurisdiction over the project area, to give adequate warning to the public of the construction and any dangerous conditions. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact.

c) ***No Impact.*** Construction activities would occur in the Lower Guadalupe River riparian corridor. Parking for construction workers would be on or adjacent to the District's maintenance roads and as such would not impair with implementation of an adopted emergency response plan.

d) ***No Impact.*** Construction vehicles would be parked along the District maintenance roads. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in incompatible land uses through inadequate parking capacity on residential streets from construction activities.

e) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Vegetation removal activities would occur in the Guadalupe River riparian corridor and adjacent to the Guadalupe River recreational trails. However, construction vehicles would be parked along the District maintenance roads and would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

TR-1: Use Suitable Public Safety Measures

17. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project result in a need for new, relocated, upgraded, or expanded utilities and service system facilities that could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service levels or other performance objectives for:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Water?				✓
b) Wastewater/Reclaimed Water?				✓
c) Stormwater?				✓
d) Solid Waste?			✓	
e) Streets and roadways?			✓	
f) Power systems (e.g. electricity, natural gas)?				✓
g) Other utility systems?				✓
h) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements?				✓

Discussion

a-c; f-h) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project includes removal of non-native vegetation in the Guadalupe River riparian corridor and would not require additional water sources, generate additional wastewater and/or stormwater, or require a substantial amount of electricity or natural gas, which would result in the need for new, relocated, upgraded, or expanded utilities and service systems.

d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would result in the removal of non-native vegetation from the corridor. The vegetation would be removed from the project area and either taken to the nearest landfill for composting or utilized to build brush piles with the goals of promoting wildlife use and deterring human use in the project area. The incremental increase in the generation of organic matter associated with the proposed project would be minimal and can be met by the local waste disposal facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on the landfill.

e) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project would generate approximately twenty commute trips, including the use of a compactor at the project site for the removal of vegetation and other debris. The project area would be accessed by existing maintenance roads and proposed haul routes to remove vegetation would be primarily on arterial roadways and highways (Almaden Expressway; Route 87; Coleman Avenue; Taylor Street; Hedding Street; Airport Boulevard; Highway 101; Trimble Road; and Montague Expressway). Due to minimal number of vehicle trips and the designated haul routes, the proposed project would not result in the need for new, relocated, upgraded, or expanded streets or roadways in the vicinity of the project area.

District Best Management Practices (See Appendix A for details)

Not Applicable.

18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Does the project:	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		✓		
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of the past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)			✓	
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			✓	

Discussion

a) The riparian corridor of the Guadalupe River is an important over-wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl, and breeding habitat for shorebirds. With the application of District BMPs and mitigation measures incorporated herein, the proposed project would not compromise the environmental quality or compromise habitat value. Specific impacts on habitat value and fish, wildlife, and plant populations are discussed in the Biological Resources section. While certain impacts were identified as potentially significant, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3 would reduce the potentially significant impacts to the Guadalupe River riparian cover and associated wildlife to a less than significant level.

Although the proposed project is not expected to significantly affect or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory, District BMPs CU-2 (Stop Work and Report Archaeological Finds) and CU-3 (Stop Work and Report Burial Finds) would provide an appropriate response in the event of an inadvertent discovery of archaeological, cultural, and historical resources to avoid future significant effect.

b) Because the air basin is in nonattainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{10}), construction activities have the potential to contribute to a cumulatively significant impact from short-term construction dust and equipment emissions. Best Management Practices are required during construction to reduce air quality emissions, including implementation of District BMP AQ-1, which would reduce cumulative air quality impacts. There were no potentially significant greenhouse gas impacts identified in this analysis.

c) The proposed project would have less than significant impacts on undiscovered cultural resources, water quality from erosion and runoff during short-term construction activities, and traffic safety with the implementation of standard District BMPs. The proposed project would not result in environmental effects which cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly.

Section 4: Report Preparation

This section lists those individuals who contributed to the preparation of this Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Prepared by: David W. Dunlap, Senior Environmental Planner, with contributions from:

- Patricia Showalter, Senior Project Manager
- Erika Spencer, Environmental Planner
- Doug Titus, Biologist II
- Michael Martin, Environmental Planner

Section 5: References

This section lists references used in preparation of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

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Appendix A
Best Management Practices
Guadalupe River Invasive Exotic Vegetation Removal Project

AIR QUALITY	
AQ-1: Dust Control Measures For All Construction Sites	Implement Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Basic Control Measures for construction emissions of PM_{10} at all construction sites. Current measures stipulated by the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines include the following (BAAQMD 2010): • All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day. • All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered. • All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited. • All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph. • All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible. Building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used. • Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations [CCR]). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points. • All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation. Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.
AQ-4: Avoid Stockpiling Potentially Odorous Materials	Some sites will have materials that are rich in organic matter decaying in an anaerobic condition, which generates assorted malodorous gases, such as reduced sulfur compounds. These materials will be handled in a manner that avoids impacting sensitive receptors. 1. Avoid stockpiling potentially odorous materials within 1,000 feet of residential areas or other odor sensitive land uses. 2. Where appropriate, odorous stockpiles will be disposed of at an appropriate landfill.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	
BI-8: Avoid Impacts to Nesting Migratory Birds	Nesting birds are protected by state and federal laws. The District will protect nesting birds and their nests from abandonment, loss, damage or destruction. Nesting bird surveys will be performed by a qualified individual (EMAP-30230) prior to any activity that could result in the abandonment, loss, damage or destruction of birds, bird nests, or nestling migratory birds. Inactive bird nests may be removed, with the exception of raptor nests. No birds, nests with eggs, or nests with hatchlings will be disturbed.
BI-9: Use Exclusion Devices to Prevent Migratory Bird Nesting	Nesting exclusion devices may be installed to prevent potential establishment or occurrence of nests in areas where construction activities would occur. All nesting exclusion devices will be maintained throughout the nesting season or until completion of work in an area makes the devices unnecessary. All exclusion devices will be removed and disposed of when work in the area is complete.
BI-10: Minimize Impacts to Vegetation Whenever Clearing (or Trimming) is Necessary	Vegetation to be trimmed or cleared will be evaluated by a qualified vegetation specialist or qualified biologist prior to impacts and the qualified vegetation specialist or qualified biologist recommendations will be followed. Survey cross-sections will be moved, within acceptable tolerances, to avoid cutting dense riparian vegetation and minimize cutting of woody vegetation, taking advantage of natural breaks in foliage. If the cross-section cannot be moved within the established acceptable tolerances to avoid impacts to dense riparian or woody vegetation, the cross-section will be abandoned. Cutting vegetation will be limited to the minimum length, width, and height necessary for safely accessing survey locations, and completing the cross-section surveys. Tree pruning will conform to

	International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) pruning standards. No trees with a 6-inch or greater diameter at breast height will be removed; and, no branches greater than 4" diameter will be removed. Woody vegetation (i.e. native trees and shrubs) which require pruning for equipment access, construction operations, etc, shall be pruned correctly such that health status is maintained and no post-construction impacts accrue. Woody vegetation will be pruned consistent with <u>all</u> <u>three</u> of the following complementary guidance or their updates: 1. 'BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, TREE PRUNING' 2008, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE; and 2. ANSI A300 (Part 1) – 2008 PRUNING; and 3. ANSI Z133.1, 2008, SAFTEY REQUIREMENTS. Woody material (including live leaning trees, dead trees, tree trunks, large limbs, and stumps) will be retained on site, unless it is threatening a structure or impedes access, in which case it must moved to a less threatening position.
BI-11: Minimize Root Impacts to Woody Vegetation	Construction activities, including cut and fill, will be minimized to the extent practicable in the root zones of existing woody vegetation to remain post project. In general, root extent can be estimated as 2-3 times canopy radius, but vary depending on slope and soil conditions. To the extent practicable, construction setbacks will be calculated using all of the following: 1. Tree DBH (diameter at breast height); and 2. Age class and sensitivity to disturbance (species dependent) per *Guidelines and Standards, Design Guide 1: Protection of Existing Riparian Vegetation* (ISO document WQ71001) and *Trees and Development, a Technical Guide to Preservation of Trees During Land Development, by Nelda Matheny and James Clark published by International Society of Arboriculture [ISA] 1998* Additionally, mulching the root zone will be employed to provide root protection from unavoidable equipment traffic during construction, specifically: 1. Use 6 inches minimum depth of wood chips; or, 2. 4 inches minimum depth of ¾-inch (or greater) gravel, per *Trees and Development, a Technical Guide to Preservation of Trees During Land Development, by Nelda Matheny and James Clark published by International Society of Arboriculture [ISA] 1998, p. 108*. Both may remain in place after work if approved by a qualified biologist or vegetation specialist.
BI-13: Plant Local Ecotypes of Native Plants and Choose Appropriate Erosion Control Mixes	Whenever native species are prescribed for installation on SCVWD fee properties or easements, the following steps will be taken by a qualified biologist or vegetation specialist: 1. Evaluate whether the plant species currently grows wild in Santa Clara County; and, 2. If so, the qualified biologist or vegetation specialist will determine if any need to be local natives, i.e. grown from propagules collected in the same or adjacent watershed, and as close to the project site as feasible. Also, consult a qualified biologist or vegetation specialist to determine which seeding option is ecologically appropriate and effective, specifically: 1. For areas that are disturbed, an erosion control seed mix may be used consistent with the SCVWD *Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams, Design Guide 5, 'Temporary Erosion Control Options.'* 2. In areas with remnant native plants, the qualified biologist or vegetation specialist may choose an abiotic application instead, such as an erosion control blanket or seedless hydro-mulch and tackifier to facilitate passive revegetation of native species. 3. Temporary earthen access roads may be seeded when site and horticultural conditions are suitable. 4. If a gravel or wood mulch has been used to prevent soil compaction per BI-11, this material may be left in place [if ecologically appropriate] instead of seeding. Seed selection shall be ecologically appropriate as determined by a qualified biologist, per *Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams, Design Guide 2: Use of Local Native Species*; and, *Supplemental Landscaping\Revegetation Guidelines* (ISO document WQ71001).
BI-17: Minimize Predator-Attraction Effects on Wildlife	Remove trash daily from the worksite to avoid attracting potential predators to the site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES	
CU-2: Stop Work and Report Archaeological Finds	Work in areas where archaeological artifacts are found will be restricted or stopped until proper protocols are met. Work at the location of the find will halt immediately within 30 feet of the find. A Consulting Archaeologist will visit the discovery site as soon as practicable for identification and evaluation pursuant to Section 21083.2 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15126.4 of the California Code of Regulations. If the archaeologist determines that the artifact is not significant, construction may resume. If the archaeologist determines that the artifact is significant, the archaeologist will determine if the artifact can be avoided and, if so, will detail avoidance procedures. If the artifact cannot be avoided, the archaeologist will develop within 48 hours an Action Plan which will include provisions to minimize impacts and, if required, a Data Recovery Plan for recovery of artifacts in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 and Section 15126.4 of the CEQA Guidelines.
CU-3: Stop Work and Report Burial Finds	Work in areas where any burial site is found will be restricted or stopped until proper protocols are met. Upon discovering any burial site as evidenced by human skeletal remains, the County Coroner will be immediately notified. No further excavation or disturbance within 30 feet of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains may be made except as authorized by the County Coroner, California Native American Heritage Commission, and/or the County Coordinator of Indian Affairs.
GEOLOGY AND SOILS	
WQ-5: Avoid Runoff from Soil Stockpiles	If soil is to be stockpiled, no run-off will be allowed to flow to a creek.
WQ-9: Minimize Local Erosion from In-Channel Vegetation Removal	In-channel vegetation removal may result in increased local erosion due to increased flow velocity. To minimize the effect, the toe of the bank will be protected by leaving vegetation to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the SMP maintenance guidelines.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	
BI-6: Minimize Adverse Effects of Pesticides on Non-Target Species	Pesticides will be handled, stored, transported, and used in a manner that minimizes negative environmental effects on non-target species and sensitive habitats. This includes all rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, algaecides, and fungicides. The proposed project plan for handling, storing, transporting and using pesticides must be reviewed and approved by <u>both</u> of the following subject matter experts: 1. District's Pest Control Advisor (a State-certified Qualified Applicator) – the plan will be reviewed, and modified as deemed appropriate, for compliance with: District policy, label restrictions and any advisories published by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture, and the U.S. EPA bulletin *Protecting Endangered Species, Interim Measures for Use of Pesticides in Santa Clara County* (USEPA 2000). 2. Qualified District Biologist (as defined in EMAP-30264) – the plan will be reviewed, and modified as deemed appropriate, for compliance with: District policy, approved environmental review documents, project permits, and avoidance of all known listed (Threatened or Endangered) and sensitive species. Information sources for determination of all known locations of species that may be harmed by pesticides include the District's GIS system and California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Either the District's Pest Control Advisor or the Qualified District Biologist may modify the proposed pesticide plan, such as establishing buffer areas or prohibiting the use of pesticides outright, based on site-specific data, current regulatory requirements, and District policy. The purchase of all pesticides should be approved by the District's Pest Control Advisor to ensure compliance with the District's *Control and Oversight of Pesticide Use* policy and appropriate regulatory agency reporting requirements.
HM-1: Comply With All Pesticide Application Restrictions	All pesticide use will be consistent with approved product specifications. Applications will be made by, or under the direct supervision of, State Certified applicators under the direction of, or in a manner approved by the District's Pest Control Advisor (PCA). Refer to Q751D02, *Control and Oversight of Pesticide Use***.**
HM-9: Clean Vehicles and Equipment	Vehicles will be washed only at the approved area in the corporation yard. No washing of vehicles will occur at job sites.

HM-10: Assure Proper Vehicle and Equipment Fueling	No fueling will be done in a waterway or immediate flood plain, unless equipment stationed in these locations is not readily relocated (i.e., pumps, generators). 1. For stationary equipment that must be fueled on-site, containment will be provided in such a manner that any accidental spill of fuel will not be able to enter the water or contaminate sediments that may come in contact with water. 2. Any equipment that is readily moved out of the waterway will not be fueled in the waterway or immediate flood plain. 3. All fueling done at the job site will provide containment to the degree that any spill will be unable to enter any waterway or damage riparian vegetation.
HM-11: Assure Proper Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance	No equipment servicing will be done in a stream channel or immediate flood plain, unless equipment stationed in these locations cannot be readily relocated (i.e., pumps, generators). 1. Any equipment that can be readily moved out of the channel will not be serviced in the channel or immediate flood plain. 2. All servicing of equipment done at the job site will provide containment to the degree that any spill will be unable to enter any channel or damage stream vegetation. 3. If emergency repairs are required in the field, only those repairs necessary to move equipment to a more secure location will be done in a channel or flood plain. If emergency repairs are required, containment will be provided equivalent to that done for fueling or servicing.
HM-12: Assure Proper Hazardous Materials Management	Measures will be implemented to ensure that hazardous materials are properly handled and the quality of water resources is protected by all reasonable means. 1. Prior to entering the work site, all field personnel will know how to respond when toxic materials are discovered. 2. The discharge of any hazardous or non-hazardous waste as defined in Division 2, Subdivision 1, Chapter 2 of the California Code of Regulations will be conducted in accordance with applicable State and federal regulations. 3. In the event of any hazardous material emergencies or spills, personnel will call the Chemical Emergencies/Spills Hotline at 1-800-510-5151.
HM-13: Spill Prevention	Prevent the accidental release of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, and non-storm drainage water. 1. Field personnel will be appropriately trained in spill prevention, hazardous material control, and clean-up of accidental spills. 2. No fueling, repair, cleaning, maintenance, or vehicle washing will be performed in a creek channel or in areas at the top of a channel bank that may flow into a creek channel.
HM-14: Know the Spill Kit Location	Spill prevention kits appropriate to the hazard will always be in close proximity when using hazardous materials (e.g., crew trucks and other logical locations). 1. Prior to entering the work site, all field personnel will know the location of spill kits on crew trucks and at other locations at District facilities. 2. All field personnel will be advised of these locations and trained in their appropriate use.
HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY	
WQ-1: Conduct Work from Top of Bank	For minor work activities that will occur in the channel, work will be conducted from the top of the bank if access is available and there are flows in the channel.
WQ-4: Handle Sediments so as to Minimize Water Quality Impacts	Sediments will be stored and transported in a manner that minimizes water quality impacts. 1. Wet sediments may be stockpiled outside of a live stream or may be stockpiled in a dewatered stream so water can drain or evaporate before removal. 2. This measure applies to saturated, not damp, sediments and depends upon the availability of a stockpile site. 3. For those stockpiles located outside the channel, water draining from them will not be allowed to flow back into the creek or into local storm drains that enter the creek, unless water quality protection measures recommended by the RWQCB are implemented. 4. Trucks may be lined with an impervious material (e.g. plastic), or the tail gate blocked with dry dirt or hay bales, for example, or trucks may drain excess water by slightly tilting their loads and

	allowing the water to drain out. 5. Water will not drain directly into channels (outside of the work area) or onto public streets without providing water quality control measures. 6. Streets will be cleared of mud and/or dirt by street sweeping (with a vacuum-powered street sweeper), as necessary, and not by hosing down the street.
WQ-5: Avoid Runoff from Soil Stockpiles	If soil is to be stockpiled, no run-off will be allowed to flow to a creek.
WQ-6: Stabilize Construction Entrances and Exits	Measures will be implemented to minimize soil from being tracked onto streets near work sites: 1. Methods used to prevent mud from being tracked out of work sites onto roadways include installing a layer of geotextile mat, followed by a 4-inch thick layer of 1 to 3-inch diameter gravel on unsurfaced access roads. 2. Access will be provided as close to the work area as possible, using existing ramps where available and planning work site access so as to minimize disturbance to the water body bed and banks, and the surrounding land uses.
WQ-9: Minimize Local Erosion Increase from In-Channel Vegetation Removal	In-channel vegetation removal may result in increased local erosion due to increased flow velocity. To minimize the effect, the toe of the bank will be protected by leaving vegetation to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the SMP maintenance guidelines
WQ-18: Maintain Clean Conditions at Work Sites	The work site, areas adjacent to the work site, and access roads will be maintained in an orderly condition, free and clear from debris and discarded materials. Personnel will not sweep, grade, or flush surplus materials, rubbish, debris, or dust into storm drains or waterways. Upon completion of work, all building materials, debris, unused materials, concrete forms, and other construction-related materials will be removed from the work site.
WQ-41: Prevent Stormwater Pollution	Suitable erosion control, sediment control, source control, treatment control, material management, and non-stormwater management BMPs will be implemented consistent with the latest edition of the California Stormwater Quality Association "Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook," which is available at www.cabmphandbooks.com.
UT-1: Manage Sanitary/Septic Waste	Temporary sanitary facilities will be located on jobs that last multiple days in compliance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) regulation 8 CCR 1526. All temporary sanitary facilities will be placed outside of the creek channel and flood plain and removed when no longer necessary.
NOISE	
NO-1: Minimize Noise Pollution	Noise produced by construction activities will not exceed the applicable local noise ordinance standards.
NO-2: Minimize Disturbances to Residential Neighborhoods Due to Noise	The District will implement practices that minimize disturbances to residential neighborhoods surrounding work sites. 1. In general, work will be conducted during normal working hours. Extending weekday hours and working weekends may be necessary to complete some projects. 2. Internal combustion engines will be equipped with adequate mufflers. 3. Excessive idling of vehicles will be prohibited. 4. All construction equipment will be equipped with manufacture's standard noise control devices. 5. The arrival and departure of trucks hauling material will be limited to the hours of construction. 6. The use of jake brakes is prohibited in residential areas.
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC	
TR-1: Use Suitable Public Safety Measures	Fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs will be installed as determined appropriate by the public agency having jurisdiction, to give adequate warning to the public of the construction and of any dangerous condition to be encountered as a result thereof.

Appendix B: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)

The mitigation measures contained herein are compiled from the measures identified in Section 3: Environmental Evaluation of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. For each, the timeframe for implementation, responsible party for implementation and responsibility for oversight are identified.

GUADALUPE RIVER INVASIVE EXOTIC VEGETATION REMOVAL PROJECT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM SUMMARY TABLE					
Measure #	Environmental Issue	Mitigation Measure	Timeframe for Implementation	Responsibility for Implementation	Responsibility for Oversight
Biological Resources					
MM BIO-1	Avoidance of impacts to native vegetation and removal of dead snags	The District shall avoid and/or minimize impacts to native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation. Native vegetation shall be removed or pruned only if determined by a qualified biologist, or vegetation specialist that such action would improve the health and condition of the stand (e.g., diseased or injured vegetation, pest infestations, etc.). Dead snags shall not be removed unless they are a danger to human health and safety, or harbor infectious diseases, parasites, or pests.	During Vegetation Removal	District	District
MM BIO-2	Removal of non-native trees and shrubs	Non-native tree and shrub removal shall be conducted in accordance with the District's Stream Maintenance Program BMP manual, 2011 version, including the Techniques for Tree Pruning and Equipment Access in Forested or Riparian Areas, except as noted in Mitigation Measure BIO-3.	During Vegetation Removal	District	District
MM BIO-3	Removal of trees	Individual non-native and any injured, sick, or infested native trees removed that are visibly taller than the neighboring canopy or are less than 12 inches (1 foot) diameter at breast height (dbh) require field review by a qualified wildlife biologist prior to removal. Determinations of tree injury, illness, or infestation shall only be made by a qualified biologist or vegetation specialist. Smaller Individual nonnative and any injured, sick, or infested native trees may only be removed upon direction from a qualified vegetation specialist or biologist. Note that 12 inches dbh is larger than the SMP (6 inches dbh) since it applies only to non-native, ill, injured, or infected trees that are reviewed by a qualified vegetation specialist, or biologist. EDAW (2009) found that most of the weeping willows less than 20 feet tall and 10 inches dbh were not of sufficient wildlife value relative to the surrounding habitat to warrant retaining.	Prior to Vegetation Removal	District	District