

4.7 AESTHETICS, LIGHT, AND GLARE

Visual resources information in this section was compiled from site photographs and site surveys conducted by RBF Consulting personnel. Project impacts on the aesthetic character of the site from construction activities are analyzed and evaluated in relation to existing and surrounding site conditions. Consideration of public scenic views, introduction of new sources of light and glare, and compatibility of the proposed project with adjacent local aesthetic resources are included in this section. As the proposed Carbon Canyon Dam Sewer Pipeline would be subsurface, there are no anticipated long-term aesthetic impacts. Information in this section is compiled from the Preliminary Design Report (prepared by RBF Consulting in Appendix E).

EXISTING CONDITIONS

AESTHETICS

PROPOSED PIPELINE ALIGNMENT

An oil well, dense vegetation, an earthen dam, a Christmas tree farm, a blacktop access road, and a ridge dotted with scrub vegetation characterize the surface features of the alignment of the proposed underground pipeline.

SURROUNDING AREAS

Views of the pipeline alignment are visible from numerous areas surrounding the project site, including: the residential development at Rose Drive and Vesuvius Drive (located to the south of the alignment); Rose Drive (located to the west and south of the alignment); Carbon Canyon Dam (located to the east of the alignment); and limited locations in Carbon Canyon Regional Park (located to the north of the alignment). However, because topographical features and vegetation in many places obstruct the proposed alignment, views from the surrounding area are limited. For views of and from surrounding land uses, refer to Exhibit 3.0-6a, *Site Photographs* and Exhibit 3.0-6b, *Site Photographs*. The Puente Hills are located north and east of the project site and Carbon Canyon is located to the northeast of the project site; both can be characterized as high in aesthetic value.

LIGHT AND GLARE

PROPOSED PIPELINE ALIGNMENT

The current uses on-site produce virtually no light and glare, and there are no reflective surfaces along the proposed pipeline alignment.

SURROUNDING AREAS

Existing off-site sources of light and glare surrounding the proposed pipeline alignment are street lighting, automobile headlights, and nighttime security lighting. Rose Drive (a major arterial located west of the proposed pipeline alignment) and Carbon Canyon Road (SR-142) (a major arterial located north of the proposed pipeline alignment) produce light and glare as a result of heavy automobile traffic and street lighting.

IMPACTS

The significance of an aesthetic impact, in terms of this project, can be determined by examining anticipated project effects from a number of different vantage points, including construction-related visual disruption, observer position, and changes to the existing visual character of the area.

Significance thresholds in this section are based on the *CEQA Guidelines* (Appendix G Environmental Checklist Form) as indicated below.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

A potentially significant impact on aesthetics, light, and glare would occur if the project would:

- Affect a scenic vista;
- Substantially damage scenic resources in state scenic highway;
- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the project site and its surrounds; and/or
- Create adverse light or glare effects.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

WOULD THE PROJECT:

- (a) *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

Upon completion of construction, the sewer pipeline would be entirely below ground surface. Therefore, no significant long-term aesthetic impacts are anticipated on scenic vistas during project operation. The project proposes to provide vehicular access to the manholes for maintenance purposes in the segment of the alignment between the existing pump station and the beginning of the micro-tunnel section. The aggregate base access road would be limited to 15 feet in width and would not affect a scenic vista.

However, during the construction phase of the proposed project (which includes abandonment of existing facilities), construction equipment would be utilized for trenching, pipe installation, micro-tunneling and trench covering. Trenching and micro-tunneling operations would temporarily disturb surrounding vegetation, thus potentially creating a visual disturbance. Vegetated areas disturbed by pipeline construction activities would be rehabilitated following completion of construction. Rehabilitation activities would include replanting shrubs and plants removed for construction activities and reseeding areas with native vegetation.

- (b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? **No Impact.***

No state scenic highways exist within the project vicinity. No impacts are anticipated in this regard.

- (c) *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.***

Implementation of the proposed project would necessitate the removal of vegetation, which, if it could not be replaced, could degrade or otherwise change the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings during long-term operation. In addition, construction of project improvements may create temporary aesthetic nuisances; exposed surfaces, construction debris, equipment and truck traffic may temporarily impact views of the site. The access road along the alignment between the existing pump station and the micro-tunnel segment would alter the aesthetic character of the area without mitigation.

- (d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? **Less Than Significant Impact.***

Implementation of the proposed project would not require nighttime construction and on-site construction equipment would not create a substantial source of daytime light or glare. In addition, because the pipeline would be underground there would be no lighting or glare that would affect day or nighttime views in the area during long-term project operation. Impacts in this regard would not be significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

VISUAL CHARACTER

- ALG-1 Vegetated areas disturbed by pipeline construction activities shall be rehabilitated following completion of construction. Rehabilitation activities shall include replanting shrubs and plants that were removed for construction activities and reseeding areas with native vegetation.
- ALG-2 Native vegetation shall be designed by a landscape architect as approved by OCSD.

UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

None have been identified.