



Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project

Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration

Response to Comments
File Nos. CP23-005, ER23-020
SCH No. 2024010140

prepared by

City of San José

Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement
200 East Santa Clara Street San José, California 95113 Contact: Cort Hitchens,
Planner

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1 Summary of Comments

The Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) was circulated for a 32-day public review period that began on January 10, 2024 and concluded on February 11, 2024. The City of San José (City) received three comment letters on the Draft IS-MND.

In summary, the comments received on the Draft IS-MND did not raise new information about the project's environmental impacts or provide information indicating the project would result in new environmental impacts or impacts substantially greater in severity than disclosed in the Draft IS-MND. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not require formal responses to comments on an IS-MND, only that the lead agency consider the comments received [CEQA Guidelines §15074(b)]. Nevertheless, responses to the comments are included in this document for informational purposes for the City's decision makers.

The following pages contain a list of the agencies and persons that submitted comments on the Draft IS-MND and the City's responses to the comments received. The specific comments have been excerpted from the letter and are presented as "Comment" with each response directly following ("Response"). A copy of each letter submitted to the City is included in Section 5.

2 Agencies Commenting on the IS-MND

	Comment Received From	Date of Letter	Response on Page
A.	County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department	January 30, 2024	3; 6
B.	Valley Water	February 5, 2024	4; 6
C.	Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Plan Review Team, Land Management	February 9, 2024	5; 6

3 Response to Comments

This section contains responses to comments on the Draft IS-MND as they relate to the potential environmental impacts of the project under CEQA. Numbered responses correspond to comments in the comment letters. A copy of each comment letter is attached in Section 5 of this document. The comments in this section are paraphrased from the letters.

A. RESPONSE TO COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA ROADS AND AIRPORTS DEPARTMENT

Comment A1: The commenter inquires if San Tomas Expressway would be used as a detour during project construction, and if it would, the City would be required to submit a Traffic Control Plan for County Approval.

Response A1: San Tomas Expressway would not be used as a detour during project construction. The project would not require detours as the project would not require closure of South Bascom Avenue or other area roadways during construction. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

Comment A2: The commenter requests trip generation and assignment map for construction-related vehicle trips.

Response A2: As discussed on page 144 in Section 17, *Transportation*, of the Draft IS-MND, construction trips would account for a relatively small portion of existing traffic on area roadways as construction would be a short-term and temporary activity. Pursuant to City standard practice, the project would be required to submit a construction management plan for City review and approval. The construction management plan would address the construction schedule, street closures and/or detours, construction staging areas and parking, and the planned truck routes. The information requested by the commenter is not required under CEQA; however, refer to Response A3 below regarding the approximate number of construction trips. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

Comment A3: The commenter inquires if there would be queuing impacts to San Tomas Expressway/Highway 17 or Camden Avenue/White Oaks Avenue.

Response A3: The project would not require detours as the project would not require closure of South Bascom Avenue or other area roadways during construction. Additionally, as discussed on page 144 in Section 17, *Transportation*, of the Draft IS-MND, construction trips would account for a relatively small portion of existing traffic on area roadways as construction would be a short-term and temporary activity. According to CalEEMod modeling outputs for the project (Appendix A to the IS-MND), the construction phase associated with the most trips is grading, which would involve approximately 23 daily one-way worker trips and approximately 28 daily one-way hauling trips. These trips would account for a small portion of existing traffic, and would be short-term as grading would occur over approximately two months. Accordingly, no queuing impacts to San Tomas Expressway/Highway 17 nor Camden Avenue/White Oaks Avenue are anticipated. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

Comment A4: The commenter requests that page 140 of the Draft IS-MND be revised to state that the speed limit of San Tomas Expressway is 45 mph.

Response A4: Page 140 of the IS-MND has been revised to state the speed limit of San Tomas Expressway is 45 mph. This revision to the IS-MND is included in Section 4, *Text Changes to the IS-MND*, of this document. This clarification does not change the analysis or conclusions of the IS-MND. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

B. RESPONSE TO VALLEY WATER

Comment B1: The commenter requests that page 2 of the Draft IS-MND be revised to state that Los Gatos Creek is 0.5 mile from the project site.

Response B1: Page 2 of the IS-MND has been revised to state that Los Gatos Creek is 0.5 mile from the project site. This revision to the IS-MND is included in Section 4, *Text Changes to the IS-MND*, of this document. This clarification does not change the analysis or conclusions of the IS-MND. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

Comment B2: The commenter requests that pages 102, 108, and 164 be revised to include the map number and effective date of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

Response B2: Pages 102 and 108 have been revised to include the FIRM number and effective date, and page 164 has been revised to reference the effective date. These revisions to the IS-MND are included in Section 4, *Text Changes to the IS-MND*, of this document. This clarification does not change the analysis or conclusions of the IS-MND. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

Comment B3: The commenter requests that pages 102, 103, 107, and 166 be revised to reference and discuss Valley Water's most recent Groundwater Management Plan.

Response B3: Pages 102, 103, 107, and 166 have been revised to reference and discuss the 2021 Groundwater Management Plan. These revisions to the IS-MND are included in Section 4, *Text Changes to the IS-MND*, of this document. These clarifications do not change the analysis or conclusions of the IS-MND. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

Comment B4: The commenter requests that page 109 be revised to state the project site is not located within a dam inundation area.

Response B4: Page 109 has been revised to state the project site is not located within a dam inundation area. This revision to the IS-MND is included in Section 4, *Text Changes to the IS-MND*, of this document. This clarification does not change the analysis or conclusions of the IS-MND. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

Comment B5: The commenter provides information regarding the proper destruction or protection of any wells found on the project site during development.

Response B5: The provided information has been noted by the City and is included in the record for this project. This comment does not raise issues about the adequacy of the Draft IS-MND. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

C. RESPONSE TO PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC PLAN REVIEW TEAM, LAND MANAGEMENT

Comment C1: This comment provides standard safety and construction practices to implement when working near electric and gas utilities owned by Pacific Gas & Electric.

Response C1: The information provided by Pacific Gas & Electric has been noted by the City and is included in the record for this project. This comment does not raise issues about the adequacy of the Draft IS-MND. No further response or CEQA analysis is required.

4 Text Changes to the IS-MND

Changes to the text of the IS-MND is shown in the table below. Added text is shown in underlined font and deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough font~~ (~~strikethrough~~).

Draft IS-MND Page No.	Text Changes
2	<p>The project site is surrounded by single-family residences to the north, east, and west. A church, gas station, convenience store, and a commercial building are located immediately south of the project site at the intersection of Camden Avenue and South Bascom Avenue. The border between the cities of San José and Campbell is immediately west and northwest of the project site. The project site is approximately 0.4 0.5 mile east of SR 17 and Los Gatos Creek.</p>
102	<p>There are no waterways present on the project site or immediate vicinity. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (<u>FIRM No. 06085C0239H</u>), the project site is located in Zone D, an area where flood hazards are undetermined but possible (FEMA 2014 <u>2009</u>). The site is not located within the 100-year floodplain. The City does not have floodplain restrictions for development in Zone D.</p>
102 – 103	<p>The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 is intended to provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins and to locally manage groundwater basins while minimizing state intervention to only when necessary. The SGMA requires the creation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to implement the SGMA. The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the GSA for the Santa Clara Subbasin. The 2016 <u>2021</u> Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins describes the district's groundwater sustainability goals, and the strategies, programs, and activities that support those goals. The 2016 <u>2021</u> GWMP identifies the following sustainability goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater supplies are managed to optimize water supply reliability and minimize land subsidence; and • Groundwater is protected from contamination, including saltwater intrusion. • <u>Manage groundwater to ensure sustainable supplies and avoid land subsidence.</u> • <u>Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination.</u> <p>To achieve these goals, the 2016 <u>2021</u> GWMP includes four strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage groundwater in conjunction with surface water. • Implement programs to protect and promote groundwater quality. • Maintain and develop adequate groundwater models and monitoring networks. • Work with regulatory and land use agencies to protect recharge areas, promote natural recharge, and prevent groundwater contamination.
107	<p>The proposed project would involve replacing two existing water tanks with two new tanks, which would have the same combined capacity as the existing tanks. The project would not involve producing additional water supplies and would not result in a decrease in groundwater supplies. The project site is underlain by the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Basin, Santa Clara Subbasin, and as shown in Figure 1-1 of the SCVWD's 2016 <u>2021</u> Groundwater Management Plan, the project site is not located in a groundwater recharge area (SCVWD 2016 <u>2021</u>). Therefore, the project would not interfere with groundwater recharge or impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. There would be no impact.</p>
108	<p>The proposed new tanks would alter the existing drainage patterns within the project site. According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (<u>FIRM No. 06085C0239H</u>), the project site is located in Zone D, an area where flood hazards are undetermined but possible (FEMA 2014 <u>2009</u>). The site is not located within the 100-year floodplain. The City does</p>

Draft IS-MND Page No.	Text Changes
	<p>not have floodplain restrictions for development in Zone D. Therefore, the project would not impede or redirect flood flows and impacts would be less than significant.</p>
109	<p>The project site is located approximately 10 miles south of the San Francisco Bay and approximately 26 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Tsunamis and seiches do not pose hazards due to the inland location of the project site and lack of nearby bodies of standing water. No steep slopes that would be subject to mudflows are located on or near the project site. The project site is located within the dam failure inundation area for the Lexington Dam (City of San José 2011b); however, the project would not involve the storage of large quantities of chemicals and would not increase the risk of pollutant release beyond existing conditions. The project site is not located within a dam inundation area or 100-year floodplain. Therefore, there would be no impact impacts related to release of pollutants from inundation from tsunamis, seiches or floods would be less than significant.</p>
140	<p>San Tomas Expressway is a primarily north-south freeway that extends from its interchange with SR 17, where it continues south as Camden Avenue, and its interchange with Highway 101 in Santa Clara. Near the project site, San Tomas Expressway has three lanes of traffic in each direction and a speed limit of 65 <u>45</u> mph. The interchange of San Tomas Expressway and SR 17 is approximately 0.4 mile northwest of the project site.</p>
164	<p>Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2014 <u>2009</u>. FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer. https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd&extent=-121.94529102661183,36.5159779735144,-121.90374897338809,36.53322138877889 (accessed June 2023).</p>
166	<p>Santa Clara Valley Water District. 2016 <u>2021</u>. 2016 <u>2021</u> Groundwater Management Plan. https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets.valleywater.org/2016%20Groundwater%20Management%20Plan https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable (accessed June 2023 February 2024).</p>

5 Public Comments Attachments

The following pages of this section are copies of the original comment letters on the Draft IS-MND that were submitted to the City.

Letter A

County of Santa Clara

Roads and Airports Department

101 Skyport Drive
San Jose, CA 95110-1302
(408) 573-2460 FAX 441-0276



January 30, 2024

Cort Hitchens,
Planner
Planning, Building & Code Enforcement
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
Cort.Hitchens@sanjoseca.gov

SUBJECT: Public Notice of CEQA Posting of Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project

The County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department (The County) appreciates the opportunity to review the Public Notice of CEQA Posting of Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project. We submit the following comments:

- Is the San Tomas Expressway expected to be utilized as a detour during any of the construction phases? If so, the project would be required to submit Traffic Control Plan for County approval. A1
- Traffic on local roadways would be temporarily increased during project construction due to worker trips and the necessary transport of construction vehicles and equipment to the project site. Submit trip generation and assignment map for construction-related vehicle trips illustrating local roadway impacts. A2
- Are there any queuing impacts to San Tomas/Hwy 17 and Camden/White Oaks from increased construction-related vehicle trips? A3
- (Page 140, IS-MND): The speed limit of San Tomas Expressway should be 45 mph. A4

Thank you again for your continued outreach and coordination with the County. If you have any questions or concerns about these comments, please feel free to contact me at ben.aghegnehu@rda.sccgov.org

Thank you,



Letter B

Kayleigh Limbach

From: Hitchens, Cort <Cort.Hitchens@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:01 AM
To: 'Andrew Quan'
Cc: Lisa Brancatelli
Subject: [EXT] RE: NOI to Adopt the MND for the Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project - Valley Water Comments

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Hi Andrew,

These comments are received, thanks!

Thank you,

Cort Hitchens, Planner
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
200 E. Santa Clara St. – 3rd Floor
San José, CA 95113
Direct: 408.794.7386

From: Andrew Quan <AQuan@valleywater.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:27 AM
To: Hitchens, Cort <Cort.Hitchens@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Lisa Brancatelli <LBrancatelli@valleywater.org>
Subject: NOI to Adopt the MND for the Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project - Valley Water Comments

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Dear Cort Hitchens,

Valley Water has reviewed the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project in San Jose, received on 01/10/2024. Per our review, we have the following comments:

- Section 4: Initial Study, Surrounding Land Uses, on Page 2:** “The project site is approximately 0.4 mile east of SR 17 and Los Gatos Creek.” The rest of the document consistently refers to the distance between the project site and Los Gatos Creek as 0.5 miles. This statement is the only one that has it at 0.4 miles. Despite the minor difference, please revise to 0.5 miles for consistency with the rest of the document. B1
- Section 10: Existing Setting, on Page 102:** According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) No. 06085C0239H, effective date May 18, 2009, the project site is B2

located within Zone D, an area in which flood hazards are undetermined but possible. The text here is correct in stating the project site is located in Zone D and the description of Zone D. However, it is unclear where the year, 2014, was obtained from. Thus, please revise the date to 2009 for accuracy. Also, the text needs to be revised to include a reference to FIRM No. 06085C0239H, effective May 18, 2009. Please note this comment also applies to the sections on Pages 108 and 164.

B2
cont.

3. **Section 10: Regulatory Setting, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, on Page 102:** Valley Water’s 2021 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) was re-adopted on November 19, 2021. Discussions in the Draft IS/ND should note consistency with the new GWMP. Please revise the 2016 GWMP to 2021. Please use this new link containing the 2021 GWMP for the Bibliography: <https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable> . Please note this comment also applies to the sections on Pages 103, 107, and 166.
4. **Section 10: Less than Significant Impact, Discussion (d), on Page 109:** The project site is not located within any dam failure inundation area. Please remove the statement saying it is within the inundation area for the Lexington Dam.
5. While Valley Water has records for most wells located in the County, it is always possible that a well exists that is not in the Valley Water’s records. If previously unknown wells are found on the subject property during development, they must be properly destroyed under permit from Valley Water or registered with Valley Water and protected from damage. For more information, please call Valley Water’s Well Ordinance Program Hotline at 408-630-2660.

B3

B4

B5

Thank you,

ANDREW QUAN

ASSISTANT ENGINEER II - CIVIL
Community Projects Review Unit
Tel. (408) 630-1667

Santa Clara Valley Water District is now known as:



Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

VALLEY WATER

5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118

www.valleywater.org

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Letter C

February 9, 2024

Cort Hitchens
City of San Jose
200 E Santa Clara St, 3rd Flr
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: CP23-005
Cambrian Tanks Replacement Project

Dear Cort Hitchens,

Thank you for providing PG&E the opportunity to review the proposed plans for CP23-005 dated 1/10/2024. Our review indicates the proposed improvements do not appear to directly interfere with existing PG&E facilities or impact our easement rights.

Please note this is our preliminary review and PG&E reserves the right for additional future review as needed. This letter shall not in any way alter, modify, or terminate any provision of any existing easement rights. If there are subsequent modifications made to the design, we ask that you resubmit the plans to the email address listed below.

If the project requires PG&E gas or electrical service in the future, please continue to work with PG&E's Service Planning department: <https://www.pge.com/cco/>.

As a reminder, before any digging or excavation occurs, please contact Underground Service Alert (USA) by dialing 811 a minimum of 2 working days prior to commencing any work. This free and independent service will ensure that all existing underground utilities are identified and marked on-site.

If you have any questions regarding our response, please contact the PG&E Plan Review Team at pgeplanreview@pge.com.

Sincerely,

PG&E Plan Review Team
Land Management

C1