

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DATE: May 18, 1989

APPLICANT: Goleta Water District

PROJECT: Bedrock Test Well Pipeline

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS: 059-010-47, 65, 66, 79, 85
153-340-06, 09, 50, 51, 52

LAND USE DESIGNATIONS:

ZONING: 1-E-1, 40-E-1, AG-1-5, 5-AC, 10-AC

GENERAL PLAN: Residential 1 ac., 3 ac., 40 ac.,
Agriculture

NEGATIVE DECLARATION: 88-ND-1-2104J Draft

This Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared pursuant to Section 15070 and 15071 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Goleta Water District Policy. The ND is a written document which briefly describes the potential adverse impacts of a proposed project and why those impacts would not have a significant effect on the physical environment. The issuance of a Negative Declaration indicates that there are no significantly adverse impacts associated with the proposed project and therefore the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed pipeline project would be located in the Maria Ygnacia Creek Valley, within the unincorporated Goleta area of Santa Barbara County (See Figure 1). The pipeline would involve the installation of approximately 7,415 feet of 8-inch water line to connect the existing Goleta Water District Bedrock Well on the "Fortuna" Property to the District's La Riata Reservoir. The pipeline route chiefly follows a road alignment which is present in the area. Approximately 1,325 feet of the approximate 7,415 foot pipeline would be installed in La Riata Lane, a public road.

Approximately 365 feet would be located on Goleta Water District property at the La Riata Reservoir. The balance, approximately 5,725 feet, would be developed in Maria Ygnacia Lane or on other private properties (i.e., Maria Ygnacia Creek crossings). For the sections of the pipeline located in the private road, a permanent easement of 15 feet in width would have to be secured along the pipeline route. The pipeline is also proposed to cross Maria Ygnacia Creek in four locations, three of which would be above-ground and one would be buried.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

As indicated above, the proposed pipeline would be located in the Maria Ygnacia Creek Valley. The Valley has a fairly narrow floor, with moderately steep walls. The soils in the Valley support limited agricultural and ranching operations, along with a number of residences. Maria Ygnacia Lane provides vehicular access to residences in the Valley, and connects with State Highway 154 at the north end of the Valley, and La Riata Lane at the south end. Maria Ygnacia Creek supports a typical riparian plant community, and chaparral plant communities are also present in the Valley outside of the riparian corridor. The pipeline alignment would generally follow the existing Maria Ygnacia Lane (private) and La Riata Lane (public), adjacent to Maria Ygnacia Creek. The pipeline would cross Maria Ygnacia Creek in four locations.

INITIAL STUDY SUMMARY:

The staff of the Goleta Water District (GWD) has determined that there are no potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the project as proposed. The areas below were analyzed in the Initial Study. This study and background information are kept on file in the GWD office and are part of these findings.

Flooding	___	Risk of Upset	___	Geology/ Minerals/Soils	<u>X</u>
Air Quality	___	Land Use	___	Fire Hazards	___
Groundwater Resources	___	Public Services	<u>X</u>	Recreation	___
Flora	<u>X</u>	Utilities/ Private Systems	<u>X</u>	Housing	___
Fauna	<u>X</u>	Transportation/ Circulation	___	Economics	___
Noise	___	Aesthetics	___	Archaeological Resources	<u>X</u>
Polluting Sources	___	Energy	___	Cultural Resources	___
Schools	___	Agricultural Resources	___		

The checks indicate areas of potential impacts which were further investigated and are summarized in the following section.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: It is the finding of the GWD that this project does not have the potential to cause significant adverse environmental impacts for the following reasons:

GEOLOGIC PROCESSES:

The potential exists for bank instability to be created by construction of the pipeline at the three above-ground creek crossings. Measures to mitigate this include minor concrete abutments or other suitable methods deemed necessary to avoid increases in erosion or creek bank collapse at the site of the pipeline. The Goleta Water District (GWD) has incorporated the above mitigation measures into the proposed pipeline project, and therefore potentially significant geology and soils impacts have been pre-mitigated to acceptable levels.

Three of the four locations where the proposed pipeline would cross Maria Ygnacia Creek would emerge from the creek bank at approximately three feet below the adjoining ground surface. Placement of the pipeline in this fashion may encourage erosion of the bank in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline if not properly mitigated. To insure soil stabilization, revegetation of disturbed soils with native riparian and/or chaparral species shall occur at

all sections of the pipeline not located under present roadways. The Goleta Water District has incorporated the above mitigation measures into the proposed pipeline project, and therefore potentially significant geology and soils impacts have been pre-mitigated to acceptable levels.

FLORA:

Development of the pipeline would not result in permanent change in habitat for existing plant species, except for the three above-ground locations where the pipeline is proposed to cross Maria Ygnacia Creek. Existing micro-habitats in these three locations would be anticipated to be altered by the development of limited support devices associated with the pipeline. However, due to the limited areal extent of the bank surface which would be involved, habitat alteration impacts would not be anticipated to reach significant levels. Mitigation measures that would be incorporated by the GWD include creek crossing designs to preserve sycamore trees and other important specimen riparian trees and the pipeline shall be located in areas of existing disturbed vegetation. These measures would mitigate potentially significant riparian vegetation impacts to acceptable levels.

Initial field reconnaissance along the proposed pipeline route did not indicate the presence of any unique, rare, or endangered species of plants or threatened plant communities. However, the one sub-terranean creek crossing could result in disturbance or removal of some riparian plant species. Proper design of the sub-terranean Creek crossing to preserve important riparian trees would mitigate potential significant impacts to any rare, unique or endangered species of plants to acceptable levels.

FAUNA:

Potential fish and wildlife habitat impacts could be created by improper design or installation of the pipeline, leading to bank collapse and disruption of water flows. However, erosion control and bank stability measures have been incorporated into the project to mitigate these impacts. Also, the sub-terranean creek crossing would be accomplished during the dry season and restoration of the ground surface and creek channel to current configurations, would be performed immediately after construction has been completed, thus mitigating any potential significant fish and wildlife impacts.

PUBLIC SERVICES:

Development of the proposed pipeline could affect the banks of the Maria Ygnacia Creek at the four Creek crossings, potentially causing bank alteration of a significant degree and possibly creating maintenance problems. The GWD has conferred with the County Flood Control District concerning the proposed Creek crossings, and the Flood Control District has preliminarily indicated that the development appears feasible according to their standards. Approval from the County Flood Control and California Department of Fish and Game would be gained prior to construction of the pipeline. Therefore, development of the pipeline would not be anticipated to create significant impacts upon the County Flood Control District or the Creek channel itself.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

According to an archaeological report prepared by Gary Coombs on March 9, 1988, development of the pipeline project would involve some construction activities within an identified archaeological site, SBa 1172. The GWD has incorporated the following two mitigation measures; any construction of the pipeline outside of the roadway corridor and within SBa 1172 would be subject to additional archaeological investigation prior to commencement of construction. Also, a Native American monitor and professional archaeologist shall be employed during excavation operations within the area of SBa 1172. Such monitors shall be empowered to immediately halt construction if any artifacts are uncovered during excavation. The archaeological report referenced above indicates that these measures would be sufficient to mitigate potentially significant archaeological impacts to acceptable levels.

CHANGES IN "PROJECT DESCRIPTION":

Substantial changes in the Project Description from that which is currently described shall constitute an action not considered as part of the Initial Study for this ND. In this case, additional environmental review may be required to assess the proposed alterations.

REQUIRED MITIGATION MEASURES:

The following mitigation measures either have been or shall be included in the Project Description. These measures would insure that impacts from the Project would not reach significant levels. These measures must be included as conditions of approval for the development.

1. Any proposed above-ground "creek crossing" required for pipeline installation shall include minor concrete abutments or any other suitable methods deemed necessary to avoid increases in erosion or creek bank collapse at the site of the pipeline.
2. Any proposed development of the pipeline outside of the present roadway alignment (i.e. the forth creek crossing) shall be designed and constructed to return the ground surface to the present configuration/condition at the completion of construction. This shall include the creek bank and channel, where appropriate.
3. Revegetation of disturbed soils with native riparian and/or chaparral species shall occur for all sections of the pipeline not located under present roadways to ensure soil stabilization.
4. Placement of the pipeline shall not cause the removal of any specimen oak trees; localized realignment of the pipeline shall occur if necessary to avoid tree removal. In addition, any such specimen trees accidentally removed or damaged during pipeline installation shall be replaced in kind.
5. Outside the roadway alignment, the design of the pipeline shall allow for the minimization of the area involved with pipeline installation (i.e. straight course, construction equipment restricted to absolute minimum, etc.).
6. Where feasible, locations of previously disturbed plant habitats shall be selected for routing of the pipeline when it is not possible to adhere to the roadway alignment (i.e. plowed field, orchard, etc.).
7. The three above-ground creek crossings shall be designed to preserve sycamore trees and other important specimen riparian trees (i.e., cottonwood, etc.), and shall be located in areas of exiting disturbed vegetation (i.e., in close proximity to existing bridges).
8. The sub-terranean creek crossing shall be designed to preserve important specimen riparian trees, and the entire pipeline route which lies outside of the present roadway alignment shall be subject to a revegetation program to re-establish vegetation disturbed or removed during pipeline development.
9. The design of the "creek crossing" for the pipeline shall meet with the approval of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the California Department of Fish and Game for the project. The Flood Control District shall be consulted during planning of the "creek crossings" to identify acceptable methods of bank stabilization.

10. The design and construction of the "creek crossings" for the pipeline shall meet with the approval of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the California Department of Fish and Game. State Fish and Game shall be consulted during planning of the pipeline to identify favorable locations for the creek crossings. A stream alteration permit shall be obtained from the Department of Fish and Game for the project.
11. Within the area of SBa 1172, construction shall be strictly limited to the existing developed roadway corridor. Any construction of the pipeline outside of the roadway corridor within SBa 1172 would be subject to additional archaeological investigation prior to commencement of construction.
12. A Native American monitor and professional archaeologist shall be employed during excavation operations within the area of SBa 1172. Such monitors shall be empowered to immediately halt construction of any artifacts are uncovered during excavation.