

3.14 Aesthetics

Aesthetic resources are generally defined as both natural and built features of the landscape that contribute to the public experience and appreciation of the environment. This section describes the existing aesthetic conditions in the North Bay Water Recycling Program (NBRWP) area and evaluates potential impacts on aesthetic resources as a result of NBWRP implementation. The analysis is based on information obtained during field investigations and from local plans. The Impacts and Mitigation Measures section defines significance criteria used for the impact assessment and presents a discussion of potential project-related impacts. Determination of significance of impacts in this EIR/EIS apply only to CEQA, not to NEPA.

3.14.1 Affected Environment/Setting

LGVSD and Novato SD

The NBWRP area contains visual resources that are representative of California's Bay Area region, including farmland, meandering creeks, rolling hills and oak woodlands. The LGVSD area is characterized by Hamilton Army Airfield, St. Vincent's School for Boys, Silveira Ranch, China Camp State Park and Peacock Gap, which are situated between urbanized areas of the city of San Rafael, and the communities of Terra Linda, Lucas Valley and Smith Ranch. The Miller Creek corridor, an important natural area, is east of U.S. Highway 101 and serves as a centerpiece of the watershed. The hills between the city of San Rafael and the surrounding communities are scenic topographical features. Large areas of open space that contain undeveloped ridgelines, hillsides, and oak tree groves also contribute to the natural scenic beauty of the area.

Hamilton Army Airfield is located in the Novato South Service area. The former Hamilton Air Force Base is now a planned community that consists of housing, restaurants, office buildings, a church, library, and theater. A trail network has been established around the Bay and in the hills. While a significant amount of bayfront lands have been protected as open space through acquisition of Hamilton Army Airfield Runways, the Marin Countywide Plan has identified the Hamilton Air Force Base as the largest available site for commercial and industrial development (Marin County, 2007).

The *Marin Countywide Plan* also recognizes the importance of the historical and agricultural legacies of the St. Vincent's and Silveira Ranch areas, which consist of approximately 1,110 acres east of Highway 101 in the unincorporated area of the county between the cities of San Rafael and Novato. Two properties: the 770-acre Catholic Youth Organization/St. Vincent's School for Boys and the 340-acre Silveira Family Ranch are important land uses in the county. The school building is a California historical landmark and is partly visible from Highway 101. Silveira Ranch provides scenic vistas of grasslands, valley oaks, the Miller Creek riparian corridor, and diked tideland habitats (Marin County, 2007). The level of development in this area is limited under the Marin Countywide Plan, which designates the St. Vincent's and Silveira lands as an urban reserve area within the unincorporated area of Marin County. This area is an integral part of the character of the region due to the visual and aesthetic appearance of the

buildings and surrounding area, and its function as a physical and visual separator between Novato and San Rafael.

China Camp State Park is also in the NBWRP vicinity. The park contains a natural watershed that flows into San Francisco Bay that includes a tidal marsh bordered by meadow and oak habitats. Recreational amenities include camp sites, hiking trails, and picnic areas. China Camp State Park experiences a high volume of visitors throughout the year due to the natural beauty and access to scenic vistas that are characteristic of the Bay Area.

Peacock Gap Golf Course is located on Biscayne Drive in San Rafael, adjacent to China Camp State Park, overlooking the Bay. From the country club and areas throughout the course, there are scenic views of surrounding hills, large residential estates, and the coast.

The City of San Rafael is characterized by scenic hills and valleys, San Francisco Bay, and historic downtown structures. The Mission San Rafael Arcangel, St. Rafael's Church, and many historic homes are notable structures that contribute to the visual quality to the city.

Existing public facilities and water storage facilities include the LGVSD WWTP, and water storage tanks near Hamilton Army Airfield and Atherton Avenue. The WWTP includes primarily low-lying structures that do not obstruct viewsheds or scenic vistas. The storage tanks are located on hillsides and are visible from nearby neighborhoods and roadways. The storage tanks are surrounded by trees and shrubs that help them to blend into the landscape.

Novato SD

The City of Novato is a growing urban area. Commercial development exists along U.S. 101 and is concentrated around areas of Redwood Boulevard and Rowland Boulevard. Scottsdale Pond, a reservoir that provides a scenic buffer between commercial centers, roadways, and residences, is adjacent to the commercial centers. From Scottsdale Pond, visitors get views of Mt. Burdell, which dominates the Novato skyline and is covered by oak woodland and open grassland. The Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve, maintained and operated by the Marin County Open Space District, hosts a display of wildflowers in the spring. Views of these natural features are accessible by trails that switchback up the hillside.

Indian Valley Open Space Preserve, also maintained and operated by the Marin County Open Space District, contains heavily wooded oak woodlands, Big Rock Ridge, seasonal creeks, and canyons and valleys that open up to grasslands. The trail that traverses the preserve is popular for its views of undisturbed natural areas. Bel Marin Keys in Ignacio is an unincorporated community in Marin County that contains waterfront homes along beautiful lagoons and the Novato Creek. The Coastal Conservancy, in coordination with the San Francisco Bay Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has developed a Wetlands Restoration Plan for the Bel Marin Keys Unit V property, located in southeast Novato. This open space contains marshes and waterways that support wildlife and scenic vistas.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has identified segments of U.S. 101 State Route 37 in Novato as “eligible” to be designated as scenic highways (see **Table 3.14-1** for the scenic highways in Marin County). The City of Novato has also established roadways as locally-defined scenic routes. Atherton Avenue, Novato Boulevard and State Route 37 are considered gateways to Novato. The visual character experienced by roadway users is rural, with views of open space obstructed only by natural topography of vegetated rolling hills. Areas east of U.S. 101, along Atherton Avenue toward the Petaluma River are open space, agricultural, coastal agricultural, and rural residential areas.

Existing facilities include the Novato SD WWTP and several storage reservoirs which are primarily low-lying structures that do not obstruct viewsheds or scenic vistas.

**TABLE 3.14-1
SCENIC HIGHWAYS IN MARIN COUNTY**

Highway Name	Location	Length	Status
State Route 1	Roadway from the northernmost point in the county to the southernmost point in the county	Undefined	Caltrans Eligible Scenic Highway
U.S. 101	North of State Route 37	Several miles	Caltrans Eligible Scenic Highway; City of Novato Scenic Route
State Route 37	East from U.S. 101 east	Several miles	Caltrans Eligible Scenic Highways; City of Novato Scenic Route
Atherton Avenue	East from U.S. 101 east	Several miles	City of Novato Scenic Route
Novato Boulevard	From San Marin Drive to the westerly City of Novato Planning Area boundary	Several miles	City of Novato Scenic Route

SOURCE: Caltrans, 2008; City of Novato, 1996.

SVCS D

Coastal bluffs, vineyards, rolling hills, and mountains define the aesthetic character of Sonoma County (Sonoma County, 1998). In southern Sonoma County, the Sonoma Mountains and Arrowhead Mountains are valuable scenic landscape features. The Sonoma Mountains define the eastern edge of the Santa Rosa plain between the cities of Petaluma and Sonoma. As part of California’s coastal range, the mountain peaks are less than 1,000 feet above mean sea level, but provide scenic backdrops to local communities and visual relief from urban densities. Sonoma creek and valleys in the mountains are characterized by riparian forest, and a mixture of deciduous and evergreen tree species, which provide food, water, migration and dispersal corridors, breeding sites, and thermal cover for wildlife.

The NBWRP area includes the city of Sonoma and surrounding unincorporated Sonoma County land, and is characterized by rolling hills with vast expanses of vineyards, agricultural fields, and open space. The NBWRP area includes both undeveloped areas, such as the valley

oak woodlands of the Sonoma Mountains, and urban areas in and around the city of Sonoma. The valley floors of the Sonoma Mountains are generally located on the western edge of the city. The valley landscape is relatively flat and fertile, lending itself to the presence of vineyards and other agriculture. The city of Sonoma contains suburban developments, small neighborhood parks, and commercial buildings.

Caltrans has designated corridors along State Routes 12, 116, and 121 in Sonoma as scenic highways, or corridors that are eligible to be designated as scenic highway (see **Table 3.14-2**). Similarly, the City of Sonoma (2006) has identified Broadway Street as a scenic corridor, and the intersection of Broadway, Leveroni, and Napa Roads as a gateway to the city. The NBWRP area is primarily located along Arnold Drive, Watmaugh Road, Highway 116, and Broadway/ Highway 12. Arnold Drive is a tree-lined residential street that provides distant views of the mountains. The southern gateway at the Broadway/ Napa Road/ Leveroni Road intersection contains visitor-serving uses that feature high quality architecture, open space, landscaping, street trees, lights, unified sidewalk materials, storefront design, street side planters and median planter strips, and sidewalk seating. Verano Avenue is also identified as a gateway to the city. Viewsheds from these major roadways are characterized by varying degrees of development, ranging from open space, agricultural (viticulture and agrarian), and riparian to commercial and residential development. Views of vineyards, rolling hillsides, and open space are evident from rural roads on the eastern and western edges of the NBWRP area. Along Sonoma Creek, views from roadways that cross or parallel the creek, such as Watmaugh Road, are characterized by dense, riparian vegetation.

**TABLE 3.14-2
SCENIC HIGHWAYS IN SONOMA COUNTY**

Highway Name	Location	Length	Status
Valley of the Moon	Danielli Avenue east of Santa Rosa to London way near Agua Caliente	12 miles	Caltrans Designated Scenic Highway
State Route 116	From State Route 1 east to the Sebastopol City Limit	26 miles	Caltrans Designated Scenic Highway
Various stretches of State Routes 12, 121, and 116 in the City of Sonoma	Highway 116 from Sebastopol to Rohnert park area; Highway 12 from Highway 101 in Santa Rosa to Highway 121 north of Sonoma; Highway 121 in Sonoma to Highway 37	Undefined	Caltrans Eligible Scenic Highways
Napa Road	Broadway east then south to Fremont Drive/ State Routes 12 and 121	5 miles	County Designated Scenic Corridor
Verano Avenue	Intersection of Verano Avenue and State Route 12	-	City of Sonoma gateway
Four Corners	Intersection of Broadway/ Leveroni Road/ Napa Road	-	City of Sonoma gateway

SOURCE: Caltrans, 2008; City of Sonoma, 2006

The Greenbelt is an important visual resource in the City of Sonoma consisting of hillsides and agricultural land that surrounds the city. Open space within the city is comprised of agricultural land, hillsides, creeks, riparian corridors, parks and small pockets of vineyard, garden, grazing, and horse pasture land. Two notable waterways that exist in Sonoma are Nathanson Creek, which flows from the northeast corner of the City through the east side residential area, and Fryer Creek, which flows from the west to the southwestern area of the city. Schocken Hill is another distinct visual resources. The hillside north of Vallejo Home State Park also contributes to the visual character of the area and remains protected as open space.

Existing facilities include the SVCSD WWTP and the City of Sonoma storage tanks. The WWTP includes primarily low-lying structures that do not obstruct viewsheds or scenic vistas. The storage tanks are located on a hillside and are visible from nearby neighborhoods and roadways. The storage tanks are surrounded by trees and shrubs that help them to blend into the landscape.

Napa SD

Natural scenery and the vineyards and wineries form the community character of the Napa County. The landscape is characterized by a mosaic of orchards and cultivated agricultural fields, vineyards, dairies, pasture, and rural residences, bordered to the east by mountains, hills, and valleys, and Lake Berryessa to the north. The scenery of these areas range from redwood and oak forests to rolling grass covered hills. Lake Berryessa, one of the largest lakes in California, is in Napa County. The land uses in the unincorporated areas outside of the City jurisdiction are urbanized, non-agricultural rural residential uses or open space agricultural uses in the Coombsville planning area and south of the Silverado planning area. The south county contains more of the industrial uses. Important visual resources identified in the General Plan include:

- Agricultural land, particularly the Hess Vineyard (located in southern Napa County east of the airport), and areas surrounding the city of Napa;
- Open space;
- The Napa River, which flows from the headwaters of Mt. St. Helena to San Pablo Bay through varied landscapes of forested mountain slopes, vineyards, urban areas, open pasture, grasslands, industrial zones, and marshes;
- Landmarks, including the di Rosa Preserve, Trubody Ranch, and August Hirsh Winery;
- Unique urban centers in Rutherford and Oakville, which host visitor-serving commercial uses, wineries, and other historic attractions; and
- Scenic highways.

There are approximately 280 miles of county-designated scenic roadways in Napa County. Although none of the roads are officially designated as State Scenic Highways, segments of Highway 29, State Route 121 and State Route 221 are eligible for scenic highway designation (Napa County, 2007). **Table 3.14-3** shows the scenic highways in Napa County.

**TABLE 3.14-3
SCENIC HIGHWAYS IN NAPA COUNTY**

Highway Name	Location	Length	Status
State Route 29	Roadway from the northernmost point in Napa County to the intersection with State Route 121	Approximately 20 miles	Caltrans Designated Scenic Highway
State Route 121	State Route 121 near Napa, south to the southern Napa County line	Approximately 12 miles	Caltrans Designated Scenic Highway
Dry Creek Road	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Petrified Forest Road	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Deer Creek Road	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Pope Canyon Road	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Wooden Valley Road	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Berryessa Knoxville Rd	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Oakknoll Road	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Yountville Cross Road	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Zinfandel Lane	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Lodi Land	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway
Bale Lane	Napa County	Undefined	County Designated Scenic Roadway

SOURCE: Napa County, 2007; Caltrans, 2008

Napa County has a diverse plant life, including oak woodlands, grasslands, mixed serpentine chaparral, mixed willow riparian forests, redwood forests, and vernal pools. The landscape has a varied topography, with peaks and valleys, rolling hills, numerous microclimates, and many creeks, streams, and rivers.

The Napa Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (MST) Area includes areas in the city of Napa and portions of Napa County. The unincorporated areas are designated for rural residential, open space, watershed, and agricultural uses by the Napa County General Plan. State Route 121, north of Imola Road, within the MST area, is designated as a scenic corridor by the City of Napa. The City is bound by designated greenbelt land, which borders the MST area to the east.

The Carneros area is situated slightly southwest of the city of Napa in unincorporated areas of the County. The visual character of the area is rural, as the predominant land use is agriculture. Views from Sonoma Highway, Las Amigas Road, and Duhig Road include agricultural scenery

and flat terrain. A residential community is located near the intersection of Sonoma Highway and State Route 12. To the south, the Carneros area is bordered by the Napa Salt Marsh.

3.14.2 Regulatory Framework

State

CalTrans administers the State Scenic Highways Program to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from projects that would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways (Sections 260 *et seq.* of the California Streets and Highways Code). Scenic highway corridors are defined as the land generally adjacent to and visible by motorists from a scenic highway. The State Scenic Highway System includes a list of highways that are either eligible for designation as scenic highways or have been so designated. These highways are identified in Section 263 of the Streets and Highways Code.

Officially designated state scenic highways within the NBWRP area include State Route 29, portions of State Route 12, and portions of State Route 121 (CalTrans, 2005). The portion of Highway 12 that crosses through the NBWRP area is an eligible state scenic highway.

Local

Other local general plans, policies, and regulations associated with impacts to aesthetic resources within the affected jurisdictions are presented in **Appendix 3.14**. The goals, policies, and programs applicable to aesthetics were considered in this analysis to define scenic resources, determine NBWRP consistency with policies, and evaluate significant impacts in the following section.

3.14.3 Environmental Consequences/ Impacts

Significance Criteria under CEQA

Based on the Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*, NBWRP implementation would have significant impacts and environmental consequences on aesthetic resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista;
- Substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings;
- Substantially damage scenic resources, such as scenic highway corridors and scenic landscape units;
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans.

Impairment of existing aesthetic resources may result from the degradation of a visual feature that has aesthetic significance, or from the introduction of objects or patterns that exhibit a relatively high degree of visual contrast with the existing objects and patterns on the site. Physical changes

that may impair the quality of important views include changes in scale, form, color and texture of natural features existing on the site. Such changes could result from new structures, grading and excavation, landscaping, or elimination of existing vegetation.

Environmental Consequences/Impact Analysis

Impact 3.14.1: Temporary Impact to Scenic Vistas. NBWRP construction activities could temporarily affect scenic vistas or corridors in the NBWRP area. (Less than Significant with Mitigation)

NBWRP construction could cause temporary disruption of existing visual resources. However, NBWRP activities would involve improvements that would partially occur at existing WWTP facility sites and roadway right-of-ways, thereby reducing the likelihood for conflicts with aesthetics during construction. Treatment upgrades within the WWTP sites would have no impacts to aesthetics because the existing visual character of the sites is already industrial and utilitarian. In most cases, the impacts would be short-term and intermittent, and disruption of visual resources would be considered less than significant. Furthermore, measures to limit certain temporary construction impacts to aesthetics would be implemented as mitigation. Although pipeline installation would progress along the local roadways, construction would only affect a specific location for a short period of time. Staging areas associated with these projects could be used for a longer period of time. In addition, any projects involving nighttime construction would require lighting, and adjacent areas could be exposed to visual impacts associated with nighttime construction (see **Impact 3.14.3**).

No Project Alternative

The NBWRP would not be implemented under the No Project Alternative, therefore no impact would occur. For a discussion of the No Project under future conditions, see No Action Alternative below.

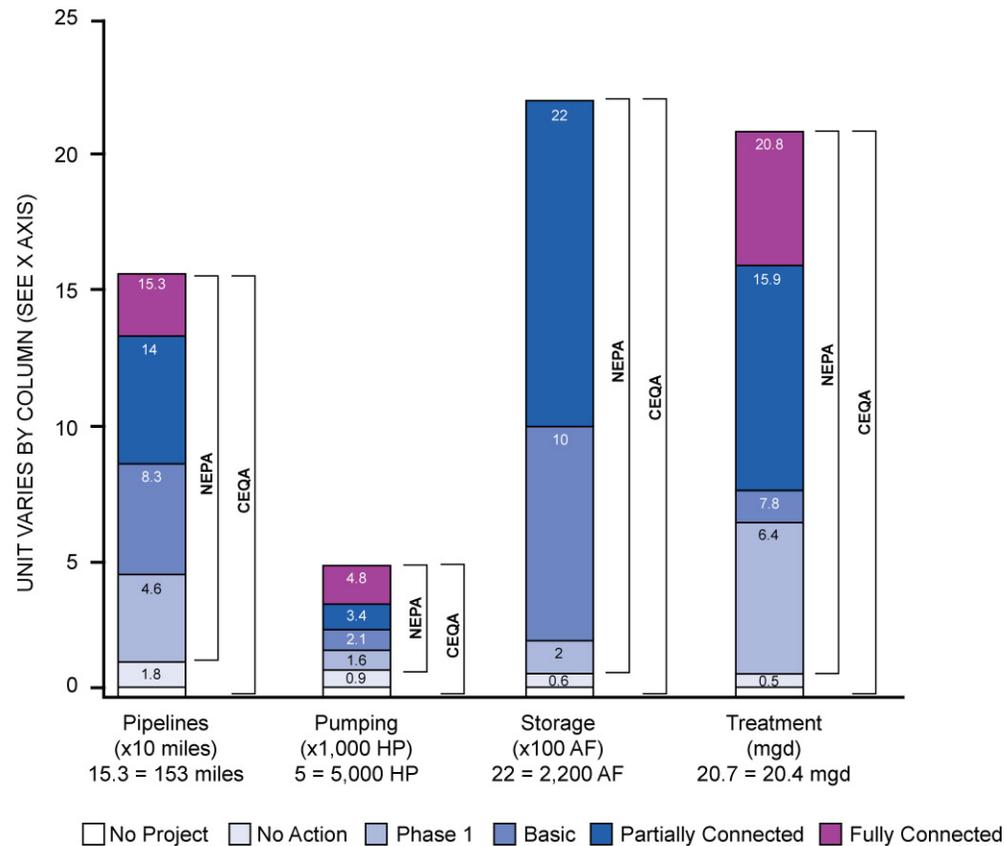
No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, which includes consideration of future conditions, it is likely that a subset of water recycling projects would be implemented by the Member Agencies on an individual basis, without the benefit of regional coordination or federal funding.

For comparison to the Action Alternatives, it is estimated that approximately 17.5 miles of new pipeline, 912 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 0.5 mgd of tertiary capacity, and approximately 65 AF of storage would be constructed by Member Agencies on an individual basis (see **Chart 3.14-1, No Action**).

Under future baseline (2020) conditions, scenic vistas within the region are anticipated to be similar to existing conditions in accordance with anticipated development allowed under the approved General Plans within the region. A discussion of individual Member Agencies is provided below.

CHART 3.14-1
COMPARISON OF NEPA AND CEQA BASELINES FOR PROPOSED FACILITIES, BY ALTERNATIVE



SOURCE: CDM, 2009

LGVSD/NMWD

There would be no project facilities constructed under the No Action Alternative, therefore no impact would occur.

Novato SD/NMWD

The No Action Alternative would consist of construction of 4.4 miles of pipeline in the Novato North Service Area, 0.5 mgd upgrade at the Recycled Water Treatment Plant, and one pump station at the intersection of Atherton Avenue and Olive Avenue. Pipeline installation would occur from the Novato SD WWTP north to Olive Avenue, then extend along Olive Avenue to serve areas north of Atherton Avenue, along Redwood Boulevard, and along San Marin Avenue west of U.S. 101. Views experienced by roadway users from these roadways include scenic vistas of hillsides, oak woodlands, and agricultural resources. Construction of recycled water pipelines would result in short-term impacts to scenic resources. Construction activities would require the use of heavy equipment and storage of materials at construction sites. During construction,

excavated areas, stockpiled soils, and other materials within the construction easement and staging areas would constitute negative aesthetic elements in the visual landscape. Impacts from dust, excavation, drilling, and road closures could reduce pedestrian access, uproot street trees, displace landscaping and streetscaping, and damage sidewalk materials. However, these impacts are temporary and associated with short-term construction and would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** through **3.14.1c**.

Upgrades at the Recycled Water Treatment Facility would have a less-than-significant impact on aesthetics because the upgrade activities would be mostly confined within the existing WWTP property and would generally be consistent with the existing visual character of the site.

Construction of the pump station would cause short-term impacts such as dust and noise, but impacts would be mitigated by measures identified in **Sections 3.8, Air Quality, and 3.9, Noise**.

SVCS D

SVCS D would implement Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project (SVRWP) pipeline Alignment 1A, which would result in short-term construction impacts to scenic landscapes, scenic corridors, and scenic vistas. Alignment 1A includes a main pipeline that would originate from the SVCS D WWTP, extend southwest and then northwest through a vineyard to Arnold Drive. The pipeline would continue north along Arnold Drive to Orange Avenue, and extend north on Orange Avenue to Elm Avenue. The pipeline would then continue east on Elm Avenue, cross a field to Arnold Drive, extend north on Arnold Drive, and terminate just north of Leveroni Road. Secondary pipelines would extend from the main pipeline on Highway 116, Watmaugh Road, and Leveroni Road. The eastern portions of the proposed pipeline corridor are predominantly rural agricultural areas. The area from the SVCS D WWTP to Arnold Drive is almost exclusively vineyard land. There are several residential and agricultural structures just west of State Route 12 that would be affected for several days during construction. Construction activities would not be visible from any roadways until the pipeline corridor reaches Arnold Drive. There are intermittent residences along the southern portion of Arnold Drive, but views from the residences of the roadway are partially screened by trees. Residences along Orange Avenue are mostly setback from the road and screened by trees. Views of vineyards experienced by roadway users would temporarily be obstructed during construction. The northern portion of Orange Avenue and where the pipeline would re-connect with Arnold Drive contains residences with views that would be temporarily affected during construction. Construction of the secondary pipelines along Highway 116 and Leveroni Road would disrupt open views of vineyard areas during the short-term construction period. Construction of the pipelines would result in impacts similar to those discussed under Novato SD, and would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with incorporation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** through **3.14.1c**.

As discussed in the SVRWP EIR, construction of the proposed pump station would result in a short-term impact to aesthetic resources. The distribution pump would be located at the existing SVCS D WWTP, which is an industrial site surrounded by agricultural land uses. Construction and grading activities, potentially visible to vehicles traveling on Schellville Road or 8th Street, adjacent to the WWTP, would result in impacts similar to those discussed above. However, the effects would be temporary during project construction and would be mitigated to less than significant by measures identified in **Sections 3.8, Air Quality, and 3.9, Noise**.

The proposed pipeline alignment and alternative routes under the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project would traverse areas of cultivated vineyard and open areas. Construction of the pipeline would result in impacts similar to those discussed for Novato SD above. Construction activities would affect views from Green Island Road, Milton Road, Las Amigas Road, and Buchli Station Road. Construction activities would temporarily alter scenic views along the pipeline route; however there are no sensitive residential receptors with views of the area. There is one winery located near Ramal Road and Duhig Road that would potentially be affected by construction activities for a short period. Construction-related impacts would be temporary, as pipelines would be buried underground, and disturbed areas would be restored.

Napa SD

There would be no project facilities constructed under the No Action Alternative, therefore no impact would occur.

Phase 1 (Project level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline Phase 1 projects would provide 46 miles of new pipeline, 1,655 horsepower (HP) of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 6.4 million gallons per day (mgd) of tertiary capacity, and 65 acre-feet (AF) of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Phase 1 projects would provide 28 miles of new pipeline, 743 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 5.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and no additional storage.

The impacts to scenic vistas under Phase 1 would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the No Action Alternative, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

Under Phase 1, LGVSD would upgrade tertiary treatment capacity at the LGVSD WWTP and construct a new booster pump station. NMWD would install one of three pipeline options, described in **Chapter 2, Project Description**, which would connect the LGVSD WWTP to facilities constructed by NMWD. The level of impact on visual resources in the LGVSD service area would be incrementally greater under Phase 1 than the level of impact under the No Action Alternative in the LGVSD service area.

Construction of the pipelines would result in impacts similar to those discussed under Novato SD. NBWRP could affect scenic vistas as protected by the *City of Novato General Plan* and the *Marin Countywide Plan*. Portions of Pipeline Options A, B, and C in Marin County would traverse through designated open space and agricultural land and occur adjacent to St. Vincent's and Silveira Ranch. Since this area is important to the character of the community and is a prominent feature on the landscape, the NBWRP could affect the views of St. Vincent's from surrounding roads and structures. Construction activities would be visible to the residential communities along the hillside at the border between the Novato and San Rafael, particularly along Club View Drive. However, residences along Bolling Circle adjacent to the pipeline corridor are screened by trees

and would not be affected. Views from residences along South Oakwood Drive and Hangar Avenue would temporarily be affected during the short-term construction period. However, these effects would be temporary during NBWRP construction and would not significantly impact the long-term visual character of the area. Surface restoration would involve repaving roadways and replanting grasses, shrubs, and trees in unpaved areas outside of the roadways (see **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**).

Novato SD/NMWD

The components that are reasonably likely to occur under the No Action Alternative, including the pipeline in the North Service Area along Olive Avenue and Atherton Avenue, would also be implemented under Phase 1; and would therefore have identical impacts to aesthetics. Additional short-term construction impacts would occur under Phase 1, as additional pipeline would be installed in the Central Service Area, so impacts to aesthetics would be incrementally greater under Phase 1 compared to the No Action Alternative.

Novato North Service Area. Impacts to scenic vistas from construction of proposed recycled water pipelines would be similar to those discussed under the No Action Alternative. Additional impacts would occur to scenic vistas on Atherton Avenue, Olive Avenue, Redwood Boulevard, DeLong Avenue, Novato Boulevard, and South Novato Boulevard. Other sensitive visual resources in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline corridors include wetlands in the Ignacio/Bel Marin Keys area, and large areas of oak woodland (in the Atherton Avenue vicinity) are proximate to proposed construction areas.

NBWRP construction would have similar impacts on scenic vistas compared to those discussed under Novato SD for the No Action Alternative; however these impacts would be less than significant with mitigation (see **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**).

Installation of the proposed booster pump station near the intersection of Atherton Avenue and Olive Avenue could result in short-term impacts to aesthetic and scenic resources, as discussed above under Phase 1. Construction and grading activities would require the use of heavy equipment and storage of materials on-site. During construction, excavated areas, stockpiled soils, and other materials at the construction site and staging areas would constitute negative aesthetic elements in the visual landscape. Vegetation would be removed in order to install the pump station and to connect the pump station to the existing Plum Street Tank. However, construction would last for a short time period and the architecture of the pump station housing would be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment. Landscaping around the structure and revegetation along the distribution connection would restore the appearance of the disturbed area. (see **Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** and **3.14.1c**). This would reduce the short-term effects of the booster pump station on aesthetic resources to a less-than-significant level. The Plum Street Storage Tank that will support the new booster pump station is an existing structure, and therefore does not impact visual resources.

Novato Central Service Area. Please refer to the discussion under Novato North Service Area. The major roadways that would be affected under Phase 1 are Redwood Boulevard, Rowland

Boulevard and Hill Road. The proposed pipeline corridor would traverse along Redwood Boulevard, adjacent to Scottsdale Pond, which receives pedestrians and cyclists for its aesthetic qualities. Construction in the area would cause a significant impact which would be minimized by implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**.

SVCS D

Phase 1 will cause an incrementally greater impact to aesthetics during construction because it includes more pipeline and additional built structures. In general, the impacts would be less-than-significant after incorporation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**.

Phase 1 of the NBWRP would include implementation of SVRWP pipeline Alignment 1A. Impacts associated with implementation of the SVRWP component include short-term construction impacts to scenic landscapes, scenic corridors, and scenic vistas similar to those discussed under SVCS D for the No Action Alternative.

The eastern portions of the proposed pipeline corridor are predominantly rural agricultural areas. The implementation of Alignment 1A would include construction of approximately 5.2 miles of pipeline in western Sonoma Valley and one pump station at the SVCS D WWTP. The eastern portions of the proposed pipeline corridor are predominantly rural agricultural areas (see discussion under SVCS D for No Action Alternative above).

As discussed in the SVRWP EIR, construction of the proposed pump stations would result in short-term impacts to aesthetic resources. The distribution pumps would be located at the existing SVCS D WWTP, which is an industrial site surrounded by agricultural land uses. Construction and grading activities would result in impacts similar to those discussed above. The effects would be temporary during project construction and would not significantly impact the long-term visual character of the area. Construction of the pump stations would result in a similar impact to that discussed under the No Action Alternative. Under Phase 1, impacts related to the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project would be equivalent to those under the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

Under Phase 1, approximately 17.5 miles of additional pipeline and four additional booster pump stations along pipeline routes, and one pump station at the Napa SD WWTP would be constructed. Phase 1 represents an incremental increase in short-term construction impacts to aesthetic resources compared to the No Action Alternative. Phase 1 would have less than significant short-term construction impacts, after mitigation, to aesthetic resources. The land uses surrounding the proposed pipeline corridor in the MST area are primarily rural residential and agricultural, so staging activities and machinery from construction would contrast with the existing scenery. Many residences are screened from adjacent roadways by street trees. Construction activities would be temporarily visible from some vantage points of the Napa Valley Country Club golf course. Construction impacts would be similar to those discussed above and would be reduced to less-than-significant levels by implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**.

The proposed pump station at the WWTP would be consistent with the existing visual character of the WWTP facility; therefore there is a less than significant impact associated with that pump station. The other proposed pump station sites are along existing roadways in areas surrounded by residential and agricultural land uses. Construction of the proposed pump stations would temporarily disrupt the scenic vistas and viewsheds from residences and of agricultural land in this area and would have similar impacts as discussed above. The pump stations housings would be 15 to 20 feet above grade, introducing a new, contrasting object into the landscape that could be incompatible with existing views and vistas from the existing residences in the site vicinity. The proposed pump station sites on Coombsville Road and East 3rd Street are adjacent to both low density residential and cultivated agricultural land, while the proposed site on North 3rd Avenue is surrounded primarily by vineyards. The proposed Imola Avenue site is undeveloped, and surrounded by underutilized land and commercial space. Vegetation would also be removed for installation of the pump stations. This could be a significant impact, which would be minimized by implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** and **3.14.1c**.

Alternative 1: Basic System (Program Level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Basic System projects would provide 83 miles of new pipeline, 2,158 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 1,020 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Basic System would provide 65 miles of new pipeline, 1,246 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 955 AF of storage.

The impacts to scenic vistas under the Basic System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for Phase 1, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

In general, implementation of NBWRP components will result in short-term construction impacts and temporary disturbance to aesthetics. Installation of pipelines would occur predominantly along existing roadways, however construction activities could temporarily obstruct the views of roadway users. Construction of new pump stations and storage reservoirs would disturb vegetation and permanently alter the existing landscape. Treatment upgrades would not affect aesthetics because they are generally consistent with existing land uses, therefore are not discussed further.

LGVS/D/NMWD

There would be no additional short-term construction impacts to visual resources in the LGVS/D service area under the Basic System that were not previously discussed under Phase 1. Additional NBWRP components would be constructed at the existing WWTP site and at an existing reservoir. These facilities are already part of the existing landscape, so construction impacts will be less than significant.

Novato SD

The Basic System would involve onsite improvements to increase tertiary treatment capacity at the Novato SD WWTP, utilize existing available storage, and rehabilitate of one water reservoir. An additional segment of pipeline would be constructed to connect the Novato SD recycled water facilities to serve the Sears Point area. Construction of the recycled water pipelines would result in short-term impacts to scenic resources. Impacts to aesthetic resources would be greater than the impacts described for Novato SD under the Phase 1 and the No Action Alternative, proportionate to the amount of facilities. Construction-related impacts would be similar to those discussed above and would be reduced to less-than-significant levels by implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**.

Utilization of existing storage tanks would not induce short-term impacts to visual resources because they are existing units of the landscape and will require no additional construction or altered operational activities.

Re-operation of the existing storage tanks would not require new construction. The activities required to refurbish the storage tanks would not disturb the character of the hillside area, which is surrounded by open space and parkland. Therefore, short-term impacts to aesthetic resources would be less than significant.

SVCS

In addition to the impacts to visual resources in the SVCS service area under Phase 1, short-term disturbance impacts under the Basic System would include effects from the interconnectivity between SVCS and Napa SD to serve the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Area. The General Plans for Napa and Sonoma Counties, as well as the Cities of Napa and Sonoma govern the visual resources along the proposed pipeline corridor, which would extend through areas in both Sonoma and Napa Counties to the Napa Salt Marsh.

Under the Basic System, pipeline connection between Arnold Drive and Broadway would be extended via Leveroni and West Watmaugh Roads. These extensions represent an incremental increase in temporary construction impacts to visual resources. The pipeline extension areas would occur along existing roadways, which are bordered primarily by vineyards. Views of the vineyard from the roadway would be temporarily obstructed to vehicular traffic. There are several residences along Leveroni Road, but their views of the street are screened by trees. The Basic system would extend the pipeline on Arnold Drive north to El Rancho Feliz Road and branch out on Orange Avenue. This extension corridor is bordered by residences with views on the street. The northern end of the extension on Arnold Drive would occur adjacent to a golf course and vineyards, which would temporarily affect views from the country club and disturb views of the scenic vineyards.

The pipeline corridor from the WWTP to Specht Road traverses agricultural land, and construction activities would not be directly visible to any sensitive receptors. Broadway has been locally-defined as a scenic corridor and a gateway to the city; therefore short-term construction would affect scenic views along this roadway. The eastern pipeline corridor extends east from the

WWTP, traverses a large area of vineyard, extends north to Napa Road, parallel to Hyde road, and then extends along Napa Road, Denmark Street and 8th Street East. Construction in this area would generally not be visible to sensitive receptors or roadway users. The impacts would be similar to those discussed above and would be minimized by implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14-1a**.

Installation of the proposed distribution pumps would not result in significant short-term construction impacts or long-term operational impacts to aesthetic resources. The pumps would be located at the existing SVCSD treatment facility and would not introduce a new contrasting object into the landscape. Similarly treatment upgrades, including the creation of additional storage, would occur within the existing WWTP property, which is an industrial site surrounded by agricultural land uses. Construction and grading activities could be visible to vehicles traveling on Schellville Road or 8th Street, adjacent to the WWTP. However, these effects would be temporary during project construction and would not significantly impact the long-term visual character of the area.

The Basic System would also include construction of a new recycled water storage pond near the SVCSD WWTP. Pond construction will require excavation, stock piling of materials, and presence of construction vehicles. The precise location of the pond is undetermined, assuming a conservative approach, construction could be viewed from 8th Street, Schellville Road by passing vehicular traffic. Short-term impacts during construction would be mitigated with the implementation of measures to limit construction at a location, restore affected roadways by repaving, and revegetating disturbed areas (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** through **3.14.1c**).

Under the No Action Alternative, the SVRWP components would cause short-term construction impacts to visual resources. The majority of the SVRWP components are part of the NBWRP, so the impacts under both alternatives would be the same for overlapping pipeline components. The Basic System also requires additional pipelines and ponds; therefore there would be an incremental increase in impacts to aesthetics if the Basic System is implemented.

Napa SD

The Basic System would involve onsite improvements to increase tertiary treatment capacity at the Napa WWTP and reconfiguration of existing WWTP storage ponds. These activities would not alter the existing appearance of the WWTP or the pond area. Short-term impacts to aesthetic resources associated with WWTP improvements would be less than significant.

The Basic System would involve construction of additional pipelines that would affect scenic landscape units and vistas protected by the city and county. The impact would be similar to that discussed above minimized by implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.1.1a** for the additional segments.

Proposed pipelines under the Basic Alternative represent an incremental increase in temporary impacts to aesthetics during the short-term construction period compared to the No Action

Alternative. A greater volume of pipelines would be implemented in addition to the pipeline and pump station proposed under the MST component.

Alternative 2: Partially Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Partially Connected System would provide 139 miles of new pipeline, 3,454 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Partially Connected System would provide 122 miles of new pipeline, 2,542 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.4 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The impacts to scenic vistas under the Partially Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Basic System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

Under the Partially Connected System, NBWRP involves construction of additional recycled water pipelines to extend service to the Peacock Gap Golf Course that would result in short-term impacts to scenic resources. The Peacock Gap Golf Course is located in San Rafael on the Bay, and is surrounded by hills, which act as a buffer between the golf course and the nearby community of Santa Venetia. China Camp State Park is also adjacent to the Peacock Gap Golf Course. There is potential for views from the State Park and park trails to be obstructed or altered by construction activities or staging sites. The pipeline would likely traverse areas of open space that abut the hills adjacent to the golf course. Since these are considered visual resources under the local plans, the proposed pipeline conflicts with policies under the local plans. Construction-related impacts would be similar to those discussed above under the Basic System and would be reduced to less-than-significant levels by implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a** for the additional segments.

Utilization of the existing recycled water distribution system would not require new construction, and there are no short-term or long-term impacts to visual resources associated with continued operation of the system.

Re-operation of the existing storage reservoir near Peacock Gap Golf Course would not require new construction. The activities required to refurbish the storage tanks would not disturb the character of the hillside area, which is surrounded by open space and golf amenities. Therefore, short-term impacts to aesthetic resources would be less than significant. There would be no long-term impacts to aesthetic resources due to the re-operation of the existing reservoir because the reservoir is an existing physical feature.

Implementation of additional NBWRP components under the Partially Connected System represent an incremental increase in adverse effects from short-term construction impacts compared to the No Action Alternative, which has no anticipated aesthetic effects from construction in the LGVSD.

Novato SD/NMWD

In addition to the components described under the Basic System, the Partially Connected System would include construction of the recycled water pipelines that Novato SD would install to serve portions of the Novato Urban Recycled Water Action area and connect LGVSD and Novato SD through a joint pipeline to serve the Sears Point area, which would result in short-term impacts to scenic resources. Construction impacts would be similar to those discussed above under the Basic System and would apply to the additional pipelines. **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a** would minimize the impact.

In the Novato North Service Area, the pipeline corridor would occur within existing roadways that have not been designated as scenic highways. The area is urbanized and built up, so impacts to views from residences or other sensitive areas could be significant.

In the Hamilton Field Area, a pipeline would extend from Long Point, to the east of Hamilton Army Airfield, and along Bel Marin Keys to State Route 37. This area is characterized by the views from the waterfront residences at Bel Marin Keys and the scenic views of open space protected as part of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Construction would be visible by vehicles along Perimeter Road and Bel Marin Keys Boulevard, and from trails in the hills near Hamilton Field.

In the Central Novato Service Area, recycled water pipeline would extend along Alameda del Prado Road, Nave Drive, and Ignacio Boulevard. Construction will occur along existing roadways in urbanized areas. The roadways experience high volumes of traffic, especially along U.S. Highway 101, so construction activities would be highly visible for a short time period to a large number of people.

In general, the effect on the views from the residences, recreational areas, and vehicles would be temporarily impacted by construction activities. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a** would reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Re-operation of an existing water reservoir located in the northern portion of the Novato Urban Recycled Water Action area would not require new construction. Impacts would be similar to those discussed under LGVSD above.

Implementation of the Partially Connected System would incrementally increase adverse effects from short-term construction impacts compared to the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, pipeline in the North Service Area is anticipated, but the Partially Connected System involves a higher volume of pipeline than what is reasonably anticipated to occur under the No Action Alternative.

SVCS

In addition to the components described as part of the Basic System, the Partially Connected System would expand interconnectivity between SVCS and Napa SD to serve the Sears Point Area along Lakeville Highway. Wastewater treatment and distribution would also be extended to the Southern Sonoma Valley service area via a new recycled pipeline network that runs along

Arnold Drive (State Routes 116 and 121). Lakeville Highway and Arnold Drive are almost entirely surrounded by agricultural land, open space, and undeveloped land. There are few to no residences with views of the roadways that would be affected by construction activities. Cornerstone Gardens is located along Arnold Drive, so there is a potential impact to visual access available to Cornerstone Gardens customers. The roadways do not experience a high volume of traffic, so temporary impacts to aesthetics would be less than significant.

The Partially Connected System pipelines will extend to the Carneros West area, east on Old Sonoma Road and Dealy Lane on existing roadways that are bordered entirely by vineyards. There are no visitor-serving facilities or residences with views that would be affected during pipeline construction, as the few existing residences are setback from the road. Residences along Congress Valley Road along NBWRP corridor are mostly screened from the road by vegetation. A new storage facility is proposed in the Carneros area. The precise location of the storage facility is undetermined, so proper placement would ensure there are no impacts to aesthetics.

Construction activities would occur adjacent to the di Rosa Preserve, which is recognized in the *Napa County General Plan* as a landmark. The pipeline corridor is not visible from most vantage points near the lake at the di Rosa Preserve.

In general, short-term temporary construction impacts associated with the proposed pipelines and recycled water facilities will temporarily impact aesthetics by altering scenic views. The impacts would be similar to those discussed above and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a** would reduce the impact to less-than-significant level.

Under the No Action Alternative, Alignment 1A described under the SVRWP is reasonably anticipated to occur, therefore some short-term construction impacts to aesthetics in the SVCSD would be the same. The Partially Connected System also requires additional pipeline, which represents an incremental increase in aesthetic impacts during the short-term construction period compared to the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

In addition to the components described under the Basic System, the Partially Connected System includes extension of service to an expanded MST area and an expanded Carneros East area, which would require additional pipelines for conveyance. Construction of the recycled water pipelines would result in short-term impacts to scenic resources, similar to those discussed above.

Approximately two miles of additional pipeline would extend to the Carneros East area, south of Napa, perpendicular to State Route 29. The landscape primarily consists of agriculture. The pipelines would be constructed in Milliken Canyon, north of Hagen Avenue along Vichy and Atlas Peak Roads, which contain moderate to low density residential areas that have direct views of the road. The pipeline corridor is proposed adjacent to Silverado Golf Course, so views from the Country Club could be temporarily affected. However, these effects would be temporary during project construction and would not significantly impact the long-term visual character of the area. Surface restoration would involve replanting grasses, shrubs, and trees in unpaved areas outside of the roadways (see **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**).

Construction of the proposed storage reservoir in the MST area would result in short-term impacts to aesthetic resources. It is expected that the reservoir would be constructed on Napa State Hospital property, in the same location as an existing abandoned water reservoir. Therefore, while the recycled water reservoir would be larger than the existing abandoned reservoir, the site would be improved, which would be an aesthetic benefit to the area. If the reservoir was sited in a different location, and if it was located adjacent to the golf course or the southern end of Vichy Road, it would be visible. There are undeveloped areas along the MST corridor that would not induce impacts to visual resources. Depending on placement, it is reasonable to assume there may be short-term construction impacts. The impacts would be similar to those discussed above.

Operational reconfiguration of the existing WWTP storage ponds not would alter the existing appearance of the ponds, and the general visual character of the pond area would remain. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Alternative 3: Fully Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Fully Connected System would provide 153 miles of new pipeline, 5,021 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Fully Connected System would provide 135 miles of new pipeline, 3,907 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The impacts the scenic vistas under the Fully Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Partially Connected System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD, Novato SD/NMWD, and Napa SD

No additional construction is proposed in this service area, that would affect scenic vistas. No additional impact is expected.

SVCSD

SVCSD would extend service north of the Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Service Area to the Central Sonoma Service Area. The major increment that will be implemented under the Fully Connected System is the pipeline that would be constructed in the Sears Point area. Construction of the recycled water pipelines would result in short-term impacts to scenic resources as discussed above.

The pipeline extensions beyond that under the Partially Connected System would occur in areas that contain similar land uses as previously discussed, but extension of these pipelines represents an incremental increase in the impact to aesthetics. The areas are primarily vineyards and agricultural lands. State Route 12 is eligible to be designated as a scenic highway, and is traveled frequently by motorists. Views from the highway of the surrounding vineyards could be temporarily affected by construction activities. During construction impacts like dust, excavation,

drilling, and road closures may reduce pedestrian access, uproot street trees, displace landscaping and streetscaping, and damage sidewalk materials. However, these effects would be temporary during project construction and would not significantly impact the long-term visual character of the area. Surface restoration would involve repaving roadways and replanting grasses, shrubs, and trees in unpaved areas outside of the roadways (see **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a**).

Implementation of the Fully Connected Alternative represents the maximum build-out of recycled water projects and therefore would have considerably greater short-term impacts to aesthetics during construction compared to the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation Measures

The appropriate Member Agency will implement the following measures:

Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a: Following construction activities, disturbed areas shall be restored to baseline conditions, including repaving roadways, replanting trees, and/or reseeding with a native seed mix typical of the immediately surrounding area.

Mitigation Measure 3.14.1b: Berms around constructed reservoirs shall be vegetated with native seed mixes to soften the visual effect of the reservoirs from adjacent roadways.

Mitigation Measure 3.14.1c: Design elements shall be incorporated to enhance visual integration of the booster pump station and distribution pump station with their surroundings. Proposed facilities shall be painted low-glare earth-tone colors that blend with the surrounding terrain. Highly reflective building materials and/or finishes shall not be used in the designs for proposed facilities.

Impact Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 3.14.2: Impact to views along scenic roadways. Implementation of NBWRP could affect views along eligible or designated Caltrans Scenic Highways, or locally-defined scenic routes. (Less than Significant with Mitigation)

Pipeline installation would occur predominantly within existing right-of-ways, however could potentially occur along a Caltrans-designated scenic highway, or a locally-defined scenic corridor identified in a local General Plan. Although pipeline construction activities would progress along the alignment and would affect a specific location for a short period of time, staging areas associated with these projects could be used for longer duration.

No Project Alternative

The NBWRP would not be implemented under the No Project Alternative, therefore no impact would occur. For a discussion of the No Project under future conditions, see No Action Alternative below.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, which includes consideration of future conditions, it is likely that a subset of water recycling projects would be implemented by the Member Agencies on an individual basis, without the benefit of regional coordination or federal funding.

For comparison to the Action Alternatives, it is estimated that approximately 17.5 miles of new pipeline, 912 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 0.5 mgd of tertiary capacity, and approximately 65 AF of storage would be constructed by Member Agencies on an individual basis (see **Chart 3.14-1**).

Under future baseline (2020) conditions, scenic vistas within the region are anticipated to be similar to existing conditions and in accordance with anticipated development allowed under the approved General Plans within the region. A discussion of individual Member Agencies is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

No recycled water projects are anticipated in the LGVSD service area; therefore no impacts on scenic highways are expected.

Novato SD/NMWD

The *City of Novato General Plan* establishes Atherton Avenue as a locally-defined scenic route. The pipeline corridor would extend for less than a mile along Atherton Avenue, and would impact the scenic views experienced by roadway users. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation, as construction would last for a short duration and the roadway and vegetation would be reestablished.

SVCS

Alignment 1A, proposed under the SVRWP, would include pipeline along Highway 116, between Arnold Drive and Highway 12, and along County designated scenic corridors on Arnold Drive, Highway 116 and Highway 12. As discussed in the SVRWP EIR (ESA, 2006) construction activities, after mitigation, would not detract from the visual quality of the areas. Further, the pipelines would be buried underground; therefore, there would be a less than significant impact to scenic highways.

There are no scenic highways in the vicinity of the proposed Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Pipeline or the Alternative Route; therefore, there is no impact to scenic highways associated with this component.

Napa SD

No recycled water projects are anticipated in the Napa SD service area, therefore no impacts to scenic highways are expected.

Phase 1 (Project level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline Phase 1 projects would provide 46 miles of new pipeline, 1,655 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 6.4 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 65 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Phase 1 projects would provide 28 miles of new pipeline, 743 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 5.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and no additional storage.

The impacts to scenic roadways under Phase 1 would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the No Action Alternative, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

There are no Caltrans designated scenic highways in the LGVSD service area; therefore, there would be no impact.

Novato SD/NMWD

In the Novato SD service area, there are no Caltrans designated scenic highways, however portions of U.S. Highway 101 and State Route 37 are eligible for designation. The City of Novato has also designated areas of Atherton Avenue and Novato Boulevard as locally-important scenic routes (see Table 3.14-1). Under Phase 1, the NBWRP would have no impact on the scenic areas of State Route 37 or Novato Boulevard. The proposed pipeline would cross the eligible portion of U.S. Highway 101 at Olive Avenue and at two places south of Rowland Boulevard. At these crossings, the project would not detract from the visual quality of the areas, and pipelines would be buried underground; therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

The pipeline would also traverse along Atherton Avenue, at the intersection of Atherton Avenue and Olive Street. Although U.S. Highway 101 and Atherton Avenue are not designated by Caltrans as scenic highways, they are established by the City of Novato as locally-defined scenic routes; therefore there would be an impact to scenic highways. Following construction, measures including roadway repaving and landscaping would restore the disturbed area, resulting in a less-than-significant temporary impact with mitigation (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** and **3.14.1c**). The pipelines would be buried; therefore, there would be no long-term impacts to these scenic corridors.

Installation of the booster pump station adjacent to Atherton Avenue could permanently affect views experienced by roadway users. However, the architecture of the pump station housing would be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment, and landscaping around the structure and revegetation along the distribution connection would minimize the appearance of the constructed area. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.1b** would reduce the effects of the booster pump station on aesthetic resources to a less-than-significant impact.

The pipeline proposed under the No Action Alternative is also proposed under Phase 1. Phase 1 represents an incremental increase in impacts to scenic highways because it also proposes a booster pump station, which would impact scenic highways.

SVCS

NBWRP components would not directly affect Caltrans designated scenic highways, including Valley of the Moon Highway or portions of State Route 116, because project facilities do not cross or run adjacent to these roadways (see Table 3.14-2). Portions of the proposed pipeline could affect scenic resources adjacent to County-designated scenic routes. In general the level of impact is equivalent under both the No Action Alternative and Phase 1.

Napa SD

Under Phase 1, installation of the 17.5 miles of pipeline would occur predominantly along existing roadways. Napa County has designated a series of roadways as locally-defined scenic routes, as described above in Table 3.14-3. Pipeline corridors do not directly overlap these Scenic Highway areas, so there would be no impact to scenic highway resources.

Alternative 1: Basic System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Basic System projects would provide 83 miles of new pipeline, 2,158 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 1,020 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Basic System would provide 65 miles of new pipeline, 1,246 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 955 AF of storage.

The impacts to scenic roadways under the Basic System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for Phase 1, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVS/NMWD

There are no Caltrans-designated scenic highways in the LGVS service area; therefore, there is no impact.

Novato SD/NMWD

Under the Basic System, pipelines are proposed along a portion of State Route 37, which is eligible for designation as a Caltrans Scenic Highway, and along small portions of Novato Boulevard. Views of open space and agricultural land are experienced by roadway users. These views would be temporarily disrupted during short-term construction activities. However, following construction, measures including roadway repaving and landscaping would restore the disturbed area, resulting in a less than significant temporary impact with mitigation (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** and **3.14.1c**). The pipelines would be buried; therefore, there would be no long-term impacts to these scenic corridors.

Implementation of the Basic System would affect Atherton Avenue in addition to Novato Boulevard, therefore the impacts from the Basic System would be incremental as compared to Phase 1 and the No Action Alternative.

SVCS D

An extension of the pipeline corridor along Arnold Drive is proposed under the Basic System. Portions of State Route 121/ Arnold Drive are eligible for Caltrans Scenic Highway designation. The proposed pipeline would occur along Highway 116, between Arnold Drive and Highway 12, and along County-designated scenic corridors on Arnold Drive, Highway 116 and Highway 12. In the city of Sonoma, pipeline corridors would traverse along Broadway, through the intersection of Broadway/ Leveroni Road/ Napa Road. The Broadway intersection has been established by the City as a locally-defined gateway to the city. Impacts to views and disruption of streetscaping on Broadway would be temporary during the construction period. Following construction, measures including roadway repaving and landscaping would restore the disturbed area, resulting in a less than significant temporary impact with mitigation (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** and **3.14.1c**). Due to the nature of the proposed pipelines, which would be buried underground, the project would not detract from the permanent visual quality of the scenic highways. Due to the nature of pipelines, these views would be temporarily disrupted during short-term construction activities. Following construction, measures including roadway repaving and landscaping would restore the disturbed area, resulting in a less than significant temporary impact with mitigation (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** and **3.14.1c**). The pipelines would be buried; therefore, there would be no long-term impacts to these scenic corridors (see Impact 3.14.4).

Additional project components, including recycled water pipelines, are proposed under the Basic System, which would affect eligible scenic routes in Sonoma County; therefore, there is an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the SVCS D service area under the Basic System compared to the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

Under the Basic System, the proposed pipeline corridor would not overlap or run adjacent to Caltrans designated Scenic Highway segments along State Routes 29 and 121 near Napa; therefore there is no impact to scenic highway resources. Installation of the pipeline would occur predominantly along existing roadways. The level of impact is the same as that discussed for the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 2: Partially Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Partially Connected System would provide 139 miles of new pipeline, 3,454 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Partially Connected System would provide 122 miles of new pipeline, 2,542 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.4 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The impacts to scenic roadways under the Partially Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Basic System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

Novato South Service Area-Hamilton Field.

The pipeline route would cross under State Route 37, which is eligible for Caltrans Scenic Highway designation, near the onramp from U.S. Highway 101. The construction activities would most likely not be visible from the highway, and the project would not detract from the visual quality of the areas; therefore, views of open space from the roadway at this crossing point would not be affected. The pipelines would be buried, therefore, there are no long-term adverse impacts from facility operation to scenic highways. There would be an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the LGVSD service area under the Partially Connected System compared to the No Action Alternative.

Novato SD/NMWD

Under the Partially Connected System, pipelines would be installed along Novato Boulevard, which has been identified by the City of Novato as a locally-important scenic route. Impacts to views from this roadway would be temporarily affected during a short-term construction period. However following construction, Novato Boulevard would be repaved and landscaped to restore disturbed areas; therefore the impact would be less than significant with implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.1a** and **3.14.1c**. The pipelines would be buried, therefore, there are no long-term adverse impacts from facility operation to scenic highways.

There would be an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the Novato SD service area under the Partially Connected System compared to the No Action Alternative.

SVCS

Under the Partially Connected System, extended service to the Sears Point area would require additional pipeline along State Route 37, which is eligible for Caltrans scenic highway designation. A pipeline would also be extended approximately 6 miles south along State Route 121/Arnold Drive, which is also eligible for Caltrans Scenic Highway designation. Views of open space, agricultural land, and some wetland areas from these roadways would be temporarily disrupted during the short-term construction period. The impact would be similar to that discussed under Novato SD and would be less than significant with mitigation.

There would be an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the SVCS service area under the Partially Connected System compared to the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

Under the Partially Connected System, an additional 1.75 mile-pipeline would extend east from the Napa SD WWTP into the Carneros area. Views of open space, agricultural land, and some wetland areas are visible from these roadways. The project is not anticipated to detract from the visual quality of the areas, and pipelines would be buried underground; therefore, there is a less than significant impact to scenic highways.

There would be an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the SVCSD service area under the Partially Connected System compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 3: Fully Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Fully Connected System would provide 153 miles of new pipeline, 5,021 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Fully Connected System would provide 135 miles of new pipeline, 3,907 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The impacts to scenic vistas under the Fully Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Partially Connected System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

There are no additional project facilities proposed under the Fully Connected System, therefore, there are no impacts to scenic corridors. Similar to the Partially Connected System, there would be an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the LGVSD service area compared to the No Action Alternative.

Novato SD/NMWD

There are no additional project facilities proposed under the Fully Connected System that were not identified under the Partially Connected System. No additional impact is expected. Similar to the Partially Connected System, there would be an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the Novato SD service area compared to the No Action Alternative.

SVCSD

Under the Fully Connected System, an approximately 2.5-mile pipeline would connect the pipeline along Arnold Drive to the pipeline at Sears Point and would cross State Route 37. Views of open space and wetlands would be temporarily disrupted during the short-term construction period. The pipeline corridor would run adjacent to sections of State Route 12 and State Route 121 (Arnold Drive), where it is eligible for the scenic highway designation. The pipeline would traverse one mile north along Arnold Drive, through Eldridge to Madrone Road, and one mile along State Route 12 north of Agua Caliente. Similar to the impact discussed under the Partially Connected System, the impact would be less than significant with mitigation for the additional pipelines discussed.

Additional recycled water pipelines, are proposed under the Partially Alternative would affect eligible scenic routes in Sonoma County; therefore, there is an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the SVCSD service area under the Fully Connected System compared to the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

There are no additional project facilities proposed under the Fully Connected System, therefore, there are no impacts to scenic corridors. Similar to the Partially Connected System, there would be an incremental increase in adverse impacts to scenic highways in the Napa SD service area compared to the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation Measures

The appropriate Member Agency will implement the following measures:

Mitigation Measure 3.14.1a

Mitigation Measure 3.14.1b

Impact Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 3.14.3: Source of Light or Glare. NBWRP components could introduce new sources of light and glare on the project sites. (Less than Significant with Mitigation)

Exterior lighting would be installed around the constructed water storage reservoirs, distribution pump stations, storage tanks, and booster pump stations. Exterior lighting could adversely affect day and nighttime views by introducing a new source of light and glare. The lighting would be used for security purposes only and would be timed. If nighttime construction is required, nighttime lighting at construction sites would contribute to ambient light. Also, building materials for new facilities could be reflective, and contribute to additional glare from constructed facilities. Implementation of the identified mitigation measures would reduce potentially significant lighting and glare impacts to a less-than-significant level. There would be no long-term lighting installed for the pipelines, therefore is not discussed further.

No Project Alternative

The NBWRP would not be implemented under the No Project Alternative, therefore no impact is expected. For a discussion of the No Project under future conditions, see No Action Alternative below.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, which includes consideration of future conditions, it is likely that a subset of water recycling projects would be implemented by the Member Agencies on an individual basis, without the benefit of regional coordination or federal funding.

For comparison to the Action Alternatives, it is estimated that approximately 17.5 miles of new pipeline, 912 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 0.5 mgd of tertiary capacity, and approximately 65 AF of storage would be constructed by Member Agencies on an individual basis (see **Chart 3.14-1**).

Under future baseline (2020) conditions, aesthetics within the region are anticipated to be similar to existing conditions in accordance with anticipated development allowed under the approved General Plans within the region. A discussion of individual Member Agencies is provided below.

There could be lighting installed associated with some of the storage and pump station facilities as part of the recycled water projects that would be implemented under the No Action Alternative. Increased lighting and glare could affect visual resources.

LGVSD/NMWD

No recycled water projects are anticipated in the LGVSD service area, therefore no impacts from light and glare are expected.

Novato SD/NMWD, SVCSD

There would be no exterior lighting associated with the proposed pump stations and storage reservoirs, therefore no impact is expected.

Napa SD

No recycled water projects are anticipated in the Napa SD service area, therefore no impacts from light and glare are expected.

Phase 1 (Project level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, Phase 1 projects would provide 46 miles of new pipeline, 1,655 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 6.4 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 65 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Phase 1 projects would provide 28 miles of new pipeline, 743 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 5.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and no additional storage.

The impacts from new sources of light and glare under Phase 1 would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the No Action Alternative, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

Under Phase 1, impacts from long term security lighting for the proposed pump station could be significant. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.3a and 3.13.3b** would reduce the impact to less than significant.

Novato SD/NMWD

Expansion of tertiary treatment capacity at the Novato SD WWTP would not result in impacts from lighting and glare to aesthetics because the WWTP currently uses emergency and operational lighting for existing facilities. Modification of the existing plant may involve additional lights, but the overall effect from lighting would remain the same.

Installation of the proposed booster pump station near the intersection of Atherton Avenue and Olive Avenue would potentially require nighttime construction lighting and exterior lighting, which could result in long-term impacts to aesthetic and scenic resources. The proposed site is currently undeveloped, but it is adjacent to existing residences. Exterior lighting for the booster pump station could be visible from nearby residences as well as from receptors on the nearby ridge areas. Implementing timed-lighting and orienting lights downward would reduce significant lighting impacts to a less than significant level (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.1c, 3.14.3a, 3.14.3b**). Therefore, the exterior lighting at the booster pump station would not substantially increase ambient light in the action area.

SVCS D

Lighting could be installed for the proposed booster pump station for the portion of Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project under the No Action Alternative. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.3a** and **3.14.3b** would reduce potential construction-related lighting impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The new pump station proposed would be located at the existing SVCS D WWTP. Emergency and operational lighting, and building materials would be consistent with existing facilities, therefore impacts from lighting and glare would be less than significant.

Napa SD

Four new booster pump stations would be constructed on sites along North 3rd Avenue, East 3rd Avenue, and Coombsville Road (Wild Horse Valley Road), and Imola Road. The sites are surrounded mainly by viticulture, and several low density detached single-family homes. Views from the residences would potentially be affected by the additional lighting. With implementation of mitigation measures addressing design, landscape screens, and lighting features (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.1c, 3.14.3b, 3.14.3c**), the impact would be less-than-significant. The proposed booster pump site along Imola Drive is situated on a flat, undeveloped parcel that is surrounded by undeveloped parcels, a commercial center, and bound by the roadway. There are several residences set back from Imola Drive on the side opposite of the proposed site. Based on the surrounding land uses, the additional security and operational lighting would not impact views in this area.

Alternative 1: Basic System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Basic System projects would provide 83 miles of new pipeline, 2,158 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 1,020 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Basic System would provide 65 miles of new pipeline, 1,246 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 955 AF of storage.

The impacts from new sources of light and glare under the Basic System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for Phase 1, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

There would be no additional impacts from lighting and glare to aesthetics other than the impacts associated with the implementation of Phase 1.

Novato SD/NMWD

WWTP improvements and utilization of existing storage tanks would rely on existing light at the facilities, and would not increase lighting and glare; therefore the Basic System would not adversely affect visual resources.

Reoperation of existing storage tanks may require installation of new security or emergency lighting. The Main Gate Road/ Hangar Avenue Tank is situated on top of a hill overlooking open space and state access land to the north, and a residential development to the south, so lighting and glare effects would not be easily visible. Similarly, the existing storage tank near Olive Drive is situated in a shallow valley between two low hills to the north of Zandra Place. It is mostly surrounded by trees, and there is only one residence that would potentially be affected by additional emergency lighting at this facility. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.3a and 3.14.3b** would reduce the impact to less-than-significant level.

SVCS

There would be no additional impacts from lighting and glare to aesthetics other than the impacts associated with the implementation of Phase 1.

Napa SD

There are no anticipated impacts on aesthetics from lighting and glare other than those previously discussed under Phase 1, as additional components proposed under the Basic System will be located at the existing WWTP. Therefore, the Basic System represents an incremental increase in adverse impacts to ambient light compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 2: Partially Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Partially Connected System would provide 139 miles of new pipeline, 3,454 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Partially Connected System would provide 122 miles of new pipeline, 2,542 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.4 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The impacts from new sources of light and glare under the Partially Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Basic System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

Reoperation of existing storage tanks under the Partially Connected System may require installation of new security or emergency lighting. The Peacock Gap Storage Tank is situated in open space at

the foot of a hill between Biscayne Road and San Pedro Road. Approximately three residences along Partridge Drive are in the same viewshed, but lighting and glare effects would not be easily visible. Effects from lighting and glare on scenic views would be less than significant.

There would be no anticipated impacts to ambient light under the No Action Alternative, therefore exterior lighting as part of the Partially Connected System would have a greater impact than the No Action Alternative in the LGVSD service area.

Novato SD/NMWD

Impacts from reoperation of an existing storage tank under the Partially Connected System would be similar to that discussed under LGVSD. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.14.3b** would ensure a less-than-significant impact.

In general, the level of impact to ambient light is similar under the Basic System. If nighttime construction is required for NBWRP construction, there will be an incremental increase in ambient light compared to the No Action Alternative.

SVCS

The impacts would be similar to those discussed under the Basic System and would be incrementally greater than those discussed under the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

Under the Partially Connected System, emergency and security lighting may be used during operation of a new storage reservoir would reduce dark-sky effects and potentially affect residential views. Similarly, there is potential for the structure itself to be constructed of bright or reflective material. Implementing structural design features, screening and lighting mitigation (**Mitigation Measures 3.14.3b** and **3.14.1c**) would reduce the impacts from lighting and glare to a less than significant level.

The Partially Connected System represents an incremental increase in ambient light compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 3: Fully Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Fully Connected System would provide 153 miles of new pipeline, 5,021 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Fully Connected System would provide 135 miles of new pipeline, 3,907 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The impacts from new sources of light and glare under the Fully Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Partially Connected System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD, Novato SD/NMWD, and Napa SD

No additional construction is proposed under the Fully Connected Alternative. Therefore, there will be no additional effect from construction lighting or emergency lighting on ambient light.

Implementation of the Fully Connected Alternative, which includes components under the Partially Connected System, would represent an incremental increase in impacts to ambient light, compared to the No Action Alternative.

SVCS

Under the Fully Connected System, there would be no new sources of lighting installed for any new project facilities, therefore no impact is expected. The Fully Connected System, which includes components under the Partially Connected System and additional pipeline, represents an incremental increase in ambient light.

Mitigation Measures

The appropriate Member Agency will implement the following measures:

Mitigation Measure 3.14.1c

Mitigation Measure 3.14.3a: The exterior lighting installed around the operational and capacity storage reservoirs, distribution pump station, storage tanks, and booster pump station shall be of a minimum standard required to ensure safe visibility. Lighting also shall be shielded and directed downward to minimize impacts of light and glare.

Measure 3.14.3b: All exterior lighting is directed downward and oriented to insure that limited light source is directly visible from neighboring residential areas. If necessary, landscaping would be provided around proposed facilities. The vegetation would be selected, placed, and maintained to minimize off-site light and glare onto surrounding areas.

Impact Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 3.14.4: Long-term impact to aesthetic character. Development of the proposed facilities, particularly pump stations and storage reservoirs, would permanently alter the aesthetic character of the action area. (Less than Significant with Mitigation)

Construction of facilities on graded or undeveloped areas would change the landscape by introducing a new structure above the grade or the skyline. Facilities that would be constructed above-grade include pump stations and new storage reservoirs. In some cases, the pump stations and reservoirs would be located near sensitive receptors or roadways, however views may be buffered by street trees, minimized by property setbacks, or limited by topography. In areas where the structures would significantly alter views, mitigation would be required. Adverse effects specific to certain proposed components are described in the subsections below.

No Project Alternative

No project components would be implemented under the No Project Alternative. No impact would occur. For a discussion of the No Project under future conditions, see No Action Alternative below.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, which includes consideration of future conditions, it is likely that a subset of water recycling projects would be implemented by the Member Agencies on an individual basis, without the benefit of regional coordination or federal funding.

For comparison to the Action Alternatives, it is estimated that approximately 17.5 miles of new pipeline, 912 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 0.5 mgd of tertiary capacity, and approximately 65 AF of storage would be constructed by Member Agencies on an individual basis (see **Chart 3.14-1, No Action**).

Under future baseline (2020) conditions, aesthetic character of the region is anticipated to be similar to existing conditions in accordance with anticipated development allowed under the approved General Plans within the region. A discussion of individual Member Agencies is provided below.

Under the No Action Alternative, permanent changes to landscape units could occur, therefore affecting the long-term visual character of the action area. Projects that are reasonably anticipated to occur under the No Action Alternative include increased distribution facilities in the Novato SD service area, SVRWP Alignment 1A pipeline and Napa Salt Marsh pipeline in the SVCSD service area.

LGVSD/ NMWD

No recycled water projects are anticipated in the LGVSD service area, therefore no permanent impacts to visual character would occur.

Novato SD/ NMWD

The No Action Alternative would not involve any long term aboveground features that would permanently alter the aesthetic character of the area. No impact would occur.

SVCSD

The No Action Alternative would include construction of a pump station at the SVCSD WWTP, which is an existing developed property. The pump station would be installed within the footprint of the existing WWTP, and would be generally consistent with the existing landscape. The impact would be less than significant.

The SVWRP Alignment 1A pipeline and the SVCSD Napa Salt Pond Pipeline would not permanently affect visual resources because pipelines would be buried underground, and disturbed areas would be restored after construction.

Napa SD

No recycled water projects are anticipated in the Napa SD service area, therefore no permanent impacts to visual character would occur.

Phase 1 (Project level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, Phase 1 projects would provide 46 miles of new pipeline, 1,655 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 6.4 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 65 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Phase 1 projects would provide 28 miles of new pipeline, 743 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 5.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and no additional storage.

The long-term impacts to aesthetics under Phase 1 would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the No Action Alternative, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

There are no storage facilities or other structures proposed under Phase 1 that would permanently alter the visual character of the area. No impact is expected. The facilities proposed under Phase 1 would have the same level of impact as compared to the No Action Alternative.

Novato SD/NMWD

North Novato Service Area. Modification of the tertiary treatment capacity and construction of a one new booster pump station would not alter the general existing visual character of the WWTP. An additional pump station is proposed near the intersection of Atherton Avenue and Olive Avenue on an undeveloped parcel bordered by H Lane and single-family residences. Installation of the proposed booster pump station could result in long-term impacts to aesthetic and scenic resources by introducing a new structure to the landscape. The booster pump station would extend up to 15 to 20 feet above grade. The views of the pump station from residences on the east and west sides of H lane would be buffered by trees. It would most likely not be visible to vehicular traffic from Atherton Avenue. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.4a** and **3.13.4b** will mitigate impacts to the permanent visual character of the area to a less than significant level.

Central Novato Service Area. Under Phase 1, construction of a booster pump station would have an impact to aesthetics. The level of impact to the visual character of the area would be similar to the impact discussed above, and would be incrementally greater than the level of impact discussed above No Action Alternative.

SVCS

Additional storage and an additional pumping station are proposed at the existing WWTP. The WWTP is visible from 8th Street and Schellville Road. Land surrounding the WWTP is flat open and undeveloped land, vineyard, and commercial land. While the pond would be in the ground and only visible from proximate vantage points, the pump station would be above grade,

introducing a new, contrasting object to the landscape. Construction of another storage pond and pumping station would alter the appearance of the WWTP, however would be generally consistent with the existing visual character of the site. Addition of the pond and pump station would not significantly impact the existing visual resources or the permanent visual character of the action area. Furthermore, incorporation of screening and vegetation measures would continue to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Thus, Phase 1 includes Alignment 1A, and additional structures, which would have a permanent impact on the long-term visual character of the area; therefore, long-term effects on the permanent character of the landscape would be incrementally greater under Phase 1 compared to the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

Phase 1 requires the installation of four new booster pump stations on North 3rd Avenue, East 3rd Avenue, Coombsville Road (Wild Horse Valley Road), and Imola Avenue. The areas along North 3rd Avenue, East 3rd Avenue, Coombsville Road/ Wild Horse Valley Road contain primarily low density rural residential and agricultural land uses.

The precise location of the North 3rd Street Pump Station is undefined, but in general, the area is characterized by vineyard and low density residential land uses, and a minimum number of sensitive receptors are present. North 3rd Avenue is bordered to the west by street trees, which would obstruct views of the pump station by nearby residents. The physical structure would affect the aesthetic character of the adjacent vineyard. Potential sensitive residential receptors along East 3rd Avenue are set back at a considerable distance from the road and are surrounded by trees and open space. The precise location of this pump station is undetermined, but in general, it would be built on relatively flat, open terrain in a low density residential and agricultural neighborhood. There are approximately five residential or visitor-serving buildings in the adjacent area. Coombsville Road/ Wild Horse Valley Road is bordered by street trees, and the pump station would be setback from the road, therefore the pump station would not be readily visible from the road. There are two agricultural and community buildings adjacent to the undeveloped parcel where the pump station may be located that would be affected by the introduction of a new public utility structure. A new booster pump station situated in the flat, undeveloped area bordering Imola Avenue would be visible from Imola Avenue, Penny Lane, and approximately four sensitive residential receptors. It would also be visible from the parking lot connected to the commercial center on Walnut Court, however would coincide with the existing visual character of this commercial structure. Since the NBWRP would introduce new above-grade structures that will alter the physical character and scenic views of the area, there would be a significant impact to visual resources. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.4a** and **3.14.4b** would minimize the effects of the facilities on the surrounding viewshed and reduce the contrast between visual resources to a less than significant level.

The impact to the visual character of the area is incrementally greater under Phase 1 compared to the No Action Alternative because three additional pump stations are proposed.

Alternative 1: Basic System

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Basic System projects would provide 83 miles of new pipeline, 2,158 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 1,020 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), Basic System would provide 65 miles of new pipeline, 1,246 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 7.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 955 AF of storage.

The long-term impacts to aesthetics under the Basic System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for Phase 1, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD

There would be no additional permanent impacts to the visual character of the LGVSD service area under the Basic System as compared to Phase 1.

Novato SD/NMWD

The Phase 1 analysis discussed the potential permanent impacts to the visual character of the Novato SD area. Under the Basic System, there are no additional impacts to visual resources that were not discussed in the Phase 1 analysis, because the Basic System addition consists of modification and utilization of existing facilities.

Improvements at the WWTP site would slightly alter the existing appearance of the WWTP, but the general visual character of the plant would remain. There would be no long-term impacts to aesthetic resources due to the continued operation of the existing WWTP because the WWTP is an existing physical feature.

Utilization of existing storage tanks would not induce long-term impacts to visual resources because they are existing units of the landscape.

Re-operation of the existing storage tanks would not require new construction. The activities required to refurbish the storage tanks would not disturb the character of the hillside area, which is surrounded by open space and parkland. Therefore, permanent impacts to the visual character of the action area would be less than significant.

The Basic System would include the booster pump previously discussed in Phase 1; therefore, the level of impact to the visual character of the area would be incrementally greater under the Basic Alternative than the level of impact anticipated under the No Action Alternative.

SVCS

There would be no additional permanent impacts to the visual character of the SVCS service area under the Basic Alternative compared to Phase 1. The facilities, including Alignment 1 and additional pipeline and structures, are anticipated to have a permanent impact on the long-term visual character of the area; therefore, long-term effects on the permanent character of the landscape would be similar to those under the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

Improvements at the WWTP site would slightly alter the existing appearance of the WWTP, but the general visual character of the area would remain. Therefore, there would be no permanent impacts to the visual character of the action area.

Operational reconfiguration of the existing storage WWTP ponds would not alter the existing appearance of the ponds, and the general visual character of the pond area would remain. Therefore, there would be no impact.

The permanent impact to aesthetics would be incrementally greater under the Basic System, which includes Phase 1, as compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 2: Partially Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Partially Connected System would provide 139 miles of new pipeline, 3,454 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.9 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Partially Connected System would provide 122 miles of new pipeline, 2,542 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 15.4 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The long-term aesthetics impacts under the Partially Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Basic System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/MMWD

The Partially Connected System would involve use of additional conveyance capacity in the existing MMWD recycled water distribution system, and rehabilitation of an existing water reservoir near Peacock Gap Golf Course and would not result in permanent impacts to visual resources. The re-operation of existing water reservoirs would not introduce any new structures to the landscape.

The Partially Connected System, which includes components proposed under the Basic System, and the No Action Alternative would have the same level of impact long-term character of visual resources.

Novato SD/MMWD

The components proposed under the Partially Connected System will have no additional impacts to the permanent visual character of the area that were not previously discussed as part of the Basic System. Utilization of existing facilities would not introduce new structures to the landscape.

The level of impact to the visual character of the area would be incrementally greater under the Partially Connected System than the level of impact anticipated under the No Action Alternative based on incremental effects discussed under Phase 1 and the Basic Alternative.

SVCS D

In addition to the permanent impacts to the visual character of the action area discussed under the Basic System, components of the Partially Connected System could induce incremental impacts to visual resources. Extension of service to the Southern Sonoma Valley service area and Sear's Point area would a new recycled water storage pond near SVCS D WWTP and in the Carneros West area.

The SVCS D WWTP is an existing public utility that is surrounded primarily by viticultural land uses and some undeveloped parcels. The precise location for the storage pond is undetermined, but is will likely be located adjacent to the WWTP on flat, undeveloped land. The pond would be delineated by berms which would alter the existing view of the immediate areas. In general, the pond would be consistent with existing views associated with the WWTP, further implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.4a** and **3.14.4b** would minimize the contrast between the berms and surrounding fields, and reduce the permanent effect on the visual character of the area to a less than significant level.

The long-term effects from the Partially Connected System on the permanent character of the landscape would be incrementally greater under the Basic System, as compared to the No Action Alternative.

Napa SD

In addition to the components described under the Basic System, the Partially Connected System would include service to expanded MST, Napa, and Carneros East areas, construction of a new storage reservoir, and reconfiguration of existing WWTP ponds. The new storage reservoir is proposed within the MST area, which contains primarily agricultural and partially residential land uses. Since the precise location of the storage reservoir is undetermined, it is reasonable to assume that since the storage reservoir would be an above-grade facility and could affect the visual landscape. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 3.14.4a** and **3.14.4b** would reduce the impact to less-than-significant levels.

The existing WWTP ponds would be reconfigured to provide recycled water storage. Operational reconfiguration of the ponds would not change the appearance of the immediate area, and would be consistent with the existing visual characteristic of the WWTP; therefore there would be no impact to the visual character.

There would be no long-term impacts to aesthetic resources due to operation of the recycled water pipelines. All pipelines would be buried except for pipelines suspended beneath bridge crossings. Pipelines would not impair or obstruct any scenic resources.

In general, permanent impacts to the aesthetic character of the SVCS D service area under the Partially Connected System, which builds on the Basic System, are less than significant after mitigation. Implementation of the Partially Connected Alternative represents and incremental increase in permanent impacts to the visual character of the area compared to the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 3: Fully Connected System (Program level)

Compared to the CEQA Baseline, the Fully Connected System would provide 153 miles of new pipeline, 5,021 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.8 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,220 AF of storage. Compared to the No Action Alternative (NEPA Baseline), the Fully Connected System would provide 135 miles of new pipeline, 3,907 HP of pumping capacity, treatment facilities providing 20.3 mgd of tertiary capacity, and 2,155 AF of storage.

The long-term aesthetics impacts under the Fully Connected System would be equivalent to and greater than the impacts discussed for the Partially Connected System, in proportion to the facilities constructed under this alternative. A discussion of impacts by Member Agency is provided below.

LGVSD/NMWD, Novato SD/NMWD, SVCSD, Napa SD

The impacts associated with the Fully Connected System would be equivalent to the impacts discussed for Partially Connected System above in addition to the following impacts. There are no additional proposed aboveground structures, such as storage tanks or pump stations proposed under the Fully Connected Alternative that have not been discussed in the Partially Connected System analysis.

Since the Fully Connected Alternative includes the components proposed under Phase 1, the Basic Alternative, and the Partially Connected Alternative, the Fully Connected System would have an incrementally greater impact to the permanent visual character of the area compared to the No Action Alternative, even though they contain some similar elements.

Mitigation Measures

The appropriate Member Agency will implement the following measures:

Mitigation Measure 3.14.4a: After construction of any facility that is above grade and visible to sensitive receptors, visual screening and vegetation measures will be implemented to reduce impacts to scenic views. Trees or other suitable vegetation along the fenceline of the facility should be incorporated to reduce the industrial appearance of the structures. Similarly, berms for new storage ponds or pond reconfiguration will be re-vegetated to reduce the barren appearance of the berms.

Mitigation Measure 3.14.4b: Dark colored, non-reflective building materials should be used for project components that cause potentially significant impact from glare to visual resources.

Impact Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

3.14.4 Impact Summary by Service Area

Table 3.14-4 provides a summary of potential aesthetic impacts associated with implementation of the NBWRP.

**TABLE 3.14-4
POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND SIGNIFICANCE – AESTHETICS**

Proposed Action	Impact by Member Agency Service Areas			
	LGVSD/ NMWD	Novato SD/ NMWD	SVCSD	Napa SD/ Napa County
Impact 3.14.1: Temporary impact to scenic vistas.				
No Project Alternative	NI	NI	NI	NI
No Action Alternative	NI	LSM	LSM	LSM
Phase 1	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 1: Basic System	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 2: Partially Connected System	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 3: Fully Connected System	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Impact 3.14.2: Impact to Scenic Corridors.				
No Project Alternative	NI	NI	NI	NI
No Action Alternative	NI	LSM	LSM	NI
Phase 1	NI	LSM	LSM	NI
Alternative 1: Basic System	NI	LSM	LSM	NI
Alternative 2: Partially Connected System	LTS	LSM	LSM	LTS
Alternative 3: Fully Connected System	LTS	LSM	LSM	LTS
Impact 3.14.3: Impact from new sources of light.				
No Project Alternative	NI	NI	NI	NI
No Action Alternative	NI	NI	NI	LSM
Phase 1	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 1: Basic System	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 2: Partially Connected System	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 3: Fully Connected System	LSM	LSM	LSM	LSM
Impact 3.14.4: Permanent impact to visual character.				
No Project Alternative	NI	NI	NI	NI
No Action Alternative	NI	LTS	LTS	LSM
Phase 1	NI	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 1: Basic System	NI	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 2: Partially Connected System	NI	LSM	LSM	LSM
Alternative 3: Fully Connected System	LTS	LSM	LSM	LSM

NI = No Impact

LTS = Less than Significant impact, no mitigation required

LSM = Less than Significant with Mitigation

3.14.5 References

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