

3.10 Environmental Justice

This section discusses environmental justice issues pertaining to the proposed project. This section evaluates the potential for the proposed project to disproportionately affect minority and low-income populations. The analysis presented below focuses on the aboveground components of the proposed project, primarily the pump stations and storage reservoirs. The proposed pipeline would run underground throughout various communities in the Antelope Valley and would not have long-term effects on any one community. Data presented in this section were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 census files and 2006 American Community Survey.

3.10.1 Setting

Population

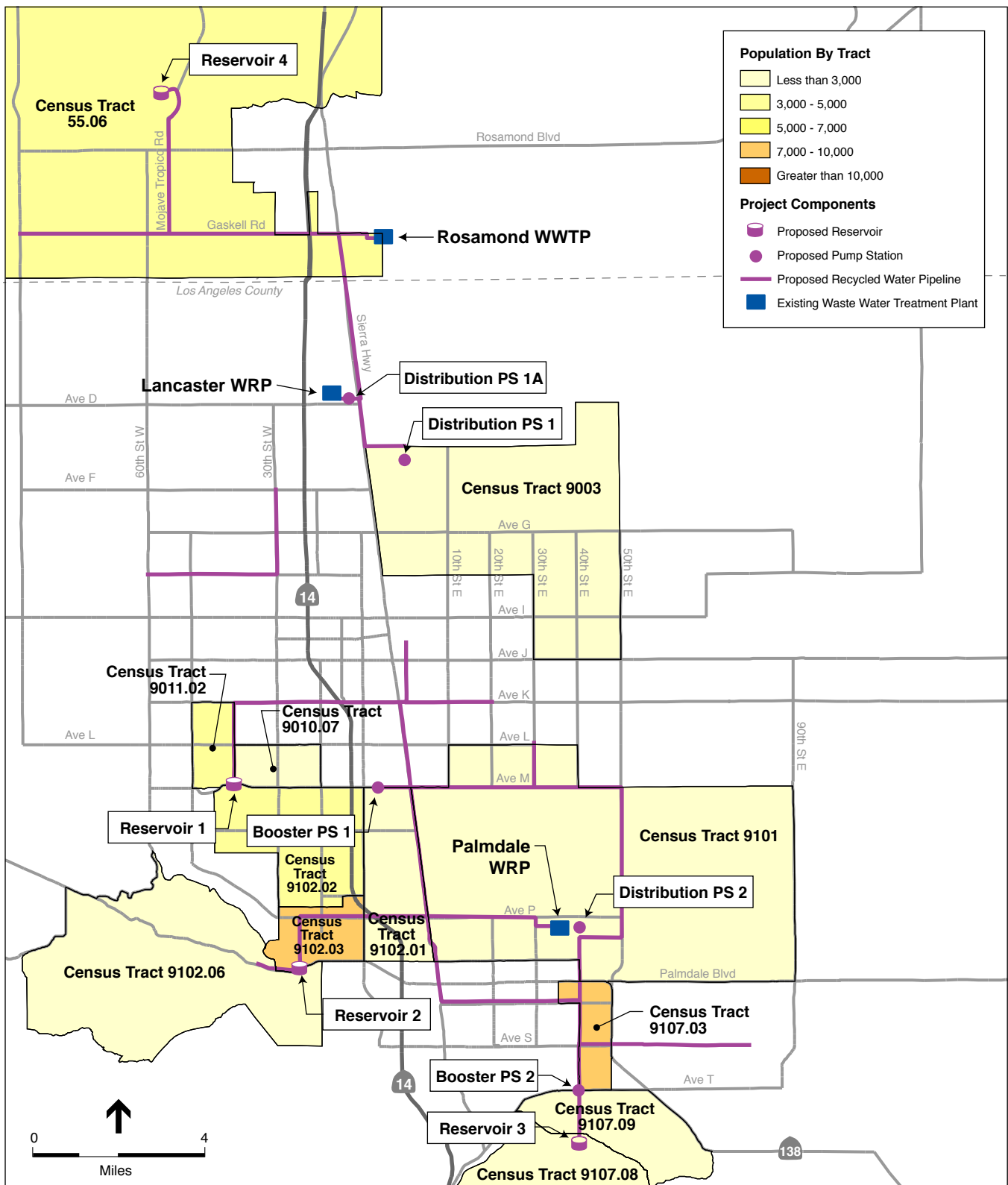
Los Angeles County has a population of 9,519,338 and Kern County has a population of 661,645. The proposed project is located in the Antelope Valley, which includes portions of northern Los Angeles County and southern Kern County and the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. Like much of northern Los Angeles County, the communities in the Antelope Valley have experienced rapid growth over the last several years.

The locations for the proposed pump stations and storage reservoirs are part of twelve different census tracts within Lancaster and Palmdale in Los Angeles County and the Town of Rosamond in Kern County. **Figure 3.10-1** shows all census tracts correlated with these proposed aboveground facilities.

Demographic

Rosamond and Lancaster are characterized by similar trends in the distribution of people among categories of race/ethnicity. In both communities, the largest category of race/ethnicity is White, followed by Hispanic and then Black/African American (**Table 3.10-1**). There is only one census tract in each of these cities affected by the proposed aboveground project components, as identified in Table 3-10.1. Census tract number 55.06 in Rosamond is almost identical in its distribution of race/ethnicity as the town itself. Census tract number 9003 in Lancaster, however, has an even greater percentage of people categorized as White (84%) relative to the city overall (46%).

In Palmdale, the most abundant race/ethnicity is Hispanic (47%), followed by White (30%) and then Black/African American (16%) (Table 3.10-1). There are ten census tracts in Palmdale affected by the proposed aboveground project components. In eight of the ten census tracts, the majority of the population is characterized as White, followed by Hispanic, which is a different trend relative to the city overall (Table 3-10.1). Of the remaining two census tracts, one (number 9101) is dominated by Hispanics (77%) and the other (number 9107.03) is characterized in equal percentages by Hispanics and Whites (39%), followed by Blacks/African Americans (15%).



SOURCE: Census Bureau, 2000.

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Figure 3.10-1
Census Tracts

**TABLE 3.10-1
 RACE/ETHNICITY BY CENSUS TRACT (percent of total population)**

Census Tract	White (Not Hispanic)	Hispanic	Black or African American	Other
Rosamond CDP^b	60	26	8	6
55.06	66	24	4	6
City of Lancaster	46	32	16	6
9003	84	10	4	2
City of Palmdale	30	47	16	7
9010.07	76	15	6	3
9011.02	74	17	4	5
9101	20	77	0 ^a	3
9102.01	53	35	5	7
9102.02	75	12	1	12
9102.03	51	29	11	9
9102.06	71	0	0	29
9107.03	39	39	15	7
9107.08	95	2	0	3
9107.09	65	33	1	1

^a Fraction of a percent, all other zeros denote none present.

^b Census Designated Place (CDP).

SOURCE: City data obtained from 2006 American Community Survey, CDP and Census Tract data obtained from 2000 Census Files

Income

In the City of Palmdale, the median household income is \$57,861 (**Table 3.10-2**). There is a wide range in the distribution of median household income among the census tracts affected by the proposed aboveground project components. The minimum median household income is \$26,905 in census tract number 9101, and the maximum median household income is \$77,160 in census tract number 9102.02.

In the City of Lancaster, the median household income is \$42,252; census tract number 9003 within the city has a median household income of \$30,603 (**Table 3.10-2**). In the Town of Rosamond, the median household income is \$42,307; the median household income for census tract number 55.06 is \$46,321, which is greater than the town overall (**Table 3.10-2**).

3.10.2 Regulatory Framework

Federal

CEQA-Plus procedures outlined in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) financing guidelines include compliance with Executive Order 12898, which outlines federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations.

**TABLE 3.10-2
 HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND POVERTY STATUS BY CENSUS TRACT**

Census Tract	Population	Median Household Income	Percent Below Poverty Level (individuals)
Rosamond CDP	14,349	\$42,307	14.1
55.06	4,878	\$46,321	15.8
City of Lancaster	139,079	\$42,252	24.9
9003	1,737	\$30,603	19.0
City of Palmdale	143,439	\$57,861	17.2
9010.07	1,781	\$62,135	6.6
9011.02	4,559	\$51,786	14.6
9101	1,450	\$26,905	21.1
9102.01	2,825	\$51,583	19.2
9102.02	3,211	\$77,160	3.4
9102.03	9,060	\$60,055	7.5
9102.06	171	\$75,503	0.0
9107.03	8,430	\$49,317	6.7
9107.08	505	\$48,846	19.2
9107.09	1,479	\$63,264	6.8

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, City data obtained from 2006 American Community Survey, CDP and Census Tract data obtained from 2000 Census Files

Executive Order 12898 states that agencies shall identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low income populations. A newly created working group was created to develop strategies for programs and policies, regarding minority and low-income populations, to promote enforcement of all health and environmental statutes, improve research and data collection in relation to health and environment, identify different patterns of consumption of natural resources, and ensure greater public participation.

3.10.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

For the purposes of this PEIR and consistency with CEQA-Plus guidelines, applicable local plans, and agency and professional standards, the proposed project would be considered to have a significant effect on environmental justice if it would:

- Affect the health or environment of minority or low income populations disproportionately.

Impacts Discussion

M&I Uses

Recycled water use would comply with the California Department of Public Health recycled water regulations contained in Title 22 of the CCR (see Chapter 1, Introduction for additional information). Based on its compliance with state public health standards, human health would not be impacted as a result of implementation of the proposed project. The use of recycled water would not affect minority or low income communities disproportionately.

Recycled Water Pipelines

The proposed route for the recycled water pipeline would travel entirely through city streets and would be constructed underground. There would be no long-term, permanent effects associated with operation of the proposed pipeline. Any effects associated with construction of the proposed recycled water pipeline would be short-term and temporary. The proposed pipeline would travel through a large portion of the Antelope Valley and is not localized within any one neighborhood or community. The project proposes to construct the pipelines in phases, with actual construction activities affecting specific areas for only a week or two as pipeline installation proceeds at a rate of 50 to 100 feet per day. Based on its underground design feature, large geographic area, and the temporary nature of the construction-related impact, the proposed pipelines would not affect minority or low income populations disproportionately.

Program-Level Analysis

Storage Reservoirs & Pump Stations

Impact 3.10-1: The proposed storage reservoirs and pump stations could cause disproportionate impacts to minority or low income populations. Less than Significant.

The proposed locations of all pump stations and storage reservoirs are based on proximity and connectivity to the proposed pipeline and elevation. The proposed pipeline route has been determined based on specific screening criteria, including minimizing the distance between the water reclamation plants and minimizing the distance between the pipeline and the end users. The locations of project facilities were not based on socio-economic characteristic of communities, such as income level or race/ethnicity.

The proposed locations for storage reservoirs and pump stations are characterized by vacant land and would not require relocation of residences. Local residents would benefit directly from the proposed project. Figure 2-2 shows the location of existing and future M&I end users that would benefit from application of the recycled water once all proposed facilities are completed.

Table 3.10-1 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the census tracts affected by the proposed aboveground project components, relative to the city in which they are located. The City of Palmdale overall has a higher percentage of Hispanics than nine of the ten census tracts within the city that are affected by the proposed storage reservoirs and pump stations. These nine census tracts have a higher percentage of Whites than the city as a whole. Similarly, in the City of

Lancaster, the one census tract affected by the proposed aboveground project facilities is predominantly White. In Rosamond, the affected census tract is almost identical in its racial and ethnic composition as the town as a whole. Therefore, the ethnographic data demonstrate that minority neighborhoods would not be disproportionately affected by the proposed aboveground project facilities.

Median household income data for the census tracts affected by the proposed aboveground project facilities (Table 3.10-2) demonstrate a lack of correlation between the proposed pump station and reservoir locations and low income areas. Annual household income varies from \$26,905 to \$77,160 among all census tracts, fluctuating both above and below the median household income levels for the cities and town as a whole. The percentage of individuals below the poverty level varies from 0 to 21.1 percent among all census tracts, again fluctuating both above and below the poverty levels for the cities and town as a whole. Therefore, the income and poverty data demonstrate that low-income neighborhoods would not be disproportionately affected by the proposed aboveground project facilities.

Based on all census data presented herein, the proposed project would not have a disproportionate affect on minority or low income populations.

Mitigation Measures

None required.
