GOLETA WATER DISTRICT AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PROJECT

Hope Well and Mariposa Well

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

October 15, 2026

Prepared by

Goleta Water District
4699 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, California 93110-1999

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Name: Goleta Water District (District) Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project - **Hope Well** and **Mariposa Well**.

Project Location: The project site is located within the District's 29,000-acre service area covering the City of Goleta, and portions of Santa Barbara County and the City of Santa Barbara. The project is located at two constructed wells within the Goleta Groundwater Basin in Santa Barbara County. **Hope Well** is located at the District headquarters at 4699 Hollister Avenue. **Mariposa Well** is located at 310 Mentor Drive. Only these two wells are proposed for addition to the ASR injection program under this project.

Project Description: The District proposes to increase the efficiency of aquifer storage by injecting treated potable water through **Hope Well** and **Mariposa Well** during periods of sufficient surface water availability and available groundwater storage. The stored water would be available during droughts, emergencies, and planned outages of the Corona del Mar Water Treatment Plant for maintenance, repairs, or upgrades.

Finding: The addition of **Hope Well** and **Mariposa Well** for ASR injection is proposed to operate without significant adverse environmental impacts, including no significant adverse effects on the groundwater basin, hydrology, and water quality whether considered as a new standalone project or cumulatively with the existing ASR injection.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Goleta Water District (District) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for this project and has prepared this Negative Declaration (ND) pursuant to Section 15070 of the State CEQA Guidelines. California Government Code, Section 53091, specifically exempts certain water conveyance and storage facilities, including this project, from all county and city building and zoning regulations. This ND briefly describes the potential impacts of the proposed project and how those impacts would not have a significant effect on the physical environment. An ND is prepared when an Initial Study indicates that no substantial evidence exists to indicate that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant impact on the environment. An Initial Study was prepared for this project (see Appendix A). The issuance of an ND indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts are associated with the proposed project, and therefore, the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

This ND addresses the increased use of potable water injection at two existing District wells to increase the ability to use groundwater storage and recovery. Twenty-one checklist topics were evaluated in the Initial Study. One resource area, Hydrology and Water Quality, is discussed in this ND extensively. The remaining checklist topics are briefly addressed in this ND because the project would clearly have no impact or less-than-significant impact on these resources; these include the following:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

The Initial Study for the project found that impacts to hydrology and water quality are less than significant.

2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Goleta Water District was formed by a vote of the citizens within the proposed District's boundaries on November 17, 1944. The District currently provides water to approximately 87,000 people throughout its 29,000-acre service area extending along the south coast of Santa Barbara County west from the Santa Barbara city limits to El Capitan. Flows from the Santa Ynez River, which are stored in Lake Cachuma, are the District's primary water source. The District also maintains a contract with the State and receives deliveries from the State Water Project. Water deliveries imported to the District's system from outside of the District's boundaries are conveyed to the District through the Santa Ynez Mountains via the Tecolote Tunnel and are treated at the District's Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plant.

The Goleta Groundwater Basin underlies the Goleta Valley and spans 9,210 acres. It is located in the City of Goleta and parts of unincorporated Santa Barbara County and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the south and the Santa Ynez Mountains to the north[1]. In the Santa Barbara Superior Court case of *Wright vs. Goleta Water District*, the water resources of the Goleta Groundwater Basin were adjudicated, and portions of its "Safe Yield" were allocated to various parties[2]. Under the court's ruling, the District is permitted to extract 2,350 acre-feet per year (AFY) of native groundwater from the Goleta North-Central sub-basins. When this water is not extracted in a given year, the District retains the right to extract it in the future. Under the court's ruling, groundwater stored by the District is essentially held on account in the Goleta Groundwater Basin for future use. The *Wright* case also allows the District the right to store additional groundwater in the Goleta Groundwater Basin.

2.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Goleta Water District currently owns thirteen groundwater wells within the Goleta Groundwater Basin, nine of which are authorized for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) injection. Since 1978, the District has utilized the groundwater basin's storage capacity by injecting treated surface water from Lake Cachuma during periods of sufficient water availability. This stored water is available for subsequent recovery during droughts, emergencies, and planned outages of Corona del Mar Water Treatment Plant for maintenance, repairs, and upgrades.

The District proposes to expand its existing ASR program by adding Hope Well and Mariposa Well as authorized injection locations. Both wells have been constructed and designed to accommodate groundwater production and injection. The proposed project would convey treated potable water from the District's existing distribution system into the wells by gravity. Because the injected water has already been treated to drinking water standards, the installation or operation of raw groundwater treatment facilities is not necessary for ASR injection.

Adding Hope Well and Mariposa Well would increase the District's estimated maximum combined injection capacity to approximately 3,614 acre-feet per year (AFY). Actual injection volumes would depend on the availability of treated surface water, available groundwater storage capacity, well operating conditions, and water quality requirements. The additional injection capacity would provide greater operational flexibility to store surplus treated surface water underground for recovery when needed.

[1] California Department of Water Resources (2016). Bulletin 118: Goleta Groundwater Basin (3-16).

[2] Martha H. Wright et al. v. Goleta Water District et al., 1989, Amended Judgment, Superior Court of Santa Barbara County Case No. SM57969.

Historical ASR operations and groundwater quality monitoring have demonstrated the general compatibility of treated surface water with native groundwater in the Goleta Groundwater Basin. Operational experience has also identified differences in groundwater movement and mixing at individual well locations. Hope Well and Mariposa Well are located in portions of the Central sub-basin where groundwater flow is not subject to the restrictions identified at certain existing ASR wells. Injection at the two proposed locations would be conducted in accordance with water quality monitoring and operating requirements to protect groundwater quality and beneficial uses.

The District is seeking authorization from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to add Hope Well and Mariposa Well to its existing ASR injection permit. The proposed project would increase the District's capacity and flexibility to store treated water in the groundwater basin without requiring construction of new groundwater treatment facilities for injection.

2.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The District has a need for and an opportunity to increase groundwater injection within the Goleta Central sub-basin for increased use and efficiency of water storage. Water injected into the basin would increase the local storage of supplies available to the District during periods of limited surface water availability resulting from drought or other factors. The addition of **Hope Well** and **Mariposa Well** would support the District's water-storage and supply-reliability objectives.

This document has been prepared to support the District's decision-making and its application for ASR injection at the two wells. Injection would commence only after the environmental review, water quality authorization, and operating requirements have been completed.

2.3 PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND REGULATORY SETTING

The Goleta Water District's existing Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program includes nine wells authorized for injection. The District previously prepared a Negative Declaration in 2019 addressing the environmental effects of the existing ASR injection program.

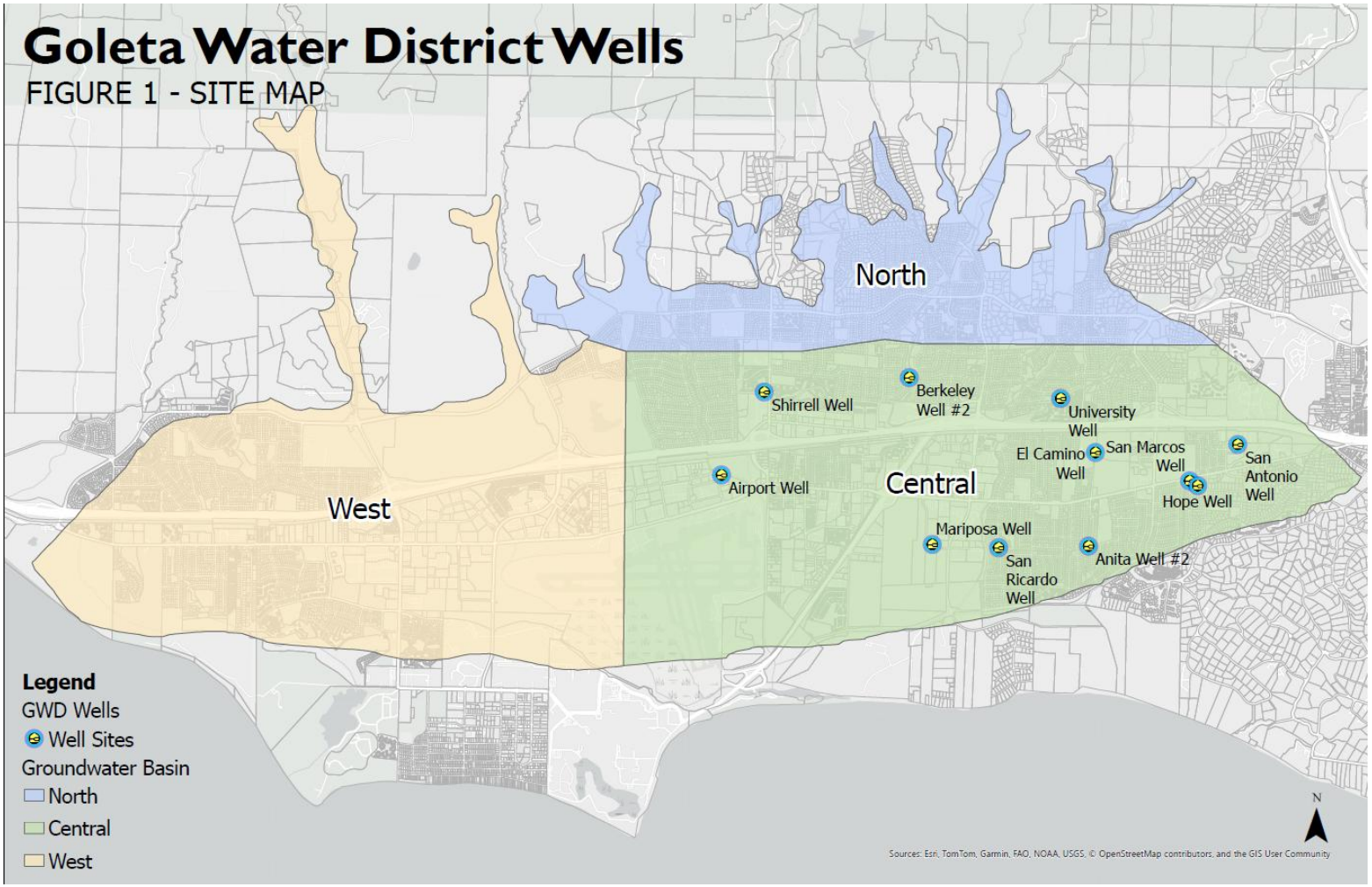
The proposed project would expand the existing ASR program by adding Hope Well and Mariposa Well as two additional injection locations. Both wells have already been constructed, and the proposed project does not involve modifications to the nine previously authorized ASR injection wells.

The District has determined that preparation of a separate Negative Declaration is appropriate to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with adding Hope Well and Mariposa Well to the ASR program. This Negative Declaration evaluates the proposed injection activities at the two wells, including their potential cumulative effects when considered in conjunction with the existing ASR injection program.

The 2019 Negative Declaration remains unchanged and is not being recirculated for public review. The environmental review and public comment process for this Negative Declaration are limited to the proposed project and its potential environmental effects, including relevant cumulative impacts. Following completion of the CEQA process, the District would seek the necessary authorization from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to add Hope Well and Mariposa Well to its existing ASR injection permit.

2.4 PROJECT LOCATION

Hope Well is located at the District's property at 4699 Hollister Avenue near Puente Drive. **Mariposa Well** is located at 310 Mentor Drive, on the property identified in the site-improvement report as Assessor's Parcel Number 071-140-077. The two well locations are shown in Figure 1.


Goleta Water District Wells
FIGURE 1 - SITE MAP
North
West
Central
Shirrell Well
Berkeley Well #2
University Well
El Camino Well
San Marcos Well
San Antonio Well
Airport Well
Hope Well
Mariposa Well
San Ricardo Well
Anita Well #2
Legend
GWD Wells
Well Sites
Groundwater Basin
North
Central
West
N
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

2.5 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located in the Central sub-basin of the Goleta Groundwater Basin at two groundwater well sites, Hope Well and Mariposa Well (Figure 1). The Central sub-basin is located within the District's jurisdiction, within the City of Goleta and Santa Barbara County. The two groundwater well sites are already constructed, as described in the section below.

2.6 DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Hope Well and Mariposa Well are existing, constructed groundwater wells designed to support groundwater production and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) injection. Both wells include casing, screened intervals, gravel packs, and annular seals. Their construction reports document well development, aquifer testing, water quality sampling, surveys, disinfection, and capping.

ASR injection involves conveying treated potable water from the District's existing distribution system into the wells for storage in the Goleta Groundwater Basin. Because the water has already been treated to drinking water standards, ASR injection does not require the installation or operation of treatment systems for raw groundwater.

Separate improvements, including treatment systems for groundwater production and associated connection improvements, are planned for the two well sites and are being addressed through a separate CEQA review. The proposed ASR injection activities can occur independently of the installation and operation of the raw groundwater treatment systems. Those treatment improvements are not part of the ASR injection project evaluated in this Negative Declaration.

Hope Well was constructed in November 2023 to an approximate completion depth of 1,088 feet below ground surface. The well has an 18-inch inside-diameter stainless-steel casing and screened intervals between approximately 544 and 1,067 feet below ground surface. The well includes three injection drop pipes to provide operating flexibility over the estimated injection range. The well is located within the District's developed Hollister Avenue facility.

Mariposa Well was constructed in November 2025 to an approximate completion depth of 1,110 feet below ground surface. The well has stainless-steel casing with an outside diameter of 18.75 inches and screened intervals at approximately 350–450, 540–620, and 950–1,090 feet below ground surface. The well is located on the developed Mentor Drive property and was designed for groundwater production and ASR injection.

2.7 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

No construction is proposed as part of the ASR injection project. Hope Well and Mariposa Well have already been constructed, and the proposed injection operations would utilize existing well facilities and the District's potable water distribution system.

The installation of treatment systems for raw groundwater is not necessary for ASR injection because the injected water has already been treated to potable water standards. Consequently, the proposed injection activities can proceed independently of the planned groundwater treatment improvements.

The separately planned treatment and connection improvements are being addressed through a separate CEQA review and are not included in the project evaluated in this Negative Declaration. Accordingly, no ground disturbance, excavation, or construction-related activities are anticipated as part of the proposed ASR injection project.

2.8 PROJECT SCHEDULE

The injection project is planned to begin in January 2027 and is expected to continue indefinitely during periods when sufficient surface water supplies and unused storage capacity are available in the basin.

2.9 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Treated potable water would be conveyed from the District's existing distribution system into Hope Well and Mariposa Well for storage in the Goleta Groundwater Basin. Injection would occur by gravity, without operation of the well pumps or motors. Injection operations would take place during periods when sufficient treated surface water supplies and available groundwater storage capacity exist. Routine operator inspections and monitoring would continue during injection operations.

Periodic backflushing would be conducted at both wells to maintain injection efficiency and prevent clogging of the surrounding geologic formation. Backflushing involves temporarily reversing the direction of flow by pumping water out of the wells to remove accumulated sediment and other materials that could restrict water movement into the aquifer. Backflushing would occur at an estimated rate of approximately 850 gallons per minute at each well and would help maintain the wells' injection capacities over time.

Although backflushing would be a new maintenance activity specifically associated with ASR injection at Hope Well and Mariposa Well, the District routinely exercises groundwater wells that are not in active production service approximately once per month for several hours to maintain operational readiness. This routine well exercising would occur regardless of the proposed ASR injection program. Backflushing would be incorporated into these routine maintenance activities, minimizing additional well operation and associated environmental effects.

Water generated during backflushing would be treated to meet potable water quality standards and dechlorinated before discharge to the storm drain system. The dechlorinated water would be discharged into the County of Santa Barbara's existing storm drain system. Discharges would be managed in accordance with the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, Order WQ 2014-0194-DWQ, NPDES No. CAG140001, including discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and best management practices.

The District would maintain records of static and operating groundwater elevations, injection and production rates, cumulative injection and production volumes, water quality, sand production, and well maintenance. Injection operations would comply with water quality requirements established by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, including monitoring and operating limitations for constituents such as sulfate and boron. Injection would be reduced or suspended when necessary to comply with permit requirements or protect groundwater quality.

The proposed ASR injection program would utilize the existing wells and distribution facilities without requiring construction of new groundwater treatment systems for injection. Routine maintenance, backflushing, and monitoring would support continued well performance and protection of groundwater quality.

2.10 ALTERNATIVES

Under the No Action alternative, **Hope Well** and **Mariposa Well** would not be added as ASR injection locations through this proposal. The additional injection flexibility and associated storage benefits sought by the project would not be provided.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

The environmental assessment discussion below briefly describes the affected environment, potential environmental effects, and cumulative impacts related to:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory findings of Significance

3.1 AESTHETICS

No Impact. Hope Well and Mariposa Well are located on developed properties. The proposed project consists of ASR injection at the existing well sites and would not involve construction or changes to existing structures, lighting, or other visible site features. Subsurface injection would not alter the visual character of the sites or surrounding areas. Therefore, no adverse impacts related to aesthetics are anticipated.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

No Impact. Hope Well and Mariposa Well are located on developed properties, and the proposed project would utilize the existing well sites for ASR injection. The project would not involve construction or changes in existing land use. Therefore, no adverse effects related to agriculture or forestry resources are anticipated.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

No Impact. No construction is proposed as part of the project. Water supplied for groundwater injection would be gravity fed and would not require continuous pumping when operational.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

No Impact. The project site's two wells are located within urbanized and residential areas of the District. Hope Well and Mariposa Well are existing groundwater production wells that are proposed to also be

used for groundwater injection. Using these wells for ASR injection would have no adverse effects related to biological resources because existing distribution facilities would be used.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

No Impact. The project sites are existing constructed groundwater production wells that are proposed to also be used for groundwater injection. There will be no excavation or construction in or around the sites as a result of the project. Therefore, there are no adverse effects from the project related to cultural resources.

3.6 ENERGY

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would utilize existing groundwater wells and distribution facilities, with no new construction required. Groundwater injection would occur by gravity and would not require continuous operation of well pumps or motors. Energy use would be limited primarily to periodic well backflushing, monitoring, and routine maintenance activities. The District already operates its groundwater wells periodically for maintenance and operational readiness, and the proposed ASR activities would not substantially increase overall energy consumption. The project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources or conflict with renewable energy or energy efficiency plans. Therefore, impacts related to energy would be less than significant.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

No Impact. The project site overlies the Goleta Groundwater Basin, south of the Santa Ynez Mountains and north of the Pacific Ocean in Santa Barbara County. The two wells proposed for injection are existing, constructed groundwater production wells. More information regarding the Goleta Groundwater Basin's geology is described in 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality below.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would utilize existing groundwater wells and distribution facilities and would not involve construction-related greenhouse gas emissions. Groundwater injection would occur by gravity without continuous pumping. Minor indirect greenhouse gas emissions could result from electricity used for periodic backflushing and routine well maintenance. However, these activities would generally coincide with existing well maintenance operations and would not substantially increase energy consumption or associated emissions. The project would not conflict with plans, policies, or regulations adopted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, greenhouse gas impacts would be less than significant.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

No Impact. No adverse environmental effects related to the handling or release of hazardous materials are anticipated. The District will be injecting treated surface water into the two production wells via gravity. No soil will be excavated as no construction will be taking place.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would increase the District's ability to store treated potable water in the Goleta Groundwater Basin through aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) injection at Hope Well and Mariposa Well. Injected water would supplement groundwater storage and be available for subsequent recovery during droughts, emergencies, and periods of high demand.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), potential impacts to hydrology and water quality are evaluated based on whether a project would:

- Violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface water or groundwater quality;
- Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge in a manner that could impede sustainable groundwater management;
- Substantially alter drainage patterns, increase erosion or flooding, exceed stormwater drainage capacity, generate polluted runoff, or impede flood flows;
- Risk the release of pollutants due to inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones; or
- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

The following analysis addresses existing groundwater conditions, potential effects of injection on groundwater elevations and quality, and the operating requirements established to protect groundwater resources.

3.10.1 GROUNDWATER BASIN AND HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

The Goleta Groundwater Basin is bounded by consolidated rocks of Tertiary age. Its principal water-bearing units include younger alluvium of Holocene age, terrace deposits and older alluvium of Pleistocene age, and the Santa Barbara Formation of Pleistocene age. The younger and older alluvium are generally less than 250 feet thick, while the Santa Barbara Formation is as much as 2,000 feet thick (Kaehler et al., 1997).

The District has monitored groundwater elevations in the basin since at least the 1940s. Groundwater elevations in the Central sub-basin have fluctuated by nearly 150 feet over approximately 80 years, reflecting changes in precipitation, natural recharge, groundwater production, and water management practices. Historically high groundwater elevations occurred during wet periods in the 1940s, early 1970s, and early 2010s.

Drought conditions beginning in water year 2011–2012, combined with increased groundwater production beginning in 2013, contributed to declining groundwater elevations. As of April 2026, the average groundwater elevation at the District's index wells was approximately 25 feet below the historical high recorded in April 2012.

Groundwater elevations measured in April 2026 ranged from approximately 14.5 feet below mean sea level along the northern edge of the Central sub-basin to approximately 80 feet below mean sea level at San Antonio Well. The regional groundwater gradient is generally from north to south, with localized depressions associated with groundwater production. A groundwater elevation difference of approximately 50 feet across the boundary between the North and Central sub-basins suggests that the boundary partially restricts groundwater flow.

Groundwater movement within the Central sub-basin is influenced by local hydrogeologic conditions, including groundwater gradients and geologic barriers. These conditions affect the movement and mixing of injected water with native groundwater.

3.10.2 INJECTION OPERATIONS AND GROUNDWATER ELEVATION RESTRICTIONS

The proposed project would add Hope Well and Mariposa Well to the District's existing nine-well ASR injection program. Treated potable water would be conveyed from the District's existing distribution system into the wells by gravity during periods when sufficient surface water supplies and available

groundwater storage capacity exist. Injection would increase groundwater storage and could result in localized increases in groundwater elevations.

The District's existing ASR injection permit includes operating restrictions based on groundwater elevations measured at three designated monitoring wells that are separate from the District's permitted ASR injection wells. These restrictions are intended to prevent injection-related groundwater-level increases from mobilizing contaminants in areas of the basin affected by historical land uses.

Several environmental cleanup sites are located in the western portion of the Goleta Groundwater Basin. At these locations, rising groundwater elevations could cause groundwater to contact residual contaminants in previously unsaturated soils, potentially mobilizing those constituents into groundwater. To reduce this risk, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has established groundwater-elevation thresholds at the three monitoring locations. When a threshold is exceeded, injection must be suspended at designated wells in the affected portions of the basin.

These restrictions have been implemented during the District's existing ASR operations. In May 2025, groundwater elevations reached the threshold, and the District suspended injection at Berkeley Well and SB Corp Well. The suspension was coordinated with Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff through telephone discussions and email correspondence during May 2025. This action demonstrates the District's established practice of responding to groundwater-elevation conditions that could increase the risk of contaminant mobilization.

Mariposa Well is located at the SB Corp Well site and may be subject to similar groundwater-elevation restrictions under the proposed ASR authorization. In this case, injection at Mariposa Well would not occur while the groundwater-elevation threshold is exceeded and would resume only when groundwater conditions and permit requirements allow. Hope Well would also be operated in accordance with any groundwater-elevation restrictions applicable to its location.

These restrictions are intended to protect groundwater quality by limiting injection during periods when elevated groundwater levels could contribute to contaminant mobilization. Groundwater elevations would continue to be monitored, and injection would be adjusted or suspended as necessary to comply with the requirements established by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

3.10.3 EXISTING GROUNDWATER QUALITY

Groundwater quality in the Goleta Groundwater Basin varies by location and aquifer conditions. Historical groundwater quality evaluations have identified elevated concentrations of certain naturally occurring constituents, including chloride, iron, and manganese.

Historical chloride concentrations in the Central sub-basin were generally below 150 milligrams per liter (mg/L) during the period from 1980 to 2000, while higher concentrations have been observed in portions of the North and West sub-basins. Historical nitrate concentrations have generally remained below drinking water standards, with isolated exceptions.

Iron and manganese concentrations have also varied throughout the basin. Available water quality testing at Hope Well and Mariposa Well indicates that iron concentrations are below the secondary drinking water standard of 0.3 mg/L. Manganese concentrations at Hope Well are below the secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) of 0.05 mg/L, while testing at Mariposa Well has identified concentrations exceeding that level.

The proposed ASR injection water would be treated potable water meeting State and Federal primary drinking water standards. The District's treated surface water also meets secondary drinking water standards for iron and manganese.

The District publishes treated water quality information annually in its Consumer Confidence Report. Additional information regarding groundwater conditions is provided in the 2022 Groundwater Management Plan for the Goleta Groundwater Basin.

3.10.4 WATER QUALITY CONSTITUENTS OF CONCERN

The principal water quality constituents evaluated for the proposed ASR injection activities are sulfate, boron, and disinfection byproducts, including trihalomethanes (THMs). These constituents are subject to water quality objectives, drinking water standards, and injection operating requirements.

Sulfate

Sulfate occurs naturally in surface water and groundwater. Treatment of surface water at the District's Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plant also introduces sulfate through the use of aluminum sulfate as a coagulant. District water quality data indicate that treatment increases sulfate concentrations by an average of approximately 21.5 mg/L compared with untreated surface water.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has established a groundwater water quality objective (WQO) of 250 mg/L for sulfate in the Goleta Groundwater Basin. Sulfate concentrations in the District's treated surface water may occasionally exceed this objective.

Initial groundwater sampling at the proposed injection locations identified sulfate concentrations of approximately 280 mg/L at Hope Well and 240 mg/L at Mariposa Well. These values represent one sampling event at each well and should not be interpreted as long-term averages. Separately, groundwater sample results collected from District wells and other groundwater monitoring wells indicate an average sulfate concentration of approximately 312 mg/L. This broader groundwater average provides context for the sulfate concentrations occurring within the basin, although concentrations vary by location.

The available data demonstrate variability in sulfate concentrations throughout the basin, including between the two proposed injection locations. The District's existing ASR injection permit includes monitoring and operating requirements for sulfate, including suspension of injection when the four-quarter running average sulfate concentration in treated injection water exceeds the established 250 mg/L objective.

The District would apply the sulfate monitoring and operating requirements to Hope Well and Mariposa Well. Injection would be reduced or suspended as necessary to comply with these requirements and protect groundwater quality.

Boron

Boron is a naturally occurring constituent of surface water and groundwater in the Goleta area. Elevated boron concentrations can adversely affect agricultural beneficial uses, particularly the cultivation of sensitive crops such as citrus. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has established a groundwater WQO of 0.2 mg/L for boron in the Goleta Groundwater Basin. Boron does not have a primary or secondary drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL).

Historical boron concentrations in Lake Cachuma have averaged approximately 0.3 mg/L, exceeding the groundwater WQO. Consequently, boron is a constituent of concern for the District's ASR program.

Under the District's existing ASR injection requirements, injection is prohibited when the boron concentration in the treated injection water exceeds the 0.2 mg/L WQO or when the boron concentration in groundwater at the proposed injection location exceeds the WQO. Injected water may blend with existing groundwater, provided the resulting groundwater concentration does not exceed the WQO.

The District would apply these same water quality monitoring and operating requirements to Hope Well and Mariposa Well. Injection would occur only when boron concentrations in both the treated injection water and groundwater at the respective well satisfy the WQO. These restrictions are intended to prevent groundwater quality degradation associated with boron and protect existing beneficial uses of the basin.

Trihalomethanes

Treated drinking water used in the District's ASR program contains chlorine for disinfection and may contain disinfection byproducts (DBPs), including THMs and haloacetic acids (HAAs). These compounds form when chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Concentrations of these constituents in the District's treated drinking water meet drinking water standards.

Research conducted at other ASR facilities has demonstrated that THM and HAA concentrations can decrease during underground storage through dilution, dispersion, chemical reactions, adsorption, and microbial degradation. The extent of attenuation depends on groundwater movement, aquifer characteristics, and groundwater chemistry (Singer et al., 1993; Pyne, 2005; Nicholson and Ying, 2005).

The District's operational testing over the past several years has provided additional information about the behavior of THMs during groundwater injection and storage in the Goleta Groundwater Basin. Testing has identified two existing ASR wells where mixing and dilution of injected water with native groundwater occur more slowly due to local hydrogeologic conditions.

San Antonio Well is located at a hydrologic low point where groundwater movement is minimal. Anita Well is located adjacent to a geologic barrier that restricts groundwater flow. These conditions limit the movement and mixing of injected water, resulting in slower dilution of THMs at these locations.

Hope Well and Mariposa Well are located in portions of the Central sub-basin where groundwater flow is not subject to these identified restrictions. Consequently, injected water at these locations is expected to mix more readily with native groundwater, promoting dilution and dispersion of THMs during aquifer storage. Natural attenuation processes may further reduce THM concentrations over time.

Based on the District's experience with existing ASR operations, hydrogeologic conditions at the proposed injection locations, and published research on the fate of DBPs during aquifer storage, significant adverse groundwater quality effects associated with THMs are not anticipated. Continued water quality monitoring would be conducted in accordance with injection permit requirements.

3.10.5 MONITORING, MAINTENANCE, AND DISCHARGE MANAGEMENT

The District would continue monitoring injection operations and groundwater conditions in accordance with permit requirements. Monitoring would include injection volumes, groundwater elevations, water quality, and well performance. Injection would be reduced or suspended when required by groundwater-elevation thresholds, water quality limitations, or other operating restrictions.

Periodic well backflushing would be conducted to remove accumulated sediment and other materials that could restrict injection capacity. Backflushing would occur at an estimated rate of approximately 850 gallons per minute at each well. These activities would generally be incorporated into the District's existing monthly well exercising and maintenance program.

Backflush water would be treated to meet potable water quality standards and dechlorinated before discharge. At Hope Well, discharged water would enter the existing County of Santa Barbara storm drain system. Discharges would be managed in accordance with the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

The proposed project would not involve construction, excavation, or changes to existing surface drainage patterns or impervious surfaces. Maintenance-related discharges would be managed under discharge requirements.

3.10.6 IMPACT DETERMINATION

The proposed project would increase the District's ability to store treated potable water in the Goleta Groundwater Basin for subsequent recovery. The project would utilize existing groundwater wells and distribution facilities without new construction or ground disturbance.

Potential groundwater quality impacts would be addressed through injection-water quality requirements, groundwater monitoring, and operating restrictions. These include limitations on sulfate and boron concentrations and groundwater-elevation thresholds intended to prevent injection-related mobilization of contaminants associated with environmental cleanup sites.

The District's existing ASR operations demonstrate the implementation of these restrictions. In May 2025, the District suspended injection at Berkeley Well and SB Corp Well after groundwater elevations reached the threshold, coordinating the shutdown with Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff. Mariposa Well, located at the SB Corp Well site, would be operated subject to comparable groundwater-elevation restrictions to prevent injection during conditions that could increase the risk of contaminant mobilization.

The District's historical ASR experience and the hydrogeologic conditions at Hope Well and Mariposa Well indicate that significant adverse effects related to groundwater quality are not anticipated when injection occurs within operating limits.

The proposed injection activities would be managed in conjunction with the District's existing nine-well ASR program. Groundwater elevations, water quality, and injection performance would continue to be monitored to evaluate cumulative effects and maintain compliance with operating requirements.

The project would not alter surface drainage patterns, introduce new impervious surfaces, or require new stormwater drainage facilities. Maintenance-related discharges would be managed in accordance with discharge requirements.

Based on the existing groundwater conditions, historical ASR operating experience, proposed operating procedures, and water quality and groundwater-elevation restrictions, the proposed project is anticipated to result in less-than-significant impacts to hydrology and water quality, including cumulative impacts associated with the existing ASR program.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

No Impact. Hope Well and **Mariposa Well** are located on developed properties. The project would utilize the existing distribution system facilities and operations. Therefore, the implementation of the project would require no changes in land use or planning, and no adverse effects related to land use and planning are anticipated.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

No Impact. No mineral-extraction activity is proposed, and the proposed ASR injection would occur at two constructed groundwater wells on developed properties. The project would not introduce use changes and would not restrict, increase, or interfere with the extraction of mineral resources more than the existing conditions at the two groundwater production well locations. Therefore, no adverse environmental impacts related to mineral resources are anticipated.

3.13 NOISE

No Impact. Proposed injection is gravity-fed and will not require additional construction. There would be no impact on the ambient noise levels that currently exist around the project site. Therefore, no adverse impacts associated with noise are anticipated.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

No Impact. No adverse effects related to population and housing are anticipated because the well sites to be used are already developed.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

No Impact. The project will not introduce new government facilities or affect existing government facilities. Response times and service ratios for public services will not be affected, and therefore no adverse effects are anticipated.

3.16 RECREATION

No Impact. No adverse effects related to recreation are anticipated because the project would use existing underground distribution facilities at already developed, fenced well sites.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

No Impact. The proposed project would utilize existing groundwater wells and distribution facilities without requiring construction or modifications to roadways or site access. Routine operator inspections, monitoring, and maintenance would continue at Hope Well and Mariposa Well. Periodic backflushing would generally be incorporated into existing monthly well maintenance activities and would not increase vehicle trips. The project would not generate additional traffic, increase vehicle miles traveled, alter existing circulation patterns, or interfere with emergency access. Therefore, there would be no impacts to transportation.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

No Impact. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal resource as defined in the Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

No Impact. The proposed project will not introduce changes to wastewater generation, storm drain facilities, or other utility systems in accordance with the District's NPDES permit. No adverse effects related to utilities and service systems are anticipated.

3.20 WILDFIRE

No Impact. The project sites are not located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would utilize two existing groundwater wells and the District's potable water distribution system for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) injection. No construction or ground disturbance is proposed. Consequently, the project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, adversely affect fish or wildlife populations or habitat, threaten plant or animal communities, or adversely affect historical, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources.

The proposed injection activities would increase the District's ability to store treated potable water in the Goleta Groundwater Basin for subsequent recovery. As discussed in Section 3.10, potential impacts to groundwater elevations and water quality would be less than significant. Injection would be conducted in accordance with water quality monitoring and operating requirements to protect groundwater quality and beneficial uses. Periodic well backflushing would be incorporated into routine maintenance activities, with discharges managed in accordance with permit requirements.

The cumulative effects of adding Hope Well and Mariposa Well to the District's existing nine-well ASR injection program have been considered. Based on the District's historical ASR operating experience, groundwater conditions, and injection requirements, the proposed project is not expected to result in cumulatively considerable environmental impacts.

The project would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the mandatory findings of significance would be less than significant.

4.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Goleta Water District has determined the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. If this Negative Declaration is adopted by the District, the requirements of CEQA will be met by the preparation of this Negative Declaration and the project will not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. This decision is supported by the following findings:

1. The proposed project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community. It does not reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. It does not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history. There is no identified area at the Project site which is habitat for rare or endangered species, or which represents unique examples of California history or prehistory. There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The Project does not involve impacts which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
3. The Project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

5.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A - INITIAL STUDY

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

NOTE: The following is a sample form that may be tailored to satisfy individual agencies' needs and project circumstances. It may be used to meet the requirements for an initial study when the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines have been met. Substantial evidence of potential impacts that are not listed on this form must also be considered. The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance.

1. Project title: Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project

2. Lead agency name and address:
Goleta Water District

4699 Hollister Ave, Goleta, CA, 93110

3. Contact person and phone number: Daniel Brooks

4. Project location: 4699 Hollister Ave and 310 Mentor Drive

5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Goleta Water District

4699 Hollister Ave, Santa Barbara, CA, 93110

6. General plan designation: UT (Hope Well); OI (Mariposa Well)

7. Zoning: PU(Hope); OI(Mariposa)

8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

The Goleta Water District proposes to add Hope Well, located at 4699 Hollister Avenue, and Mariposa Well, located at 310 Mentor Drive, to its existing Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) permit. The project would use these two constructed wells to inject treated potable water into the Goleta Groundwater Basin during periods of sufficient surface-water availability and unused groundwater storage capacity. The stored water would be available for subsequent recovery during droughts, emergencies, and peak summer demand periods, supporting the District's water-storage and supply-reliability objectives.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)

The project sites are located in urbanized and residential areas of the Goleta Water District. Hope Well is situated within the District's developed Hollister Avenue facility, while Mariposa Well is located on a developed property on Mentor Drive. Both sites overlie the Central sub-basin of the Groundwater Basin.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

    California Water Boards

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

    Yes, the Barbareno Band of the Chumash Tribe will be provided with the Negative Declaration and Initial Study.

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

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	☐ Agriculture / Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

✓ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find 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.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find 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.

I find 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.

Daniel J. Brooks — 9/16/2026

Signature — *Date*

Engineering & Infrastructure Manager — Goleta Water District

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
    a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
    b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
    c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
    a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
    b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
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 state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☑
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY 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 Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), 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) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☑
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☑
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☑
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	☑
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☑
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☑
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☑
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☑
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☑
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☑
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☐	☑

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☑
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☑
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☑
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☑

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☐	☐	☑
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☑
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☑
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c)	Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d)	Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:					
a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.					
a)	Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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)	Does the project 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 past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☑	☐
c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☑

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

This appendix is reserved for the public-notice materials, comments, and responses for the **Hope Well** and **Mariposa Well** ASR Injection Project. The District will identify the public-review period and incorporate comments, responses, and any resulting revisions after the review process.