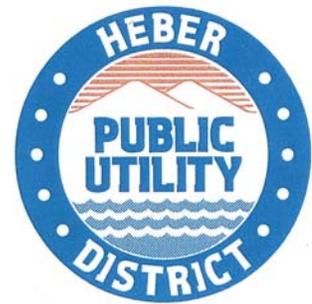


**DRAFT** MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR THE HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT  
WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT

PREPARED FOR:



1078 DOGWOOD, HEBER, CA 92249

FEBRUARY 2009

PREPARED BY:



The  
Holt  
Group

1601 North Imperial Ave.  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(760) 337-3883

## **I. INTRODUCTION & REGULATORY GUIDANCE**

This Mitigated Negative Declaration/Finding of No Significant Impact (MND/FONSI) has been prepared by the Heber Public Utility District (HPUD) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Heber Water Treatment Plant Expansion project (herein after referred to as “project”), located in the Townsite of Heber, in the County of Imperial, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 *et seq.*, Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### **A. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) REQUIREMENTS**

As defined in Section 15063(a) of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, an Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant to mitigate the potentially significant effects to less than significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines Section 15071.

According to the Initial Study prepared for this project, a Mitigated Negative Declaration will suffice to conform to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*); applicable requirements of the Heber Public Utility District, and the regulations, requirements, and procedures of any other responsible public agency or an agency with jurisdiction by law.

In accordance with Section 15050 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Heber Public Utility District is designated as the Lead Agency. The Lead Agency is the public agency, which has the principal responsibility of carrying out or approving a project, which may have significant effects upon the environment. Additionally, Imperial County is the Responsible Agency. The Responsible Agency is a public entity, other than the Lead Agency, which has the responsibility of carrying out or approving a project.

### **B. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) REQUIREMENTS**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions. There are three levels of analysis depending on whether or not an undertaking could significantly affect the environment. These three levels include: categorical exclusion determination; preparation of an Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI); and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The determination of significance is based on the context and intensity of the proposed project. An evaluation of the proposed project was conducted and in accordance with the evaluation, a FONSI would be appropriate.

### **C. INTENDED USES OF THE MND/FONSI**

This MND/FONSI seeks to identify the levels of any potential impacts and determine what mitigation measures, if any, are necessary. When completed, the documents will be informational documents intended to inform Heber Public Utility District decision-makers, Imperial

County, other responsible or interested agencies, and the general public of potential environmental effects of the proposed project before a decision to move forward with the project is made. The environmental review process has been established to enable public agencies to evaluate environmental consequences and to examine and implement methods of eliminating or reducing any potentially adverse impacts. While CEQA and NEPA require that consideration be given to the environment to avoid environmental damage, the Lead Agency and other responsible public agencies must balance adverse environmental effects based upon other public objectives, including economic and social goals.

**D. AUTHORITY TO PREPARE MND/FONSI**

Heber Public Utilities District is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21064.5. Heber Public Utilities District is further responsible for the planning and implementation of the proposed Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project. As provided by CEQA, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared for a proposed project when the Initial Environmental Study has identified potentially significant effects on the environment, but revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by, the applicant before the proposed negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or “mitigate” the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur.

Based upon the findings and conclusions in the Initial Study and Environmental Assessment, the Lead Agency, Heber Public Utility District, has determined that environmental clearance for the proposed project can be provided with a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) under CEQA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under NEPA.

**E. PUBLIC REVIEW**

The Initial Study and Notice of Preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Finding of No Significant Impact will be circulated for a period of 30 days for public and agency review before a final determination is adopted by the Lead Agency. Comments received on the document will be considered by Heber Public Utilities District before the Agency acts on the proposed project.

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING**

The proposed Heber Water Treatment Plant expansion project is located within the Heber Public Utility District (HPUD), at the existing Water Treatment Plant located south of Main Street just east of Dogwood Road with a site address of 1085 Ingram Avenue in Heber, California 92249. HPUD is located southeast of El Centro and approximately 15 miles northwest of the US/Mexico border. The project address is 1184 Rockwood Avenue in Heber, California. Please see Exhibit 1 and 2.

The land use to the north and east of the project site is urbanized residential while the land use to the west and south of the project site is vacant land used for agriculture. The Imperial County Land Use Ordinance (2008) has designated the area north, south, and east of the project site R-1 (Low Density Residential). The area east of the project site is designated C-2 (Medium Commercial).

### **B. PROJECT NEED AND OBJECTIVE**

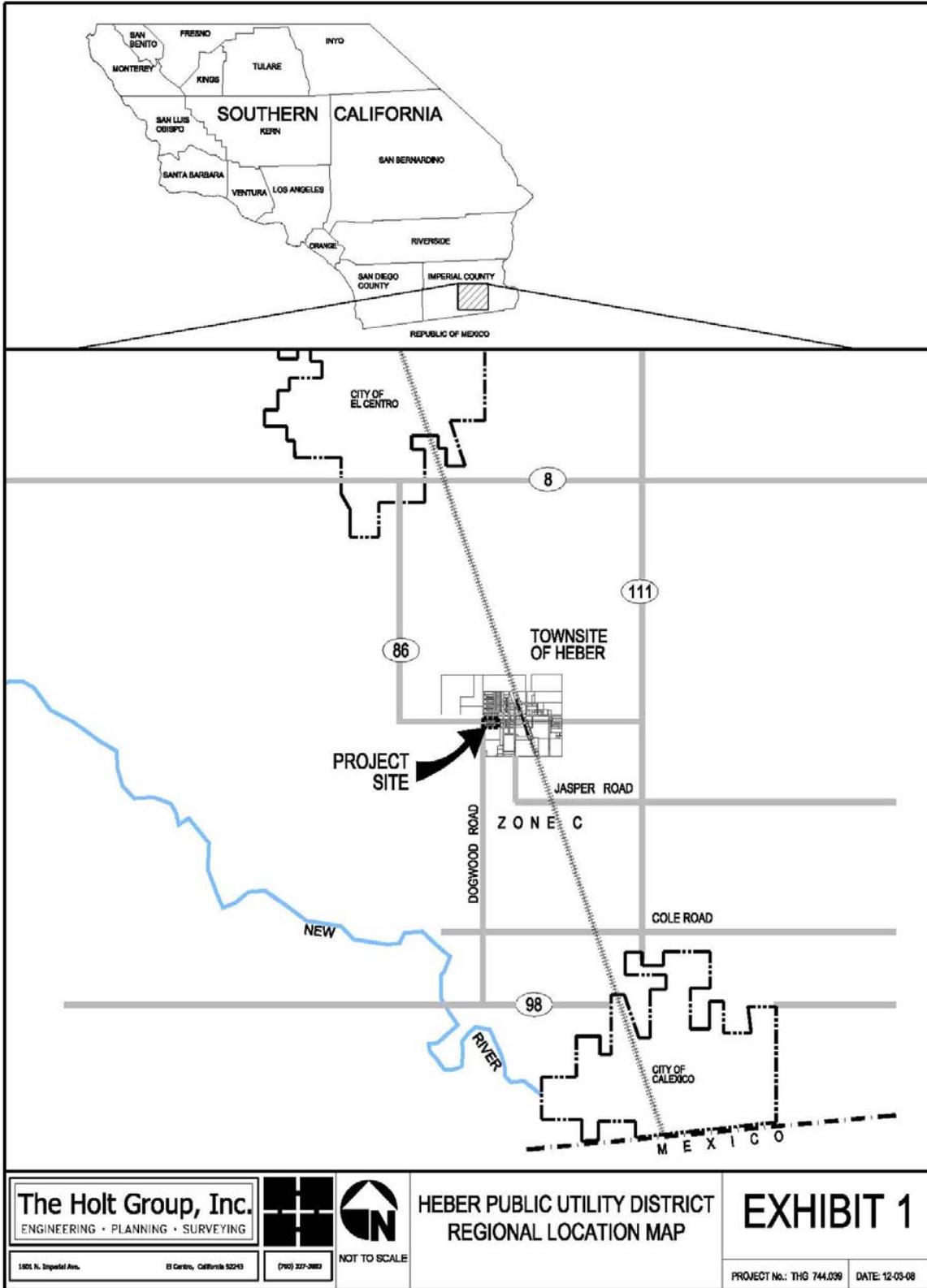
Rapid residential growth over the last several years in HPUD has necessitated the expansion of key infrastructure within the District. The population of HPUD has increased 95 percent (from a population of 2,988 persons to a population of 5,834 persons) between the years 2000 and 2006. The population is expected to increase 52 percent during the next ten (10) year period from a population of 5,834 in 2006 to a population of 8,821 in the year 2016.

Due to this increase in population, HPUD's maximum day water demand has exceeded the Water Treatment Plant capacity of 2.0 million gallons per day (MGD). A maximum day demand of 2,246,000 was recorded in the summer of 2006. At this point in time the maximum day demand exceeds the rated capacity of the Water Treatment Plant and therefore the Water Treatment Plant is considered "over capacity." In order for future growth to occur, it will be necessary to expand the Water Treatment Plant. HPUD's objective is to increase the treatment capacity of the Water Treatment Plant from 2.0 MGD to 6.0 MGD, which is estimated to serve the HPUD population until the end of the year 2030.

### **C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

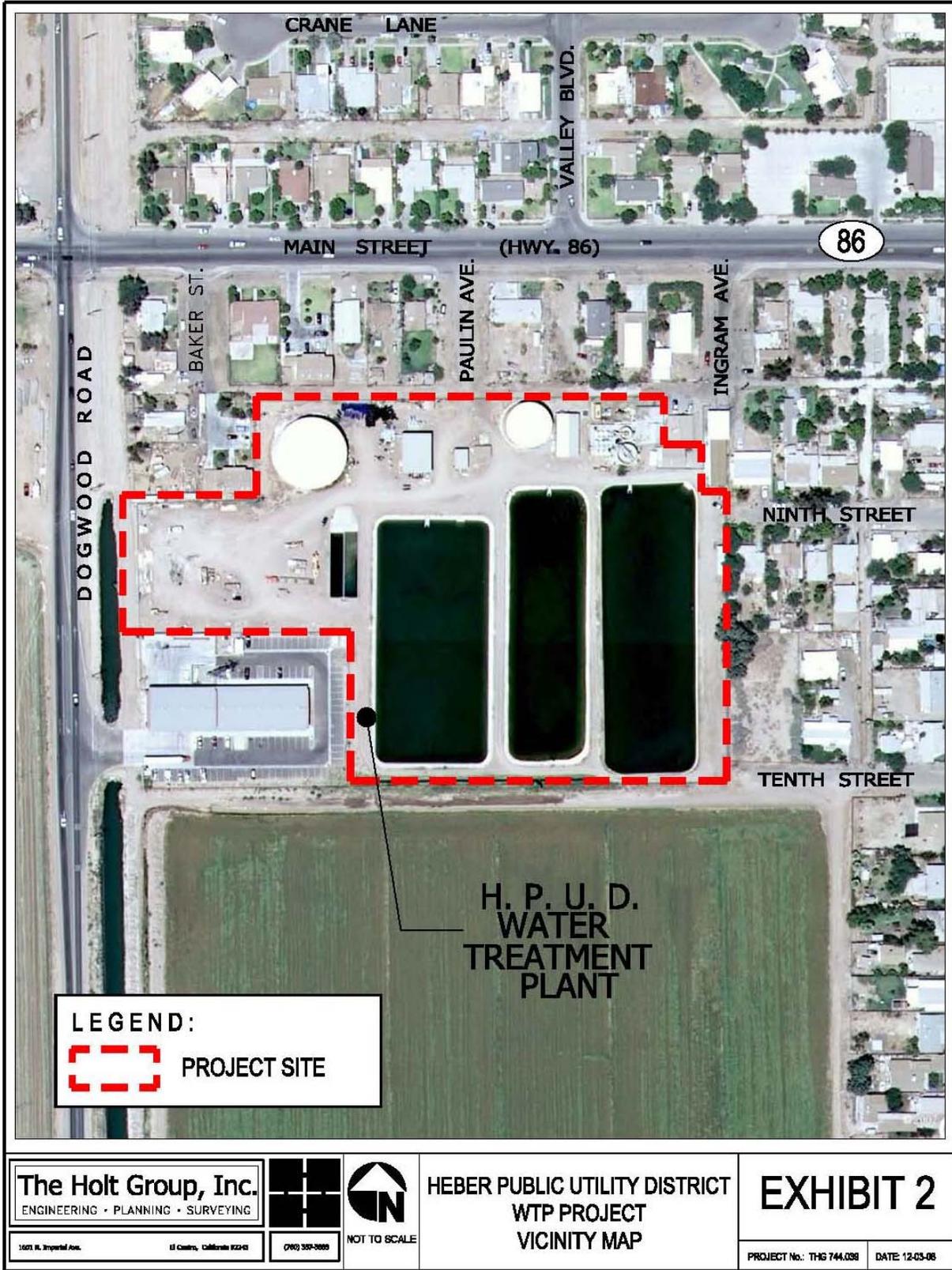
Per the Preliminary Engineering Study prepared by The Holt Group, Inc., the proposed project consists of the capacity expansion of the Heber Public Utility District's Water Treatment Plant from 2.0 MGD to 6.0 MGD. The expansion of the Water Treatment Plant is the last of three phases. Phase I included the installation of an aboveground water reservoir tank and was completed in May 2008. Phase II included the installation and replacement of approximately 1.8 miles of underground pipelines for raw water conveyance off-site. This project encompasses Phase III, which includes the demolition, construction, and relocation of numerous water treatment plant components on-site. Site grading is also anticipated as a result of the expansion. This assessment will summarize the cumulative impacts of all three projects.

# Regional Location Map



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Project Location



#### **D. ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS**

The proposed project is to expand the Heber Water Treatment Plant from the current 2 MGD water treatment capacity to a 6 MGD water treatment capacity. The Preliminary Engineering Report provides a detailed analysis of project alternatives considered. The Alternate Analysis was prepared by The Holt Group, Inc in their January 2008 Preliminary Engineering Report for the HPUD Water Treatment Plant Expansion and included: (1) Expand capacity of the Heber Water Treatment Plant from 2 MGD to 4 MGD, (2) Expand capacity of the Heber Water Treatment Plant from 2MGD to 8 MGD, and (3) a no project alternative.

1. 4.0 MGD Water Treatment Plant -The Preliminary Engineering Report considered an alternative with a smaller MGD capacity of 4.0 MGD instead of 6.0 MGD requiring a 24-inch transmission pipeline. The engineer calculated that the 4.0 MGD water treatment plant had a probable cost of \$7.1 million and would reach capacity in the year 2010. If constructed, the water treatment plant would reach completion at the same time that it would be necessary to initiate the next expansion, making this alternative impractical.
2. 8.0 MGD Water Treatment Plant – The Preliminary Engineering Report considered an alternate with a larger MGD capacity of 8.0 MGD instead of 6.0 MGD requiring a 36-inch transmission pipeline be installed for raw water conveyance. The cost of this alternative was determined to be unfeasible particularly since future expansion may be accommodated as needed on 2.0 MGD packaged Treatment Units, and could easily be adjusted to accommodate future growth.
3. A no project alternative is not feasible since the increased capacity is a requirement of the Department of Health Services.

Please note that the aforementioned alternatives considered and excluded from each independent alternative the option to create the raw water storage capacity needed via the construction of new raw water basins versus the construction of a new raw water transmission line. Raw water basins would necessitate the substantial acquisition of land. The acquisition of land is time-intensive and cost prohibitive. It was determined that the costs to implement the raw water basin alternative would be significant at over \$1.0 million in comparison with the proposed project. Instead, a raw water transmission line proved to be the most cost-effective alternative and has been independently assessed for environmental impacts.

It should be further noted that none of the alternatives considered above, and further detailed in the Preliminary Engineering Report, impact important environmental resources. Therefore, environmental impacts were not a factor in the recommended alternative.

### III. PROPOSED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

#### A. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

##### 1.0 Air Quality

The State of California and the Federal government have established air quality standards and emergency episode criteria for various pollutants. These standards are used to determine attainment of State and federal air quality goals and plans. Generally, State regulations have stricter standards than those at the Federal level. Air quality standards are set at concentrations which provide a sufficient margin of safety to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. Episode criteria define air pollution concentrations at the level where short term exposure may begin to affect the health of a portion of the population especially susceptible to pollutants. The health effects are progressively more severe and widespread as pollutant concentrations increase. Air pollution forms either directly or indirectly from pollutants emitted from a variety of sources. These sources can be natural or human generated.

##### Existing Conditions

The project site is located within the Salton Sea Air Basin. The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District is responsible for ensuring that all state and federal ambient air quality standards are achieved and maintained within the Imperial Valley. The Imperial Valley is designated as a "non-attainment" area with respect to Federal Standards for both particulate matter (PM10) and ozone (smog).

The site is surrounded by residential, public or agricultural land use and existing water treatment plant operation and the plant's expansion would be generally consistent with the described land uses. There are single-family residential land uses within a ¼ mile of the proposed project site; therefore, during construction of the proposed project, dust (PM 10) may be generated as a result of site grading and pipeline excavation activities. However, Heber PUD, has adopted guidelines in accordance with the implementation of applicable air quality plans to ensure a less than significant impact. The impacts would be temporary and would not result in incremental impacts to criteria pollutants.

##### Significance Criteria

Per State CEQA Guidelines, which are more stringent than Federal Guidelines, the proposed project would have an effect on the environment, if any of the following occur:

- A conflict or obstruction of the implementation of the applicable Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP);
- A violation of any air quality standard or substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation;
- A cumulatively considerable net increase of PM10 or increase of quantitative thresholds for Ozone (O3) precursors, oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and reactive organic compounds (ROCs);
- Exposure to sensitive receptors (including, but not limited to, schools, hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers) to substantially pollutant concentrations; or
- Creation of objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

## Construction Phase Impact Analysis

Although short-term emissions do not generally need to be considered to determine the level of significance of a project, it has been determined that the level of PM10 generated from construction activities could be potentially significant unless proper mitigation measures are incorporated.

Emissions of pollutants such as dust are considered temporary and would be generated during pre-construction and during construction through fill delivery, excavation and grading activities. Emissions are generally highest near the construction site. Dust associated with grading of the site is being taken into account. The project construction would be subject to the requirements of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District Rule 800, Fugitive Dust Requirements for control of fine particulate matter (PM10). Rule 800 requires the implementation of all reasonably available control measures to control fugitive dust identified further under Mitigation Measures for this section.

Construction equipment, emissions associated with worker travel to the construction site and construction truck deliveries based on the scope of the project and proposed phasing were determined to not be significant. Considering that the construction phase of the project is short-term in nature, the proposed project construction would not result in long-term emissions that would cause a permanent violation of an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation in the long-term during operation. It is also not estimated that the project would result in significant adverse impacts to sensitive receptors, or emission of any odor compounds that would cause a nuisance or significant impact to nearby receptors.

## Project Impacts

**Impact AQ-1** There will be a temporary increase in pollutants during construction that may contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation for the region.

**Impact AQ-2** The proposed project is located within a ½ mile of proposed and existing residential development and an existing school. The potential increase in emissions within this region, as a result of the construction of the proposed project in addition to other construction and/or agricultural related activities has the potential to contribute to the generation of pollutant concentrates.

## Mitigation Measures

**Mitigation Measure AQ-1** Prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed, Imperial County Public Works Department shall ensure the following air quality measure is shown on applicable grading and building plans as details, notes or as otherwise appropriate:

Construction of the project site will be subject to the requirements of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District Rule 800, Fugitive Dust Requirement for control of fine particulate matter (PM10). Air quality emissions of PM10 resulting from construction activities would be reduced to a less than significant level through the implementation of the following:

- *Inactive Construction Areas*-Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers, dust suppressants, tarps, or other suitable material to all inactive construction areas. Visible emissions shall be limited to 20 percent opacity for dust emissions.
- *Active Site Areas*-Water active site areas twice daily.
- *Storage Piles*-Control dust for material storage piles by either enclosing, covering and watering twice daily. Outdoor storage of fine particulate material is prohibited.
- *Hauling*-All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials shall be covered unless six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container is

maintained with no spillage. In addition, the cargo compartment of all haul trucks is to be cleaned or washed at delivery site after removal of bulk material.

- *Adjacent Roadways*-Pave permanent roads as quickly as possible to minimize dust. Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto paved roads, or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the project site. Sweep streets at the end of the day.
- *Unpaved Roads and Parking/Staging Areas*-Apply water three times daily, dust suppress or chemically stabilize with non-toxic soils all unpaved roads and parking. Visible emissions shall be limited to 20 percent opacity
- *Speed Limit*-Traffic speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 5 miles per hour.
- *Construction Roadways*-Pave construction roads that have a traffic volume of more than 50 daily trips. Access roads leading into the construction site shall be paved at least 25 feet from main road.
- *Disturbed Areas*-When active construction ceases on the site, replace grounds cover as quickly as possible.
- *Track Out or Carry Out*-Track out will be cleaned at the end of each workday or immediately when mud or dirt extends a cumulative distance of 50 linear feet or more onto a paved road within an urban area.

**Mitigation Measure AQ-2** Prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed, the County of Imperial County Works Department shall ensure the following air quality measures are shown on applicable grading permits.

Construction of the project site will be subject to the requirements of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control Standard Mitigation Measures for Construction Combustion Equipment:

- Use of alternative fueled or catalyst equipped diesel construction equipment, including all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment when it is not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes as a maximum.
- Limit, to the extent feasible, the hours of operation of heavy duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use.
- Replace fossil fueled equipment with electrically driven equivalents (provided they are not run via a portable generator set).
- To provide a greater degree of reduction of PM emissions and NOx from construction combustion equipment per Air Pollution Control District recommendations the project site will be subject to the following mitigation measures:
- Curtail construction during periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations; this may include ceasing of construction activity during the peak hour of vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways.
- Implement activity management (e.g. rescheduling activities to reduce short-term impacts).

## **2.0 Hydrology and Water Quality**

The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) established water quality standards and criteria to maintain beneficial uses of surface water. The CWA requires the use of best management practices (BMPs) to control releases of pollutants in stormwater and construction sites. Likewise, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act was enacted to establish a regulatory program to protect water quality in the State of California. It created the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to plan, implement, manage, and enforce water quality. The Project area is under the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Region of the SWRCB and administers the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program which requires a Notice of Intent and development of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP).

### **Existing Conditions**

The proposed Water Treatment Plant Expansion project is within an urbanized area at an existing site currently under operation and the proposed expansion will result only in negligible alterations to the project site. The Expansion project site consists of fairly leveled vacant land located outside the 100-year flood plain. The Dogwood Canal is located adjacent to the western boundary of the existing HPUD Water Treatment Plant and proposed location for the Expansion project. Existing surface drainage from the Water Treatment Plant discharges into a private drain connected to Date Drain No. 3-C. No additional stormwater discharge is allowed without the consent of the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID).

### **Significance Criteria**

According to the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed Project would have a significant effect on water supplies or water quality standards, if any of the following were to occur:

- Violation of any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements;
- Substantial depletion of groundwater supplies or substantial interference with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater level;
- Substantial alteration of the existing drainage patterns of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or situation on-or-off-site or in flooding on-or-off-site;
- Creation or contribution of runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff;
- Otherwise substantially degrade water quality;
- Placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map or placement of structures within the 100-year flood areas as to impede or redirect the flood flows; or

- Exposure of 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, inundation, seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

### **Impact Analysis**

Implementation of the Expansion project has the potential to slightly alter the natural drainage pattern of the site during construction and in the long-term. The incorporation of an adequate drainage management plan will help minimize any substantial risk of erosion or situation on- or off-site to a less than significant level.

The existing surface drainage of the project discharges into a private drain connected to Date Drain No. 3-C, which is owned and operated by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). Development of the HPUD Water Treatment Plant Expansion project will require an encroachment permit for the proposed discharge to Date Drain No. 3-C.

It is also anticipated that the project may indirectly impact the Dogwood Canal which is located adjacent to the western boundary of the Heber Essential Services Building and the HPUD Water Treatment Plant. Increasing the Water Treatment Capacity is expected to indirectly induce development in the surrounding areas that may result in increased roadways and improvements. The resulting infrastructure and increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic would limit the IID's ability to operate and maintain the Dogwood Canal as an open canal. Therefore, the IID is requesting that assurances be in place for the undergrounding of approximately 150 feet of the Dogwood Canal along the frontage of the Heber Essential Services Building and the HPUD Water Treatment Plant. This undergrounding can occur at the time this project develops *or via* assurances that must be in place by HPUD that this portion of Dogwood Canal will be pipelined when development to the south occurs. Either way, the IID has stated that they will not be financially responsible for the pipelining. That cost will be borne by either the HPUD or the future developer of the property to the south of the HPUD Water Treatment Plant. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan for this project to address impacts from this project to these IID facilities.

### **Project Impacts:**

**HYDRO-1** Soil disturbance associated with construction activities could cause accelerated erosion and sedimentation or the release of other pollutants to local waterways.

**HYDRO-2** Construction of the Expansion project will result in additional drainage to Date Drain No. 3-C.

**HYDRO-3** Construction of the Expansion project may impact the adjacent Dogwood Canal.

### **Hydrology and Water Quality Mitigation Measures:**

**Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1** The project applicant is required to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be administered through all phases of grading and project construction. The SWPPP must incorporate best management practices (BMPs) meeting technical standards of the General Construction permit to ensure that potential water quality impacts (including on- and off-site erosion) during construction phases are minimized and that no violation of water quality standards occur.

BMPs included in the SWPPP must be consistent with the California Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook for Construction. The SWPPP must be submitted to the Region 7 Regional Water Quality Control Board and to the County for review prior to the issuance of grading permits.

**Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2** HPUD shall obtain an encroachment permit from the IID for the proposed discharge from the Expansion project to the Date Drain No. 3-C. The encroachment permit shall be obtain from IID's Real Estate Section can be contacted at (760) 339-9239.

**Mitigation Measure HYDRO-3** HPUD shall either (a) fund the undergrounding (pipelining) of the Dogwood Canal for the approximately 150 feet that the Canal parallels the frontage of the Heber Essential Services Building and the HPUD Water Treatment Plant *or* (b) provide assurance to the IID that this portion of the Dogwood Canal will be undergrounded (pipelined) when development to the south of the Canal occurs. This assurance must be provided to the IID prior to the start of construction.

### **3.0 Noise**

The California Environmental Quality Act requires an assessment of potential impacts to noise levels that may result from the project. An assessment of potential impacts is discussed below.

#### **Existing Conditions**

The existing noise environment of the project area and its vicinity is characterized by low vehicular traffic. The primary noise source on and adjacent to the site is associated with the existing Plant and vehicular traffic along Highway 86 and Dogwood Road. The degree to which noise can impact the human environment ranges from levels that interfere with speech and sleep (annoyance and nuisance) to levels that cause adverse health effects. These standards state that a noise impact may be considered significant if it generates noise that conflicts with local planning criteria or ordinances, or substantially increases noise levels for noise-sensitive land uses. Land uses that are considered sensitive to noise impacts are referred to as "sensitive receptors." Land uses that are considered "sensitive receptors" include, but are not limited to, schools, residences, libraries, hospitals, and other care facilities.

There are a number of sensitive receptors that have been identified within one-quarter of a mile of the proposed project site. These include single-family residences and the Heber Public Utility Library which is immediately south of the plant. A public elementary school is also located within the one-quarter mile radius to the east of the project site.

#### **Significance Criteria**

For this analysis, noise impacts associated with the proposed projects would be considered potentially significant if they:

- Expose people to or generate noise levels in excess of 60 dBA CNEL for residential land uses;
- Expose people to generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels;
- Cause a substantial temporary, periodic, or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project; or
- Expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Generally, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it would substantially increase the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas or expose people to severe noise levels. Impacts can occur either during project construction or project operation.

### **Impact Analysis**

There will be no permanent impacts to noise levels in the vicinity of the facility as a result of the expansion project. However, during construction, noise levels are anticipated to exceed the current noise levels and may potentially impact sensitive receptors from adjacent residential land uses, the public library and a school.

Construction activities are likely to include front-end loaders, excavators, trucks, rollers, a grader, air compressors, generators, forklifts, backhoes, etc. The anticipated noise levels would exceed the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) guideline for adjacent residential properties unless mitigated. In addition, the library is located approximately 200 feet from the closest construction activities on the proposed project site.

These noise levels are temporary and would no longer exist once the project is completed, requiring only temporary mitigation. Heber Public Utility District will need to incorporate Imperial County noise standards regarding construction noise mitigation. The standards apply to the noise measured at the nearest sensitive receptor. Construction noise levels are limited during specific hours of the day and night through these standards. The short-term impacts would be reduced to a level less than significant once the adopted standards during construction are implemented.

### **Project Impacts:**

**Impact NOI-1** Implementation of the proposed project could result in noise levels exceeding Imperial County standards adjacent to proposed noise-sensitive receptors.

### **Noise Mitigation Measures:**

**Mitigation Measure NOI-1** In order to mitigate any potential impacts caused during short term construction, construction scheduling will comply with Imperial County noise standards, which sets forth maximum noise levels relative to potentially sensitive surrounding land uses. Construction scheduling for the project area would be limited to the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with the exception of legal holidays. The Building Department may issue a written "early work permit" if hot or inclement weather creates a need to start earlier than 8 a.m.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-2** Equipment and trucks used for construction will utilize the best available noise control techniques whenever feasible and necessary. During construction, all fixed equipment (e.g. air compressors, generators, etc) and storage areas shall be located as far from the residential properties as is reasonably feasible. Contract will specify that all construction equipment shall be equipped with mufflers and other suitable noise attenuation devices.

#### 4.0 Population and Housing

The California Environmental Quality Act requires an assessment of potential impacts to noise levels that may result from the project. An assessment of potential impacts is discussed below.

##### Existing Conditions

**Historical Growth**-The estimated population in Heber was 2,988 in 2000 according to the US Census Bureau, which demonstrated a modest increase from 1990 of 2,566. Heber almost doubled in population between 2000 and 2006 with a current estimated population of 5,945. This figure is based on the 2000 Census Data and residential building permits issued by the County of Imperial between 2000 and 2008 (the number of building permits issued for new housing units was multiplied by the average household size - 707 DU x 4.10).

Two factors account for population growth: natural increase (which is the balance between birth and deaths) and net migration (which is the balance between the number of people coming and leaving the area). Net migration can be affected by both domestic migrants (people moving in and out of the region to or from other parts of the region or nation) and immigrants (legal and undocumented) moving to the region from other countries.

In a 2004 Study by the California Center for Border and Regional Economic Studies it was concluded that the region indeed has experienced a delayed response in housing to normal growth in population. The significant housing growth in recent years suggests that the county is simply catching up to the population growth that has taken place since the 1990's.

**Existing Population**- The township has a relatively young population in comparison to the State. The 2000 Census reported the median years of age to be 29.3, much lower than the Nation's median age of 35.3. The percentage of individuals under the age of 18 was 34.8%, significantly higher than the nations 25%.

The type of population is a factor for determining the type of housing that is needed in a community. An aging population, large families, the disabled, seasonal farm laborers, and other special need population groups demand different types of housing. Ethnic and racial make-up of the existing Heber population affect housing needs based on the unique household characteristics of different groups. Heber is predominantly Hispanic. At least 97.5% of the population in Heber identifies themselves as Hispanic or Latino under the 2000 Census.

Heber has had a decreasing and relatively low aging population. In 2000, only 4% of the population was over the age of 65 compared to 16.6% in 1990. The percentage of large households with five or more members has been maintained relatively high at 44% in 1990 and 36% in 2000. The high percentage of large households is reflective of the large Hispanic population. Individuals of Hispanic origin tend to have larger families or live with extended family members.

**Households**-Heber has a current estimated 1,450 households. According to the US Census, the average household size for Heber in 1990 was 4.3 and 4.1 by 2000. A 2003 Housing Analysis Survey prepared by Laurin and Associates found that the average number of households had increased again between 2000 and 2003 by an average of .2 persons per household.

The change in the number of households in a community is one of the prime determinants of the demand for housing. Household growth trends do not always

parallel population growth. Household growth can occur in period of static population through formation facts such as adult children leaving home, through divorce, and with the aging of the population. Conversely, household growth can increase at a rate less than the population growth through new birth, multiple generations living together, and other factors that result in increased household size. In the case of Heber, the number of households is estimated to have increased by 96% since 2000.

**Housing Stock-** Heber has experienced a significant increase in housing development to provide for the corresponding population growth. For the purpose of this discussion, a housing unit is defined as a house, apartment, single occupancy room, or separate living quarter. A total of 721 new housing units were permitted by the County of Imperial since then. Based on the total number of building permits issued since 2000, it is estimated that the total number of housing units in Heber as of 2008 is 1,475 (754 housing units per 2000 US Census + 721 new units built).

### **Significance Criteria**

For the purpose of this analysis, impacts and population and housing would be considered to be significant if the project will

- Substantially induce population growth in an area, either directly by proposing new housing or indirectly through the extension of roads or other infrastructure;
- Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere;
- Displace substantial numbers of existing people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

### **Impact Analysis:**

**Projected Population-**The population in the townsite of Heber and it's Sphere of Influence is projected to increase due to a number of factors. Heber accounts for most of the population growth within the unincorporated areas of Imperial County. It is ideally situated along a regional transportation corridor (SR 111) and has large existing acreage of underutilized and vacant land. The areas immediately surrounding the Townsite of Heber are designated as Urban Areas with over 300 acres of the undeveloped areas zoned R-1 Single Family Residential and over 100 acres zoned for multi-family residential.

These unincorporated areas, similarly to consolidated jurisdictions, have regional housing goals. Per the Regional Housing Need Allocation Plan issued by SCAG for the six-county region, the unincorporated areas of Imperial County have a housing needs goal of 13,310 units. The regional housing needs coupled with the land availability and suitability in the Heber community are projected to result in new residential development and an increase to the Heber population consistent with the established zoning by Imperial County.

The Preliminary Engineering Report for the proposed project provides detailed growth projections using the conservative figure of 4.0 persons per household and is based on actual commitments to serve new residential development. Please see Section 2 of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for more information.

**Projected Service Demand-**The Imperial County local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) has adopted guidelines for the development of Service Area Plans for Imperial County communities. The Heber Service Area Plan completed in 2004 identifies the demand for public facilities and services for the community and its adopted Sphere of

Influence. Service Area Plans take into account population and housing growth projections and correlate the needed infrastructure with the expected increase in demand. The need for expansion to the Water Treatment Facility is modestly addressed in the referenced Service Area Plan. As a result, the HPUD Treatment Plant reached 100 percent capacity in 2006.

Section 5 of the PER provides a more detailed water production/service demand analysis. The conclusion of that analysis is that the primary purpose of the water treatment plant expansion project is to support the existing and continuing demand for potable water services. This demand is generated by the existing population and reasonable new residential growth at the Townsite of Heber in accordance with the housing needs assessments, local land use plan, service area plan, and reasonable projected growth.

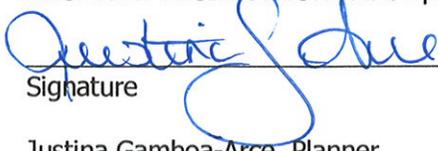
In summary, the proposed project will increase production capacity from 2 MGD to 6 MGD to accommodate the expected natural growth pattern. Based on the engineering analysis in the PER, if the proposed water treatment plant were constructed at a 6 MGD capacity, the immediate remaining capacity would be nearing 50% and full capacity would be reached in ten years. It is important to note that the projected demand and service capacity discussed in the PER are solely based on actual growth patterns and outstanding residential development agreements to serve. The project will serve an existing and continuing demand for services in accordance with the housing needs of the community and region. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause a direct impact to new population growth but rather indirectly support the projected population growth.

The Imperial County General Plan requires an independent environmental assessment for all proposed projects. New development is independently assessed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is responsible for any mitigation necessary to bring any potential impacts to a level below significance.

**B. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This project has been evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to have any additional effects on the environment that have not been examined above because changes to the project have already been incorporated. The project as revised now avoids or mitigates the potentially significant environmental impacts. The project as proposed would not result in any significant impacts and any potential impacts would be to a level below significance.

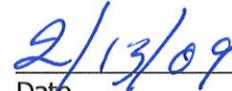
I, therefore, find that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, with the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Justina Gamboa-Arce, Planner  
The Holt Group, Inc.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

John Jordan, District Manager  
Heber Public Utilities District

#### **IV. MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

This Mitigation Monitoring Program was prepared in accordance with Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code which requires that a Lead Agency, which approves or carries out a project where an EIR or mitigated Negative Declaration has been adopted, prepare a monitoring program to ensure that the mitigation measures are used as in order intended to avoid significant effects to the environment.

Heber Public Utilities District, as the Lead Agency has the responsibility to ensure implementation of the mitigation measures included with the monitoring program until such time that the monitoring responsibilities are delegated to other public agencies. Should this occur and some or all of the monitoring is passed to other public agencies, presumably because of an expertise in the subject, each agency will have the discretion to choose its own approach to monitoring and reporting.

The Mitigation Monitoring Program consists of the following components:

- A summary of the mitigation measures listed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Mitigation Level
- Identification of the Implementing party
- Identification of the Monitoring agency
- Timing of the mitigation measure

The District shall assign a staff member to coordinate all mitigation monitoring, check that measures are implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and ensure timely reporting if monitoring is done by responsible agencies. Implementing agencies, responsible agencies, and/or the construction manager for the project will make a written report to the District Manager when a mitigation measure has been completed. If District staff determines that mitigation measures are not in compliance, notice shall be given, and upon expiration of the specified time period; construction shall be halted and fines imposed at the discretion of the District.

#### **A. Monitoring Implementation**

The following measures are recommended to mitigate direct and cumulative impacts to below a level of significance. The requirements listed below are the responsibility of Heber Public Utilities District and are to be imposed on the project.

**1. Aesthetic Resources:**

**No Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**2. Agricultural Resources:**

**No Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**3. Air Quality:**

**Mitigation Measure AQ-1** Prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed, Imperial County Public Works Department shall ensure the following air quality measure is shown on applicable grading and building plans as details, notes or as otherwise appropriate:

Construction of the project site will be subject to the requirements of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District Rule 800, Fugitive Dust Requirement for control of fine

particulate matter (PM10). Air quality emissions of PM10 resulting from construction activities would be reduced to a less than significant level through the implementation of the following:

- *Inactive Construction Areas*-Apply non-toxic soil stabilizers, dust suppressants, tarps, or other suitable material to all inactive construction areas. Visible emissions shall be limited to 20 percent opacity for dust emissions.
- *Active Site Areas*-Water active site areas twice daily.
- *Storage Piles*-Control dust for material storage piles by either enclosing, covering and watering twice daily. Outdoor storage of fine particulate material is prohibited.
- *Hauling*-All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials shall be covered unless six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container is maintained with no spillage. In addition, the cargo compartment of all haul trucks is to be cleaned or washed at delivery site after removal of bulk material.
- *Adjacent Roadways*-Pave permanent roads as quickly as possible to minimize dust. Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto paved roads, or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the project site. Sweep streets at the end of the day.
- *Unpaved Roads and Parking/Staging Areas*-Apply water three times daily, dust suppress or chemically stabilize with non-toxic soils all unpaved roads and parking. Visible emissions shall be limited to 20 percent opacity
- *Speed Limit*-Traffic speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 5 miles per hour.
- *Construction Roadways*-Pave construction roads that have a traffic volume of more than 50 daily trips. Access roads leading into the construction site shall be paved at least 25 feet from main road.
- *Disturbed Areas*-When active construction ceases on the site, replace grounds cover as quickly as possible.
- *Track Out or Carry Out*-Track out will be cleaned at the end of each workday or immediately when mud or dirt extends a cumulative distance of 50 linear feet or more onto a paved road within an urban area.

**Mitigation Measure AQ-2** Prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed, the County of Imperial County Works Department shall ensure the following air quality measures are shown on applicable grading permits.

Construction of the project site will be subject to the requirements of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control Standard Mitigation Measures for Construction Combustion Equipment:

- Use of alternative fueled or catalyst equipped diesel construction equipment, including all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment when it is not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes as a maximum.
- Limit, to the extent feasible, the hours of operation of heavy duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use.
- Replace fossil fueled equipment with electrically driven equivalents (provided they are not run via a portable generator set).
- To provide a greater degree of reduction of PM emissions and NOx from construction combustion equipment per Air Pollution Control District recommendations the project site will be subject to the following mitigation measures:
- Curtail construction during periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations; this may include ceasing of construction activity during the peak hour of vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways.

- Implement activity management (e.g. rescheduling activities to reduce short-term impacts).

**Mitigation Level:** Less than Significant

**Implementing Agency:** Heber Public Utilities District & Contractor

**Monitoring Agency:** Heber Public Utilities District

**Timing:** During plan approval and during construction

**4. Biological Resources:**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**5. Cultural Resources:**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**6. Geology and Soils:**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**7. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**8. Hydrology and Water Quality:**

**Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1** The project applicant is required to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be administered through all phases of grading and project construction. The SWPPP must incorporate best management practices (BMPs) meeting technical standards of the General Construction permit to ensure that potential water quality impacts (including on- and off-site erosion) during construction phases are minimized and that no violation of water quality standards occur. BMPs included in the SWPPP must be consistent with the California Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook for Construction. The SWPPP must be submitted to the Region 7 Regional Water Quality Control Board and to the County for review prior to the issuance of grading permits.

**Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2** HPUD shall obtain an encroachment permit from the IID for the proposed discharge from the Expansion project to the Date Drain No. 3-C. The encroachment permit shall be obtain from IID's Real Estate Section can be contacted at (760) 339-9239.

**Mitigation Measure HYDRO-3** HPUD shall either (a) fund the undergrounding (pipelining) of the Dogwood Canal for the approximately 150 feet that the Canal parallels the frontage of the Heber Essential Services Building and the HPUD Water Treatment Plant *or* (b) provide assurance to the IID that this portion of the Dogwood Canal will be undergrounded (pipelined) when development to the south of the Canal occurs. This assurance must be provided to the IID prior to the start of construction.

**Mitigation Level:** Less than Significant

**Implementing Agency:** Heber Public Utilities District & Contractor

**Monitoring Agency:** Heber Public Utilities District & Imperial Irrigation District

**Timing:** During plan approval and prior to construction

**9. Land Use and Planning:**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**10. Mineral Resources:**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**11. Noise**

**Mitigation Measure NOI-1** In order to mitigate any potential impacts caused during short term construction, construction scheduling will comply with Imperial County noise standards, which sets forth maximum noise levels relative to potentially sensitive surrounding land uses. Construction scheduling for the project area would be limited to the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with the exception of legal holidays. The Building Department may issue a written "early work permit" if hot or inclement weather creates a need to start earlier than 8 a.m.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-2** Equipment and trucks used for construction will utilize the best available noise control techniques whenever feasible and necessary. During construction, all fixed equipment (e.g. air compressors, generators, etc) and storage areas shall be located as far from the residential properties as is reasonably feasible. Contract will specify that all construction equipment shall be equipped with mufflers and other suitable noise attenuation devices.

**Mitigation Level:** Less than Significant

**Implementing Agency:** Heber Public Utilities District & Contractor

**Monitoring Agency:** Heber Public Utilities District

**Timing:** During plan approval and during construction

**12. Population and Housing**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**13. Public Services**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**14. Recreation**

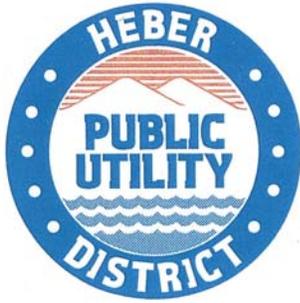
**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**15. Transportation and Traffic**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**

**16. Utilities**

**No Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary**



Heber Public Utility District

# Initial Study and Environmental Checklist

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February 2009

- 1. Project Title:** **Heber Public Utility District Water Treatment Plant Expansion**
- 2. Lead Agency:** **Heber Public Utility District**  
Name, Address & Phone Number 1078 Dogwood Road  
Heber, CA 92249  
Contact: John Jordan  
(760) 482-2440

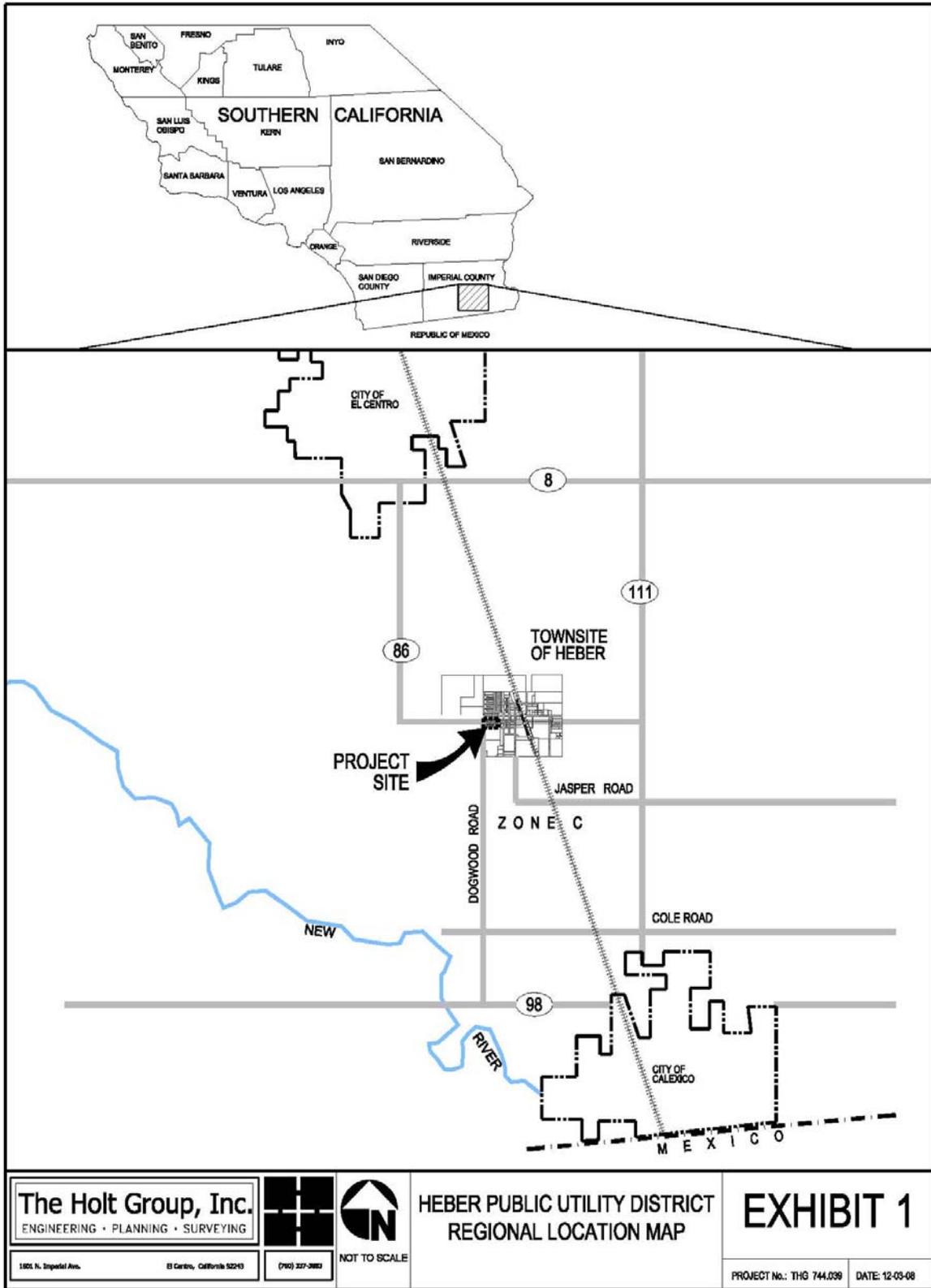
Additional Contact: Justina Gamboa Arce, The Holt Group, Inc.  
(760) 337-1103

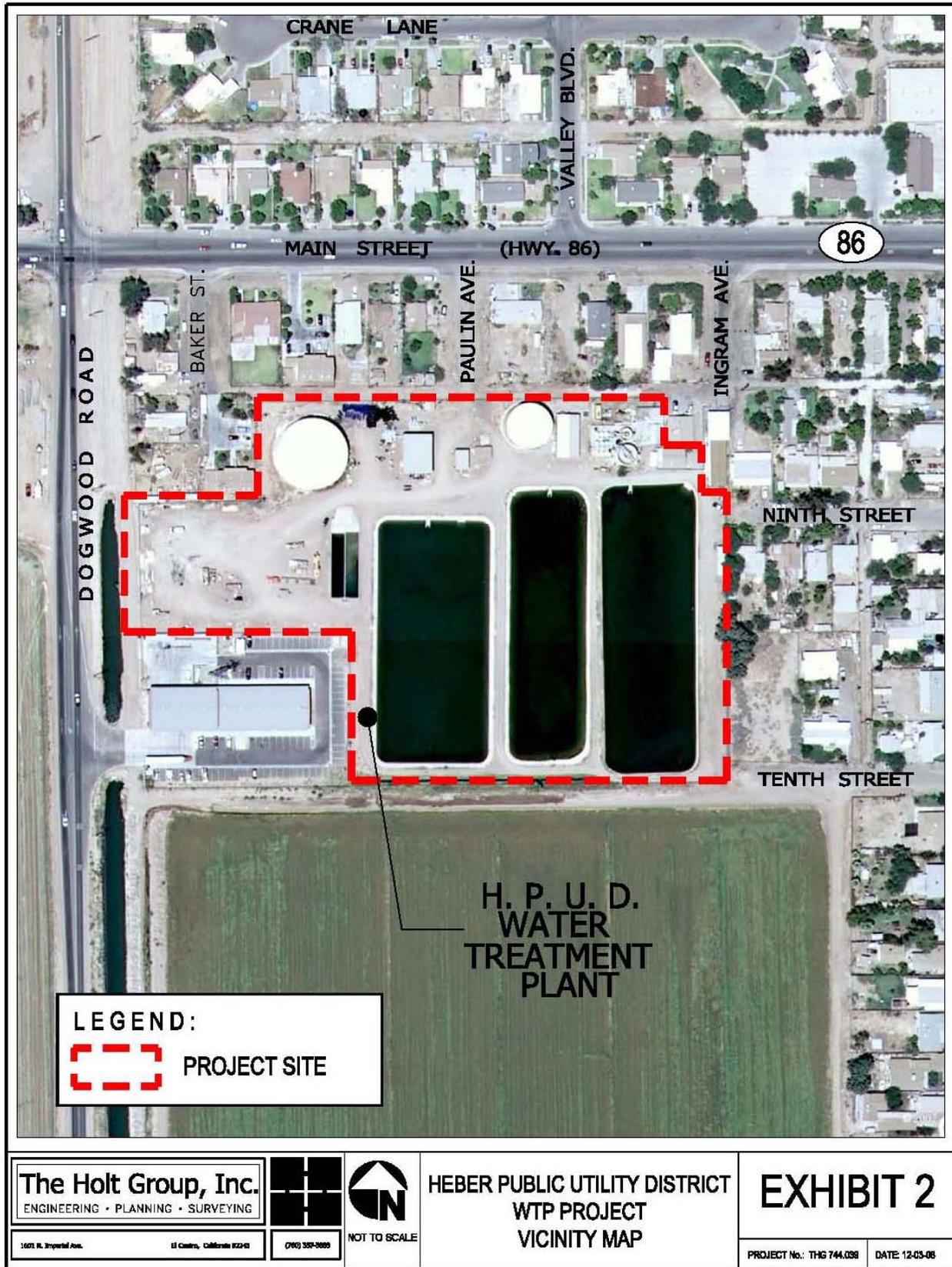
**Co-Lead Agency:** NA  
Name, Address & Phone Number
- 3. Project Sponsor:** **Heber Public Utility District**  
Name, Address & Phone Number 1078 Dogwood Road  
Heber, CA 92249  
Contact: John Jordan  
(760) 482-2440
- 4. Project Location:**  
Map Attached

The project is located within the Heber Public Utility District, at the existing Water Treatment Plant located south of Main Street just east of Dogwood Road with a site address of 1085 Ingram Avenue in Heber, CA 92249. Please refer to Exhibits 1 and 2.



- 5. Project Description:** The proposed project is a capacity expansion of Heber Public Utility District's Water Treatment Plant from 2 million gallons per day (MGD) to 6 MGD. The expansion of the Water Treatment Plant is the last of three phases. Phase I included the installation of an aboveground water reservoir tank and was completed in May 2008. Phase II included the installation and replacement of approximately 1.8 miles of underground pipelines for raw water conveyance off-site. This project encompasses Phase III, which includes the demolition, construction, and relocation of numerous water treatment plant components on-site. Site grading is also anticipated as a result of the expansion. Independent Environmental Assessments have been completed for Phase I and Phase II and shall be incorporated as summaries into this Study.
- 6. General Plan Designation:** **Existing:** Urban Area  
**Proposed:** Urban Area
- 7. Zoning:** **Existing:** Government Special  
**Proposed:** Government Special
- 8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** The land use to the north and east of the project site is urbanized residential while the land use to the west and south of the project site is vacant land used for agriculture. The Imperial County Land Use Ordinance (2008) has designated the area north, south, and east of the project site R-1 Low Density Residential. The area east of the project site is designated C-2 Medium Commercial.
- 9. Other Agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)**
- a) California Department of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management – Operational Permit
  - b) County of Imperial – Grading Permit & Building Permit
  - c) County of Imperial – Encroachment Permit





**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	<b>X</b> Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Geology/Soils
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology/Water Quality	Land Use and Planning
Mineral Resources	<b>X</b> Noise	<b>X</b> Population and Housing
Public Resources	Recreation	Transportation/Traffic
Utilities and Service Systems	Mandatory Findings of Significance	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE DETERMINATION:**

On the basis of the attached Initial Study, the Heber Public Utility District's Environmental Review Committee finds that:

The proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a <b>NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b> will be prepared.	
The proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment; however, there will not be a significant effect in this case because <b>the mitigation measures</b> described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. <b>A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b> will be prepared.	<b>X</b>
The proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment and an <b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT</b> is required	
The proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) 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, if the effect is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated." <b>A FOCUSED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT</b> is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	
Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there <b>WILL NOT</b> be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (1) have been analyzed in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (2) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project. <b>No further action is required.</b>	

CA Department of Fish and Game  
**No Impact Finding**  Yes  No

**VOTE**  
 Yes No Abstain Members of the EEC  
 Public Works  
 Police  
 Fire  
 Planning  
 Finance

  
 John Jordan, EEC Chair

2/13/09  
 Date

## 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 will 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 is 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 (mitigation measures from Section 17, "Earlier Analysis," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analysis 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 Analysis 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.

Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087. Reference: Public Resources Code Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino*, 202 Cal. App. 3d 296 (1988); *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors*, 222 Cal. App. 3d 1337 (1990).

- 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.

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

**Background**

The proposed water treatment plant expansion project is within an urbanized area at an existing site that is currently under operation. The proposed project increases the capacity of the Heber Public Utility District’s Water Treatment Plant from 2 million gallons per day to 6 million gallons per day capacity. New construction is negligible and will not significantly alter the aesthetic value of the existing site.

**Aesthetics Impact Discussion:**

- a) **Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? - No Impact-** The proposed project is consistent with the surrounding existing development and there are no state scenic highways within the vicinity of the proposed project; therefore, there will be no adverse impact on a scenic vista or scenic highway.
- b) **Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State Scenic Highway? - No Impact-** There are no state scenic highways in the vicinity of the proposed project. Therefore, there will be no impact.
- c) **Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? - No Impact-** The proposed project is at an existing site and will not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site.
- d) **Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? – No Impact-** No new light sources will be added. The proposed project is within an operating water treatment plant and therefore, there will be no impact.

*No Mitigation is Necessary*

<b>II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:</b>				
	<b>Potentially Significant Issues</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of State-wide Importance, as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?			X	

**Background**

**Agricultural Resources Impact Discussion and Mitigation:**

New construction will occur on-site and the project will not result in the conversion of any agricultural farmland into non-agricultural land uses. The surrounding sites are zoned for urban development. The project site is also properly zoned for the proposed project. Although the project itself will not require the conversion of any agricultural farmland to non-agricultural land uses, the expansion of the water treatment plant could potentially induce population growth and by extension cause farmland to be converted to non-agricultural land. However, these projects will be considered independently and will be required to conduct an environmental assessment to mitigate for any potential impacts to farmland and prime farmland. It shall further be noted that Phase II, involved the temporary, less than significant impact to farm-ground during construction within existing right-of-way.

**Agricultural Resources Impact Discussion:**

- 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? - No Impact-** The project will not result in the conversion of any land identified as farmland or used for agricultural production; therefore, there will be no impact.
- b) **Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? - No Impact-** The site is not party to any Williamson Act Contract. The proposed project site is zoned as GS (Government Special) in the Land Use Plan and Urban Area under Imperial County's General Plan; therefore, there will be no impact.
- 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? – Less Than Significant Impact-** The expansion of the Water Treatment Plant is capacity inducing; as such future conversion of farmland may result from natural growth. The future conversion of any farmland will be assessed and individually mitigated for; therefore, this project would result in a less than significant impact.

**No Mitigation is Necessary**

<b>III. AIR QUALITY – Would the project:</b>				
	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?		X		
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 that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?		X		
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X

**Background**

The project site is located within the Salton Sea Air Basin. The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District is responsible for ensuring that all State and federal ambient air quality standards are achieved and maintained within the Imperial Valley. The Imperial Valley is designated as a “non-attainment” area with respect to Federal Standards for both particulate matter (PM10) and ozone (smog). The project site is surrounded by residential land uses and a public library is located at the Heber PUD administrative offices, adjacent to the proposed project site. During construction of the proposed project, significant amounts of dust (PM 10) may be generated as a result of site grading and construction activities. The operation of the plant will not create any objectionable odors or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrates.

**Air Quality Impact Discussion:**

- a) **Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? - No Impact-** Construction of the proposed project will be required to follow established construction guidelines as set forth by the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District. The proposed project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans; therefore, there will be no impact.
- b) **Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? – Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation is Incorporated-** There will be a temporary increase in pollutants during construction that may contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation for the region. In addition, the proposed project may result in an increase in air pollutants for the area, as it is capacity inducing. Mitigation measures will be set forth for individual projects as they occur in order to ensure that air quality is maintained. Mitigation during construction is further discussed under the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 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)? -Less Than Significant Impact-** Imperial County is a non-attainment area for both

particulate matter (PM10) and ozone. The expansion of the Plant may result in the indirect increased in residential projects which may increase air pollution in the community and region due to the increased traffic generated by residential development. All future residential development, however, will be independently evaluated and proper mitigation measures will be incorporated at that time to ensure a less than significant impact.

- d) **Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrates? – Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation is Incorporated-** The proposed project is located within ½-mile of existing residential development and a public library. The potential increase in emissions within this region, as a result of the construction of the proposed project in addition to other construction and/or agricultural related activities has the potential to contribute to the generation of pollutant concentrates. The project, however, will incorporate dust control measures in accordance with Imperial County standard mitigation measures for dust control during construction and will be further discussed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- e) **Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? – No Impact-** Aside from the temporary construction related air pollution or emissions, no odors will result from the construction or operation of the water treatment plant.

***Air Quality Impacts and Mitigation Measures will be further discussed in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.***

<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:</b>				
	<b>Potentially Significant Issues</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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 by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				<b>X</b>
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				<b>X</b>
c) 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, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				<b>X</b>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any 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?				<b>X</b>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				<b>X</b>

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?				X
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**Background**

The proposed water treatment plant expansion project is within an urbanized area at an existing site that is currently under operation. The proposed project does not conflict with any local policies, ordinances, or conservation plans. The project site is not identified as a protected wetland (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act). Furthermore, the project site is adjacent to highly traveled arterial roadways including Highway 86 and Dogwood Road, which make the area less suitable for wildlife habitat. It was determined that less than significant impacts may occur during Phase II, the transmission line. Proper mitigation measures were incorporated and filing fees were paid to the Department of Fish and Game. No additional impacts will result from the implementation of Phase III.

**Biological Resources Impact Discussion:**

- 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 by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? -No Impact-** The proposed project will not have an impact on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, there will be no impact.
- 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? -No Impact-** The proposed project site is a developed site that is within an urban setting and is currently under operation. No significant vegetation or riparian habitat areas exist within or adjacent to the project site. No other sensitive natural community has been identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service; therefore, there will be no impact.
- c) **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, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? -No Impact-** The proposed project site is a developed site that is within an urban setting and is currently under operation. There are no areas within the project site defined as protected wetlands (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act); therefore, there will be no impact.
- d) **Interfere substantially with the movement of any 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? No Impact-** The project site is within an urban setting and contains no significant vegetation or habitat areas. There will be no impact to the movement of any wildlife species.
- e) **Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? -No Impact-** There is no local ordinance or local policy in effect protecting biological resources; therefore, there will be no impact.
- 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? - No Impact-** The proposed project site is not located within or in the vicinity of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan; therefore, there will be no impact.

***No Further Mitigation is Necessary***

<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:</b>					
		<b>Potentially Significant Issues</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?				X
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			X	
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X

**Background**

Due to the site's conditions and flat-lying land, neither paleontological resources nor significant known geologic features are known to be located at the site. Literature searches of information archived with the California Historical Research Information System did not identify cultural or historical resources. The Imperial County's Conservation and Open Space Element was also reviewed and it was determined that the site is not near any sensitive cultural resource area. The project site is developed and the project consists only of on-site alterations. There will be no impacts to cultural or archeological resources as a result of this project.

**Cultural Resources Impact Discussion:**

- a) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5? - No Impact-** The project site is within an urban setting and is currently under operation. There are no significant known historical resources; therefore, there will be no impact.
- b) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5? Less Than Significant Impact-** The proposed project site is mostly developed or within an urban setting. Although there have not been identified any significant known archeological resources, regional tribes and the Native American Heritage Commission have been kept informed of the proposed project and will be consulted should any findings occur during excavation resulting in a less significant impact.
- c) **Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? -No Impact-** The proposed project site is developed land within an urban setting. There are no paleontological resources nor significant known geologic site or unique geologic features; therefore there will be no impact.
- d) **Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? - No Impact-** The proposed project site consists of a water plant currently under operation within an urban setting. Based on a search of the existing records, the proposed project site does not include any formal cemetery or any archeological resource that might contain interred human remains and there are no known grave sites within the project limits. In the event that human remains are found on the site, the legal protocol as mandated by Health and Safety Code

§7050.5, CEQA §15064.5, and Public Resources Code §5097.98 will be followed, therefore, no adverse impact is anticipated.

**No Mitigation is Necessary**

<b>VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:</b>				
	<b>Potentially Significant Issues</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1) 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.				X
2) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
4) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
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 landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined of the latest Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risk to life or property?			X	
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?				X

**Background**

LandMark Consultants prepared geotechnical investigations in September 2006. The soil was found to contain moderately to highly expansive underlain clay soils that will require foundations and slab-on-grade designed for expansive soil conditions per Uniform Building Code Section 1815 and 1816. The soils were found to be highly corrosive to metals and contain sufficient sulfates and chlorides that would require special concrete mixes and protection of embedded steel components when concrete is placed in contact with the native soil. If native soils are replaced, per engineer specifications, no special concrete mixes will be required.

Structures will also need to be designed in accordance with the values and parameters given within the California Building Code to mitigate for potential earth shaking and soil expansion heave. The geotechnical reports concluded the site is suitable for the proposed development, provided that the recommendations contained in the report are implemented in the design and construction of the project. Heber PUD proposes to implement the project per the geotechnical recommendations; therefore, any potential impacts would be less than significant.

**Geology and Soils Impact Discussion:**

- a) **Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**
- 1) **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? - No Impact** -The project site is not located in a fault rupture hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake. The closest major active faults are the Superstition Mountain fault and no active faults or ground ruptures have been mapped underlying the site; therefore, there will be no impact.
  - 2) **Strong seismic ground shaking? - Less Than Significant Impact-** The Town of Heber, as well as the entire Imperial Valley, is considered to be a seismically active area. The project site is susceptible to potentially strong seismic ground shaking because of the close proximity to Superstition Hills and Imperial Fault. The construction and operation of the project would not expose people to additional seismic impacts. The water treatment plant is designed to withstand earthquakes in Seismic Zone 4 in accordance to the Seismic Requirements outlined within the California Building Code which also requires a soils compaction report. Any potentially significant impacts from seismic activity would therefore be reduced to a level less than significant.
  - 3) **Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? – Less than Significant Impact-** Liquefaction occurs when granular soil below the water table is subjected to vibratory motions, such as produced by earthquakes. A Geotechnical Report for the project site was performed by LandMark Consultants. The study indicated that a 4-foot thick, interbedded layer of sandy silt at a depth between 41-45 feet may liquefy under seismically induced groundshaking, potentially resulting in an estimated ¼ to ½ inches of deep seated settlement. However, the potentially liquefiable silty/sandy soils are overlain by 41 feet of non liquefiable soils which resist groundwater movement. Thus, it is unlikely that liquefaction induced settlements will affect surface structure; indicating a less than significant impact.
  - 4) **Landslides? No Impact-** The hazard of landsliding is unlikely due to the regional planar topography. No ancient landslides are shown on geologic maps of the region and no indications of landslides were observed at the site; thus, there will be no impact.
- b) **Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? - Less Than Significant Level-** The proposed development will require grading and will increase the sealed surface area of the site that will significantly alter the drainage pattern of the site, however, the project would be required to submit a grading plan for approval to Imperial County Public Works and be required to use appropriate construction techniques to prevent soil erosion and permanent Best Management Practices for erosion control will be implemented prior to and during construction through the direct oversight of the Heber PUD Manager for a less than significant 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? - No Impact-** The site is not located on an unstable geologic unit. The project site and vicinity are relatively flat and no landslides are anticipated to occur on-site. Proposed improvements are not considered to be susceptible to liquefaction and seismically induced dynamic settlements and lateral spreads are not design considerations for the project based on the LandMark Consultants evaluation. Therefore, there will be no impact.
- d) **Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (UBC 1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? - Less Than Significant Impact-** Project foundations and slab-on-grade will be designed for expansive soil conditions per Uniform Building Code Section 1815 and 1816 and therefore, the impact will be less than significant.

- e) **Have soils capable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? - No Impact-** The project will not use any septic tanks or other alternative wastewater disposal systems; therefore, there will be no impact.

**No Further Mitigation is Necessary**

<b>VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:</b>				
	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, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within a quarter-mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d) Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
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 for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h) 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?				X

## Background

The proposed project site is not listed as a hazardous material site and is not located within two miles of any public or private use airport. The project will not impair implementation or physically interfere with any adopted emergency response plans or evacuation plans. Impacts from hazardous materials were made in terms of the potential to release existing hazardous materials that may exist on, or in the vicinity of the project site and the potential for their release as a result of their use in project construction and operation. Due to the site's current and proposed operation as a water treatment facility, hazardous chemicals from the day to day operations of water treatment will be used and stored at the site.

### Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impact Discussion:

- a) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials? - Less Than Significant Impact-** This project will involve the expansion of an existing water treatment facility and the continued use and associated construction activities that are necessary for their completion. The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as long as proper storage and handling procedures are followed. Therefore, any potential impact would be less than significant.
- b) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? - Less Than Significant Impact-** The operation of the project and its proposed land uses will not create a foreseeable significant hazard of upset or accidental conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. However, since the continued operation does handle hazardous material, Heber PUD has a Spill Prevention and Control Plan in place to reduce any potential hazards to a level less than significant.
- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? - No Impact-** Heber Junior High School is located less than one-quarter mile southeast of the project site; however, there will be no hazardous emissions, materials or wastes resulting from this expansion project that could negatively impact the nearby school and therefore, there will be no impact.
- d) **Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? - No Impact-** The proposed project site is not listed as a hazardous material site and will not be a hazard to the environment or public.
- e) **For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plans has not been adopted, within two miles or a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? - No Impact-** The project area is not within two miles of a public use airport according to the Imperial County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, therefore there will be no impact.
- f) **For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? - No Impact-** There is no private airstrip within the vicinity of the proposed project; therefore, there will be no impact.
- g) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? -No Impact-** The proposed project will not impair or physically interfere with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; therefore, there will be no impact.
- h) **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? - No Impact-** There are no wildlands in the vicinity of the proposed project; therefore, there will be no impact.

**No Mitigation is Necessary**

<b>VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:</b>				
	<b>Potentially Significant Issues</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table ( <i>e.g.</i> , the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop and unable to support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or situation on- or off-site?			X	
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e) Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h) Place within a 100-year flood area structures which would impede or redirect the flood flows?				X
i) 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?				X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X

## Background

LandMark Consultants prepared a Geotechnical Report on May 2000 and September 2006 for the subject project. The proposed project is not within a 100-year flood plain or any large bodies of water and does not involve the construction of any housing that would place any structures or expose people to adverse impacts from flooding. The proposed water treatment plant expansion project is within an urbanized area at an existing site currently under operation and the proposed expansion will result only in negligible alterations to the project site. The project site consists of fairly leveled vacant land. Therefore, potential hazards for slope instability are unlikely and will not result in any impacts to the local groundwater table.

It is anticipated that the project may indirectly impact the Dogwood Canal which is located adjacent to the western boundary of the Heber Essential Services Building and the HPUD Water Treatment Plant. The increased capacity will indirectly induce population growth that would result in increased infrastructure and development. The surrounding infrastructure would further increase vehicular and pedestrian traffic which may limit the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) ability to operate and maintain the Dogwood Canal as an open canal. Additionally, the existing surface drainage of the project discharges into a private drain connected to Date Drain No. 3-C. Development of the HPUD Water Treatment Plant Expansion project will require an encroachment permit for the proposed discharge to Date Drain No. 3-C. These issues will be discussed further in the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for this project.

## Hydrology and Water Quality Impact Discussion:

- a) **Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? - No Impact-** The proposed project will follow Best Management Practices during construction to control runoff. A stormwater pollution prevention plan will be required. The operation of the proposed water treatment plant will conform to all relevant regulations governing discharge and water quality established by the EPA and Regional Water Quality Control Board, therefore there will be no impact.
- 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 groundwater table level (e.g., 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)? - No Impact-** Water for the expansion project will be delivered via a proposed 36-inch diameter HDPE pipeline from the Central Main Canal. Water will not be pumped from groundwater sources. Therefore there would be no impact to groundwater supplies or recharge.
- c) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or situation on- or off-site? - Less Than Significant Impact-** Although the development of the proposed project will increase the existing rates of runoff due to an increase in sealed surface areas, the incorporation of an adequate drainage plan during construction and operation of the project will help minimize any substantial risk of erosion or situation on or off-site. Therefore, any potentially significant impacts will be mitigated to levels less than significant.
- d) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? -Less Than Significant Impact-** The existing drainage pattern from the project site(s) may be slightly altered during and after construction, however no risk of flooding on or offsite is expected. A sensible drainage plan will be required for construction and during operation and therefore, any potential impacts would be less than significant.
- e) **Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? - Less Than Significant Impact-** A stormwater drainage plan will be designed

to accommodate runoff during construction and from the site during operation, therefore any potentially significant impacts will be adequately mitigated to a less than significant level. The developer will be required to obtain an encroachment permit from the IID for surface drainage which drains to Date Drain No. 3-C.

- f) **Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? - No Impact-** The purpose of the proposed project is to improve water quality and as such, there is no impact.
- g) **Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? -No Impact-** The proposed project is not within a flood hazard zone and does not involve the construction of housing, therefore there will be no impact as a result of housing being located within an identified 100-year flood hazard area, according to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Imperial County.
- h) **Place within a 100-year flood area structures which would impede or redirect the flood flows? -No Impact-** The proposed project is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area, there is a concern for flooding to the project site area, and therefore mitigation measures will need to be incorporated for a less than significant impact.
- i) **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? - No Impact-** The proposed project is not located in an area identified at risk from flooding due to levee or dam failure, therefore there will be no impact.
- j) **Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? - No Impact-** The project is not located in the vicinity to substantial bodies of water. Therefore, there is no risk of inundation by sieche, tsunami, or mudflow. Therefore there will be no impact.

***Potential Indirect Impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality will be further discussed in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.***

<b>IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the proposal:</b>				
	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

**Background**

The proposed project is at an existing site and will only require on-site modifications. The site is within an urbanized area of the Townsite of Heber. Existing land uses in the surrounding vicinity consist of medium to high density residential and agricultural. Other than the Heber Service Area Plan, Imperial County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, there is no other habitat plan, land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project.

**Land Use and Planning Impact Discussion:**

- a) **Physically divide an established community? - No Impact-** The proposed project is already at an existing facility. Additionally, the project is adjacent to compatible land uses that have been approved by the County of Imperial and no physical division of an established community will result; therefore, there will be no impact.
- b) **Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? -No Impact-** Existing County zoning and land use for the site reflect the GS (Government Special) designation which is consistent with the proposed project. Therefore, there will be no impact or amendments required to existing adopted plans.
- c) **Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? -No Impact-** Development at the proposed project site does not conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community plan; therefore, there will be no impact.

*No Mitigation is Necessary*

<b>X. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:</b>				
	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
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?				X

**Background**

The project site lies in the southern Imperial Valley within an urbanized area. Although a wide variety of minerals are found throughout Imperial County including gold, gypsum, sand, gravel, lime, clay, and stone, no unique mineral resources are typically developed in this particular region of the valley.

**Mineral Resources Impact Discussion:**

- 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? - No Impact-** The proposed project site consists of developed land within an urban setting. No mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state have been identified; therefore, there will be no impact.
- 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 and use plan - No Impact-**

There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites delineated on any local plans in the vicinity of the proposed project; therefore, there will be no impact.

**No Mitigation is Necessary**

<b>XI. NOISE</b> – 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?		X		
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?		X		
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

**Background**

The proposed project consists of the expansion of a current water treatment plant facility. Long term operational noise levels will be similar to the currently existing noise levels. However, during construction noise levels are anticipated to exceed the current noise levels and may potentially impact sensitive receptors from adjacent medium and high-density residential land uses and public library.

**Noise Impact Discussion:**

- 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? - Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated-** The proposed water treatment plant expansion project will expose persons to noise levels in excess of established standards. Moreover, sensitive receptors are located near the project site. Medium and high density residential land uses as well as a public library are located within the project vicinity. However, construction will only be temporarily and mitigation will be incorporated.
- b) **Exposure of person to, or generation of, excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels? - Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated-** Short-term construction activities associated with the proposed project would not typically generate significant groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels that travel significant distances. Vibrations associated with construction of the proposed project would be limited to heavy

equipment used for ground clearing and site grading. No blasting is anticipated given the nature of the site and proposed building construction techniques. Therefore mitigation will need to be incorporated.

- c) **A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the projects? - No Impact-** The operation and expansion of the water treatment plant will not permanently increase the ambient noise levels from the currently existing levels; therefore, there will be no impact.
- d) **A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? - Less Than Significant Impact-** The construction and excavation work anticipated for the proposed project has the potential for a significant temporary increase in ambient noise levels to sensitive receptors; however, the impacts would be less than significant because the project will follow Imperial County noise standards.
- e) **For projects 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? No Impact-** The proposed project site is not within two miles of a public airport or public use airport; therefore, there will be no impact.
- f) **For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? No Impact-** The proposed project site is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, there will be no impact.

**Noise Impacts and Mitigation Measures will be further discussed in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.**

<b>XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:</b>				
	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial 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)?		X		
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

**Background**

The Heber Public Utility District Water Treatment Plant reached 100 percent capacity in 2006. The population of Heber Public Utility District increased 58% between the years 2005-2006 (from 3,508 persons to an estimated 5,556 persons). The purpose of the project is to support the increased demand for potable water resulting from new residential growth at the Townsite of Heber in accordance with

health and safety factors and meet the increased water storage requirements. The proposed project will increase potable water production capacity from 2 MGD to 6 MGD and may indirectly induce substantial population growth that may impact other community services.

**Population and Housing Impact Discussion:**

- 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 public infrastructure)? - Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation is Incorporated-** Any impacts to population growth would be indirect impacts through the increased capacity of the water treatment plant. The effect of the population growth is countered with an updated and adequate Service Area Plan. Potential impacts on the ability of the District and the County of Imperial to provide essential services such as fire protection, law enforcement, and other public services to any new population growth will necessitate mitigation as each independent residential project is considered and assessed. This issue is further discussed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- b) **Displace a substantial number of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? -Displace a substantial number of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? No Impact-** The proposed project is only an expansion of an existing facility. The project will not affect housing as it is already an operating facility. Thus, no residences will be displaced or necessitate the construction or replacement of housing elsewhere. Therefore, there will be no impact.
- c) **Displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? No Impact-** The proposed project is only an expansion of an existing facility; thus, it will not displace people or housing.

***Potential Indirect Impacts to Population Growth will be further discussed in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.***

<b>XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES:</b>				
	<b>Potentially Significant Issues</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Would the project 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:				
1) Fire protection?				X
2) Police protection?				X
3) Schools?				X
4) Parks?				X
5) Other public facilities?			X	

**Background**

The Heber Service Area Plan addresses the requirements for the provision of adequate services. The proposed water treatment plant expansion project is a planned improvement needed in order to maintain the acceptable service ratios.

**a) Would the project 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:**

- 1) **Fire protection? - No Impact-** The proposed project will include the expansion of an existing Water Treatment Facility. Fire protection in the service area is provided by Imperial County who has a fire station located adjacent to the Heber PUD offices at Dogwood Road and Ingram Avenue. The project will not have an impact or increase the demand for fire protection and emergency services.
- 2) **Police protection? - No Impact-** The proposed project site is serviced by the County Sheriff's Department. The project will not have an impact or increase the demand for police protection services.
- 3) **Schools? No Impact-** The proposed project does not involve any residential development.
- 4) **Parks? - No Impact-** The proposed project is at an operating facility and will not cause any adverse physical impacts.
- 5) **Other Public Facilities? - Less Than Significant Impact-** The water treatment plant expansion may indirectly affect residential growth and by extension population growth. However, any indirect impact resulting from new development will be mitigated through County adopted Development Impact Fees or Heber Public Utility District Service Fees. Individual Environmental Assessments are required for all new development to ensure that any potential impact is reduced to a level less than significant.

*No Further Mitigation is Necessary*

<b>XIV. RECREATION:</b>				
	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of the existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			<b>X</b>	
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?				<b>X</b>

**Background**

The proposed water treatment plant expansion may indirectly affect the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks because it is capacity inducing. However, any indirect impacts will be mitigated through County adopted Development Impact Fees or Heber Public Utility District Fees and may require park acreage set-asides. Individual Environmental Assessments are also required to ensure that any potential impact is reduced to a level less than significant.

**Recreation Discussion:**

- 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? - No Impact-** The project involves the expansion of an existing Water Treatment Facility and could indirectly affect the use of existing regional parks. Although the project could potentially affect recreational facilities through indirect impacts, each proposed project will be mitigated through Development Impact Fees and will be required to complete an environmental assessment to ensure that any impact is less than significant.
- b) **Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse effect on the environment? – No Impact-** The proposed project does not include the development of additional parkland and recreational open space areas; therefore, there will be no impact.

*No Mitigation is Necessary*

<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC – Would the project:</b>				
	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system ( <i>i.e.</i> , result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, capacity ratios on roads or congestion at intersections)?			X	
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion/management agency for designated roads or highways?			X	
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature ( <i>e.g.</i> , sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses ( <i>e.g.</i> , farm equipment)?				X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
f) Result in insufficient parking capacity?				X
g) Conflicts with adopted policies, plans, programs, supporting alternative transportation ( <i>e.g.</i> , bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X

## Background

The proposed project is an on-site capacity expansion of an existing facility that will result in an increase in traffic volumes during construction, however, traffic control is incorporated during construction to reduce any potential impacts to a less than significant level. The project may indirectly result in new growth and development and could indirectly increase traffic as the project is capacity inducing. However, each project will be independently assessed for traffic and circulation impacts and may be required to pay a traffic impact fees where proper mitigation measures are not included. Each proposed project in the future will be required to complete an environmental assessment to mitigate for any potential negative impacts to traffic and circulation, therefore this proposed project will not result in an impact to transportation and traffic.

## Transportation and Traffic Discussion:

- a) **Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? - Less Than Significant Impact-** The Heber Water Treatment Plant is currently in operation and the proposed expansion will not result in an employee base increase or in any increase of vehicle trips except during operation. Detour routes will be assigned should local roadways necessitate roadway closures during construction, resulting in a less than significant impact.
- b) **Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? - Less Than Significant Impact-** The proposed expansion of the Water Treatment Facility itself will not permanently increase traffic levels. However, the expansion might indirectly affect levels of service. Future projects will be independently assessed and be required to complete an environmental assessment to ensure a less than significant impact.
- c) **Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? - No Impact-** The proposed project is not located within three (3) miles of an airport and will not change air traffic levels, patterns or locations. Therefore, there will be no impact.
- d) **Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? - No Impact-** The project does not incorporate any new roadways. Access points to the proposed project will be designed in accordance with County of Imperial Standards. Therefore, there will be no design features or intersections that would cause potential hazards.
- e) **Result in inadequate emergency access? No Impact-** There are not circulation changes proposed or incorporated under the Water Treatment Plant expansion project. The project will not impede traffic flow or emergency access. Further, the project will meet County of Imperial standards for temporary traffic flow detours that might be necessary; therefore, there will be no adverse impacts on emergency access.
- f) **Result in inadequate parking capacity? Result in inadequate parking capacity? No Impact-** The proposed project will conform to the total number of required parking spaces per the County of Imperial Zoning Ordinance; therefore, there will be no impact.
- g) **Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? - No Impact-** The proposed expansion is not proposing any changes to existing roadway systems nor is it proposing new roadways. If access points are needed, they shall conform to the County of Imperial Circulation Element and

will not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, there will be no impact.

**No Mitigation is Necessary**

<b>XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:</b>				
	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b) Require or result in the construction of new storm water or water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater 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?				X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

**Background**

The project site is within the Heber Public Utility District Service Area. The purpose of the project is to increase the capacity to an acceptable service level for potable water within the defined service area. Heber PUD has an adequate water supply available from existing entitlements to support the capacity increase and any new demand that may be generated from the project. The proposed project involves the demolition, installation, and relocation of numerous water treatment plant components on-site, but will not result in the demand for additional water treatment plant improvements beyond those identified in this project. An increase in water usage will inevitably result in an increase in wastewater and the treatment of said wastewater. Heber Public Utilities is also proposing improvements to the Heber Wastewater Treatment Facility, therefore, the project will not result in any significant impacts to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

It is further noted that there are a number of overhead and underground utilities within the project vicinity. If relocation is necessary, it will be done in coordination with the Imperial Irrigation District at

the expense of Heber Public Utility District, therefore any impacts to existing utilities and service systems would be less than significant.

#### **Utilities and Service Systems Discussion:**

- a) **Exceed wastewater treatment requirement of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? - No Impact-** The proposed Water Treatment Expansion project is required to serve the existing and projected demand from residential development within the District's Service Area. The Heber PUD Water Treatment Plant will conform to the current requirements set for by the California Department of Public Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management and does not involve the treatment of wastewater. Therefore, the project will not exceed any wastewater treatment requirements; thus, there will be no impact.
- b) **Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? – Less Than Significant Impact-** The proposed Water Treatment Plant expansion project involves the construction of new pipelines and pump stations in order to increase the Plant capacity from 2 MGD to 6 MGD. With the mitigation measures incorporated herein, this expansion of existing services will not be the cause of significant environmental effects; thus, there will be a less than significant impact.
- c) **Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? - No Impact-** The proposed project improvements are not expected to result in new drainage facilities or adversely impact the environment; therefore, there would be no impact.
- d) **Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? - No Impact-** The Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project proposes to install 1.8 miles of 36-inch diameter pipeline to deliver water to the project site from the Central Main Canal. HPUD has obtained approval from the Department of Health Services for the pumping unit and pipelines required for water deliver and no additional or expanded entitlements would be required from the Imperial Irrigation District to pump the additional water from the Central Main Canal. Therefore there will be no impact.
- e) **Result in a determination by the wastewater 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? - No Impact-** The proposed project will not require any wastewater treatment services and as such, there will be no impact.
- f) **Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? - No Impact-** The project will not result in the creation of solid waste, and as such, there will be no impact.
- g) **Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? - No Impact-** The project will not result in the creation of solid waste, and as such, there will be no impact.

*No Mitigation is Necessary*

<b>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
	<b>Potentially Significant Issues</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Does the project 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>X</b>
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.)				<b>X</b>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				<b>X</b>

**Discussion:**

- a) **Does the project 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? No Impact** The development of the third phase of the Heber Water Treatment Plant does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat or, or cause any impacts to any fish or wildlife population.
- 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.) No Impact** The development of the proposed project does not have the potential to independently, or in conjunction with recently approved and other proposed projects, have an adverse impact to public services, traffic and circulation or utilities and service systems.
- c) **Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?** The development of the proposed project does not have the potential to independently, or in conjunction with other approved or proposed project in the surrounding area, have a cumulative impact or indirect adverse effect on human beings.

<b>SOURCE REFERENCES</b>	
The following documents were used as sources of factual data and are hereby incorporated as part of this Environmental Checklist. Because of the voluminous nature of the documents, copies of the following documents are not distributed with this document but may be obtained from the Heber Public Utility District office at 1078 Dogwood Road, Suite 103, Heber, California 92249.	
A	<b>Nolte Associates, Incorporated</b> , Heber Public Utility District Service Area Plan, 2004
B	<b>The Holt Group Engineering &amp; Surveying</b> , Preliminary Engineering Report, 2008
C	<b>County of Imperial</b> , General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, 2006
D	<b>LandMark Consultants, Inc</b> , Geotechnical Reports September 2006
E	<b>Imperial County Air Pollution Control District</b> , CEQA Air Quality Handbook
F	<b>Imperial Desert Museum</b> , California Historical Information Systems

<b>PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED</b>	
The following section identifies those persons who prepare or contributed to the preparation of this document. This section is prepared in accordance with Section 15129 of the CEQA Guidelines.	
A	<b>Heber Public Utility District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Jordan, District Manager</li> <li>• Graciela Lopez, Finance Manager</li> </ul>
B	<b>The Holt Group Engineering and Surveying</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justina Gamboa-Arce, Planner (CEQA Documentation)</li> <li>• James G. "Jack" Holt, Principal Engineer</li> <li>• Juny Marmolejo, Project Engineer</li> </ul>