CITY OF COALINGA
The Sunny Side of the Valley

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY MEETING AGENDA

August 21, 2025
5:30 PM

The Mission of the City of Coalinga is to provide for the preservation of the community character by delivering quality, responsive City services, in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and to develop, encourage, and promote a diversified economic base in order to ensure the future financial stability of the City for its citizens.

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a Meeting, on August 21, 2025 in the City Council Chambers located at 155 West Durian, Coalinga, CA. Persons with disabilities who may need assistance should contact the City Clerk at least 24 hours prior to this meeting at 935-1533 x113. Anyone interested in translation services should contact the City Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 935-1533 x113. The Meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the agenda will be as follows:

1. CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Council's Approval of Agenda

2. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation of the City of Coalinga Water Supply Feasibility Study - Sevim Onsoy, GEI Consultants
2. City of Coalinga Natural Gas Update - Dan Bergmann, IGS

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This section of the agenda allows members of the public to address the City Council on any item within the jurisdiction of the Council. Members of the public, when recognized by the Mayor, should come forward to the lectern, identify themselves and use the microphone. Comments are normally limited to three (3) minutes. In accordance with State Open Meeting Laws, no action will be taken by the City Council this evening and all items will be referred to staff for follow up and a report.

Citizen Comments submitted in writing to the City Clerk by 5:00pm on the day of the City Council meeting shall be distributed to the City Council and included in the record, however they will not be read.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NONE)

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Information Only: Transient Occupancy Tax Quarter Ending March 31, 2025
2. Informational Only: Cannabis Related Revenue Quarter Ending March 31, 2025
3. Informational Only: Measure J Quarter Ending March 31, 2025
4. Information Only - Implementation of California Assembly Bill 413 – Daylighting Law
5. Authorize Manager to Execute Task Orders with the City Engineer for Right-of-Way (ROW) Engineering for Segment 6 of the Coalinga Multi-Trail System Funded by the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant Program
6. Authorize City Manager to Execute a Task Order with the City's On-Call Right-of-Way (ROW) Consultant for ROW Services for the Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North Project Through the Active Transportation Program (ATP)
7. Authorize City Manager to Execute a Task Order with the City's On-Call Right-of-Way (ROW) Consultant for ROW Services for the Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)
8. Authorize City Manager to Execute a Task Order with the City's On-Call Environmental Consultant for Environmental Services for the Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)
9. Direction to Proceed with Rehabilitation and Accessibility Improvements for the Frame Park Gazebo in Partnership with Community Groups

6. ORDINANCE PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. Appeal Hearing – Administrative Citation #12804 – Alleged Possession and Use of Illegal Fireworks

   Greg DuPuis, Fire Chief
2. Appeal Hearing – Administrative Citation #12805 – Alleged Possession and Use of Illegal Fireworks

   Greg DuPuis, Fire Chief

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Manager's Announcements
2. Councilmembers' Announcements/Reports
3. Mayor's Announcements

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. CLOSED SESSION

1. REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 070-060-76 located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager,

Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Chevron USA. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

2. REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 070-060-82T & 070-060-88T located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Coalinga-Huron Park and Recreation District (CHRPD). UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

3. REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 070-060-85 located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Granite Construction. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

4. REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 071-020-23S located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Lewis, et al. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

5. REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 071-020-58S located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: JRyKO Joint Venture. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

6. REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 071-164-02S located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Valdez. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

7. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Government Code 54957.6. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. EMPLOYEE (ORGANIZATION): Police Officers Association

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Closed Session: A "Closed" or "Executive" Session of the City Council, Successor Agency, or Public Finance Authority may be held as required for items as follows: personnel matters; labor negotiations; security matters; providing instructions to real property negotiators; legal counsel regarding pending litigation; and protection of records exempt from public disclosure. Closed session will be held in the Administration Building at 155 W. Durian Avenue and any announcements or discussion will be held at the same location following Closed Session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Presentation of the City of Coalinga Water Supply Feasibility Study - Sevim Onsoy, GEI Consultants
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Seam Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Sean Brewer, Interim Manager

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the City of Coalinga Water Supply Feasibility Study, and provide direction as needed regarding advancement of recommended alternatives.

II. BACKGROUND:

In response to the City's long-term water reliability challenges, GEI Consultants prepared a comprehensive Feasibility Study evaluating alternatives to supplement and stabilize Coalinga's water supply. The City is currently 100% reliant on the Central Valley Project (CVP), making it especially vulnerable during drought and climate-driven supply shortages.

III. DISCUSSION:

The Study, funded by the California Department of Water Resources, identifies and evaluates seven viable water supply alternatives. Following an in-depth technical, financial, and regulatory analysis, the two top-ranked options are:

- **Alternative 1a:** Local water banking/exchange agreement with Westlands Water District
- **Alternative 1b:** Local water banking/exchange agreement with Gladstone Land

Both alternatives provide promising long-term opportunities to store water during wet years and recover it in dry years. These options are recommended for further due diligence and partnership development. The feasibility study outlines estimated timelines, potential funding sources, and implementation considerations for both alternatives.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

- Do not direct staff to proceed with the top alternatives to preserve and ensure water supply sustainability and provide alternative direction.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to the action being taken tonight. Future water banking efforts may have financial impact but yet to be determined based on what course of action the City goes.

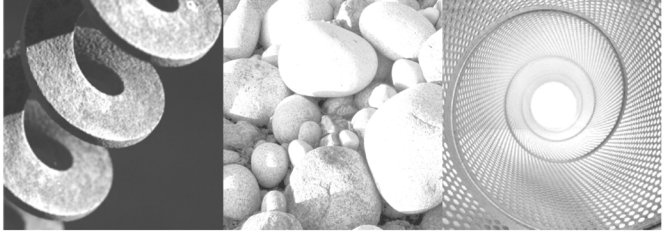
ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
Coalinga_Feasibility_Study_FINAL_May2025.pdf	Coalinga Feasibility Study_FINAL_May2025

CITY OF COALINGA
Feasibility Study

MAY 2025

This page is intentionally left blank.



City of Coalinga Feasibility Study

Fresno County, California

Submitted to:
California Department of Water Resources
South Central Region Office
691 N Laverne Ave., Ste. 104
Fresno, CA 93726

City of Coalinga
155 West Durian
Coalinga, CA 93210

Submitted by:
GEI Consultants, Inc.
11010 White Rock Road, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916.631.4500

May 2025
Project No. 2204930 Task Order 23-01

This page is intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	Acre-feet
AFY	Acre-feet per year
ASR	Aquifer Storage and Recovery
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
City	City of Coalinga
CVP	Central Valley Project
CWC	California Water Commission
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
FY	Fiscal year
gpcd	Gallons per capita per day
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
MGD	Million gallons per day
M&I	Municipal and Industrial
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PHS	Public Health and Safety
PID	Patterson Irrigation District
PVGSA	Pleasant Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency
PVWCP	Pleasant Valley Water Conveyance Partners
Rosedale	Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
SB	Senate Bill
Semitropic	Semitropic Water Storage District
Study	City of Coalinga Feasibility Study
TDS	total dissolved solids
USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
UWUO	Urban Water Use Objectives
Westlands	Westlands Water District
Willow Springs	Willow Springs Water Bank
WTP	Water treatment plant
WWTP	Wastewater treatment plant
WY	Water year

Executive Summary

The City of Coalinga (City), located in Pleasant Valley, Fresno County, California, serves as the sole water purveyor within its jurisdiction, providing water and sewer services for residential, commercial, and industrial customers, including fire protection. The City relies entirely on the Central Valley Project (CVP) for its municipal water supply, making it highly vulnerable to supply shortages, particularly during extended droughts and under future climate change scenarios.

In response to worsening drought conditions, the Coalinga City Council declared a Water Conservation Emergency on July 1, 2021. The crisis intensified in 2022 when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) reduced the City's allocation to 2,800 acre-feet (AF) for Public Health and Safety (PHS) needs, ensuring that the City would exhaust its water supply by the end of that year. Emergency support was provided through a $1.2 million grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under the Urban Community Drought Relief Program for the acquisition of 600 AF of water from Patterson Irrigation District.

This **Feasibility Study** was conducted to identify and evaluate long-term strategies that can enhance water supply reliability and mitigate future shortages. The overarching goal of the Study is to identify viable alternatives that provide both short- and long-term water sustainability for the City. Four guiding objectives were established to support this goal:

- Enhance water supply reliability
- Provide cost-effective and safe water supplies
- Achieve stakeholder and public acceptance
- Implement strategies that comply with applicable regulations and permits

Alternatives Development and Evaluation

Following a comprehensive assessment of the City's historical and current conditions (Chapters 2 and 3), eight alternatives were formulated (Chapter 4), including water banking, groundwater pumping, recycled water reuse, and water conservation. One alternative—water conservation—was eliminated during preliminary screening, as the City already practices conservation and complies with State regulations.

Seven alternatives were carried forward for detailed evaluation:

1. **Alternative 1a:** Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Westlands Water District
2. **Alternative 1b:** Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Gladstone Land
3. **Alternative 1c:** Water Banking with Semitropic Water Storage District
4. **Alternative 1d:** Water Banking with Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
5. **Alternative 1e:** Water Banking with Willow Springs Water Bank

6. **Alternative 2:** Local Groundwater Pumping
7. **Alternative 3:** Recycled Water

Each alternative was evaluated against nine criteria aligned with the Study's objectives. These included technical feasibility, economic and financial viability, regulatory requirements, environmental impacts, operations and maintenance needs, stakeholder acceptance, implementation timeline, and partnership feasibility. Alternatives were ranked on a scale of 1 to 3 for each criterion, and weighted scores were applied to reflect the relative importance of each criterion (Chapter 5).

Recommended Alternatives

Based on the evaluation, **Alternative 1a (Westlands)** and **Alternative 1b (Gladstone Land)** received the highest overall scores. Both are local water banking/ exchange agreement options that offer sustainable, long-term water supply solutions and greater drought resilience. Key distinctions include:

- **Alternative 1a** benefits from existing infrastructure (Coalinga Canal), minimizing new construction needs but requiring more complex coordination due to Westlands' Board structure.
- **Alternative 1b** offers a more flexible and direct partnership opportunity with Gladstone Land, though it may require additional infrastructure investment and water quality management.

Both alternatives are recommended for advancement through additional technical, legal, and financial due diligence.

Implementation Pathway and Funding Opportunities

Design, permitting, environmental documentation, and construction for either alternative is expected to take up to five years. To support implementation, the City should engage in further negotiations to develop detailed partnership agreements and operational frameworks, including water transfer terms, infrastructure needs, and groundwater monitoring protocols.

A strategic funding approach is essential to reduce financial impacts. Potential funding sources include:

- **Proposition 4 (2024 Bond Act)** – $386 million for groundwater sustainability and $610 million for safe drinking water
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program** – Supports Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) planning and implementation
- **Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)** – Funds large-scale groundwater storage projects
- **Propositions 1 and 68** – Fund water infrastructure, storage, water quality, and climate resilience projects

This Feasibility Study identifies local water banking/ exchange agreement with Westlands and Gladstone Land as the most promising and implementable alternatives for improving the City's water supply reliability. These options provide near-term opportunities to store surplus water and mitigate future deficits during periods of reduced CVP allocations. Advancing these alternatives will position the City to respond proactively to increasing water demand, extended droughts, and climate variability—securing a resilient and sustainable water future for Coalinga.

1. Introduction

1.1. Study Area

The City of Coalinga (Coalinga or City), located in Pleasant Valley, Fresno County, California, is a public agency responsible for providing water, sewer, and fire protection services to all residential, commercial, and industrial users. The City, which covers approximately 3,800 acres, is the sole water purveyor within its boundaries. Situated in the foothills of the coastal mountain range on the western side of California's Central Valley, Coalinga lies about 60 miles southwest of Fresno, 19 miles southwest of Huron, and 18 miles northwest of Avenal. It is positioned near the southwest boundary of Westlands Water District (Westlands), with Interstate 5 approximately 10 miles to the east, Monterey County to the west, and Kings County to the east. Figure 1-1 Figure 1-1 shows the City's location and service area boundaries.

1.2. Purpose of the Study

California has faced increasingly severe drought conditions over the past decade due to climate change, with 8 out of the last 10 years ranging from abnormally dry to exceptional drought. The most recent drought from 2020 to 2022 saw over 40 percent of the state classified under exceptional drought conditions in 2021. These prolonged drought conditions severely strained Coalinga's water supply. In response, on July 1, 2021, the Coalinga City Council declared a Water Conservation Emergency, implementing strict conservation measures and new water restrictions. These mandatory Stage 2 restrictions set specific conservation targets for various customer classes:

- Single-Family Residential: Reduce water use by 30% from 2020 levels; drought charges apply for usage over 30,000 gallons/month.
- Multi-Family Residential: Reduce water use by 25% from 2020 levels.
- Commercial: Reduce water use by 20% from 2020 levels.
- Non-Residential Landscape: Reduce water use by 30% from 2020 levels.
- Industrial & Institutional: Reduce water use by 20% from 2020 levels.

Drought Charges:

- Single-Family Residential: Drought charges apply for usage above 15,000 gallons/month, with a drought rate of $7.50 per 1,000 gallons.
- Other Customer Classes: Drought charges apply for exceeding conservation targets.
- Exceptions: Drought charges under $15 will be waived to reduce administrative costs.

By April 1, 2022, the USBR informed the City that the water usage must be reduced to Public Health and Safety (PHS) levels, allocating just 2,800 acre-feet (AF) of water to the City – far below the City's average usage of 4,000 AF over the previous decade. This shortage threatened to put Coalinga at the risk of running out of water by December 2022. To address this immediate water crisis, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded $1.2 million through its Urban Community Drought

Relief program, enabling the City to purchase 600 AF of water for approximately $1.1 million from Patterson Irrigation District.

Although the 2020-2022 drought ended with the atmospheric rivers of late 2022 and early 2023, future droughts are expected to be more severe and frequent due to climate change. As Coalinga is entirely dependent on imported water from the Central Valley Project (CVP), the City remains significantly vulnerable, highlighting the need for this Feasibility Study (Study) to evaluate long-term alternatives for improving water resiliency.

1.3. Plan Goal and Objectives

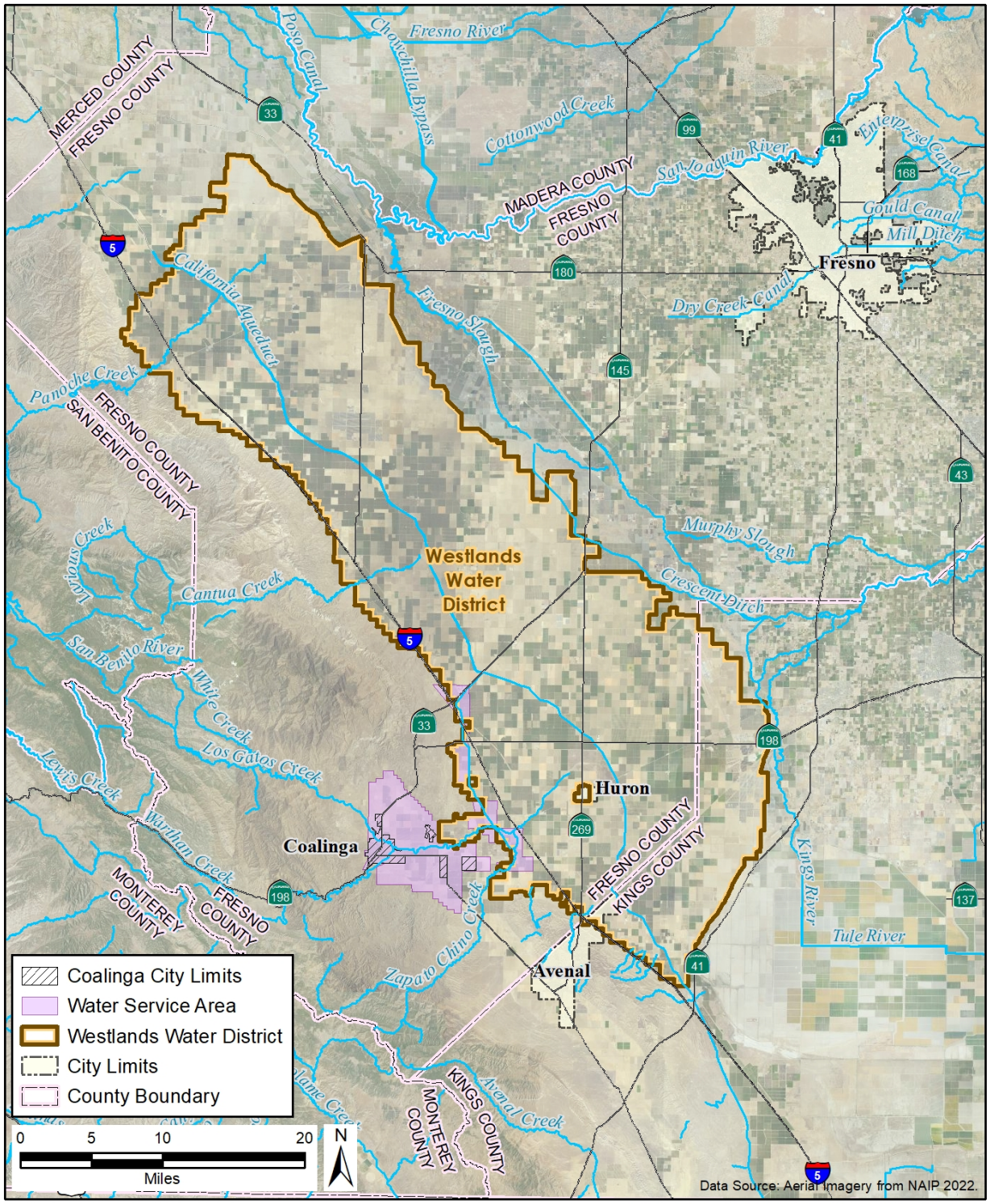
The primary goal of this Study is to formulate and evaluate alternatives that provide both short- and long-term water supply sustainability for the City of Coalinga. These alternatives and recommendations are conceptual in nature and will serve as the foundation for future decisions regarding sustainable water supply solutions. Given the City's reliance on imported water and its vulnerability to drought, this Study's recommendations aim to improve water resilience while addressing current and future challenges.

The objectives of the Study are designed to address Coalinga's water resource needs, based on the prevailing conditions and projected demands. These objectives will guide the formulation and assessment of alternatives to ensure they meet the community's needs for sustainable water management.

The key objectives include:

- **Enhance water supply reliability** – Ensure the long-term reliability of Coalinga's water supply by identifying reliable water sources which are adaptive to climate change, fluctuating demand, and other external factors.
- **Provide cost-effective and safe water supplies** – Water supplies must be both financially sustainable and safe for consumption to maintain the short- and long-term sustainability of Coalinga's water system.
- **Achieve stakeholder acceptance** – Gaining the support of stakeholders is crucial to ensure that any proposed water supply solutions are aligned with the interests and concerns of the community.
- **Implement water supply reliability strategies compliant with regulations and permits** – Identify reliable water supply solutions that are feasible to implement and compliant with regulatory and permitting requirements.

Figure 1-1. Study Area and Vicinity



Z:\Projects\2204930_Coalinga\G001_2204930_RegionalLocation.mxd
06Feb2024 RS

1.4. Project Team

At the outset of the Study, a Project Team was formed to gather input from all stakeholders, ensuring a comprehensive and targeted approach during the Study's development. The Study was developed through collaborative efforts with the Project Team, enabling it to effectively align with the needs of everyone involved. The primary members of the Project Team consist of:

- **The City of Coalinga**, serving as the recipient of the financial assistance from DWR.
- **DWR**, responsible for the oversight of the Study and its associated efforts.
- **GEI Consultants, Inc**., acting as the consultant responsible for preparing the Study.

Other potential agencies identified to participate and provide support at key junctures include:

- **USBR** oversees the CVP and holds contracts with the City for its water supply.
- **Westlands**, responsible for the delivery of non-potable, untreated water to Coalinga and a potential water banking partner.
- **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority**, responsible for the operation and maintenance of certain CVP facilities such as the Delta-Mendota Canal.
- **Pleasant Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (PVGSA)**, who together with the City manages the underlying Pleasant Valley Groundwater Subbasin.
- **Gladstone Land,** a potential local water banking partner.

1.5. Organization of Alternatives Study

This Study is organized into seven chapters:

- **Executive Summary** provides a summary of the Study goals and objectives, alternatives formulated, and evaluation criteria established.
- **Chapter 1 – Introduction** provides a description of the Study area, discusses the Study's purpose, and outlines its goals and objectives.
- **Chapter 2 – Background** provides background information regarding the City of Coalinga operations.
- **Chapter 3 – Plan Formulation** describes the problem identified, along with existing opportunities and constraints.
- **Chapter 4 – Alternatives Identification** provides a brief description of the alternatives identified based on the Study objectives.
- **Chapter 5 – Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives** presents the evaluation criteria used to analyze and compare the alternatives, and the alternatives evaluation using the established criteria.
- **Chapter 6 – Recommended Alternative** identifies the recommended alternative(s) and describes next steps in terms of planning, implementation, and funding.
- **Chapter 7 – References** lists reference documents that were used as part of the alternatives Study.

2. Background

2.1. Water Resources

This section provides a brief overview of the City's water supply characterization and describes the City's major water supply source of CVP imported surface water.

2.1.1. Central Valley Project Contracted Water

The City of Coalinga imports its potable water supply through a federal CVP contract with the USBR. The initial 40-year contract, signed on October 28, 1968, authorized the annual delivery of up to 10,000 AF of CVP water. After its expiration on December 31, 2008, the agreement was extended through a series of interim renewal contracts until January 22, 2021, when a new long-term contract (Contract No. 14-06-200-4173A-IR1-P) was executed. This contract established new rates and reaffirmed the City's entitlement to pump up to 10,000 AF annually.

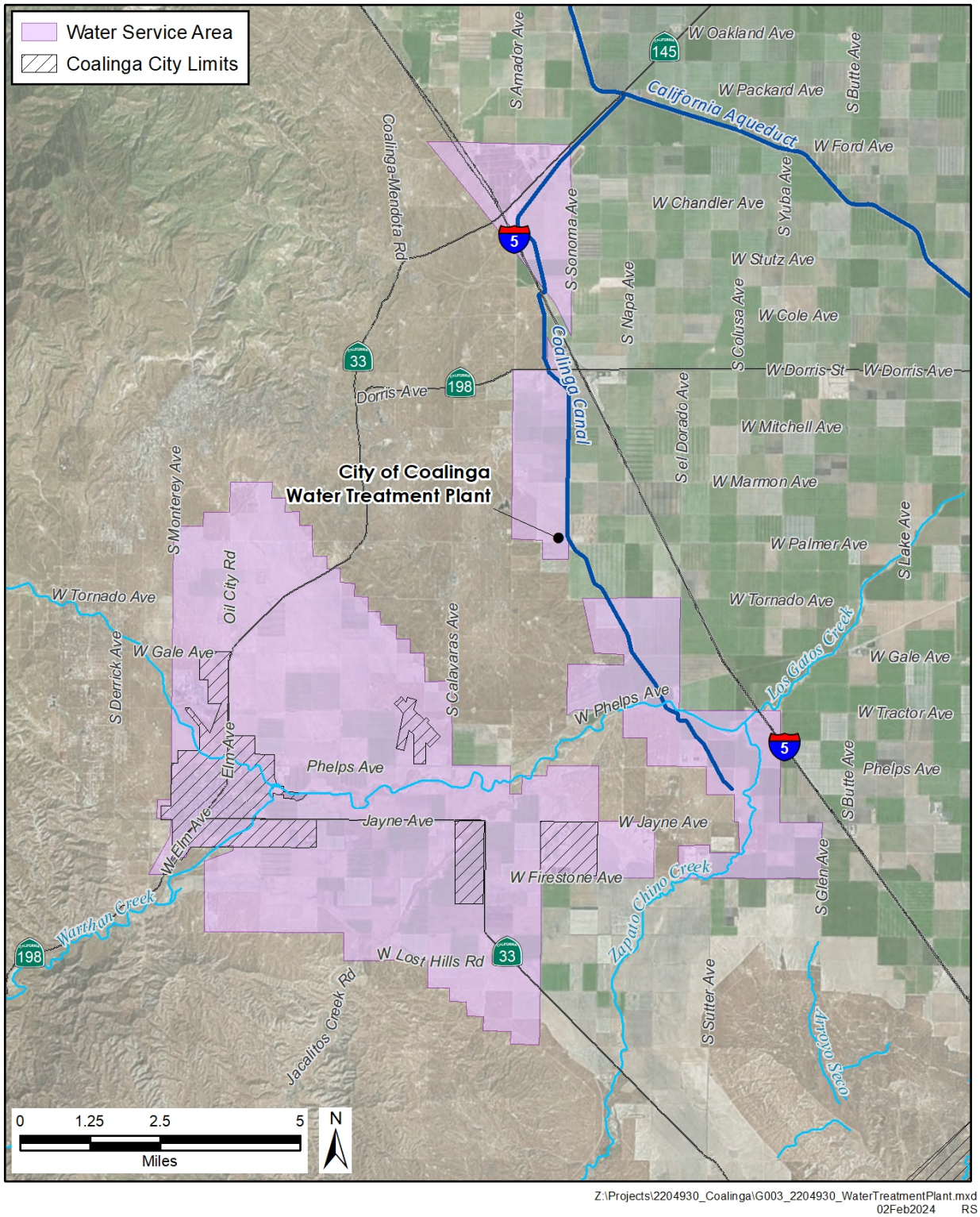
Raw water is conveyed from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via either the Delta-Mendota Canal or the CVP California Aqueduct, to the O'Neil Forebay. From the O'Neil Forebay, water flows southward through the California Aqueduct to the Coalinga Canal's intake point, approximately 15 miles northeast of the City, where Highway 145 crosses over the California Aqueduct (Figure 2-1). The Coalinga Canal, operated by Westlands, transports the water approximately 12 miles south to the City's water treatment plant (WTP). A raw water pump station then lifts the water from the Coalinga Canal to the WTP.

2.1.1.1. Central Valley Project Allocations

USBR's water year (WY) extends from March 1 through the end of February. Each year, annual CVP water allocations are established by USBR based on available reservoir storage, accumulated precipitation, and snowpack conditions in the Sierra Nevada. Preliminary allocation estimates are generally issued in February, with final allocations determined shortly thereafter as hydrologic conditions become clearer.

As a Municipal and Industrial (M&I) South-of-Delta contractor, the City's CVP allocation during drought periods is calculated based on the average actual deliveries from the three most recent years in which 100 percent allocations were issued (i.e., unconstrained years). This average forms the baseline against which reductions are applied during years when less than 100 percent allocations are declared. Prior to WY 2023/24, the most recent unconstrained years were 2011, 2017, and 2019, resulting in an average delivery of 7,680 AF (Table 2-1).

Figure 2-1. City of Coalinga Service Area



Z:\Projects\2204930_Coalinga\G003_2204930_WaterTreatmentPlant.mxd
02Feb2024 RS

During drought periods, City's CVP allocations were significantly reduced. The lowest allocations occurred in WY2016/17 and WY2022/23, with deliveries reduced to approximately 3,700 AF and 3,100 AF, respectively. Notably, WY2022/23 marked the first instance in the past decade when the City received a PHS allocation. PHS allocations are determined by USBR based on essential water needs, calculated using an assumed per capita demand of 55 gallons per capita per day (gpcd), plus 70 percent of projected commercial, institutional, and industrial demands, with an additional 10 percent to account for system losses.

In WY 2023/24, USBR allocated 100 percent of the contracted CVP supply to South-of-Delta M&I contractors. Accordingly, the City's delivery during this WY will replace the 2011/12 delivery in the calculation of the three-year unconstrained average. The City's total delivery for WY 2023/24 was 9,995 AF; however, this includes 4,400 AF of water sold for agricultural use outside of the City's Place of Use. Excluding the water sold for agricultural use, the adjusted CVP delivery for the City is 5,595 AF. Substituting this value into the three-year average calculation is expected to slightly change the City's baseline average, from 7,680 AF to 7,627 AF. This updated average will serve as the baseline for determining the City's allocation during future years when less than 100 percent allocations are made (Table 2-1). Currently, the City is in coordination with USBR regarding potential change to the future definition of the three-year unconstrained average calculation as the USBR stated agricultural sales by the City are not considered "beneficial use" and may not be accounted in the unrestricted water delivery to the City.

Table 2-1. Unconstrainted CVP Deliveries in Recent Years

Unconstrained CVP Delivery Year	Deliveries (AF)
2011/12	5,753
2017/18	7,455
2019/20	9,832
Three-Year Average	**7,680**
2017/18	7,455
2019/20	9,832
2023/24	5,595
Three-Year Average	**7,627**

2.1.2. Groundwater

Groundwater within the City of Coalinga's planning area is not considered a viable source of potable water due to elevated concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS), sodium, and sulfates. As documented in the City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), these poor water quality conditions occur at depths ranging from 500 to 1,500 feet (City of Coalinga, 2022). Consequently, the City does not utilize groundwater to supplement its municipal water supply. Even for agricultural purposes, groundwater use is limited, as it is classified as only marginally acceptable due to its tendency to increase soil salinity, which further reduces agricultural productivity.

The City overlies the Pleasant Valley Subbasin (see Figure 2-2), a medium-priority groundwater basin characterized by predominately marginal to brackish groundwater conditions, with TDS concentrations generally ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 mg/L (PVGSA, 2022). Key constituents of concern for irrigation use include sodium adsorption ratio, bicarbonate, boron, and pH.

Historical data from the 1950s indicate elevated levels of TDS in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin. A subsequent study, conducted between 2004 and 2005 as part of a grant-funded research effort, involved the collection of water samples and confirmed these earlier findings. The study reported TDS concentrations ranging from 1,070 to 2,370 mg/L and boron concentrations between 0.4 and 3.2 mg/L (PVGSA, 2022). Chloride and sulfate levels also showed considerable variability. Notably high concentrations were observed near Jayne Avenue, part of which is located near Coalinga. Chloride concentrations ranged from 26 to 301 mg/L, while sulfate concentrations in well water varied from 251 to 1,910 mg/L, with the highest levels generally found in wells located in the western portion of Pleasant Valley. A summary of these constituents is presented in Table 2-2.

Additionally, single-event sampling of six domestic wells in the rural residential community of Lost Hills, located approximately 12 miles southeast of Coalinga, was conducted at the time of well construction, between 1993 and 1999. Groundwater quality results from these wells indicated nitrate (as NO_3) concentrations ranging from 9 to 64 mg/L and sulfate concentrations ranging from 385 to 926 mg/L (PVGSA, 2022).

Although groundwater in the area may be suitable for irrigation of crops such as pistachios that are the major crop grown in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin, the use of micro-irrigation systems is limited, as clogging can occur when TDS exceeds 500 mg/L or bicarbonate levels exceed 120 mg/L.

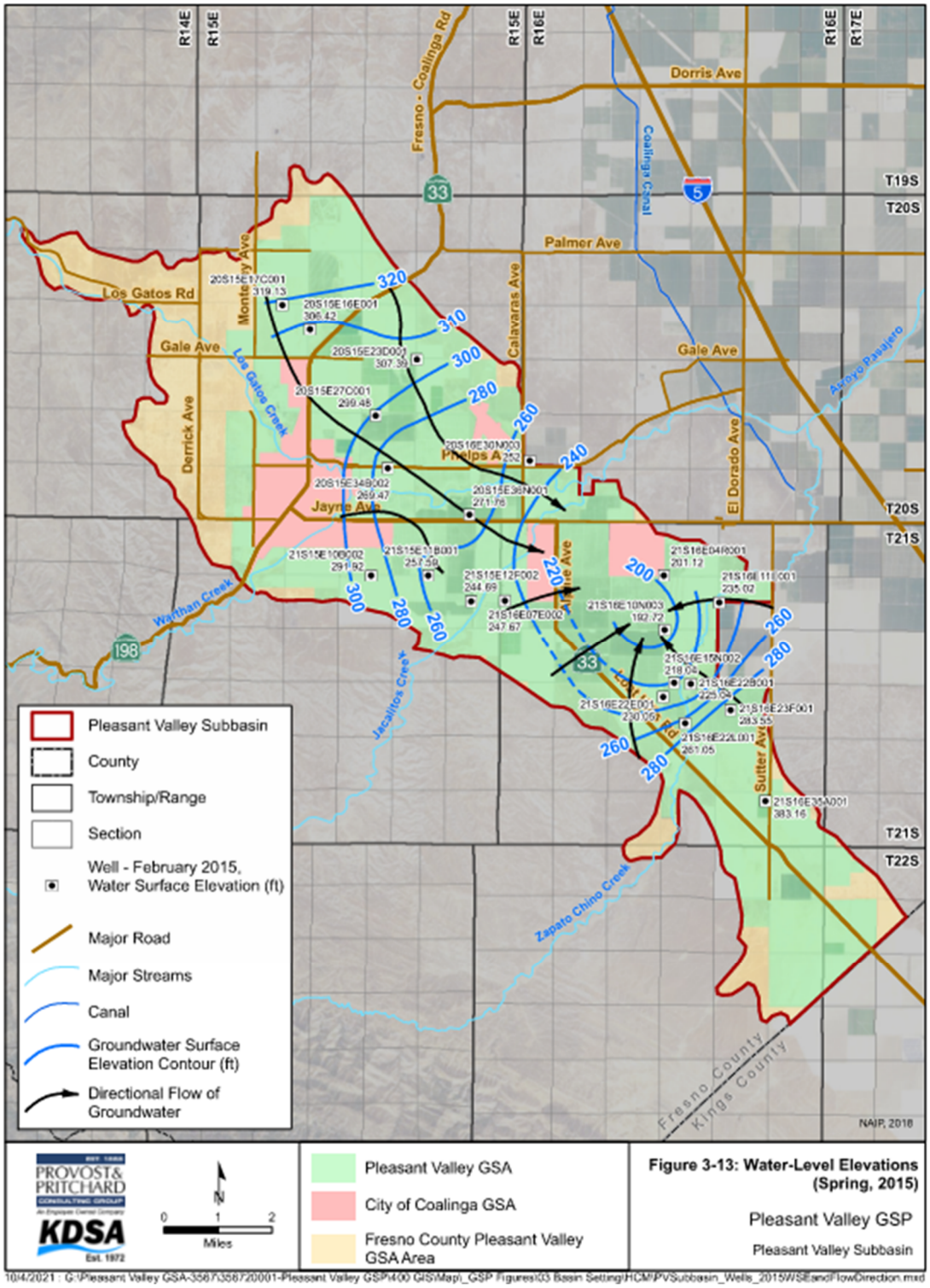
Table 2-2. Groundwater Quality Constituents

Water Quality Constituent	MCL (mg/L)	Secondary MCL (mg/L)		Range (m/L)
		Recommended	Upper Limit	
Total Dissolved Solids	-	500	1,000	1,500 – 3,000
Chloride	-	250	500	26 – 106
Sulfate	-	250	500	251 – 1,910
Boron	-	-	-	0.4 – 3.2
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10	-	-	9 – 64

Notes: MCL= maximum contaminant level; SMCLs = secondary maximum contaminant levels; mg/L = milligrams per liter; µg/L= micrograms per liter

1. MCLs and SMCLs defined by the Basin Plan
2. Total dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate levels range from 2004 to 2005, while nitrate levels were reported from monitoring wells ranging from 1993 to 1999.

Figure 2-2. Water Level Elevations in Pleasant Valley Subbasin



Source: Pleasant Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Revised July 3, 2024.

Groundwater levels in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin have historically fluctuated and have shown a long-term decline due to sustained agricultural pumping. Based on historical records, significant groundwater pumping for irrigation occurred in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin. Acres of crops irrigated were about 8,000 acres during 1937-1945 and reached the highest levels at about 29,000 acres during 1960-the mid-1980s (PVGSA, 2022). During this historical period of increased farming, irrigation pumping increased, ranging from 28,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 55,000 AFY (the maximum historical average). As a result of increased irrigation pumping, groundwater levels have historically declined.

Between 2017 and 2021, the area between Los Gatos Creek and Jayne Avenue near Coalinga, as illustrated in Figure 2-2, experienced an average annual decline in water levels of approximately 11 feet. South of Jayne Avenue, the decline was more pronounced, averaging around 17 feet per year during the same period. Groundwater overdraft within the subbasin has similarly varied over time, with reduced overdraft observed during wet years and increased overdraft during dry years with limited recharge. Historical overdraft estimates range from 0 to 29,000 AFY, with an average overdraft of approximately 20,000 AFY. Between 2017 and 2021, groundwater storage declined by an estimated 130,000 AF, corresponding to an average annual loss of 30,000 AF (PVGSA, 2022).

The irrigated crop acreage as of 2020 was estimated to be about 18,000 acres. Currently, groundwater pumping is measured through totalizing flowmeters installed in almost all of the irrigation wells in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin. Based on the records available from flowmeters, the annual pumping for 2022 and 2023 ranged from about 32,000 AF to 36,000 AF.

2.1.2.1. Pleasant Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The Pleasant Valley Subbasin is subject to the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including pumping levels to maintain long-term sustainability of the subbasin. The City of Coalinga is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and has been collaborating with two other GSAs (Pleasant Valley GSA and County of Fresno GSA) in the development of the Pleasant Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in compliance with SGMA requirements. Although the GSP has not yet been formally adopted by the GSAs, a final revised Pleasant Valley Subbasin GSP was submitted in July 2024 for DWR's review and approval.

In the Pleasant Valley Subbasin, groundwater is primarily used for agricultural irrigation, with irrigation wells serving as the main source of water. Pistachio cultivation has expanded in the area due to the crop's high tolerance for salinity, allowing it to survive using water with TDS levels up to 5,000 mg/L. Additionally, there are a limited number of domestic wells for non-potable uses, such as landscape irrigation and toilets, but they are not intended for drinking water.

The Pleasant Valley Subbasin will be managed to the established sustainable management criteria (SMCs) under the GSP, including measurable objectives (MOs), minimum thresholds (MTs), and dedicated monitoring network for groundwater levels, water quality, and land subsidence. In the subbasin, seawater intrusion and interconnected surface water are not considered applicable, and subsidence is minimal to non-existent. The GSP dedicated monitoring network does not include representative monitoring wells for groundwater levels and quality within the City of Coalinga.

The Pleasant Valley Subbasin GSP estimated a sustainable yield of 22,600 AFY for the subbasin, which defines the amount of groundwater pumping that can occur while maintaining groundwater at sustainable levels and avoiding undesirable results (PVGSA, 2022). It is the intent of the Pleasant Valley Subbasin GSP participants to work collaboratively to better understand the subbasin conditions and propose measures to reduce and eventually eliminate overdraft within the subbasin. The overdraft will be mitigated using imported surface water and if needed institute demand reductions (crop fallowing, seasonal or permanent). According to the proposed GSP monitoring network, groundwater pumping would be reported monthly by well and total pumpage would be calculated for the GSA.

Undesirable results related to groundwater quality is defined as the degradation of groundwater quality such that pistachios can no longer grow. The MO and MT for water quality are set at 2,500 mg/L and 3,000 mg/L, respectively, to allow farmers to continue farming pistachios.

2.1.3. Surface Water

Due to the poor quality of local groundwater, the City of Coalinga relies exclusively on imported surface water supplied through the federal CVP, administered by the USBR.

2.1.3.1. Surface Water Treatment Plant

Surface water is conveyed to the City via the Coalinga Canal and treated at the City's WTP, located approximately seven miles outside of the City limits. The WTP began operations in April 1972, initially designed with an average daily treatment capacity of 8 million gallons per day (MGD) and a maximum capacity of 12 MGD. In anticipation of increased demand associated with the construction of Pleasant Valley State Prison, the facility was subsequently upgraded to accommodate an average daily flow of 12 MGD, although the plant's maximum daily flow capacity was adjusted to 6 MGD as part of these modifications.

The WTP employs conventional surface water treatment processes, including chemical pretreatment, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and chlorine disinfection. Corrosion control is also integrated into the treatment process. A secondary chlorination step is used to maintain residual chlorine within the distribution system while limiting the formation of disinfection by-products. Treated water is conveyed from the WTP to the City's distribution system through a 27-inch diameter transmission pipeline along Palmer Avenue.

2.1.3.2. Section 215 Water

Section 215 of the USBR Reform Act of 1982 authorizes USBR to make surplus water available to CVP contractors through temporary water service contracts. Section 215 water is only available when (1) the San Luis Reservoir—an integral off-stream storage facility of the State Water Project—is at full capacity, and (2) the Jones Pumping Plant has sufficient export capacity beyond South-of-Delta demands. These supplies are typically only available during wet years and are delivered to contractors under "Temporary Water Service Contract for Surplus Water" agreements.

The availability of Section 215 water varies annually based on hydrologic conditions, regulatory requirements, and CVP operational constraints. Although Section 215 water is not a reliable source during drought periods, it provides an important supplemental supply during wet years. Over the past decade, the City has secured 2,171 AF of Section 215 water, including 177 AF in WY 2019/20 and 1,994 AF in WY 2023/24. Section 215 water is typically offered at a reduced rate compared to standard CVP contract water, with rates established annually by USBR.

2.1.3.3. Water Transfers

To address periodic water supply shortages, the City of Coalinga has secured supplemental water through transfer agreements with other CVP contractors. These transfers not only provide critical short-term supplies to the City but also allow the selling agencies to beneficially manage surplus water and maintain their water rights during years when demands may be lower. In recent years, the City has executed the following key water transfer agreements:

- **Westlands:** In 2004, Mercy Springs Water District assigned 4,198 AF of its CVP water service contract entitlement to Westlands. In WY 2023/24, Westlands transferred 2,000 AF of this CVP water to the City under a temporary transfer agreement.
- **City of Avenal:** Located approximately 20 miles southeast of Coalinga, the City of Avenal holds a CVP contract for up to 3,500 AF annually. During WY 2021/22, Avenal transferred approximately 300 AF of its CVP allocation to Coalinga to alleviate water shortages.
- **Patterson Irrigation District (PID):** PID, situated near the City of Patterson in Stanislaus County, holds a CVP water service contract for up to 22,500 AF annually and also possesses pre-1914 appropriative water rights to San Joaquin River surface water. In WY 2022/23, PID transferred 600 AF of water to Coalinga under a temporary transfer arrangement.

These water transfers have served as an important component of the City's drought response strategy by providing timely supplemental supplies during critical shortage periods.

2.1.4. Recycled Water

The City of Coalinga owns and operates a municipal wastewater collection system and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located approximately one mile east of the City, at the confluence of Los Gatos Creek and Warthan Creek (Figure 2-3). The WWTP treats wastewater generated from residential, commercial, and industrial users within the City and has a permitted treatment capacity of 1.34 MGD. The treatment process consists of a primary clarifier, an aerobic sludge digester, sludge drying beds, and five treatment ponds. Two aerated lagoons, followed by three downstream stabilization ponds, are employed to achieve significant removal of organic material and suspended solids.

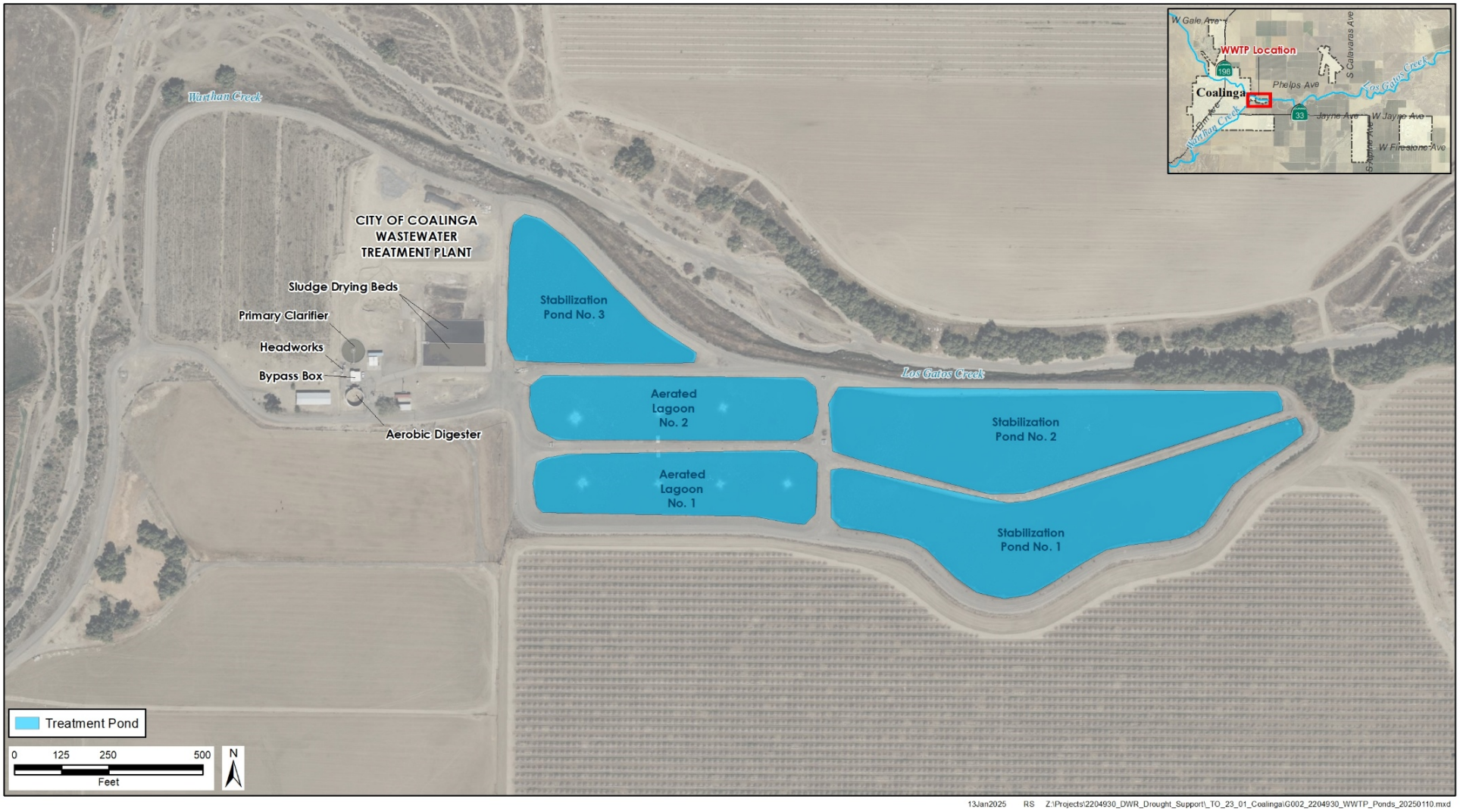
In 2020, the WWTP processed approximately 315 million gallons (MG), or 967 AF, of wastewater on a calendar-year basis. The City currently does not recycle the effluent produced from its WWTP. However, potential upgrades to the sewer and WWTP systems, including the feasibility of implementing recycled water use, have been evaluated and are discussed further in Section 3.2.

At present, the treated effluent meets undisinfected secondary standards and is suitable for irrigation of non-food crops. The effluent is applied year-round to City-owned agricultural land leased to a private operator for the cultivation of crops such as cotton, alfalfa, and feed grains. Some portion of the applied irrigation water percolates below the crop root zone and contributes to the underlying groundwater system. However, given the poor quality of local groundwater and its unsuitability for potable use, this incidental recharge is not currently considered a strategy for offsetting the City's potable water demands.

2.1.5. Stormwater

The City does not have any existing facilities to recover stormwater for beneficial use such as recharge, irrigation, or reuse.

Figure 2-3. City of Coalinga Wastewater Treatment Plant

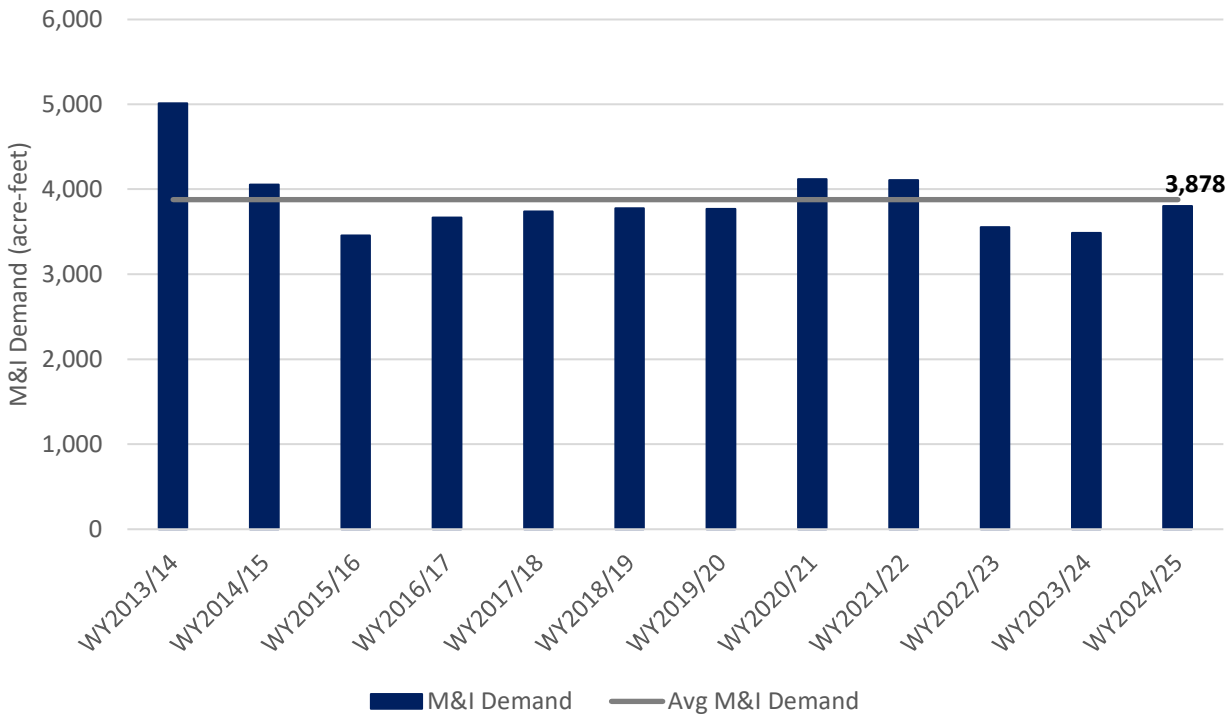


2.2. Water Demands

2.2.1. Municipal and Industrial

M&I demands include water use by residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and landscape irrigation sectors, as well as distribution system losses. Between water years 2013/14 and 2024/25, the City's M&I demand averaged approximately 3,878 AF (Figure 2-4). Peak demand occurred in 2013 at just over 5,000 AF but subsequently declined due to conservation measures implemented during the 2012–2016 drought. These efforts reduced M&I demand to as low as 3,455 AF in 2015, representing more than a 30 percent decrease compared to 2013 levels.

Figure 2-4. City of Coalinga Historical M&I Demands



Following the drought, M&I demands rebounded to approximately 4,100 AF during 2020 and 2021 but declined again in WY 2022/23 due to renewed drought conditions. In response to the 2022 drought and drought CVP allocation that dropped to 25% of the historical usage, the City implemented additional conservation measures to reduce the demand. Demand patterns have remained sensitive to climatic variability and drought management actions. The City has a history of promoting water conservation to adopt to ongoing water challenges due to drought and climate change impacts through various programs and initiatives. These efforts are aligned with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)'s objectives to reduce urban water use through the new "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" initiative. The State's new statewide water conservation requirements are further explained in Section 4 in the context of the alternative's formulation.

M&I Water Use Sectors

The City's service area includes the following M&I water use sectors:

- **Single-Family Residential:** Individual residential units.
- **Multi-Family Residential:** Multiple dwelling units within individual buildings or complexes.
- **Commercial:** Users providing goods or services, including retail businesses, offices, hotels, schools, hospitals, and laundries.
- **Industrial:** Primarily manufacturing, processing, or research and development facilities (NAICS Code Sectors 31–33).
- **Institutional:** Entities dedicated to public service, including educational institutions, government facilities, prisons, and hospitals. Notably, Pleasant Valley State Prison and Coalinga State Hospital are significant institutional users.
- **Landscape Irrigation:** Dedicated irrigation connections for landscape areas associated with other land uses.
- **Distribution System Losses:** Water losses from leaks, metering inaccuracies, or other unbilled losses within the City's potable water system.

The City began systematically aggregating M&I demand by sector in 2020. Over the past four years, single-family residential, commercial and institutional, and distribution system losses collectively accounted for about 82 percent of total M&I demand, averaging 36 percent, 29 percent, and 17 percent, respectively (Figure 2-5). The remaining 18 percent of demand was distributed among multi-family residential (6%), industrial (6%), and landscape irrigation (6%).

2.2.1.1. Water Losses

Water loss has been a persistent challenge for the City, averaging 18 percent of total potable demand over the past four years (Figure 2-5). The City tracks water losses monthly and calculates a rolling 12-month average of water losses by comparing treated water production data with metered and billed water deliveries to customers. Figure 2-6 shows the calculated rolling 12-month average of unbilled water rates between 2018 and 2024 ranging from 5 to 22 percent. The City tracks unbilled water monthly and reconciles differences between treated water production as reported to Westlands and USBR and the volume that is measured at the City's WTP and billed to customers. For example, in June 2024, Westlands measured 378 AF over 28 days (the volume the City was billed) while the WTP measured 429AF in a calendar month over 30 days. When the differences in the reporting cycle are reconciled, water losses in the month of June 2024 are approximately 24 AF, which is about 6 percent of the Westlands reporting, as opposed to the 20 percent rolling average.

Figure 2-5. Aggregated M&I Demand Between Water Year 2020/21 and 2023/24

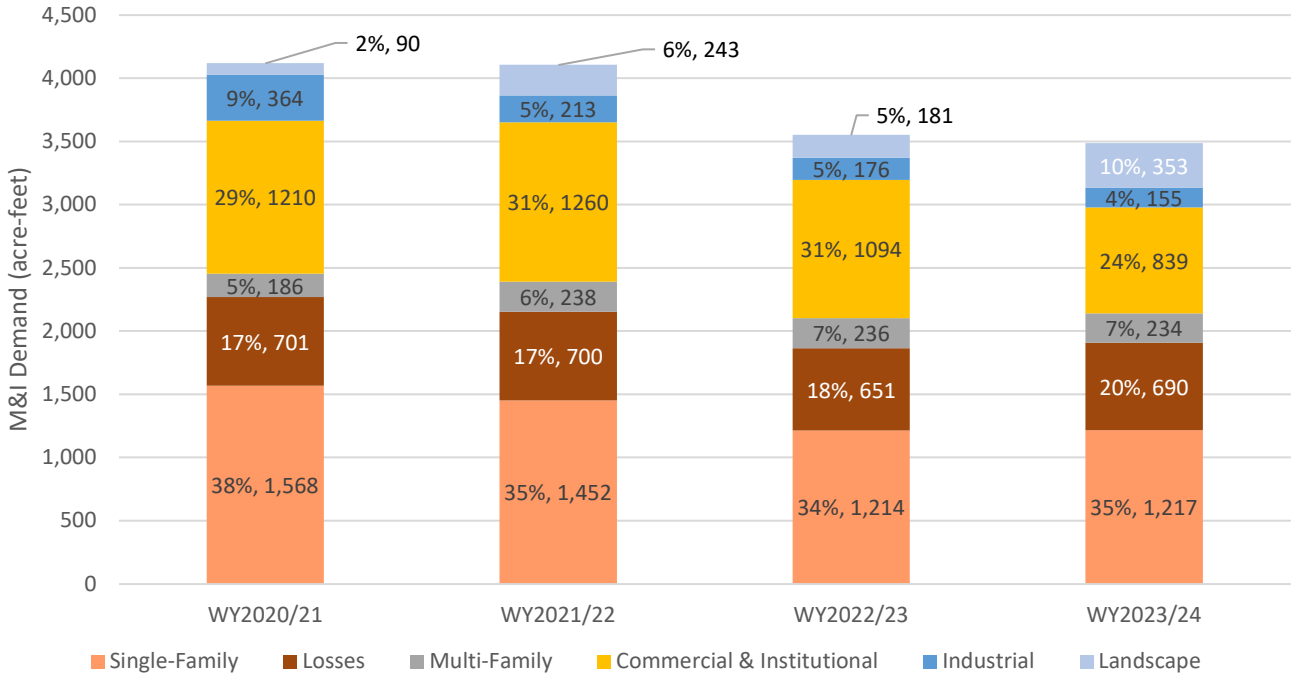
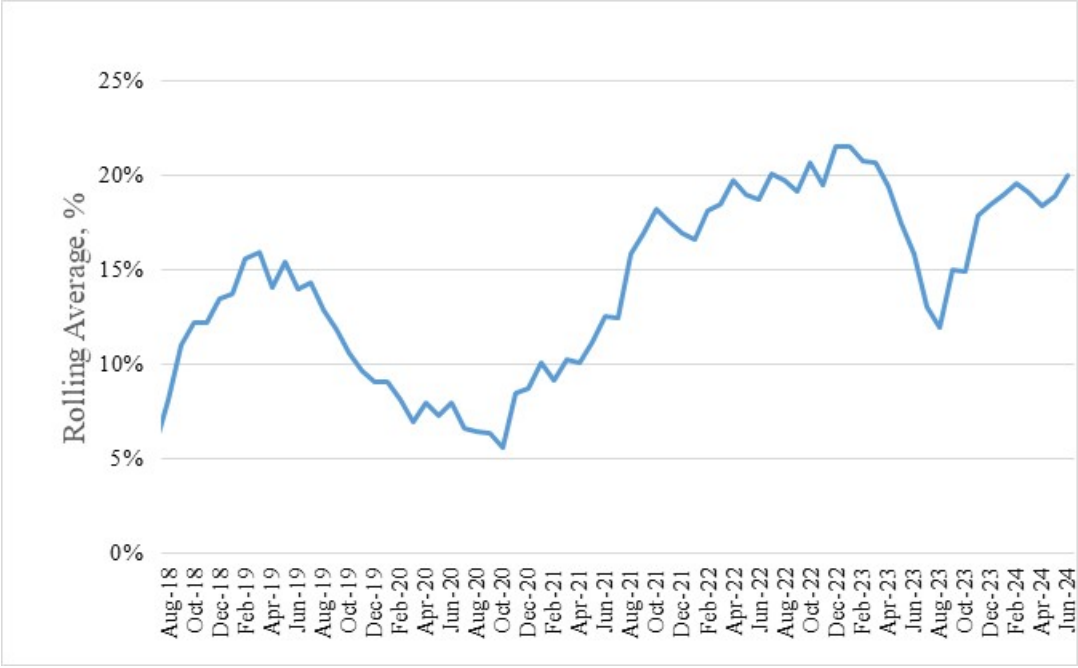


Figure 2-6. Coalinga Unbilled Water 12-Month Rolling Average



The City will continue to track and report unbilled water closely on a monthly basis. Overall, contributing factors for water losses include discrepancies between influent and effluent meters at the WTP, aging customer meters, and billing system inaccuracies. In October 2023, the City identified and corrected a calculation error in the SCADA system, which contributed to water loss reporting anomalies. Post-adjustment data are anticipated to improve accuracy in water loss tracking, but City's unbilled water remains high since the SCADA adjustment.

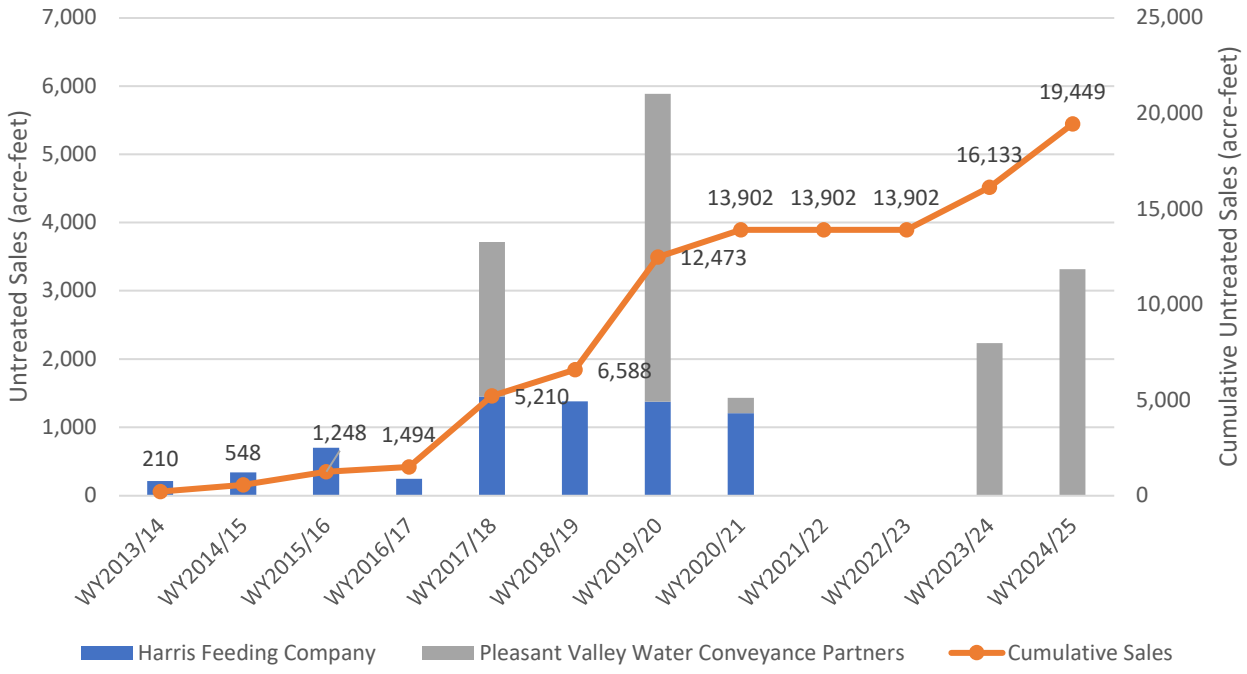
To reduce system losses, the City secured grant funding from DWR to replace approximately 3,800 one-inch meters by 2026. In addition, the City has begun replacing larger meters using internal resources. These upgrades are expected to improve metering accuracy and reduce apparent losses. After the completion of the meter replacement (scheduled for 2025), water losses are anticipated to return to normal levels of 5-10 percent, as experienced by water purveyors.

2.2.2. Untreated Sales

The City generates supplemental revenue by selling untreated CVP water when excess supplies are available. Over the past decade, the City has entered into water transfer agreements with Harris Feeding Company and Pleasant Valley Water Conveyance Partners (PVWCP), a group of local agricultural producers. These untreated water sales are currently included in the USBR calculations for PHS deliveries.

Between water years 2013/14 and 2023/24, the City sold approximately 14,000 AF of untreated water, with roughly equal shares sold to Harris Feeding Company and PVWCP (Figure 2-7). Untreated sales have been highest during years of full CVP allocations, notably 3,700 AF in WY 2017/18 and 5,900 AF in WY 2019/20, which together accounted for nearly 70 percent of total untreated sales during the period.

Figure 2-7. Untreated Sales Volumes from Water Years 2013/14 to 2024/25



2.3. Related Plans and Studies

2.3.1. City of Coalinga General Plan

In June 2009, the City adopted the 2025 General Plan, which outlines growth patterns, land uses, and population projections for both the City limits and its Sphere of Influence areas potentially subject to future annexation and development.

The General Plan incorporates recommendations from the 2002 Water System Master Plan, which identified limitations in the WTP's capacity to meet anticipated growth. The plan recommended considering options such as developing groundwater wells near Derrick or Calaveras Reservoirs and blending groundwater with treated surface water. Alternatively, the plan suggested constructing a 4 MGD reverse osmosis facility, included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan for 2020.

The General Plan also established goals, policies, and implementation measures relevant to this Study, including:

- **Implementation Measure PFS8-1.5:** Develop a program to anticipate annual growth and project corresponding water supply needs to ensure long-term supply adequacy.
- **Implementation Measure PFS8-2.2:** Investigate the feasibility of developing a water bank to secure reliable water supplies during drought periods.
- **Policy PFS8-3:** Reduce per capita water consumption from 271 gpcd to 200 gpcd by 2015.

2.3.2. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

The City's 2020 UWMP, adopted in March 2022, provides updated information on water supply reliability, demand projections, and drought response planning. The UWMP confirmed that, at the time of preparation, the City did not have plans to augment its water supply through recycled water, desalination, or treated brackish water, nor were there feasible potable water exchange opportunities with nearby agencies.

The UWMP noted that during periods of drought, the City may rely on dry-year water transfers, with the potential to secure up to 3,000 AF of water annually from other San Luis Unit customers. Such transfers would typically require the fallowing of agricultural lands to make water available for urban use.

While the UWMP concluded that no major supply augmentation projects were planned, the City remained committed to continuing water conservation efforts to improve long-term supply reliability.

3. Plan Formulation

3.1. Challenges and Constraints

3.1.1. Rate of Growth

The City of Coalinga has experienced steady population growth over the past several decades and is projected to continue growing, driven largely by regional demand for more affordable housing compared to neighboring urban centers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the City's population reached 17,590 in 2020, up from 13,380 in 2010, representing an average annual growth rate of approximately 2.6 percent. The City's total population includes not only the urban residential population but also the populations of Pleasant Valley State Prison and Coalinga State Hospital, both of which are major institutions located within the City's service area.

Assuming a continuation of this 2.6 percent annual growth rate, the City's population is projected to increase by more than 11,000 people by 2040, reaching an estimated population of 29,220 (Table 3-1). This growth projection is consistent with estimates presented in the City's 2020 UWMP and is expected to place increasing demands on the City's water supply system.

Table 3-1. Projected Population Growth - 2025 to 2040

Population Served	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
	17,590	19,970	22,671	25,738	29,220

Source: City of Coalinga 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

Future water demand projections developed in the 2020 UWMP reflect this anticipated population growth while also incorporating reductions in per capita demand due to conservation practices. The City's projected per capita demand of 208 gpcd accounts for conservation measures implemented during recent drought periods.

As shown in Figure 3-1, potable water demand is projected to increase from approximately 5,660 AF on average between 2025 and 2040, peaking at approximately 6,774 AF by 2040. This represents a 75 percent increase over the City's historical average demand of approximately 3,878 AF over the past 12 years.

Over the 15-year planning horizon between 2025 and 2040, the cumulative demand is expected to total nearly 90,500 AF. Figure 3-2 presents the breakdown of the cumulative projected demand and annual average demand by water use sector, based on recent historical sectoral contributions. The distribution of demand is assumed to remain similar to current trends, with single-family residential (36%), institutional (25%), and distribution system losses (18%) collectively accounting for the majority of future demands. The remaining sectors—multi-family residential (6%), industrial (6%), commercial (5%), and landscape irrigation (4%)—are expected to contribute to the balance of projected demand.

Figure 3-1. Projected Potable Water Demands, 2025 to 2040

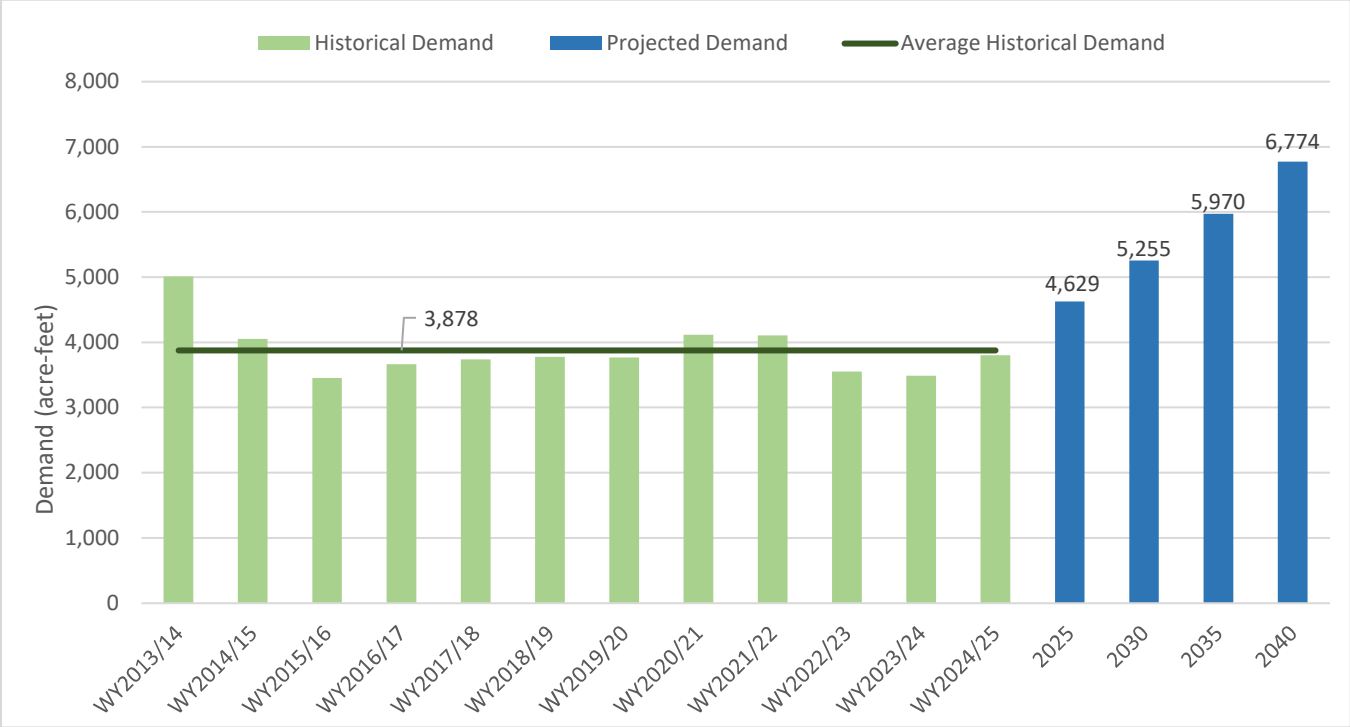
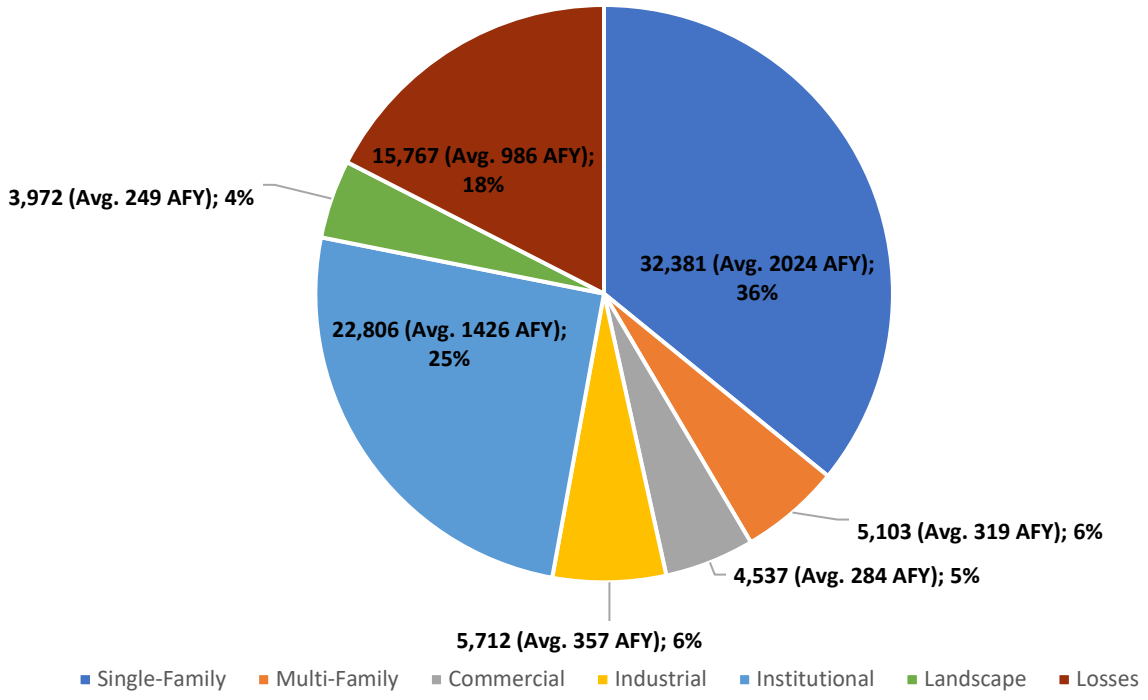


Figure 3-2. Average Annual Projected Potable Demand by Water Sectors – 2025 to 2040



3.1.2. Water Supply Reliability and Drought Vulnerability

The City's sole reliance on imported surface water from the (CVP) presents a significant long-term challenge to water supply reliability. The City does not have access to locally available potable groundwater due to water quality limitations, nor does it currently operate recycled water or stormwater recovery systems. Consequently, the City is highly vulnerable to drought-induced supply reductions and operational constraints imposed by the USBR.

As discussed in Chapter 2, recent droughts have resulted in severe allocation cuts, including the 2021–2022 emergency, when allocations were reduced to PHS levels, significantly below the City's average demand. Without supplemental sources, water supply shortages during droughts will likely recur, especially as drought frequency and intensity are projected to worsen due to climate change.

3.1.3. Aging Infrastructure

While this Study is focused on identifying long-term water supply alternatives, improvements to the City's wastewater and recycled water systems are an important parallel consideration, particularly where they intersect with groundwater sustainability and the potential for future non-potable reuse.

The City of Coalinga is responsible for providing sewer services to approximately 3,687 customer connections, comprising 3,369 residential and 318 non-residential users. The City's sewer collection system includes approximately 42 miles of gravity pipelines, with diameters ranging from 6 to 24 inches.

As part of a recent system-wide evaluation, the City conducted a comprehensive assessment of its sewer collection system and WWTP. The assessment identified aging infrastructure and recommended improvements to address system deficiencies and support long-term service reliability. Notably, approximately 50 percent of the inspected sewer pipelines were found to require rehabilitation or replacement due to structural deficiencies and aging materials.

The WWTP, which currently treats up to 1.34 MGD of municipal wastewater, was evaluated under three alternative improvement scenarios. Each alternative considered the level of treatment, effluent disposal method, and associated costs. The evaluation concluded that **Alternative II** provides the most feasible and cost-effective solution for meeting both current and future regulatory and operational needs.

WWTP Improvement Alternatives:

- **Alternative I – Existing Treatment with Offsite Disposal via Agricultural Irrigation (Non-Human Consumption):**
  This alternative would continue the current practice of discharging undisinfected secondary-treated effluent to offsite agricultural land for irrigation of non-food crops. While this option is the least costly, it does not support long-term groundwater protection or reuse opportunities.

- **Alternative II – Upgrade to Extended Aeration with Biological Nutrient Removal and Onsite Disposal via Percolation (Groundwater Recharge):**
  This preferred alternative proposes an upgrade to the treatment process, incorporating extended aeration with biological nutrient removal. Effluent would be disposed onsite through five newly constructed percolation ponds, totaling approximately 18.34 acres in surface area. The new process would produce undisinfected secondary effluent with nitrogen removal, allowing for incidental groundwater recharge and improved protection of the underlying aquifer. The existing aerated lagoons and stabilization ponds would be decommissioned to accommodate the new percolation facilities. The construction cost for Alternative II is estimated at approximately **$15 million**.

- **Alternative III – Upgrade to Tertiary Treatment with Offsite Reuse via Agricultural and Landscape Irrigation (Human Consumption Crops and Public Spaces):**
  This alternative would treat effluent to disinfected tertiary standards in compliance with Title 22, enabling its use for irrigation of public parks, schools, and potentially food crops. Implementation would require installation of approximately 57,200 linear feet of new "purple pipe" distribution infrastructure. Existing irrigation systems would also need to be disconnected from the potable water system and converted to use recycled water. While this approach would significantly reduce potable water use and expand reuse, the cost—estimated at **$39 million**—was deemed prohibitive. Total landscape irrigation demand is estimated at 0.42 MGD, which limits the benefit relative to the cost.

The total construction cost for the **proposed project**, which includes both sewer collection system rehabilitation and implementation of **Alternative II**, is estimated at approximately **$29 million**. The City intends to pursue funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program to support project implementation.

Although the selected alternative does not directly expand the City's potable water supply, the implementation of extended aeration with nutrient removal will significantly improve the quality of effluent discharged for percolation. This will provide incidental recharge to the local groundwater basin and help protect groundwater quality and beneficial uses in compliance with groundwater sustainability objectives. At present, the existing WWTP discharge is not protective of groundwater, underscoring the importance of the proposed improvements.

During the preparation of this Study, in early 2025, the City entered into an agreement with Gladstone Land to provide groundwater recharge credits in exchange for CVP water. The City has access to some groundwater recharge credit derivative of treated effluent from the City's WWTP. Under the agreement, Gladstone Land has agreed to transfer up to 500 AF of CVP water to the City. In return, the City will allocate groundwater recharge credits to Gladstone Land and provide to Gladstone Land the exclusive right to extract for irrigation of calculated groundwater recharge. These credits will be transferred to Gladstone Land at a 2:1 ratio, meaning the volume of water the City will transfer is equal to twice the volume of CVP water received. For exchange of groundwater recharge credits for CVP water delivered, the City will obtain exchange credit approval from the Pleasant Valley GSA. For extraction approval of the calculated groundwater recharge, Gladstone Land will be responsible for necessary filling with DWR, Pleasant Valley GSA, and any other necessary agency.

3.1.4. Climate Change

Climate change introduces significant uncertainty into long-term water supply planning, particularly for communities like Coalinga that rely exclusively on imported surface water. Observed water supply shortages over the past decade are expected to become more frequent and severe due to climate-driven shifts in hydrology and water availability. These impacts must be considered when evaluating future supply reliability and drought resilience.

To understand the potential impacts of climate change on imported water supplies, an evaluation of future WY types between 2025 and 2040 was conducted. In California, the Sacramento Valley Water Supply Index and the San Joaquin Valley Water Supply Index are commonly used to classify water years based on forecasted runoff and the prior year's classification. These indices categorize years into five types: wet, above normal, below normal, dry, and critically dry.

The CalSim water resource planning model—developed jointly by DWR and the USBR—was used to simulate changes to the Sacramento Valley Water Supply Index under both existing and projected future climate conditions. Specifically, simulations were conducted using the 2043 median climate change scenario, which reflects anticipated hydrologic changes due to warming temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and reduced snowpack. It should be noted that the definition of a WY based on the Sacramento Valley Water Supply Index is different - the WY based on the Sacramento Valley Water Supply Index extends from October 1 through the end of September while the USBR's WY extends from March 1 through the end of February.

Table 3-2 compares the historical CVP M&I allocations against the projected CVP South of Delta M&I allocations for the climate change conditions based on the CalSim3 simulations performed for the State Water Project Delivery Capability Report (DCR) 2023. The DCR projections are based on 95 percent level of concern. This represents the most conservative assumptions for CVP allocations and is considered appropriate for use in planning purposes. While the historic allocations dropped to 25 percent during extreme droughts (e.g., water years 1991, 2015, and 2021), as stated in the 2023 DCR, CVP M&I allocations based on the CalSim3 simulations are constrained between 50 – 100 percent because the conditions that would trigger 25 percent cutbacks are not represented in the DCR. As shown in Table 3-3, average CVP allocations by WY types under the climate change conditions are slightly higher than those under the historical conditions for critically dry, below normal and wet years. However, the long-term average CVP allocation is at 77 percent both under the historical conditions and future climate change projections.

The estimated CVP allocations in Table 3-2 are applied in Section 6 to estimate the City's M&I supply and assess the potential for the recommended alternative(s) to address future anticipated demand and deficits.

Table 3-2. CVP M&I South of Delta Allocations by Sacramento Valley Water Year Types for Historical Conditions and Future Projections with Climate Change

Year	Sacramento Valley Water Supply Index	Historical CVP Allocation (%)	2043 CVP M&I Allocation (%)[1]
1990	Critically Dry	50	50
1991	Critically Dry	25	50
1992	Critically Dry	75	60
1993	Above Normal	75	100
1994	Critically Dry	75	57
1995	Wet	100	100
1996	Wet	100	100
1997	Wet	90	100
1998	Wet	100	100
1999	Wet	95	100
2000	Above Normal	90	78
2001	Dry	77	50
2002	Dry	95	75
2003	Above Normal	100	79
2004	Below Normal	95	78
2005	Above Normal	100	98
2006	Wet	100	100
2007	Dry	75	75
2008	Critically Dry	75	56
2009	Dry	60	55
2010	Below Normal	75	75
2011	Wet	100	100
2012	Below Normal	75	88
2013	Dry	70	75
2014	Critically Dry	50	50
2015	Critically Dry	25	50
2016	Below Normal	55	75
2017	Wet	100	100
2018	Below Normal	75	83
2019	Wet	100	100
2020	Dry	65	70
2021	Critically Dry	25	50

Note:

1. CVP allocations represent 95 percent risk level based on the DCR 2023.

Table 3-3. Average CVP Allocations by Sacramento Valley Water Year Types for Historical Conditions and Future Projections with Climate Change (1990 – 2021)

Classification	# of Years	Historical CVP Allocation (%)	2043 CVP M&I Allocation (%)[1]
Critically Dry	8	50	53
Dry	6	74	67
Below Normal	5	75	80
Above Normal	4	91	89
Wet	9	98	100

Note:
1. CVP allocations represent 95 percent risk level based on the DCR 2023.

3.1.5. Finances

The City of Coalinga adopts an annual budget each fiscal year (FY), which runs from July 1 through June 30. The City's expenditure framework is organized into five primary fund groups, each supporting specific operational, capital, or service needs:

1. **General Fund** – Supports general administrative operations and ongoing maintenance activities across City departments.

2. **Debt Service Fund** – Covers repayment obligations for bonds issued in 2018 and 2021, primarily for water and sewer infrastructure projects.

3. **Water Enterprise Fund** – Funds the operation and maintenance of utility services, including water, sewer, gas, and sanitation. Each service is budgeted separately within this fund.

4. **Special Revenue Grant Fund** – Supports transportation-related projects, including bike trails, sidewalks, and park improvements, funded through grant revenues.

5. **Capital Projects Fund** – Finances long-term capital improvement projects, including infrastructure upgrades and facility improvements.

Water supply-related expenditures are primarily allocated through the Water Enterprise Fund, though capital-intensive water projects may also be funded through the Capital Projects Fund when applicable.

Historical revenue and expenditure trends for the Water Enterprise Fund and the Capital Projects Fund over the past ten to twelve FYs are illustrated in Figure 3-3. and Figure 3-4, respectively. Figure 3-4 also shows fund balances as of FY 2021.

Water Enterprise Fund Performance

Between FY 2012 and FY 2023, expenditures from the Water Enterprise Fund exceeded revenues in four out of twelve years, with an average annual deficit of approximately $387,000 (Figure 3-3.). By FY 2015, the cumulative deficit reached approximately $1.55 million. From FY 2016 onward, the fund began to show positive variances, with FYs 2016–2023 all generating surpluses. This led to a cumulative positive variance (net revenue available for debt service) of $4.1 million by FY 2023. From the lowest cumulative variance in FY 2015 (–$1.55 million) to FY 2023 (+$4.1 million), the cumulative balance improved by approximately $5.65 million.

Capital Projects Fund Performance

The Capital Projects Fund experienced similar fiscal pressures. Between FY 2012 and FY 2021, fund expenditures exceeded revenues in seven out of ten years, with an average annual deficit of approximately $130,000 (Figure 3-4). Over this period, the fund balance declined by more than 85 percent, from $3.1 million in FY 2012 to just over $425,000 in FY 2021. As of June 30, 2023, the City's unaudited financials estimate the Capital Projects Fund balance to be essentially depleted, with an overrun of more than $3,700. As of April 30, 2025, the Project fund has a balance of $3,426,564 but will be expended on ongoing projects.

These historical financial trends underscore the importance of strategic capital planning and the need for external funding—such as grants or low-interest financing—for major infrastructure investments, including those related to water supply resilience and system upgrades.

Figure 3-3. City of Coalinga Historical Water Enterprise Revenue and Expenditures

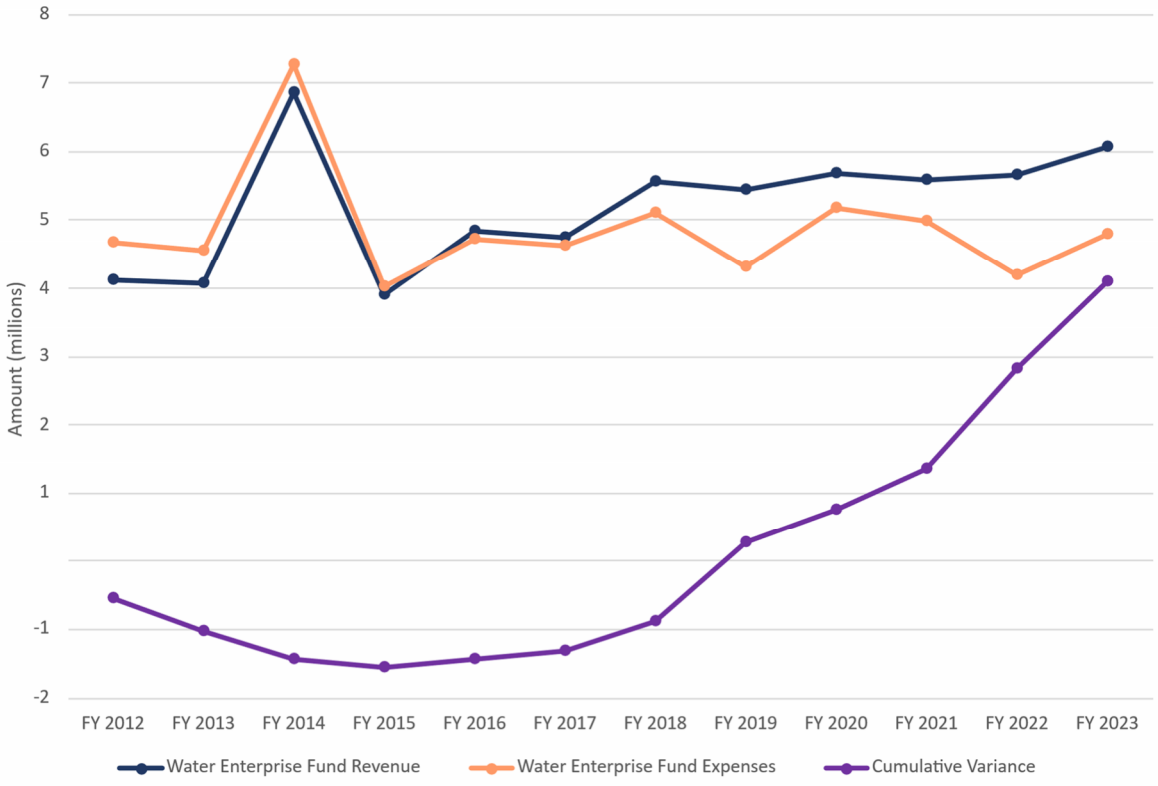
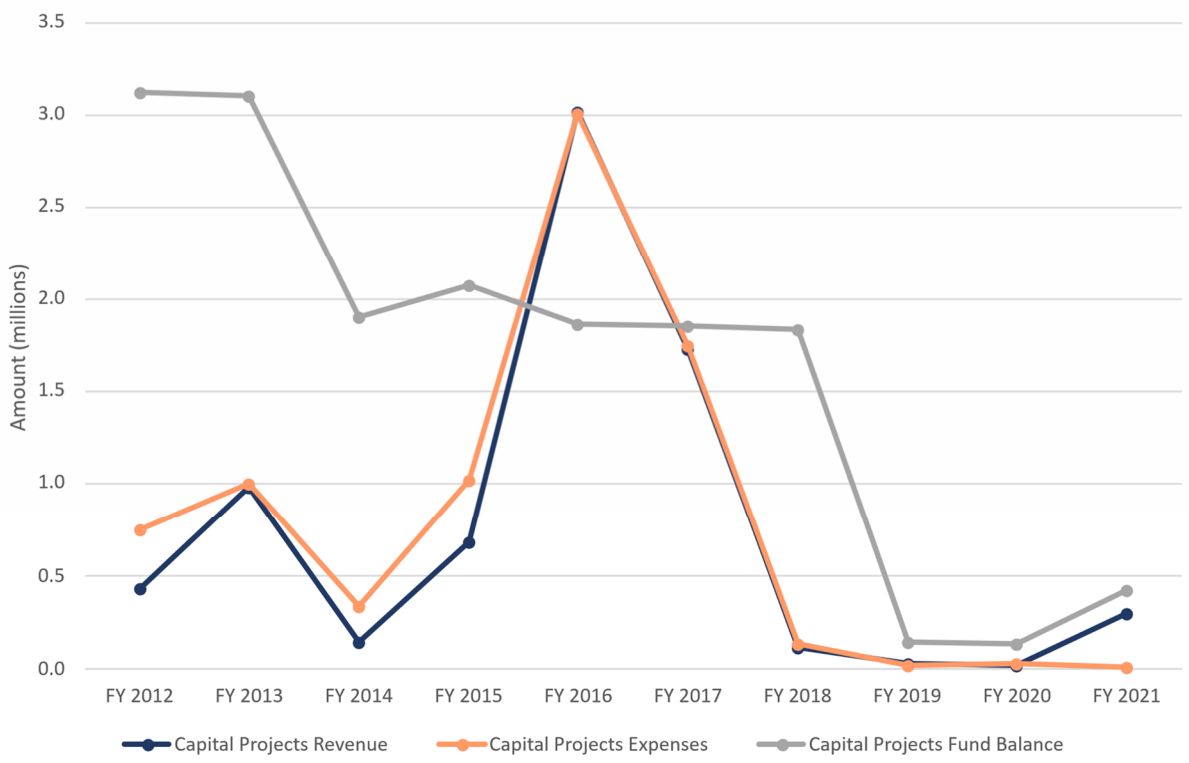


Figure 3-4. City of Coalinga Historical Capital Projects Revenue and Expenditures



3.1.6. Affordability

Affordability is a key consideration in the formulation and implementation of water supply alternatives for the City of Coalinga, particularly given the City's socioeconomic characteristics and the financial capacity of its ratepayers. As a small, rural community in the Central Valley, Coalinga has a relatively modest customer base, which limits its ability to spread the costs of large capital projects across a broad population. This challenge is compounded by the City's existing financial constraints, further discussed in Section 4.1.2.

The City has historically maintained competitive water rates compared to other regional agencies. However, recurring deficits within the Water Enterprise Fund and the need for significant investments in water supply, distribution, and treatment infrastructure will likely necessitate future rate adjustments. The last rate study was completed in 2020, and a new study may be conducted within the next year. Planned projects—including meter replacements, WWTP upgrades, and potential water supply augmentation—represent substantial capital commitments that will directly affect the affordability of water for customers.

Affordability concerns are particularly important given the community's demographics. According to recent U.S. Census data, Coalinga's median household income is lower than the California average, and a significant portion of the population is considered low-income. For these households, increases in water rates may represent a substantial financial burden. Furthermore, the City's largest institutional customers, such as Pleasant Valley State Prison and Coalinga State Hospital, account for a considerable share of total demand, and changes in water costs could have broader implications for these critical facilities.

In response, the City is actively pursuing available state and federal funding opportunities, including grants, loans, and drought relief programs, to minimize the financial impact on its ratepayers. For example, recent grants secured from DWR have been used to offset costs associated with emergency water purchases and system improvements. Continued access to external funding sources will be vital to help the City balance the need for infrastructure investments with its commitment to maintaining affordable water services.

As future alternatives are evaluated in this Study, affordability will remain a critical criterion, ensuring that recommended solutions are financially sustainable for both the City and its customers. The City will also continue to explore opportunities for cost-sharing, regional partnerships, and state or federal financial assistance to reduce reliance on rate increases alone.

3.2. Opportunities

3.2.1. Available Water Supplies

The City of Coalinga's imported water supply, secured through its contract with the CVP, has historically exhibited substantial variability due to hydrologic conditions and CVP allocation decisions. Between water years (WY) 2013/14 and 2023/24, the City's average CVP water supply was approximately 5,870 AF (Figure 3-5). This average was significantly influenced by three water years—2017/18, 2019/20, and 2023/24—when the City received its full contracted allocation of 10,000 AF.

Conversely, allocations were significantly reduced during drought periods. The lowest allocations occurred in WY2016/17 and WY2022/23, with deliveries reduced to approximately 3,700 AF and 3,100 AF, respectively. Notably, WY2022/23 marked the first instance in the past decade when the City received a PHS allocation. PHS allocations are determined by the USBR based on essential water needs, calculated using an assumed per capita demand of 55 gpcd, plus 70 percent of projected commercial, institutional, and industrial demands, with an additional 10 percent to account for system losses.

Historical Water Supply Deficits

The variability of CVP allocations has resulted in periodic water supply deficits (Figure 3-6). These deficits were calculated by comparing the historical M&I demands (Figure 2-4) against the historical CVP allocations received by the City (Figure 3-5). Deficits occurred during three of the past ten years:

- WY2013/14 – 449 AF deficit
- WY2021/22 – 277 AF deficit
- WY2022/23 – 475 AF deficit

Cumulatively, these deficits total approximately 1,200 AF, averaging roughly 400 AF per year, or about 10 percent of the City's average M&I demand over the past decade (3,925 AF).

These supply shortfalls would have been more severe without additional water acquired through USBR's discretionary allocations based on demonstrated need. Between WY2013/14 and WY2022/23, the City submitted six such requests, resulting in the delivery of approximately 5,500 AF of supplemental water, equivalent to roughly 15 percent of the total M&I demand during this period. However, the City's ability to rely on discretionary

allocations from USBR in the future is uncertain due to changing hydrologic conditions, regulatory constraints, and competing demands among CVP contractors.

Role of Water Transfers

To further address supply shortfalls, the City has historically relied on water transfers from other CVP contractors, as outlined in Section 2.1.4. Most recently, deficits during WY2021/22 and WY2022/23 were mitigated through transfers from the City of Avenal and PID. These transfers have played a critical role in maintaining water supply reliability during periods of drought and allocation reductions.

The continuation and expansion of water transfer opportunities, along with other supply diversification strategies, will be essential to addressing future supply shortfalls and enhancing the City's overall water supply resiliency.

Figure 3-5. Historical Central Valley Project Allocations

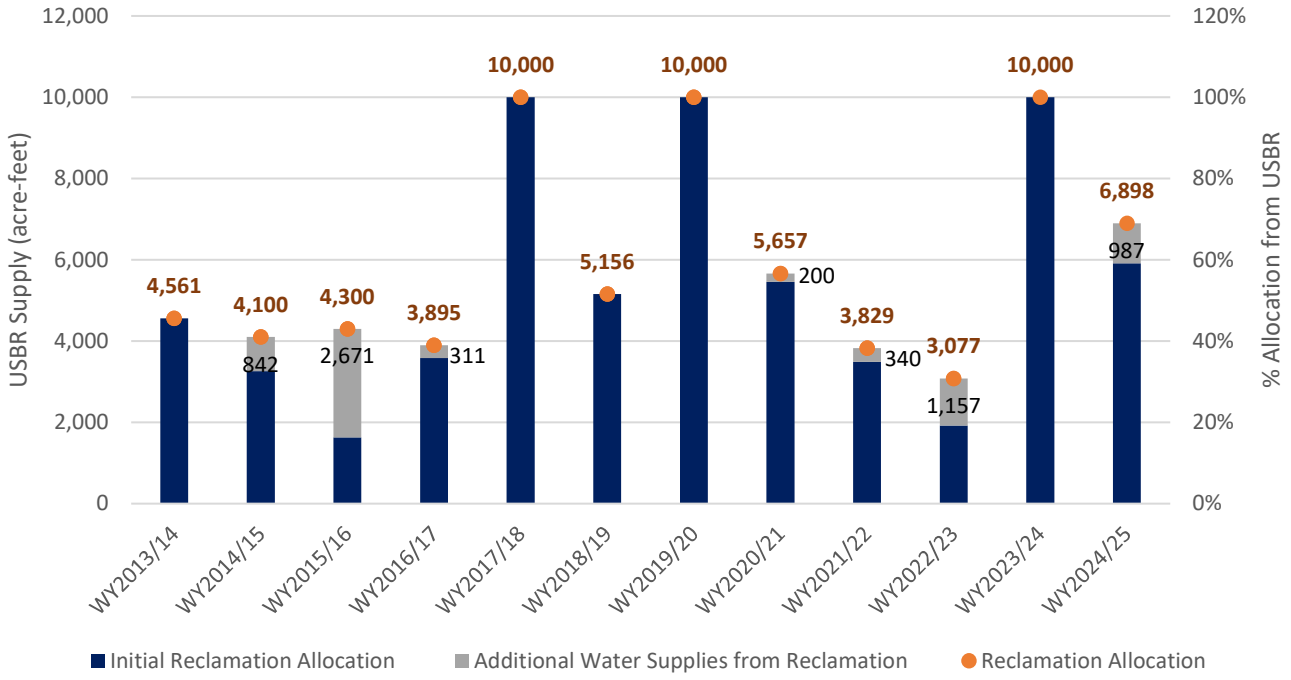
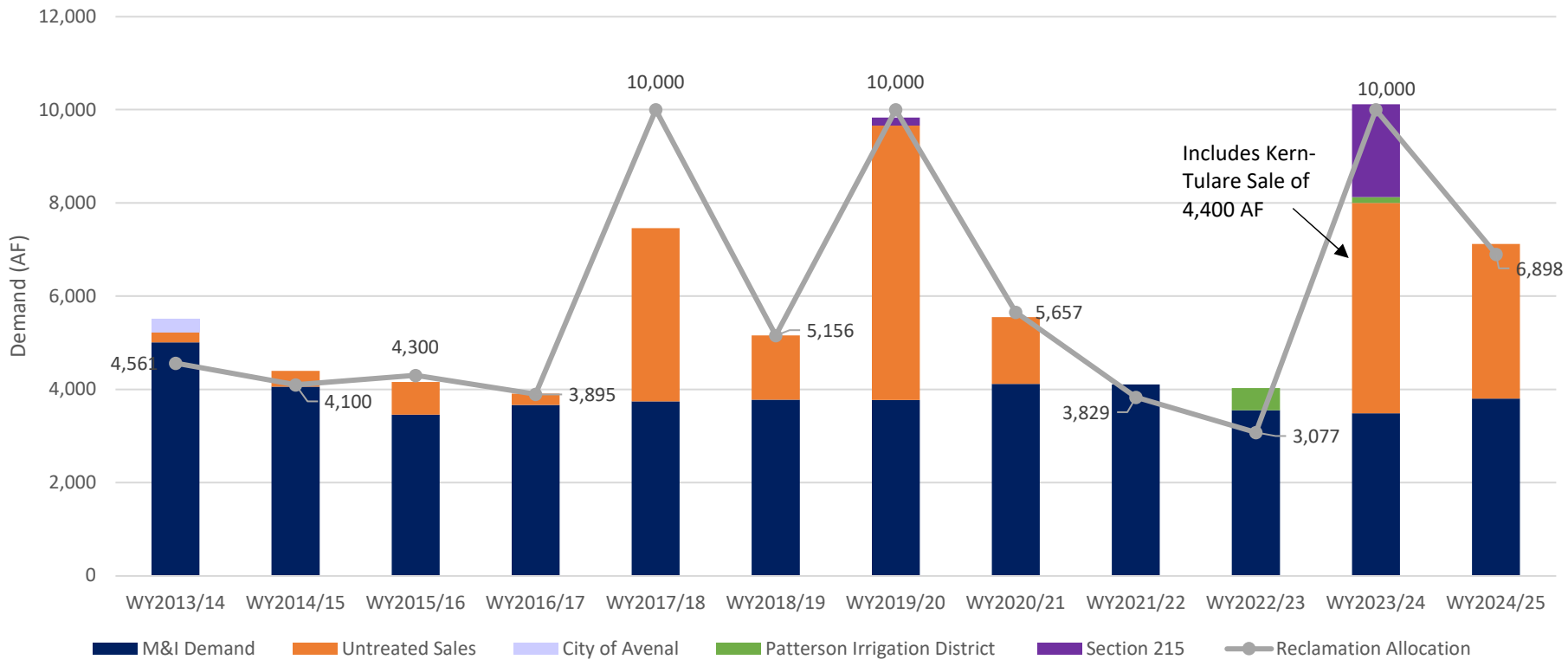


Figure 3-6. Historical Water Supply Deficits WY2013-14 to WY2024-25



Notes:

1. WY 2023/24 untreated sales include the Kern-Tulare sale of 4,400 AF.

3.2.2. Infrastructure Improvements

The City of Coalinga currently discharges treated effluent from its WWTP to adjacent City-owned lands, where it serves as a source of incidental groundwater recharge to the underlying PV Subbasin (refer to Section 3.3 for additional details). The City estimates that approximately 1 MGD, or about 1,100 AFY, of treated effluent infiltrates into the PV Subbasin through this process. While this incidental recharge provides a localized groundwater benefit, the existing WWTP is not equipped to produce tertiary-treated, Title 22-compliant recycled water for direct beneficial use.

As discussed in 3.1.3, upgrading the City's WWTP to produce tertiary-treated recycled water could present a future opportunity to diversify water supply and reduce potable water demand. Recent regulatory developments further support this potential, as the State Water Resources Control Board adopted uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse (DPR) on December 19, 2023. However, the feasibility of upgrading the WWTP for recycled water production will depend on the associated capital costs, operational requirements, and the scale of potential non-potable reuse applications within the City.

An additional opportunity exists through the Pleasant Valley State Prison, a significant institutional customer served by the City. The prison owns and operates its own WWTP, which is capable of producing up to 0.63 MGD (approximately 700 AFY) of tertiary-treated, Title 22-compliant recycled water. Currently, the prison has an agreement with a private landowner to use this recycled water for agricultural irrigation. The terms and duration of this agreement are presently unclear, but the arrangement presents a potential opportunity for the City.

If available, the City could pursue an agreement with Pleasant Valley State Prison to acquire and utilize this tertiary-treated water for non-potable applications, such as landscape irrigation within the City. This approach may offer a more cost-effective alternative compared to upgrading the City’s WWTP, as it would primarily involve the construction of a dedicated recycled water conveyance system to deliver the recycled water to end users. Further evaluation would be required to assess system costs, operational logistics, and the extent to which this option could offset potable water demand and enhance water supply reliability.

3.2.3. Groundwater Banking

Groundwater banking, also referred to as aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), is a water management strategy that utilizes available aquifer storage to store surplus surface water during wet years for later recovery during periods of drought or water shortage. Groundwater banking serves as a foundational element of conjunctive use programs and integrated water resources management.

There are generally two primary methods of groundwater banking:

- **In-Lieu (Indirect) Recharge:**
  Surface water is delivered in place of groundwater pumping, allowing groundwater that would otherwise be extracted to remain in storage. This approach increases groundwater levels indirectly by reducing pumping demand during wet years.

- **Direct Recharge:**
  Surface water is introduced into a recharge basin or spreading facility and allowed to percolate directly into the aquifer. Alternatively, some programs utilize direct injection, where water is physically injected into the aquifer through wells, as is common in many ASR systems (Washington Department of Water Resources, 2009).

Groundwater banking offers multiple benefits. The natural storage capacity of aquifers reduces the need for extensive surface reservoir infrastructure, resulting in lower capital investment compared to surface storage alternatives. Additionally, by maintaining or raising groundwater levels through recharge, banking operations can reduce the risk of land subsidence, a common concern in groundwater-dependent basins.

Groundwater banking has been successfully implemented across California. The Kern Water Bank, located in Kern County, is one of the most prominent examples, encompassing approximately 30 square miles with a storage capacity of up to 1.5 million AF. The success of such projects highlights the potential for groundwater banking to enhance drought resilience, improve water supply reliability, and support regional groundwater sustainability goals.

For the City of Coalinga, groundwater banking may present an opportunity to capture and store surplus CVP surface water during wet years, which could then be recovered during droughts to supplement limited imported supplies. Future evaluation will be needed to assess the feasibility of banking within the Pleasant Valley Subbasin or through partnerships with existing groundwater banking programs.

3.2.4. Compliance with Urban Water Use Objectives

On July 3, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the final regulation associated with the "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" initiative, establishing new statewide water conservation requirements. The regulation, which goes into effect on January 1, 2025, introduces Urban Water Use Objectives (UWUOs) for urban retail water suppliers. The regulation was modified following a public review period that concluded on July 30, 2024. State enforcement will begin in 2027.

The regulation requires urban retail water suppliers, including the City of Coalinga, to meet annual, customized water efficiency targets based on the unique characteristics of their service area. These objectives are not imposed on individual households or businesses but apply to the supplier's aggregate water use. Required reductions may range from negligible to over 30 percent, depending on local conditions. The goal of this regulation is to prepare communities for the effects of climate change, reduce reliance on emergency drought measures, and promote long-term sustainable water use.

While the regulation provides flexibility for local implementation, it poses challenges for agencies like Coalinga, which have already achieved significant water use reductions during past droughts but face increasing demand due to population growth.

Regulatory Background

The rulemaking stems from California's legislative mandates under Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 and Senate Bill (SB) 606, adopted on August 18, 2023, which directed the State Water Board to establish performance standards and

efficiency measures for urban water use. The following milestones and requirements are key components of the regulation:

- Indoor Residential Water Use Standards (SB 1157):
    - 55 gpcd through December 31, 2024.
    - 47 gpcd from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2029.
    - 42 gpcd beginning January 1, 2030.
- Water Loss Standard (Water Code §10608.34):
    - The State Water Board adopted water loss standards in early 2023.
    - Suppliers must submit validated water loss audit reports annually.
- UWUOs (Water Code §10609):
    - Suppliers must establish, report, and assess annual UWUOs beginning January 1, 2024.
    - Suppliers must submit annual urban water use reports to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), including assessments of performance relative to their UWUO, commercial, industrial, and institutional water use performance measures, and progress toward meeting objectives.
- UWMP Supplement:
    - By January 1, 2024, suppliers were required to adopt and submit a supplement to the 2020 UWMP describing planned demand management measures to achieve UWUOs.
- Water Shortage Assessment Reports:
    - Suppliers must annually submit water shortage assessments starting June 1, 2022.

Implementation Tools and Flexibility

The regulation is designed to allow suppliers flexibility in achieving compliance by selecting locally appropriate solutions. Suppliers may employ a variety of demand management and conservation tools, such as:

- Leak detection and repair programs.
- Customer rebate programs for water-efficient appliances and fixtures.
- Incentives to replace high-water-use landscaping with “climate-ready” or drought-tolerant landscaping.
- Education, public outreach, and customer engagement programs.

- Water rate structure adjustments to encourage conservation.

For the City of Coalinga, compliance will require careful balancing of demand reduction strategies, affordability considerations, and future system growth. Continued conservation investments, system efficiency improvements, and community engagement will be essential to meeting the UWUO requirements while ensuring a sustainable and reliable water supply.

3.2.5. Water Loss Reduction and Improved Data Collection

The City of Coalinga is actively implementing a comprehensive meter replacement program to address aging metering infrastructure and improve water system efficiency. On June 9, 2023, the City was awarded a $3 million grant from DWR to support the replacement of all single-family residential water meters by 2026. In parallel, the City has initiated the replacement of larger meters (greater than one inch in diameter) using internal resources, with all large meter replacements scheduled for completion by 2025.

The City's water system currently includes approximately 3,873 active meters of varying sizes, as summarized in Table 3-4 . This includes a mix of residential, commercial, and institutional meters, with the majority being 1-inch meters serving single-family residences. The City is also in the process of replacing medium-sized meters, which are expected to be fully upgraded by 2025 (see Table 3-5).

Table 3-4. City of Coalinga Meter Sizes as of November 2024

Size (inches)	Number of Meters
1	3,680
1 1/2	69
2	47
3	16
3/4	16
4	17
5/8	20
6	8
Total	**3,873**

Table 3-5. City of Coalinga Smart Meters as of January 2025

Size (inches)	Number of Meters
1	679
1 1/2	15
2	14
3	3
3/4	1
4	1
Total	**713**

4. Alternatives Identification

Based on the challenges, opportunities, and constraints identified in Chapter 3, four primary types of alternatives were formulated to address the City's objective of improving long-term water supply resiliency. These alternatives reflect a range of potential approaches, including development of new supplies, regional partnerships, improved use of existing resources, and enhanced water management practices. Each alternative and its associated options are summarized in this section and will be further evaluated in Chapter 5.

4.1. Formulation of Alternatives

Water supply availability is inherently variable due to seasonal, annual, and climate-driven fluctuations. To address these challenges, the following four alternatives were identified for detailed consideration:

Table 4-1. Alternatives and Options

Alternatives	Options	Considerations
Water Banking	Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement	• Develop a conceptual framework among the partners • Identify sources of supply • Develop details about physical groundwater banking/recharge facilities • Infrastructure and conveyance requirements • Identify banking capacity, limits based on infiltration rates and conveyance capacities • Regulatory compliance • Leave-behind requirements • Treatment requirements • Monitoring requirements • Long-term commitment
	Semitropic Water Storage District	• Develop regional banking partnerships • Water losses • Leave-behind requirements • Capacity • Extensive Monitoring • Location and timing concerns • Cost effective
	Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District	
	Willow Springs Water Bank	
Local Groundwater Pumping		• Local supply • Water quality issues in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin • Cost of treatment, new well(s), and monitoring
Recycled Water		• Local supply • Cost of treatment and infrastructure
Water Conservation		• Maintenance, system improvement • Supply by reducing losses; compliance with regulations

4.1.1. Alternative 1: Water Banking

Groundwater banking is a water management strategy that enables the storage of surplus surface water in an aquifer during wet years for later recovery during droughts or periods of limited CVP allocations. This approach provides a means to mitigate supply variability and strengthen long-term water supply reliability. Banking can occur locally, in collaboration with nearby partners, or regionally through established banking programs. Several potential banking options applicable to the City of Coalinga are identified and discussed in subsequent sections.

Key Elements of Groundwater Banking Programs

Groundwater banking programs typically consist of four fundamental components: (1) water delivery for recharge, (2) recharge infrastructure, (3) recovery capacity, and (4) water accounting. To successfully implement a banking program, several critical factors must be evaluated:

Regulatory Compliance

All groundwater banking activities must comply with applicable state and local regulations, most notably the SGMA and the local GSP. Any banking program must be designed to support sustainable groundwater conditions and demonstrate that recovery operations will not cause undesirable results, such as overdraft, land subsidence, or impacts to water quality.

Environmental and Third-Party Considerations

Banking operations can affect other groundwater users, surface water flows, and ecosystems. Programs must be designed to minimize adverse impacts to neighboring users and the environment. Recovery operations, if not properly managed, can contribute to declining groundwater levels, interfere with other wells, or degrade water quality. Projects must establish protocols to ensure that the program is protective of long-term basin health, consistent with GSP sustainability objectives, and equitable to all stakeholders.

Operational and Maintenance Costs

While groundwater banking typically requires lower capital investment than surface storage projects, it still involves ongoing operational and administrative costs. These include:

- Recharge facility operations
- Groundwater monitoring
- Data management and water accounting
- Regulatory reporting
- Long-term maintenance of recharge and recovery infrastructure

A clear understanding of these recurring costs is essential for evaluating program feasibility.

Water Losses

Not all water recharged into a groundwater basin is recoverable. Water losses may result from:

- Seepage to adjacent basins or deep aquifer layers
- Evaporation (in the case of surface spreading)
- Plant uptake during recharge
- Reduced recoverability due to changes in groundwater flow pattern

The magnitude of these losses varies depending on soil characteristics, groundwater gradients, and basin conditions. Use of modern hydrologic modeling and monitoring technologies can improve project design and minimize unrecoverable losses.

Leave-Behind Requirements

Most groundwater banking programs require participants to leave a portion of the recharged water in the aquifer to support sustainable groundwater levels. This “leave-behind” helps:

- Mitigate the cumulative impacts of groundwater extraction
- Support basin recovery during droughts
- Offset unquantified water losses

Leave-behind percentages vary depending on the banking partner and local hydrologic conditions, ranging from 10 to 50 percent in some programs.

Groundwater banking offers the City of Coalinga a flexible and adaptive option to improve its drought resilience by securing a supplemental water source during critical periods. However, successful implementation will require careful evaluation of each program's operational rules, costs, groundwater dynamics, and regulatory commitments. The following subsections provide a detailed description of five specific groundwater banking alternatives identified for the City’s consideration.

4.1.1.1. Alternative 1a: Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Westlands Water District

Alternative 1a consists of partnering with Westlands to develop a local banking/ exchange agreement arrangement, utilizing existing infrastructure within the Coalinga Canal system for both recharge and recovery operations. This alternative offers two potential approaches, depending on the details of the partnership agreement:

- Local banking
- Banking by exchange agreement

Given the water quality concerns in the Subbasin, returning the banked water to the Coalinga Canal may not be viable due to the poor quality of Pleasant Valley Subbasin water. To address this issue, the City could explore the option of a banking by exchange agreement with Westlands, as an alternative to local water banking. In this option, the physical recovery of the banked water to the City would not be through wells in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin, but from other water supply (well water, banked water, or available surface water) could physically flow through the San Luis Canal and into the Coalinga Canal. If the banking by exchange agreement is reached between the City and Westlands, this would not require construction of a treatment plant, or additional piping.

Under this alternative, the City could bank surplus CVP water during wet years by:

1. Injecting water directly into the groundwater basin through Westlands-managed recharge facilities.

2. Partnering with local landowners who can recharge water into the aquifer and return it to the City via the Coalinga Canal during times of need.

3. Exchanging Westlands' CVP entitlement with the City to return the City's banked water, when feasible, and Westlands pumping City's banked water for local use.

This approach would create a geographically proximate banking arrangement, leveraging the existing physical connection between Westlands and the City through the Coalinga Canal. This option offers the opportunity to directly connect to Westlands system and directly deliver the banked water to the City. However, due to water quality concerns in the basin, the City may prioritize a banking exchange agreement over local water banking, when feasible, to ensure that the quality of the returned water meets necessary standards.

It is important to note that the Coalinga Canal is available to all users and is not limited solely to Westlands.

Westlands Water District Overview

Westlands is located east of the City of Coalinga and is shown in Figure 4-1. The District is one of the largest agricultural water districts in the nation, covering portions of Fresno and Kings counties. For over

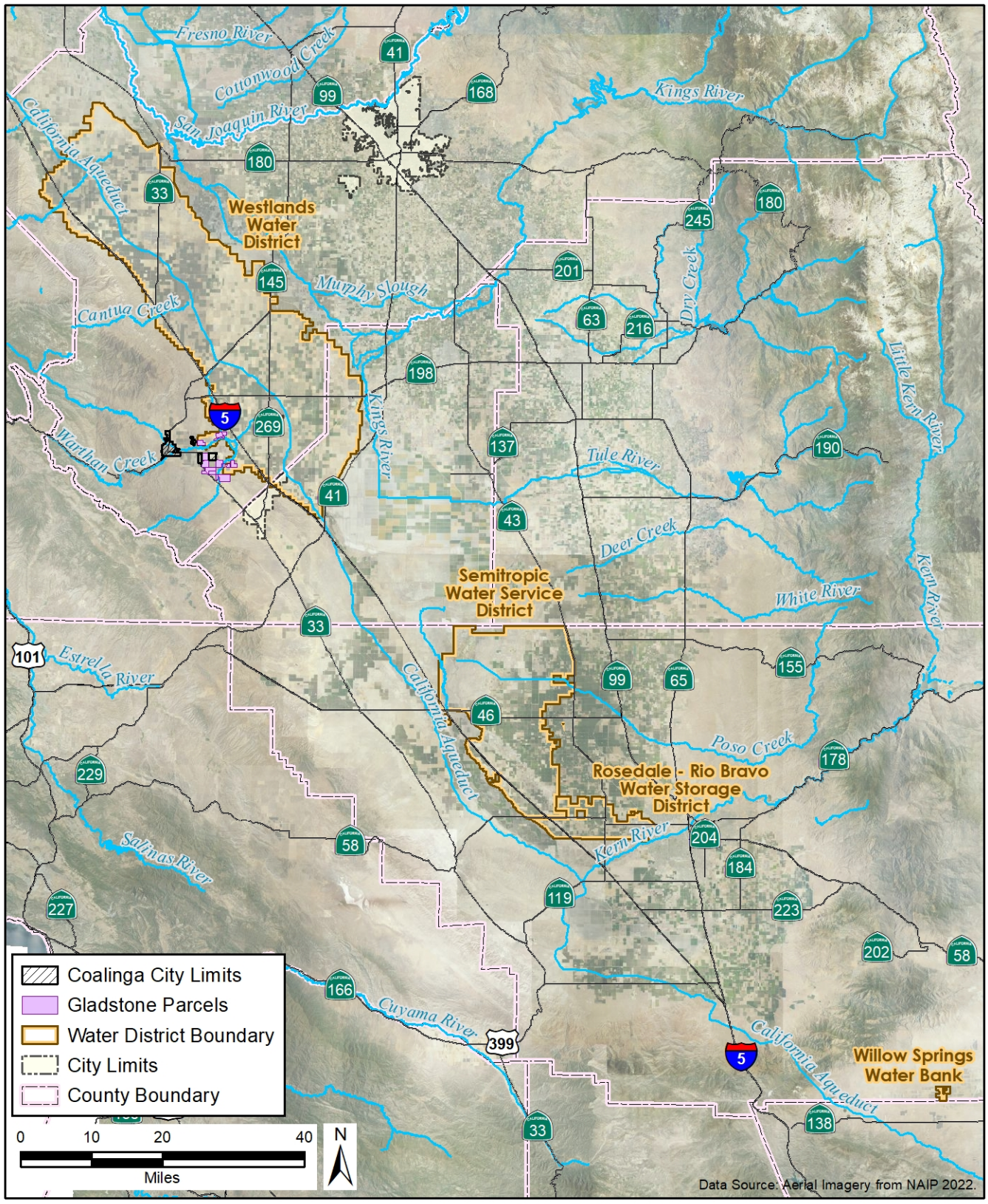
50 years, Westlands has delivered CVP water to support agricultural production and rural communities while advancing water conservation and environmental stewardship.

Key characteristics of the Westlands system include:

- Delivery of CVP water via the Delta-Mendota Canal, San Luis Reservoir, and ultimately through the San Luis Canal and Coalinga Canal.
- Operation of over 1,100 miles of pipelines and more than 3,000 water meters.
- Management of groundwater recharge programs for local water users.

Westlands serves as the City's conveyance provider for untreated CVP water through the Coalinga Canal, providing operational familiarity and infrastructure compatibility for potential banking operations.

Figure 4-1. Banking Options – Westlands, Semitropic, Rosedale, and Willow Springs



Z:\Projects\2204930_DWR_Drought_Support_TO_23_01_Coalinga\G005_2204930_RegionalBankingOptions.mxd
13Jan2025 RS

Recent Recharge Operations and Capacity

In WY2023/24, Westlands conducted extensive recharge efforts in response to favorable hydrologic conditions, successfully recharging approximately 380,000 AF of surface water, exceeding its recharge target of 275,000 AF. These recharge efforts included:

- Construction and operation of recharge basins.
- Use of ASR wells.
- Application of Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) techniques.
- Sublateral recharge within the district's existing conveyance infrastructure.

These recent achievements demonstrate the District's technical capacity and operational readiness to participate in expanded banking efforts.

Grant Funding and Future Expansion

Westlands has also secured a $25 million federal grant to fund priority groundwater recharge and storage projects. This funding will further enhance the District's capacity to support groundwater banking, including:

- Expansion of recharge infrastructure.
- Increased storage and recovery capabilities.
- Improved monitoring and reporting systems.

The enhanced capacity may provide additional flexibility for banking arrangements with the City, especially during periods of drought when family farms and disadvantaged communities rely heavily on reliable water supplies.

Suitability for the City

Alternative 1a presents a viable local banking opportunity that benefits from:

- Proximity to the City's existing infrastructure.
- Westlands' experience and capacity in groundwater recharge.
- Availability of surplus capacity during wet years.

- Potential for recovery via the Coalinga Canal that would convey the banked water to the City's WTP. [1]

This alternative would leverage the Westlands' existing infrastructure and offer benefits of discharging banked water directly into the Coalinga Canal through a local farmer and deliver to the City's WTP. However, the feasibility of this alternative will depend on the specific terms of a future agreement, including the recovery efficiency, leave-behind requirements, water accounting, and operational costs. In addition, meeting water quality requirements and compliance with USBR water quality standards after the recovery of the banked water are important considerations. Therefore, the City may also explore a banking by exchange agreement with Westlands.

The City will continue discussions with Westlands to further understand USBR water quality monitoring and reporting requirements of the banked water within Westlands. The alternative aligns with regional groundwater management goals and could serve as a long-term solution to enhance Coalinga's drought resilience.

4.1.1.2. Alternative 1b: Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Gladstone Land

Alternative 1b, considers the development of a local banking/ exchange agreement arrangement in partnership with Gladstone Land and collaborating local farmers. Similar to Alternative 1a, this approach offers two potential approaches depending on the details of the partnership agreement:

- Local banking
- Banking by exchange agreement

Under this alternative, the City would bank surplus surface water on agricultural lands owned and operated by Gladstone Land, with the ability to recover the banked water during droughts or periods of CVP allocation shortages. Recovery could be facilitated by returning water directly to the City via the Coalinga Canal, which serves as a regional conveyance link between agricultural lands and the City's water supply system.

However, similar to Alternative 1a, water quality challenges in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin may make direct recovery through local pumping difficult. Poor groundwater quality, coupled with the high cost of treatment and low utilization of the treatment plant, may limit the practicality of this approach. Therefore, the City may pursue a banking by exchange agreement, which would not require construction of a treatment facility, or additional piping.

Gladstone Land Overview

Gladstone Land is an agricultural real estate investment company with significant farmland holdings within the Coalinga area, as shown in Figure 4-2 . The company focuses on long-term investment and leasing of productive farmland, primarily for permanent crops such as pistachios and almonds. Within

[1] The Coalinga Canal remains accessible under all partnerships.

the City's vicinity, Gladstone Land owns approximately 6,740 gross acres across five separate properties (see Table 4-2). Gladstone Land's agricultural properties are supported by multiple existing irrigation wells and private water conveyance systems, which could be adapted or expanded to facilitate banking and recovery operations.

Table 4-2. Gladstone Land Properties

Property	Location	Gross Acres	Planted Acres	Crops	Water	Acquisition Date
Calaveras Avenue	Coalinga, CA	453	435	Pistachios	Three irrigation wells	4/5/2016
Firestone Avenue	Coalinga, CA	2,534	624	Pistachios, Vegetables	Five irrigation wells, private water pipeline	9/3/2020
Phelps Avenue	Coalinga, CA	850	645	Pistachios, Almonds	Two irrigation wells	7/17/2017
Sutter Avenue	Coalinga, CA	2,103	1,951	Pistachios	Ten irrigation wells, private water pipeline	8/16/2019
West Lost Hills Road	Coalinga, CA	801	757	Pistachios	Four irrigation wells, private water pipeline	10/1/2020

Groundwater Banking Potential

The partnership concept would rely on utilizing Gladstone Land's agricultural lands for:

- Recharge of surplus surface water into the underlying groundwater basin.
- Storage of banked water during wet years.
- Recovery of banked water for use by the City during dry periods, likely facilitated through existing infrastructure connecting to the Coalinga Canal.

Banked water could be delivered back to the City's supply system either directly through existing conveyance facilities or via exchanges with other regional partners.

Land Management Flexibility

Gladstone Land's operating model supports a variety of flexible land ownership and leasing structures that could complement the banking arrangement, including:

- **Sale-Leaseback:** Farmers can sell their land while continuing to operate under a long-term lease, allowing continuity of agricultural production.
- **Farmer Leasing:** Farmers lease farmland directly without requiring ownership, providing operational flexibility.

- **Cash Purchases:** Gladstone Land may directly purchase additional farmland, expanding available recharge areas if needed.

This flexibility may provide opportunities for the City to structure a tailored groundwater banking agreement that supports both water supply and local agricultural operations.

Suitability for the City

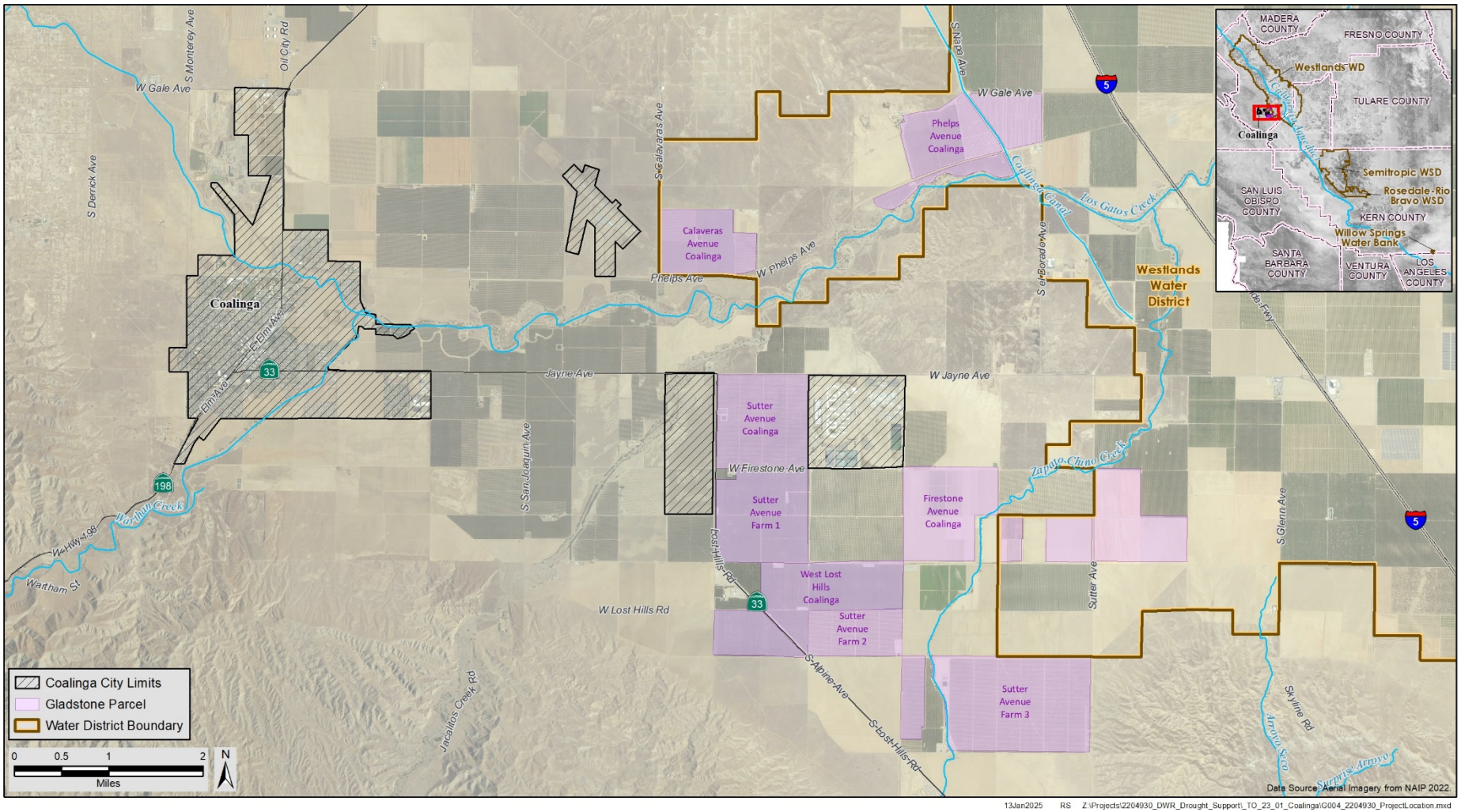
Alternative 1b offers several advantages:

- Proximity to the City's existing infrastructure and service area.
- Access to significant acreage for potential recharge.
- Established agricultural and water infrastructure on Gladstone Land properties.
- Opportunities for collaborative partnerships with local growers.

Gladstone Land has infrastructure and capacity to bank surface water and has banked water in the Pleasant Valley Subbasin and Westlands. Based on initial conversation between the City and Gladstone Land, City's existing parcel located next the state prison can be explored as a potential groundwater recharge area as it is close by the Gladstone Land's pipeline. Banked water could be returned to the City by two mechanisms: pumping back into the Coalinga Canal upstream of the City's WTP and returning the banked water physically or as an exchange with Westlands.

The feasibility of this alternative will depend on further assessment of recharge capacity, recovery mechanisms, landowner participation, and the regulatory framework for groundwater banking within the Pleasant Valley Subbasin. Additionally, water quality conditions of the recovered banked water are among important considerations. Water quality monitoring of the recovered water would be necessary to ensure that quality does not exceed City's requirements prior to the point of introduction to the City's system. Water quality of water pumped back into the Coalinga Canal would need to be acceptable to pump back operations and meet any potential water quality monitoring and reporting requirements by Westlands and USBR.

Figure 4-2 . Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement Option - Gladstone Land



4.1.1.3. Alternative 1c: Semitropic Water Storage District

Alternative 1c involves the City entering into a regional groundwater banking partnership with the Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic), located in Kern County, approximately 70 miles south of Coalinga (see Figure 4-1). Semitropic is one of California's most established and well-recognized groundwater banking programs, with a proven history of supporting long-term water supply sustainability.

Under this alternative, the City would participate in Semitropic's banking program by contributing surplus surface water during wet years. In exchange, the City would have the ability to recover its banked water through surface water exchanges during dry years when CVP allocations are reduced.

Semitropic Water Storage District Overview

Semitropic has operated a conjunctive use and groundwater banking program since the early 1990s, supporting both agricultural and urban water users. The district's program allows agencies to store surface water in the groundwater basin during wet years and recover it during drought conditions via direct exchange to the California Aqueduct, which is hydraulically connected to the Coalinga Canal system.

Key characteristics of the Semitropic program include:

- **Total Storage Capacity:** Up to 1.65 million AF of surface water can be banked within the aquifer.
- **Recovery Capacity:** The program can deliver up to 90,000 AF per year back to the California Aqueduct for recovery by participating agencies.
- **Leave-Behind Requirement:** A 10 percent leave-behind is applied to all banked water to maintain groundwater basin health and avoid adverse impacts.

Program Operations

The Semitropic program operates under a banking and recovery framework:

- Banking Phase: During years of surplus surface water availability, participants deliver water to Semitropic for recharge into the aquifer using recharge basins and dedicated facilities.
- Recovery Phase: During drought or low allocation years, banked water is recovered via exchange and delivered to the California Aqueduct where it is made available to downstream banking partner(s).

The banking and recovery arrangement is designed to be flexible, enabling participants to store water for long periods and withdraw it as needed, provided there is sufficient capacity.

Existing Program Participants

Semitropic's program is well-established, with multiple major water agencies as long-term banking partners:

- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (350,000 AF capacity)
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (350,000 AF capacity)
- Alameda County Water District (150,000 AF capacity)
- Zone 7 Water Agency (65,000 AF capacity)

These partnerships demonstrate the program's proven ability to meet the reliability needs of both large urban and agricultural users.

Suitability for the City

Alternative 1c offers Coalinga a regionally integrated option to increase water supply reliability through:

- Access to significant storage capacity in an established banking program.
- Potential for recovery through existing CVP and California Aqueduct infrastructure.
- Participation in a program with a track record of successful operations and regulatory compliance.
- Potential for recovery of banked water through water transfers only.

Considerations for the City include the distance to Semitropic, additional conveyance and exchange logistics, program participation costs, and future availability of banking capacity. In the absence of a direct connection, Semitropic would return the City's banked water by water transfers only and pump groundwater for local use. During periods of low water allocations, water transfers are often limited and inadequate. Nonetheless, this alternative provides a technically and institutionally feasible mechanism to improve Coalinga's drought resilience.

4.1.1.4. Alternative 1d: Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Alternative 1d involves the City partnering with the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale) to participate in its regional groundwater banking program. Rosedale is located in Kern County, south of Coalinga, as shown in Figure 4-1, and has an established history of managing groundwater recharge and banking operations to enhance local and regional water supply reliability.

Under this alternative, the City would bank surplus surface water during wet years within Rosedale's groundwater banking program. In return, the City would receive access to stored water during drought

periods or years when CVP allocations are reduced, typically through exchange deliveries via the California Aqueduct.

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District Overview

Founded in 1959, Rosedale's mission is to maintain and improve groundwater conditions within its district boundary. Over the years, it has expanded into a leading conjunctive use and groundwater banking agency, focusing on integrated surface water and groundwater management.

Rosedale's banking program primarily focuses on the direct recharge of surface water into the groundwater basin. The District does not directly deliver water to customers but instead manages recharge and extraction operations to support participants through groundwater recovery or surface water exchanges.

Rosedale has developed partnerships with many different state, federal, and local entities including USBR and Fish and Wildlife Service to supply water to the Kern National Wildlife Refuge and secure CVP water. Additionally, Rosedale has SWP water supply through the Kern County Water Agency and maintains partnerships with multiple federal Friant-Kern water agencies.

Key Program Features

- **Groundwater Recharge Focus:**
  Rosedale's program is centered on recharging surface water into the aquifer to replenish groundwater supplies for future use.
- **Infrastructure:**
  The program utilizes an extensive system of canals, wells, pipelines, and recharge ponds to carry out recharge and recovery operations. These facilities are designed to maximize the infiltration of surplus surface water into the groundwater basin during periods of high availability.
- **Leave-Behind Requirement:**
  The program enforces a relatively high 50 percent leave-behind requirement, meaning that for every unit of water banked, only 50 percent may be recovered. The remaining volume contributes to basin sustainability and supports regional groundwater objectives.

Suitability for the City

Rosedale offers a technically feasible groundwater banking option with the following characteristics:

- A long-standing and proven banking program focused on groundwater recharge.
- Access to an established conveyance and recharge network.
- Opportunity for Coalinga to participate in a regional conjunctive use program.
- Potential for recovery of banked water through water exchange only.

Consistent with other regional banking options, without a direct connection, Rosedale would return the City's banked water by water transfers only. During periods of low water allocations, water transfers are often limited and inadequate. In addition, the 50 percent leave-behind requirement represents a significant constraint, reducing the net volume of recoverable water relative to other banking programs with lower leave-behind ratios. Additionally, the City's participation would require consideration of conveyance logistics, operational agreements, and program costs.

Despite these challenges, Alternative 1d could serve as a viable drought-resilience strategy by providing access to stored water when needed, while contributing to long-term basin sustainability.

4.1.1.5. Alternative 1e: Willow Springs Water Bank

Alternative 1e considers the City entering into a groundwater banking partnership with the Willow Springs Water Bank (Willow Springs), located in Antelope Valley**,** southeast of Coalinga, as illustrated in Figure 4-1. Willow Springs is a developing groundwater banking facility intended to enhance regional water supply reliability by providing storage capacity for surplus surface water during wet years and facilitating recovery during dry periods through exchange mechanisms.

While Willow Springs is still under development, it is recognized as a potential future banking option for the City and warrants further evaluation as the project matures.

Willow Springs Water Bank Overview

The Willow Springs Water Bank Program (Program) is being developed as a large-scale conjunctive use program focused on optimizing available groundwater storage for regional drought resilience. The Program will operate by accepting surplus water from participating agencies during wet years, storing it in the underlying aquifer system, and returning it via surface water exchange during drought conditions or periods of reduced CVP allocations.

Willow Springs is currently developing a Feasibility Study, expected to be completed by 2027, in coordination with the California Water Commission (CWC). The CWC is administering the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP), which will provide funding for the public benefits associated with the Program. The Program could be operational by 2030, pending the approval of the public benefits by CWC.

Key Program Features

- **Land Area:** Approximately 1,838 acres of agricultural land have been designated for recharge and storage operations.
- **Storage Capacity:** The program is designed to store up to 1 million AF of water within the aquifer.
- **Recharge and Recovery Potential:** Willow Springs is expected to store up to 500,000 AF of water during wet years for future recovery by participating agencies during dry periods.

- **Governance and Partnerships:** The project is being developed through a combination of public and private partnerships, including:
    - **Southern California Water Bank Authority:** Governs the project and manages interagency coordination.
    - **Antelope Valley Water Storage, LLC:** Responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the bank.
    - **DWR:** Provides technical guidance, regulatory input, and coordinates with State Water Project (SWP) operations.
    - **California Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Ensures that project implementation protects environmental and ecosystem benefits.
    - **Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency:** A regional water agency supporting water supply and operational activities.

Considerations and Status

While Willow Springs presents a promising opportunity for participation in a large-scale banking program, the Program is still in the development phase, and key details regarding recovery infrastructure, program operations, participation costs, and regulatory compliance have not yet been fully established. Additionally, this alternative would require establishing a water banking partnership between a SWP contractor and a CVP contractor. As such, this alternative is currently considered a potential future option rather than an immediately actionable strategy.

Suitability for the City

Alternative 1e provides the City with a long-term groundwater banking opportunity that could be incorporated into its drought preparedness strategy, subject to the completion of project development and confirmation of program feasibility. Participation in Willow Springs would require future coordination to:

- Evaluate project compatibility with City infrastructure;
- Secure access to surplus water during wet years;
- Formalize participation agreements once the program is fully operational; and,
- Agree on the mechanism for recovery of banked water through water exchanges only.

Similar to other regional banking options, without a direct connection, Rosedale would return the City's banked water by water transfers only. During periods of low water allocations, water transfers are often

limited and inadequate. This alternative is recommended for continued monitoring as the project progresses.

4.1.2. Alternative 2: Development of Local Groundwater Pumping

Alternative 2 considers the City of Coalinga developing a local groundwater pumping system as a supplemental water supply source. This alternative would reduce reliance on imported CVP water by utilizing groundwater from the Pleasant Valley Subbasin. However, due to known water quality challenges, significant treatment would be required before groundwater could be incorporated into the potable water system.

Existing Groundwater Conditions

As documented in Section 2.1.2, the City's groundwater quality is generally poor, characterized by elevated concentrations of TDS, sodium, sulfate, and boron, typically found at depths ranging from 500 to 1,500 feet. Historical studies and the City's 2020 UWMP have indicated that these water quality conditions render untreated groundwater unsuitable for potable use. Additionally, groundwater levels have been declining due to ongoing regional groundwater overdraft, further complicating the viability of this alternative without proper treatment and sustainable management.

Proposed System Components

Alternative 2 would involve the following key components:

- **New Groundwater Production Wells:** The City would need to site, drill, and equip one or more new wells capable of meeting supplemental demand. Site selection would require hydrogeologic analysis to optimize yield while avoiding areas of the highest salinity.
- **Wellhead Treatment Facilities:** Given the elevated concentrations of TDS, sodium, and sulfate, advanced treatment would be necessary to meet California Title 22 drinking water standards. Treatment processes could include:
    - Reverse Osmosis (RO)
    - Ion Exchange
    - Blending with higher quality water (e.g., CVP water)
    - Post-treatment stabilization to control corrosion and pH
- **Conveyance Infrastructure:** Pipelines and appurtenances would be required to connect the new well(s) to the City’s existing water treatment or distribution system.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Groundwater extraction, treatment performance, and compliance with the Pleasant Valley Subbasin GSP would require ongoing monitoring and reporting.

Considerations

- **Water Quality and Cost:** The City would need to invest in both wellhead treatment infrastructure and ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) to produce water of suitable quality. The treatment of brackish or marginal-quality groundwater can be energy-intensive and expensive.

- **Groundwater Basin Conditions:** The Pleasant Valley Subbasin is subject to the requirements of the SGMA, as described in Section 2.1.2, including compliance with groundwater levels, storage, and water quality constraints to maintain basin sustainability.

- **Supply Reliability:** Although this alternative provides a locally controlled source, its long-term yield could be limited by declining groundwater levels and water quality constraints. Nonetheless, it may offer value as a drought contingency or emergency supply.

Suitability for the City

Alternative 2 could provide a modest but valuable supplemental supply, particularly for blending with CVP water or for non-potable applications if potable treatment proves cost-prohibitive. However, its feasibility is highly dependent on:

- Achieving an economically viable treatment solution.

- Ensuring SGMA compliance.

- Confirming sustainable pumping yields.

Further detailed hydrogeologic and cost-benefit analysis would be required before advancing this alternative.

4.1.3. Alternative 3: Development of Recycled Water

Alternative 3 explores the opportunity for the City of Coalinga to produce disinfected tertiary-treated recycled water at its existing WWTP, consistent with Title 22 requirements established by the California Department of Public Health. This alternative would enable the City to convert wastewater into a locally controlled, non-potable supply for beneficial reuse, potentially offsetting potable water demand for landscape irrigation or groundwater recharge.

Existing Conditions

As described in Section 2.1.4, the City currently owns and operates a municipal wastewater collection and treatment system that serves approximately 3,700 connections. The WWTP is located approximately one mile east of the City at the confluence of Los Gatos Creek and Warthan Creek. The facility has a rated treatment capacity of 1.34 MGD and currently produces undisinfected secondary effluent, which is used to irrigate non-food crops on adjacent City-owned land.

While the existing system provides incidental groundwater recharge benefits, the WWTP does not currently produce recycled water that meets the tertiary treatment and disinfection standards required for broader reuse applications.

Proposed Recycled Water Program

This alternative proposes upgrades to the WWTP to enable production of disinfected tertiary effluent suitable for Title 22 reuse. Key elements include:

- **WWTP Upgrades:** Modifications to the treatment process would be required, including filtration, chemical dosing, and UV or chlorine disinfection systems to achieve tertiary treatment levels.
- **Recycled Water Distribution System:** Construction of a dedicated "purple pipe" distribution system would be necessary to convey recycled water from the WWTP to designated reuse sites. Potential customers include:
    - Public parks and green spaces
    - School campuses
    - Municipal facilities
    - Roadway medians and other landscape areas
- **Customer Conversion and Cross-Connection Control:** Existing irrigation systems would need to be disconnected from the potable system and retrofitted to connect to the new recycled water system. Backflow prevention and cross-connection testing would be required to ensure system integrity and regulatory compliance.

Regulatory Framework

This alternative aligns with California's long-term goal of "Making Conservation a California Way of Life", and leverages the regulatory support provided through recent state action. On December 19, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted uniform criteria for Direct Potable Reuse, signaling growing regulatory support for expanded recycled water applications. While this alternative focuses on non-potable reuse, the regulatory environment is favorable for investment in recycled water infrastructure.

Considerations

- **Capital Cost and Economic Viability:** Preliminary engineering indicates that WWTP upgrades, distribution system construction, and customer retrofits would require significant capital investment. Based on prior evaluations, the construction of a tertiary treatment system and purple pipe network was estimated at approximately $39 million.

- **Offset Potential:** Landscape irrigation demands in the City are estimated at approximately 0.42 MGD, providing a feasible target for recycled water offset. Additional volumes could be directed to recharge applications or agricultural irrigation, pending further evaluation.

- **Grant Opportunities:** The City may pursue funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) programs to support implementation.

Suitability for the City

Alternative 3 offers a promising long-term opportunity to diversify the City of Coalinga's water supply portfolio by producing a drought-resilient, local non-potable source. While the upfront capital costs are substantial, this option provides strategic value in improving water supply reliability, supporting groundwater sustainability, and enhancing the City's compliance with statewide water conservation mandates.

The City may also explore phasing implementation or leveraging regional partnerships to reduce financial burdens and optimize delivery infrastructure.

4.1.4. Alternative 4: Implementation of Water Conservation Measures

Alternative 4 evaluates the implementation of comprehensive water conservation strategies as a means of enhancing system efficiency, reducing demand, and improving overall water supply resilience. Compared to infrastructure-intensive alternatives, conservation represents a cost-effective approach that minimizes capital expenditures while supporting long-term water reliability and regulatory compliance.

Rather than increasing supply, this alternative seeks to manage demand more efficiently through reductions in water losses, improved customer behavior, and adoption of best management practices.

Purpose and Benefits

Water conservation offers the following key benefits to the City:

- **Capital Cost Avoidance**: Reduces or delays the need for new water supply infrastructure, treatment systems, and storage facilities.

- **Operational Efficiency**: Lowers energy, chemical, and labor costs associated with water treatment and distribution.

- **Environmental Sustainability**: Decreases the environmental footprint associated with water extraction and wastewater discharge.

- **Regulatory Compliance**: Supports the City's alignment with California's water use objectives (see Section 4.2.4) and contributes to meeting statewide conservation mandates.

Water conservation is distinct from water curtailment, which refers to mandatory usage reductions during emergency conditions. Conservation focuses on permanent efficiency improvements, making it a reliable, long-term strategy.

Recommended Best Practices

The following measures are recommended for water conservation, based on industry best practices and guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA, 2016) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA):

- **System-Wide Water Audits:** The City currently conducts annual water audits using AWWA software to assess and quantify water losses across the distribution system. Continued use of these tools will inform targeted leakage control and metering improvements.
- **Leak Detection and Control:** Apparent and real losses represent a significant portion of non-revenue water. Targeted investment in leak detection, pipeline replacement, and pressure management can reduce system losses. As reported in Section 2.2.1.1, system losses have averaged 17 percent in recent years.
- **Metering and Meter Accuracy Improvements:** Accurate metering is essential for tracking water consumption and identifying inefficiencies. As outlined in Section 3.2.5, the City is actively replacing outdated meters and implementing smart meter technology to improve accuracy and customer billing transparency.
- **Conservation-Oriented Rate Structures:** Tiered or increasing block rate structures can provide financial incentives for efficient use, while ensuring revenue stability. Rate structures should be regularly reviewed to align with conservation goals and cost-of-service principles.
- **End-Use Efficiency Programs:** Conduct sector-specific water use analysis to identify high-demand customer segments and develop targeted programs. Potential approaches include:
    - Residential fixture rebate programs
    - Landscape conversion incentives (e.g., turf replacement with drought-tolerant planting)
    - Institutional retrofits for schools and public buildings
    - Commercial/industrial process water efficiency audits
- **Public Outreach and Education:** Promote a water conservation ethic through community workshops, informational campaigns, school programs, and digital outreach.
- **Formal Conservation Plan:** Prepare and adopt a Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan with measurable goals, implementation timelines, and progress tracking. This plan should be

integrated into the City's UWMP and aligned with new regulations under the "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" initiative.

Suitability for the City

Given current water loss levels and anticipated growth in demand, Alternative 4 presents a highly cost-effective strategy to extend existing supplies. Conservation measures can:

- Free up supply for critical needs during drought years,
- Improve system performance, and
- Help the City meet evolving UWUOs set forth by the State.

Water conservation is also compatible with other alternatives—particularly groundwater banking and recycled water—by reducing baseline demand and optimizing resource use across the City's portfolio.

5. Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives

This chapter presents the evaluation and comparison of the alternatives identified in Chapter 4. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine which alternatives best align with the Study's objectives of enhancing both short- and long-term water supply sustainability for the City of Coalinga.

The alternatives are assessed based on their feasibility, potential benefits, alignment with the City's existing infrastructure, regulatory compliance, cost-effectiveness, and ability to support drought resilience.

5.1. Preliminary Screening

As part of the evaluation process, a preliminary screening was conducted to eliminate alternatives that do not provide substantial benefits beyond existing efforts or that are not feasible given the City's current operational context.

Alternative Removed from Further Evaluation:

Alternative 4 – Water Conservation

While water conservation is a fundamental component of long-term water management, this alternative does not introduce significantly new benefits beyond current practices. The City has already integrated extensive conservation measures into its operations, and compliance with California's UWUOs under the "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulation that is ongoing (see Section 4.1.4).

As a result, the incremental benefit of additional conservation efforts is limited, and Alternative 4 is not carried forward for further detailed evaluation.

5.2. Alternatives Advancing to Detailed Evaluation

The following alternatives demonstrated sufficient potential for contributing to Coalinga's long-term water resiliency goals and are retained for further evaluation in subsequent sections:

- Alternative 1a: Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Westlands Water District
- Alternative 1b: Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Gladstone Land
- Alternative 1c: Water Banking with Semitropic Water Storage District
- Alternative 1d: Water Banking with Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
- Alternative 1e: Water Banking with Willow Springs Water Bank
- Alternative 2: Development of Local Groundwater Pumping
- Alternative 3: Development of Recycled Water Supply

5.3. Evaluation Framework

The alternatives carried forward from the preliminary screening have been evaluated based on their alignment with the Study's key objectives and their performance across multiple evaluation criteria. This structured approach ensures that each alternative is assessed in a consistent and transparent manner to support decision-making.

5.3.1. Study Objectives

The evaluation is guided by the following primary objectives:

- **Enhance water supply reliability**
- **Provide cost-effective and safe water supplies**
- **Achieve stakeholder acceptance**
- **Implement water supply reliability strategies compliant with regulations and permits**

5.3.2. Evaluation Criteria

Each alternative is evaluated using a set of **seven core criteria**, which reflect the Study's objectives and the practical considerations necessary to implement a reliable water supply project. The criteria are described below and expanded in Sections 5.3.4 through 5.3.10.

1. **Technical Feasibility**
   a. *Reliability* – Ability of the alternative to provide a consistent, dependable supply during droughts and variable hydrology.
   b. *Construction Feasibility* – Consideration of siting, engineering complexity, and constructability.

2. **Economic and Financial Feasibility**
   Evaluation of capital, operation, and maintenance costs, as well as funding potential and cost-effectiveness over time.

3. **Regulatory Feasibility**
   Consistency with applicable laws, permits, and regulatory frameworks, including SGMA, Title 22, and CVP contract requirements.

4. **Environmental Impacts**
   Potential for adverse or beneficial environmental effects, including land use, habitat, groundwater conditions, and energy use.

5. **Operations and Maintenance (O&M)**
   Long-term operability of the alternative, including staffing, energy, infrastructure reliability, and system complexity.

6. **Stakeholder and Public Acceptance**
   Anticipated community and partner support, including public perception, political feasibility, and local agency alignment.

7. **Implementation Feasibility**
   a. *Timeline* – Estimated time to design, permit, and construct the alternative.
   b. *Partnership Feasibility* – Potential for regional or interagency collaboration.

5.3.3. Evaluation Methodology

Each alternative was evaluated qualitatively using a **ranking scale** based on performance relative to each criterion:

- **3 – High Performance**: Strong alignment with the evaluation criterion and minimal challenges.
- **2 – Moderate Performance**: Partial alignment with moderate constraints.
- **1 – Low Performance**: Limited alignment with the criterion or significant challenges to feasibility.

This scoring approach provides a clear and comparable basis for determining which alternatives best meet the City's long-term water resiliency goals.

5.3.4. Technical Feasibility

Technical feasibility evaluates each alternative's capability to provide a reliable water supply and the complexity of construction required for implementation. This criterion is divided into two subcategories: (1) water supply reliability and (2) construction requirements. Each subcategory was assessed qualitatively based on currently available information.

5.3.4.1. Water Supply Reliability

Water supply reliability refers to the alternative's ability to consistently meet demand, particularly during periods of reduced CVP allocations or prolonged drought. This subcriterion considers the resilience of the alternative under variable hydrologic and regulatory conditions.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – High reliability:** Consistently meets demand during drought and curtailment scenarios
- **2 – Moderate reliability:** Generally meets demand but with limitations under certain conditions
- **1 – Low reliability:** Limited ability to maintain supply under variable or constrained conditions

5.3.4.2. Construction Requirements

Construction requirements assess the scale and complexity of infrastructure development needed to implement each alternative. This includes considerations such as permitting, land acquisition, engineering difficulty, and integration with existing systems.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – Minimal** or no new construction required
- **2 – Moderate** construction required with average complexity
- **1 – Extensive** or complex construction required with above-average difficulty

5.3.5. Economic and Financial Feasibility

Economic and financial feasibility assesses the relative cost-effectiveness of each alternative, including both capital expenditures and long-term financial impacts. This evaluation also considers the potential availability of external funding—such as grants or low-interest loans—which may help offset costs and improve affordability.

This Study does not quantify specific benefits or conduct a formal benefit-cost ratio analysis. Instead, alternatives were evaluated qualitatively based on anticipated cost burdens and funding feasibility.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – Low capital cost and financial impact:** Readily affordable with minimal strain on local resources; strong potential for grant or loan support
- **2 – Moderate capital cost and financial impact:** Affordable with moderate effort; may require blended funding sources
- **1 – High capital cost and financial impact:** Significant financial burden; likely dependent on substantial external funding or phased implementation

5.3.6. Regulatory Feasibility

Regulatory feasibility evaluates the complexity of permitting, environmental review, and legal compliance associated with implementing each alternative. Projects involving groundwater recharge, water banking, recycled water production, or inter-agency water transfers must navigate a range of regulatory requirements at the local, state, and federal levels.

Key regulatory considerations include:

- **Environmental Compliance:** Potential impacts on biological resources, cultural resources, and water quality are subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and, where federal involvement applies, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- **Permitting and Interagency Coordination:** Alternatives involving groundwater recharge or water transfers may require coordination with the SWRCB, USBR, and other relevant regulatory

entities. Projects must also meet applicable requirements under Title 22 for recycled water and local GSPs under the SGMA.

- **Consistency with Local Policies:** Local ordinances, land use plans, and water management policies—particularly those governing the Pleasant Valley Subbasin—may influence feasibility.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – Minimum regulatory requirements:** Streamlined permitting and strong alignment with applicable regulations
- **2 – Moderate regulatory requirements:** Some permitting and coordination required; manageable compliance pathway
- **1 – High regulatory requirements:** Complex or uncertain permitting processes; significant regulatory hurdles expected

5.3.7. Environmental Impacts

This criterion evaluates the potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of each alternative. The assessment considers both adverse and beneficial impacts based on the level of infrastructure development, land disturbance, and potential changes to environmental resources.

The evaluation draws from standard areas of impact typically analyzed under the CEQA and NEPA, including:

- Biological resources (e.g., sensitive habitats and species)
- Water quality and hydrology
- Cultural and historical resources
- Air quality, noise, and transportation
- Land use compatibility and recreational impacts

Due to the conceptual nature of this Study, detailed project-specific environmental analyses were not available. As such, a qualitative approach was used to identify potential impacts that could complicate or delay the environmental review and permitting process.

In general, alternatives requiring extensive new infrastructure or land disturbance were assumed to have greater environmental impacts and were rated lower. Conversely, alternatives that rely on existing facilities or reduce environmental pressure may offer net environmental benefits.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – Low or beneficial environmental impacts:** Minimal disturbance or potential for environmental enhancement
- **2 – Moderate environmental impacts:** Some disturbance likely, manageable through mitigation
- **1 – High environmental impacts:** Significant potential for adverse effects requiring extensive review or mitigation

5.3.8. Operations and Maintenance

This criterion evaluates the operational complexity and long-term maintenance needs associated with each alternative. Considerations include the degree of alignment with the City's existing Operations and Maintenance (O&M) practices, staffing requirements, system reliability, and the need for specialized equipment or new procedures.

Alternatives such as groundwater pumping and recycled water systems may introduce unfamiliar infrastructure, treatment processes, or monitoring protocols, potentially increasing operational complexity. Conversely, alternatives that leverage existing systems or require minimal modification are expected to be easier to manage.

The assessment was qualitative and based on the estimated level of effort, training, and system integration required to operate and maintain each alternative effectively.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – Low O&M effort:** Minimal changes required; aligns well with current practices
- **2 – Moderate O&M effort:** Some new systems or practices required; manageable with existing staff and resources
- **1 – High O&M effort:** Significant changes or specialized expertise required; potential strain on operations

5.3.9. Stakeholder and Public Acceptance

This criterion assesses the anticipated level of support from key stakeholders and the general public for each alternative. The evaluation was conducted qualitatively, drawing on input from the City regarding community values, public sentiment, and political feasibility.

Alternatives that align closely with local preferences, involve minimal disruption, or provide clear public benefits, are expected to receive stronger support. Conversely, alternatives that introduce unfamiliar infrastructure, perceived risks, or environmental concerns may encounter resistance.

Stakeholder acceptance is a critical factor in successful project implementation, as it can influence funding, permitting, and long-term sustainability.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – High support:** Strong alignment with community values; low perceived risk; likely to gain broad acceptance
- **2 – Moderate support:** Mixed opinions or limited public familiarity; manageable concerns
- **1 – Low support:** Potential controversy or resistance due to cost, impact, or perceived uncertainty

5.3.10. Implementation

The feasibility of implementing each alternative was assessed based on two sub-criteria: the projected timeline for implementation and the level of effort required to establish and manage necessary partnerships. These factors reflect both the practical readiness of each alternative and the coordination complexity associated with execution. The evaluation was conducted qualitatively using available data and professional judgment.

5.3.10.1. Timeline

This criterion considers the estimated time required to fully implement each alternative, including planning, design, permitting, environmental documentation, construction, and commissioning. Alternatives with shorter timelines may offer more immediate benefits and are generally more adaptable to emerging needs or policy shifts.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – Short timeline:** Implementation expected within 5 years
- **2 – Moderate timeline:** Implementation expected within 5–10 years
- **1 – Long timeline:** Implementation expected to exceed 10 years

5.3.10.2. Partnership Feasibility

This criterion evaluates the relative difficulty of forming and maintaining partnerships required for successful implementation. Alternatives that involve coordination with external agencies, private landowners, or regional water entities may face challenges in negotiation, governance, or communication.

Scoring Guidelines:

- **3 – Low difficulty:** Existing relationships or minimal external coordination required
- **2 – Moderate difficulty:** Some new partnerships or formal agreements needed
- **1 – High difficulty:** Complex, multi-party coordination or uncertain partnership pathways

5.4. Alternatives Evaluation

This section presents a comparative evaluation of the alternatives carried forward from the preliminary screening, based on the evaluation criteria introduced in Section 5.3. Each alternative was assessed relative to others to identify the most feasible and effective long-term solutions for improving the City of Coalinga's water supply reliability.

5.4.1. Technical Feasibility

5.4.1.1. Water Supply Reliability

Water supply reliability was assessed based on each alternative's ability to deliver a consistent and dependable supply, particularly during critical periods such as drought or curtailments. The results of the evaluation are presented in Table 5-1.

- **Alternatives 1a (Westlands), 1b (Gladstone Land)** received the highest score of **3**, reflecting **relatively high reliability**. These options utilize local sources and infrastructure, reducing exposure to regional conveyance or allocation variability and enabling direct delivery to the City.
- **Alternative 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping)** was assigned a score of 2, indicating **moderate reliability** due to poor groundwater quality of the Subbasin that could potentially constrain water supply reliability.
- **Alternatives 1c (Semitropic), 1e (Willow Springs), and 3 (Recycled Water)** were also assigned a score of **2**, indicating **moderate reliability**. While Semitropic and Willow Springs are established programs, their downstream location and reliance on exchanges during dry years reduce their reliability. Similarly, while recycled water represents a local supply, production may fluctuate based on seasonal demand and treatment system performance.
- **Alternative 1d (Rosedale)** was rated lowest, with a score of **1**, due to its 50 percent leave-behind requirement and location downstream of Coalinga, both of which reduce its reliability during drought periods.

Table 5-1. Water Supply Reliability Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	3
Alternative 1b	3
Alternative 1c	2
Alternative 1d	1
Alternative 1e	2
Alternative 2	2
Alternative 3	2

5.4.1.2. Construction Requirements

Construction feasibility was evaluated based on the scale, complexity, and anticipated difficulty of the new infrastructure required for each alternative. Table 5-2 summarizes the results.

- **Alternatives 1a (Westlands), 1c (Semitropic), 1d (Rosedale), and 1e (Willow Springs)** received a score of **3**, indicating **minimal construction requirements**. These alternatives benefit from

existing infrastructure and established operational programs, minimizing the need for new facilities.

- **Alternative 1b (Gladstone Land)** received a score of **2**, reflecting **moderate construction needs**. While local and potentially cost-effective, additional infrastructure such as pipelines or conveyance back to the City would likely be required to operationalize the program.

- **Alternatives 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping) and 3 (Recycled Water)** were assigned a score of **1**, indicating **high construction complexity**. Both alternatives would require major capital investments in new facilities — including well construction, wellhead treatment, or WWTP upgrades to meet Title 22 standards — making them the most infrastructure-intensive among all options.

Table 5-2. Construction Requirements Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	3
Alternative 1b	2
Alternative 1c	3
Alternative 1d	3
Alternative 1e	3
Alternative 2	1
Alternative 3	1

5.4.2. Economic and Financial Feasibility

As described in Section 5.3.5, the economic and financial feasibility of each alternative was evaluated through a qualitative comparison of capital costs, anticipated financial impacts, and the potential availability of funding sources. The resulting scores are summarized in Table 5-3.

- **Alternatives 1a through 1e**, which involve water banking, received the highest score of **3**, reflecting **relatively low capital costs and minimal financial burden** compared to infrastructure-intensive options.

    - **Alternative 1a (Westlands)** is expected to involve no significant capital costs, assuming Westlands can deliver banked water through displacement via the San Luis Canal.

    - **Alternative 1b (Gladstone Land)** may require modest capital investment for pipelines and filtration, but these costs are considered lower than other options, particularly if cost-sharing opportunities with Gladstone Land or Westlands are available.

    - **Alternatives 1c (Semitropic), 1d (Rosedale), and 1e (Willow Springs)** also require limited financial investment since they rely on existing infrastructure and established banking programs.

- **Alternative 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping)** received a score of **2**, indicating **moderate financial impacts**. Costs associated with constructing well(s), installing wellhead treatment, and integrating new systems are higher than banking alternatives but lower than recycled water development.

- **Alternative 3 (Recycled Water)** was scored **1**, reflecting **relatively high capital costs and significant financial impacts**. This option would require substantial WWTP modifications to produce disinfected tertiary water that meets Title 22 standards. However, a more cost-effective option may exist through a potential agreement with Pleasant Valley State Prison, which currently produces approximately 700 AFY of Title 22 tertiary-treated recycled water. If used for non-potable applications such as landscape irrigation (estimated at 180–250 AFY), this source could partially offset potable demand. Still, the recycled water is not suitable for potable use, limiting its overall financial benefit.

Table 5-3. Economic and Financial Feasibility Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	3
Alternative 1b	3
Alternative 1c	3
Alternative 1d	3
Alternative 1e	3
Alternative 2	2
Alternative 3	1

5.4.3. Regulatory Feasibility

As described in Section 5.3.6, the regulatory feasibility of each alternative was evaluated based on the scope and complexity of regulatory requirements necessary for implementation. Key considerations included compliance with local GSPs, permitting obligations under the CEQA and NEPA, and adherence to applicable water quality, recycling, or water rights standards. Table 5-4 presents the results of this evaluation.

- **Alternatives 1c (Semitropic) and 1d (Rosedale)** received the highest score of **3**, reflecting **minimal regulatory burden** for the City. These regional groundwater banking programs are already well-established and operate under their respective GSPs. The partner agencies would retain primary responsibility for regulatory compliance, allowing the City to participate without incurring substantial additional regulatory obligations.

- **Alternatives 1a (Westlands), 1b (Gladstone Land), 1e (Willow Springs), and 3 (Recycled Water)** were assigned a score of **2**, indicating **moderate regulatory requirements**.

- **Alternative 1a**, while leveraging Westlands' infrastructure, would still require compliance with USBR water quality standards and alignment with SGMA regulations for groundwater storage and recovery.
- **Alternative 1b** would require coordination with local farmers and compliance with GSP provisions, particularly for the recovery of banked water during drought periods.
- **Alternative 1e**, though largely managed by the water bank authority, would still require partnership agreements and interagency coordination that could introduce moderate regulatory complexity.
- **Alternative 3** involves recycled water production, which would be subject to Title 22 water reuse regulations, ongoing monitoring, and additional permitting.

- **Alternative 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping)** received the lowest score of **1**, indicating **greater regulatory complexity**. Although the City is part of the PVGSA, developing a new municipal well for potable supply would introduce new requirements for monitoring, reporting, and demonstrating consistency with the adopted GSP. This would represent a new regulatory process for the City and may require extensive coordination and approvals.

Table 5-4. Regulatory Feasibility Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	2
Alternative 1b	2
Alternative 1c	3
Alternative 1d	3
Alternative 1e	2
Alternative 2	1
Alternative 3	2

5.4.4. Environmental Impacts

As described in Section 5.3.7, each alternative was evaluated for its potential environmental impacts, including both adverse effects and environmental benefits. The evaluation considered impacts on groundwater and surface water quality, habitat, land use, and compliance with CEQA and NEPA requirements. Due to limited site-specific design information for many alternatives, a qualitative ranking was used based on the anticipated scale and nature of environmental effects. Results are presented in Table 5-5.

- **Alternatives 1c (Semitropic), 1d (Rosedale), 1e (Willow Springs), and 3 (Recycled Water)** received the highest score of **3**, indicating **minimal or beneficial environmental impacts**.

- The regional groundwater banking alternatives (1c, 1d, and 1e) rely on existing, established recharge and recovery infrastructure managed by partner agencies, minimizing new construction or localized impacts within the City.

- **Alternative 3**, which involves producing tertiary-treated recycled water, promotes water reuse and could offset potable water demand, delivering an environmental benefit through reduced pressure on imported supplies and overall conservation of regional resources.

- **Alternatives 1a (Westlands), 1b (Gladstone Land), and 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping)** received a score of **2**, reflecting **moderate environmental impacts**.

  - **Alternative 1a** and **1b** could require environmental permitting and site evaluations for new recharge or recovery infrastructure, including the potential for localized impacts on groundwater levels and quality.

  - **Alternative 2** involves the construction of new well(s) and associated treatment infrastructure, which may require CEQA review and compliance with GSP provisions to avoid adverse impacts to groundwater sustainability and land subsidence.

None of the alternatives were determined to pose significant or unmitigable environmental risks based on the available information.

Table 5-5. Environmental Impacts Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	2
Alternative 1b	2
Alternative 1c	3
Alternative 1d	3
Alternative 1e	3
Alternative 2	2
Alternative 3	3

5.4.5. Operations and Maintenance

As described in Section 5.3.8, each alternative was qualitatively evaluated based on its relative O&M requirements, including the effort needed to manage infrastructure, coordinate with external entities, and monitor system performance. The evaluation focused on general O&M needs rather than direct operational responsibilities borne solely by the City. Results are presented in Table 5-6.

All seven alternatives received a score of **2**, indicating a **moderate level of O&M complexity**. Key considerations for each group of alternatives are summarized below:

- **Alternatives 1a (Westlands) and 1b (Gladstone Land)** involve local water banking/ exchange agreements. While these alternatives could eventually be managed under familiar operating conditions, they would still require consistent monitoring, recharge and recovery scheduling, and coordination with partners, particularly if new infrastructure or conveyance systems are involved.

- **Alternatives 1c (Semitropic), 1d (Rosedale), and 1e (Willow Springs)** involve regional partnerships. These options benefit from leveraging established external systems, which may reduce City-operated infrastructure but still necessitate administrative oversight, agreement compliance, and coordinated exchanges or deliveries.

- **Alternative 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping)** would introduce new infrastructure—such as wells and wellhead treatment systems—that the City must maintain. While not overly complex, this infrastructure would require ongoing monitoring, energy consumption, and treatment oversight to ensure compliance with water quality and sustainability standards.

- **Alternative 3 (Recycled Water)** would similarly require upgraded infrastructure at the WWTP and added responsibilities for maintaining the recycled water distribution system. Once operational, these systems could be integrated into the City's existing O&M structure but would still demand specialized oversight and regulatory compliance.

Table 5-6. O&M Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	2
Alternative 1b	2
Alternative 1c	2
Alternative 1d	2
Alternative 1e	2
Alternative 2	2
Alternative 3	2

5.4.6. Stakeholder and Public Acceptance

As described in Section 5.3.9, stakeholder and public acceptance was qualitatively evaluated based on how well each alternative aligns with community values, public perception, and local priorities. Rankings reflect anticipated support based on familiarity, perceived benefits, and potential concerns. Results are shown in Table 5-7.

Alternatives 1a (Westlands), 1b (Gladstone Land), and 1c (Semitropic) received the highest score of **3**, indicating **relatively high stakeholder and public support**:

- **Alternative 1a and 1b**, which focus on local water banking partnerships, are expected to garner strong support due to their emphasis on local water control, flexibility, and reduced reliance on

outside entities. These alternatives are also consistent with regional planning objectives and drought resilience goals.

- **Alternative 1c**, although a regional banking option, also ranks high due to its established operations and relatively low 10 percent leave-behind requirement, making it both efficient and publicly acceptable.

Alternatives 1d (Rosedale), 1e (Willow Springs), and 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping) received a score of **2**, reflecting **moderate stakeholder and public support**:

- **Alternative 1d** may raise concerns due to its 50 percent leave-behind requirement, which significantly reduces the volume of recoverable water. This could prompt questions about long-term value.

- **Alternative 1e** is still in early development, and while it has potential, a lack of operational history and clear agreement structure may temper support in the near term.

- **Alternative 2**, while offering a local source, may face skepticism due to the anticipated need for water quality treatment, increased costs, and potential conflicts with groundwater sustainability planning.

Alternative 3 (Recycled Water) received the lowest score of **1**, indicating **relatively low stakeholder and public acceptance**. Despite advancements in treatment technology and regulatory oversight, recycled water projects often face public resistance due to concerns about health and safety, especially when repurposing treated effluent for reuse. Overcoming this perception challenge would require extensive public education and engagement.

Table 5-7. Stakeholder and Public Acceptance Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	3
Alternative 1b	3
Alternative 1c	3
Alternative 1d	2
Alternative 1e	2
Alternative 2	2
Alternative 3	1

5.4.7. Implementation

Implementation feasibility was assessed based on two primary factors: (1) the estimated timeline for implementation, and (2) the relative difficulty of establishing and maintaining partnerships necessary to carry out each alternative. These factors are presented below, with rankings summarized in Table 5-8 and Table 5-9.

5.4.7.1. Timeline

As described in Section 5.3.10.1, each alternative was evaluated for the time required to complete planning, design, environmental documentation, permitting, and construction.

Alternatives 1a (Westlands) and 1b (Gladstone Land) received the highest score of **3**, indicating an implementation timeline of **less than 5 years**. These alternatives are already under discussion with the City, and no major infrastructure or environmental hurdles are anticipated. If agreements are finalized promptly, implementation can proceed within a short timeframe.

Alternatives 1c (Semitropic), 1d (Rosedale), 1e (Willow Springs), and 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping) received a score of **2**, reflecting an implementation timeline of **5 to 10 years**. Alternatives 1c, 1d, and 1e would require interagency agreements, environmental permitting, and coordination with established regional partners. While Willow Springs is still in the early planning stage and key implementation details are not yet defined, it is anticipated to be operational within a 10- year timeline. Alternative 2 involves new well construction, environmental review, and treatment system design—all of which can extend the timeline.

Alternative 3 (Recycled Water) received the lowest score of **1**, indicating an implementation timeline of **more than 10 years**, which involves WWTP upgrades to produce tertiary-treated water, will require extensive planning, design, and funding acquisition, extending its timeline beyond the 10-year mark.

Table 5-8. Implementation Timeline Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	3
Alternative 1b	3
Alternative 1c	2
Alternative 1d	2
Alternative 1e	2
Alternative 2	2
Alternative 3	1

5.4.7.2. Partnership Feasibility

As described in Section 5.3.10.2, partnership feasibility was assessed based on the relative level of effort required to establish and maintain collaboration with external partners.

Alternatives 1b (Gladstone Land), 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping), and 3 (Recycled Water) received the highest score of **3**, reflecting **relatively low difficulty** in partnership development. Gladstone Land has demonstrated a strong interest and is in close proximity to the City. Alternatives 2 and 3 are managed internally by the City, which limits the need for external coordination and accelerates decision-making.

Alternatives 1a (Westlands) and 1d (Rosedale) received a score of **2**, indicating **moderate partnership difficulty**. Although Westlands is a local and active partner, its independent governance structure may require additional layers of coordination. Rosedale is open to external collaboration, but formalizing a banking agreement would require significant communication and alignment of goals.

Alternatives 1c (Semitropic) and 1e (Willow Springs) received the lowest score of **1**, reflecting **relatively high difficulty** in forming partnerships. Semitropic is currently not accepting new partners, and although that may change, it is a significant constraint in the near term. Willow Springs is still under development, with limited publicly available information to support immediate partnership formation.

Table 5-9. Partnership Feasibility Alternative Ranking

Alternative	Score
Alternative 1a	2
Alternative 1b	3
Alternative 1c	1
Alternative 1d	2
Alternative 1e	1
Alternative 2	3
Alternative 3	3

5.5. Comparison of Alternatives

The alternatives evaluated in this Study vary in their ability to meet the City's long-term water supply objectives. To ensure a consistent and transparent comparison, each alternative was evaluated using a weighted scoring system based on the evaluation criteria described in Section 5.3. The weight assigned to each criterion reflects its relative importance, as determined through consultation with the City and experience from similar projects.

5.5.1. Evaluation Criteria Weighting

Table 5-10 summarizes the weighting assigned to each criterion. Technical feasibility (water supply reliability and construction requirements) and partnership feasibility were given the highest weights (15 percent each), reflecting the importance of reliable supply and practical implementation. The total score for each alternative was calculated by multiplying the weight of each criterion by the assigned ranking (1–3) and summing the results.

Table 5-10. Evaluation Criteria Weightage

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Technical Feasibility	
Water Supply Reliability	15%
Construction Requirements	15%
Economic and Financial Feasibility	10%
Regulatory Feasibility	10%
Environmental Impacts	10%
O&M	5%
Stakeholder and Public Acceptance	10%
Implementation	
Timeline	10%
Partnership Feasibility	15%
Total	**100%**

5.5.2. Alternatives Ranking

As summarized in Table 5-11, the total weighted scores for each alternative were calculated based on performance across the evaluation criteria described in Section 5.3. The final rankings are as follows:

- Alternative 1a: Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Westlands Water District **– 2.60**
- Alternative 1b: Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Gladstone Land – **2.60**
- Alternative 1c: Water Banking with Semitropic Water Storage District – **2.40**
- Alternative 1d: Water Banking with Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District – **2.30**
- Alternative 1e: Water Banking with Willow Springs Water Bank – **2.20**
- Alternative 2: Local Groundwater Pumping – **1.90**
- Alternative 3: Recycled Water – **1.80**

Table 5-11. Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Alternative 1a Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Westlands	Alternative 1b Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Gladstone Land	Alternative 1c Water Banking with Semitropic	Alternative 1d Water Banking with Rosedale	Alternative 1e Water Banking with Willow Springs	Alternative 2 Local Groundwater Pumping	Alternative 3 Recycled Water
Technical Feasibility								
Water Supply Reliability	15	3	3	2	1	2	2	2
Construction Requirements	15	3	2	3	3	3	1	1
Economic and Financial Feasibility	10	3	3	3	3	3	2	1
Regulatory Feasibility	10	2	2	3	3	2	1	2
Environmental Impacts	10	2	2	3	3	3	2	3
O&M	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Stakeholder and Public Acceptance	10	3	3	3	2	2	2	1
Implementation								
Timeline	10	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Partnership Feasibility	15	2	3	1	2	1	3	3
Total Score		**2.60**	**2.60**	**2.40**	**2.30**	**2.20**	**1.90**	**1.80**

5.5.3. Summary of Findings

5.5.3.1. Top-Ranked Alternatives

The highest-ranked alternatives, **1a (Westlands)** and **1b (Gladstone Land)**, each received a total score of 2.60. While both are in early stages of development, these alternatives offer the greatest potential to provide a reliable, long-term water supply for the City. Each alternative supports resilience to drought and climate change while leveraging local or nearby resources.

Although Alternatives 1a and 1b performed similarly across most criteria — including water supply reliability, cost-effectiveness, and stakeholder acceptance — they differ in two key areas:

- **Construction Requirements:** Alternative 1a benefits from existing infrastructure, including delivery through the Coalinga Canal via Westlands, resulting in a minimal need for new construction (score of 3). In contrast, Alternative 1b may require new conveyance and monitoring infrastructure to return banked water, resulting in greater construction complexity (score of 2).

- **Partnership Feasibility:** While Westlands already has an established relationship with the City, the partnership process is more complex due to Westlands' board governance structure. In contrast, Gladstone Land offers more direct access to decision-makers, simplifying negotiations and agreement execution. As such, Alternative 1b received a higher score for partnership feasibility (score of 3).

These distinctions should be considered when advancing discussions and prioritizing implementation pathways.

5.5.3.2. Mid-Tier Alternatives

Alternative 1c (Semitropic), 1d (Rosedale), and 1e (Willow Springs) scored slightly lower (2.20–2.40) due to increased implementation complexity. While each offers access to established water banking programs, they present higher barriers in terms of partnership feasibility and longer implementation timelines. In particular:

- Alternative 1c is currently unavailable due to Semitropic's moratorium on new partners, though future changes may reopen this option.

- Alternative 1d includes a 50 percent leave-behind requirement, reducing the volume of recoverable water.

- Alternative 1e remains in early planning stages, with limited available information to support a definitive feasibility assessment.

These alternatives remain viable but are considered less immediately implementable.

5.5.3.3. Lower-Ranked Alternatives

Alternative 2 (Local Groundwater Pumping) and **Alternative 3 (Recycled Water)** received the lowest scores (1.80-1.90) due to higher capital investment needs, infrastructure requirements, and regulatory complexity.

- **Alternative 2** would require the construction of new wells and wellhead treatment to address water quality concerns. Additionally, as a new extraction source, it would trigger expanded regulatory monitoring and reporting under the GSP.

- **Alternative 3** involves costly WWTP upgrades to produce Title 22-compliant recycled water. Public acceptance challenges and a lengthy implementation timeline further reduce its near-term viability, despite the potential for long-term non-potable offsets.

5.5.4. Conclusion

The analysis identifies **Alternatives 1a and 1b** as the most viable near-term strategies to secure the City of Coalinga's water supply. These alternatives combine technical feasibility with practical implementation pathways and align with stakeholder priorities. While other options remain viable, they present more significant challenges in cost, permitting, or coordination. Future planning efforts may consider phased implementation or hybrid approaches to leverage strengths across multiple alternatives.

6. Recommended Alternative

This section presents a summary of the Study findings and identifies the recommended alternatives for the City of Coalinga to consider for future planning, development, and implementation. The recommended alternatives were further evaluated in the context of projected supply-demand imbalances to determine their potential to address future water shortages, particularly during drought years with reduced CVP allocations.

6.1. Summary

This Study was undertaken to address Coalinga's increasing vulnerability to water shortages due to population growth, climate change, and frequent, severe droughts. The primary goal of the Study was to identify viable alternatives that enhance both short- and long-term water supply sustainability for the City.

To support this goal, the Study established the following four objectives:

- Enhance water supply reliability;
- Provide cost-effective and safe water supplies;
- Achieve stakeholder and public acceptance; and,
- Implement water supply reliability strategies that comply with applicable regulations and permitting requirements.

Based on the challenges and constraints identified in Section 3, eight alternatives were developed to meet these objectives. These alternatives represented a broad spectrum of supply strategies, including water banking, groundwater pumping, recycled water, and conservation.

Following an initial screening process, **Alternative 4 – Implementation of Water Conservation Measures** was eliminated from further evaluation. The City already incorporates water conservation as a core part of its operations, and compliance with the State Water Board's UWUOs will continue to ensure ongoing conservation efforts. As such, the conservation alternative did not offer additional benefits aligned with the Study's purpose.

The remaining seven alternatives were evaluated using nine evaluation criteria, each directly linked to the Study's objectives. Each criterion was assigned a relative weight based on input from the City and experience with similar projects. Alternatives were then qualitatively ranked from 1 to 3 for each criterion based on their performance. Final scores were determined using a weighted scoring methodology.

Based on this comprehensive evaluation, the highest-scoring alternatives were:

- **Alternative 1a – Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Westlands Water District**
- **Alternative 1b – Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Gladstone Land**

These two alternatives demonstrate the greatest potential to provide the City with a sustainable, reliable water supply. Both scored well across multiple categories, including water supply reliability, cost-effectiveness, implementation feasibility, and stakeholder support.

While these alternatives remain in early stages of development, they each offer distinct advantages and present viable paths forward. However, further coordination and negotiation with Westlands and Gladstone Land will be necessary to address outstanding uncertainties regarding infrastructure, operations, and partnership structures. Given their comparable scoring and complementary strengths, both alternatives should be advanced for continued analysis and engagement.

The following sections of this Study will explore the implementation considerations, next steps, and potential actions the City may pursue to further evaluate and refine these recommended alternatives.

6.2. Next Steps

Following this Study, **Alternative 1a (Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Westlands Water District)** and **Alternative 1b (Local Water Banking/ Exchange Agreement with Gladstone Land)** are recommended as the most viable options for the City of Coalinga. These alternatives received the highest evaluation scores due to their strong performance across multiple criteria, including water supply reliability, economic feasibility, stakeholder support, and implementation timelines. However, successful implementation will require careful consideration of partnership coordination, infrastructure needs, and water quality compliance.

- **Alternative 1a** offers the benefit of existing conveyance infrastructure and an established relationship with Westlands, though regulatory complexity and partner governance may require additional coordination.
- **Alternative 1b** provides a more direct path to partnership and flexible operations with Gladstone Land but will require new conveyance and monitoring infrastructure and assurance of water quality for recharge and recovery.

To advance either or both alternatives, the City should initiate further planning and due diligence to determine the most implementable solution, secure partnership agreements, and identify funding to reduce financial impacts.

6.2.1. Future Water Demand and Supply Assessment

To support implementation of the recommended water banking/ exchange agreement alternatives, the City evaluated future water demand and supply projections under climate change to determine

the potential for surplus water that could be potentially banked and recovered during drought conditions. This assessment covered the 21-year planning period from 2025 through 2045 and was based on hydrologic conditions simulated in the CalSim 3 model, which reflects the 1990–2021 historical hydrology under projected climate change conditions (2043 horizon) as described in Section 3.1.4.

6.2.1.1. Demand and Supply Framework

As noted in Section 3.1.1 (Figure 3-1), the City's municipal and industrial (M&I) water demand is projected to increase from approximately 3,801 AF in 2024 to 6,774 AF by 2040, per the City's 2020 UWMP. CVP M&I allocation projections were developed using CalSim 3 results for different hydrologic year types and reflect anticipated impacts of climate change.

To evaluate supply and demand balances, projected CVP deliveries were compared to fixed demand assumptions in four five-year planning windows. For each period, annual surpluses or deficits were estimated by subtracting projected allocations from the fixed demand. This approach produced a range of potential outcomes, as summarized in Table 6-1, highlighting both water banking opportunities and future supply challenges.

6.2.1.2. Projected Supply and Demand Outcomes

2025–2030 Planning Period

- **Average Annual Demand**: 4,900 AF
- **Average Surplus**: 2,000 AF
- **Maximum Deficit**: 1,100 AF
- **Years with Deficits**: 10 of 32 years (31 percent)
- **Average Annual Supply Beyond Demand**: 1,800 AF

Summary: The City is projected to have reliable opportunities for surplus banking in this period, even in years with reduced allocations.

2030–2035 Planning Period

- **Average Annual Demand**: 5,700 AF
- **Average Surplus**: 1,400 AF
- **Maximum Deficit**: 1,900 AF
- **Years with Deficits**: 11 of 32 years (34 percent)

- **Average Annual Supply Beyond Demand**: 1,000 AF

Summary: Surplus water is still expected to be available for banking; however, the frequency and severity of deficits begin to increase.

2035–2040 Planning Period

- **Average Annual Demand**: 6,300 AF
- **Average Surplus**: 1,200 AF
- **Maximum Deficit**: 2,500 AF
- **Years with Deficits**: 19 of 32 years (59 percent)
- **Average Annual Supply Beyond Demand**: 400 AF

Summary: Banking remains viable in some years, but water management strategies beyond banking should be explored to meet growing deficits.

2040–2045 Planning Period

- **Average Annual Demand**: 6,800 AF
- **Average Surplus**: 1,000 AF
- **Maximum Deficit**: 3,000 AF
- **Years with Deficits**: 21 of 32 years (66 percent)
- **Average Annual Supply Beyond Demand**: -100 AF

Summary: This period presents the greatest risk of long-term water shortages. Additional water management actions will be required beyond banking to ensure reliability.

This high-level assessment illustrates that local water banking is a viable strategy to mitigate near- and mid-term deficits. However, as demand increases and CVP allocations fluctuate under climate change, the City will need to consider supplemental strategies to enhance long-term water supply resilience. These projections should be refined as new data becomes available during future planning and project development phases.

Table 6-1. Summary of Future Projected Demand and Supply under Climate Change

	Planning Period			
	2025-2030	**2030-2035**	**2035-2040**	**2040-2045**
Annual Projected Demand (AF)	4,900	5,700	6,300	6,800
Average Annual Surplus (AF)	2,000	1,400	1,200	1,000
Number of Years with Surplus	22 (69%)	21 (66%)	13 (41%)	11 (34%)
Annual Maximum Deficit (AF)	1,100	1,900	2,500	3,000
Number of Years with Deficit	10 (31%)	11 (34%)	19 (59%)	21 (66%)
Average Annual Surplus beyond Demand (AF)	1,800	1,000	400	-100

6.2.2. Next Steps for Planning and Implementation

To advance the implementation of the recommended local water banking alternatives, the City should undertake the following key actions to ensure strategic, regulatory, and financial readiness:

- **Develop Partnership Agreements**
  Formalize agreements with banking partners by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each entity. This includes establishing protocols for scheduling water deliveries and recoveries, procedures for water accounting, and requirements for monitoring and reporting.
- **Define Operational and Infrastructure Requirements**
  Identify infrastructure and operational needs, including the location and capacity of recharge and recovery sites, required conveyance systems, and any necessary treatment infrastructure to ensure compatibility with groundwater basin requirements.
- **Clarify Legal and Regulatory Requirements**
  Conduct a comprehensive review of applicable legal and regulatory obligations, including SGMA compliance, CEQA documentation, water rights, and inter-agency coordination. This step is critical to ensure project implementation aligns with local and state policies.
- **Identify Cost-Sharing Opportunities**
  Explore joint investment models with project partners and evaluate the potential for shared capital and operational costs. Consider revenue structures that could support long-term program sustainability.
- **Apply Adaptive Management**
  Implement an adaptive management framework that includes periodic evaluation—at least every five years—to assess performance, identify challenges, and adjust operations as needed in response to evolving hydrologic, regulatory, or climate conditions.

- **Pursue Funding Opportunities**
  Actively pursue external funding to reduce the financial burden on the City. Monitor private, state, and federal funding programs and prepare timely applications to support project planning, design, and implementation (see Section 6.2.3).

6.2.3. Funding Opportunities

A proactive and strategic funding approach will be essential to support the planning, design, and implementation of the recommended water banking alternatives. Multiple state and federal funding programs are available to assist with groundwater sustainability, infrastructure development, and long-term climate resilience. Table 6-2 summarizes key programs that the City should actively monitor and pursue.

Key Funding Programs:

- **Proposition 4 (2024 Bond Act)**
  Administered by the DWR and State Water Resources Control Board, Proposition 4 provides:
  - $386 million for groundwater sustainability projects, including groundwater storage, banking infrastructure, and SGMA implementation.
  - $610 million for clean, safe, and reliable drinking water projects, including PFAS remediation, groundwater contamination treatment, and system upgrades.
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program**
  Supports the development and implementation of GSPs and projects aligned with SGMA. The program offers funding for planning, infrastructure, monitoring, and basin coordination efforts.
- **Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)**
  Administered by the CWC, WSIP provides financial support for large-scale water storage projects that improve statewide water supply reliability, including groundwater banking and aquifer recharge projects.
- **Propositions 1 and 68**
  These statewide bond initiatives support a wide range of water-related priorities. Eligible uses include:
  - Groundwater storage and recharge projects
  - Water infrastructure improvements
  - Water quality enhancements
  - Environmental restoration and climate resilience initiatives

Next Steps:

The City should monitor funding cycles for each of these programs, assess eligibility criteria, and prepare competitive applications. Partnerships and multi-benefit project components may enhance the City's ability to secure funds.

Table 6-2. Potential Funding Opportunities

Program Name	Organization	Eligible Uses	Source
Proposition 4 (2024 Bond Act)	DWR / State Water Resource Control Board	• Groundwater sustainability (storage, banking, SGMA implementation) • Safe drinking water (PFAS remediation, treat groundwater contamination, system consolidation)	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program (SGMP)	DWR	• Planning and implementation of sustainable groundwater projects	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater
Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)	CWC	• Large-scale water and groundwater storage projects to enhance supply reliability	https://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage
Propositions 1 and 68	DWR / Various	• Water infrastructure • Groundwater storage • Water quality • Environmental protection • Climate resilience	https://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/p1.aspx https://water.ca.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-loans/irwm-grant-programs/proposition-1 https://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/ https://lao.ca.gov/BallotAnalysis/Proposition?number=68&year=2018

7. References

Association of California Water Agencies. (2024, March). Westlands Water District awarded $25 million through a federal grant to fund drought preparedness projects. https://www.acwa.com/news/westlands-water-district-awarded-25-million-through-a-federal-grant-to-fund-drought-preparedness-projects/

California Governor's Office of Planning and Research. (2023). Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 2 Temporary Water Transfer to the City of Coalinga. https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2023040014

California State Water Resources Control Board. (n.d.). Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/conservation/regs/water_efficiency_legislation.html

California Water Commission. (n.d.). Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project. https://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage/WSIP-Project-Review-Portal/All-Projects/Willow-Springs-Water-Bank-Conjunctive-Use-Project

City of Coalinga. (2009). Coalinga General Plan 2025. https://www.coalinga.com/DocumentCenter/View/120/Coalinga-General-Plan-2025-PDF Black

City of Coalinga. (2022). City of Coalinga Urban Water Management Plan 2020 Update. Prepared by Black Water Consulting Engineers, Inc., March, 2022.

Pleasant Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (PVGSA). (2022). Pleasant Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Revised July 2024.

Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder. (2019). Proposed Negative Declaration. https://www.stancounty.com/clerkrecorder/pdf/ceqa/20190917-pnd.pdf

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). (2016). Best Practices to Consider When Evaluating Water Conservation and Efficiency as an Alternative for Water Supply Expansion. https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-12/documents/wc_best_practices_to_avoid_supply_expansion_2016_508.pdfWestlands

Water District. (2020). Mercy Springs Resolution No. 101-20-DD2. Retrieved from https://wwd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mercy-Springs-Resolution-No.-101-20-DD2-Contract-9d-CEQA-and-Execution.pdf

Westlands Water District. (2024, March). Westlands Water District exceeds annual groundwater recharge goal. https://wwd.ca.gov/wwd-media/press-release-3-14-2024/

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject: City of Coalinga Natural Gas Update - Dan Bergmann, IGS
Meeting Date:
From:
Prepared by:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
No Attachments Available	

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Information Only: Transient Occupancy Tax Quarter Ending March 31, 2025
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, Interim City Manager
Prepared by:	Mai Vang, Financial Services Director

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

The unaudited FY 24/25 Transient Occupancy Tax revenue received at $35,893 which was 72% of the total expected revenue to be received this fiscal year.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

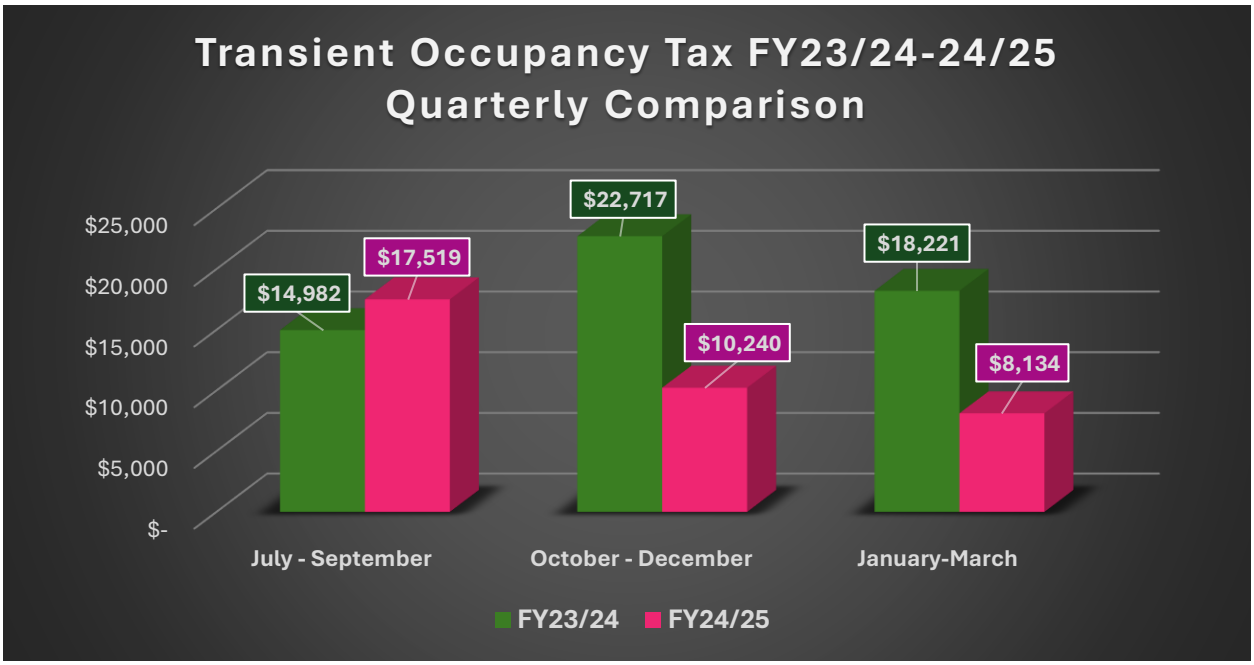
File Name	Description
Transient_Occupancy_Tax_Quarter_Ending_March_31_2025.pdf	TOT Revenue Quater Ending March 2025 Comparison

CITY OF COALINGA
The Sunny Side of the Valley

Transient Occupancy Tax

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Hotel/Motel Name	Jul-Sep 2024-Q3	Oct-Dec 2024-Q4	Jan-Mar 2025-Q1	Apr-June 2025-Q2	Total
Best Western Plus	10,559.92	8,780.90	6,837.00	-	**26,177.82**
Cambridge Inn	740.06	315.60	686.10	-	**1,741.76**
Coalinga Motel	-	-	-	-	-
Laura Lodge	-	-	-	-	-
Royal Lodge	5,345.17	811.58	387.27	-	**6,544.02**
Travel Inn	874.20	331.80	223.41	-	**1,429.41**
Total	**17,519.35**	**10,239.88**	**8,133.78**		**35,893.01**



STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Informational Only: Cannabis Related Revenue Quarter Ending March 31, 2025
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, Interim City Manager
Prepared by:	Mai Vang, Financial Services Director

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

The unaudited FY 24/25 total Cannabis related revenue received at quarter ending March 31, 2025, was $391,948 or 40% more than the expected budgeted revenue of $278,685.

The Cannabis Revenue Raising Fees & Regulatory Licensing Fees make up 99% or $388,706 of the total Cannabis revenue received.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
Cannabis_Related_Rev_Quarter_End_March_31__2025.pdf	Cannabis Related Revenue Quarter ending March 2025 Comparison

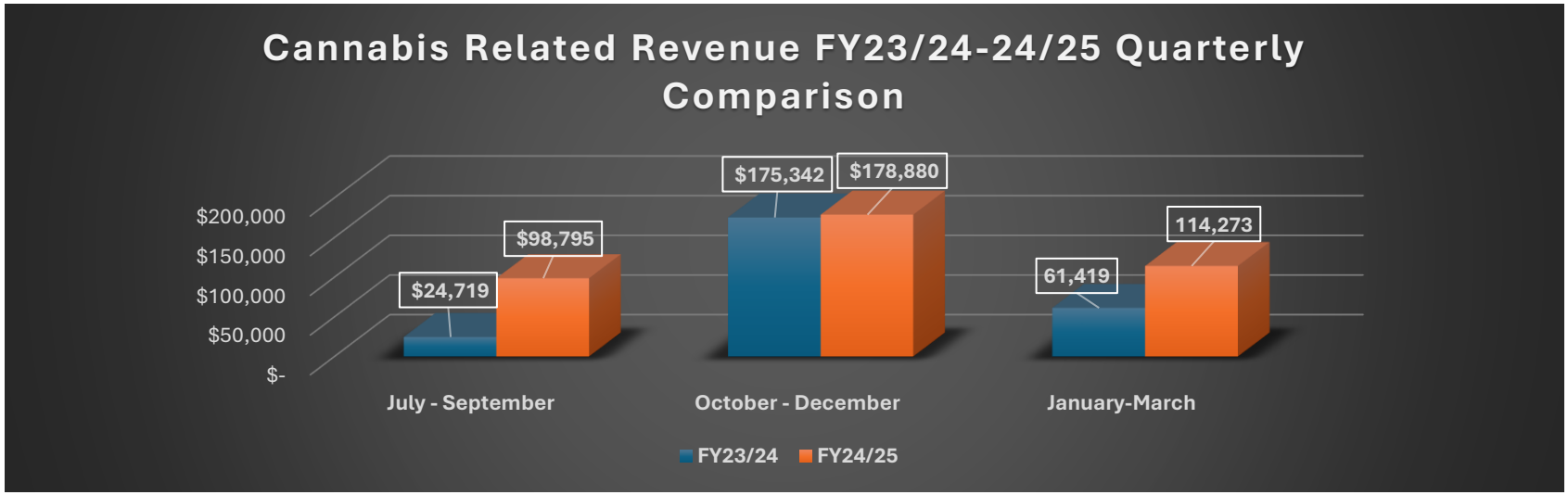
CITY OF COALINGA

The Sunny Side of the Valley

Cannabis Related Revenue

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

GL Account	GL Name	*Budget*	Jul-Sep 2024 2024-Q3	Oct-Dec 2024 2024-Q4	Jan-Mar 2025 2025-Q1	Apr-Jun 2025 2025-Q2	Total
101-400-42170	Cannabis Application Fees	*5,000.00*	951.00	-	2,291.00	-	**3,242.00**
101-400-42180	Cannabis Regulatory Permit Renewal	-	-	-		-	**-**
101-400-42190	Cannabis Revenue Raising Fee	*219,919.00*	79,352.35	151,826.00	75,928.00	-	**307,106.35**
101-400-42200	Cannabis Regulatory Licensing Fee	*53,766.00*	18,492.00	27,054.00	36,054.00	-	**81,600.00**
Total		***278,685.00***	**98,795.35**	**178,880.00**	**114,273.00**	**-**	**391,948.35**



STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Informational Only: Measure J Quarter Ending March 31, 2025
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, Interim City Manager
Prepared by:	Mai Vang, Financial Services Director

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

The FY24-25 Measure J revenue received at $1,486,099 versus the $1,624,531 anticipated targeted quarterly revenue has a variance of -9%.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
Measure_J_Rev._Quarter_Ending_March_2025..pdf	Measure J Quarter Ending March 2025 Comparison

CITY OF COALINGA

The Sunny Side of the Valley

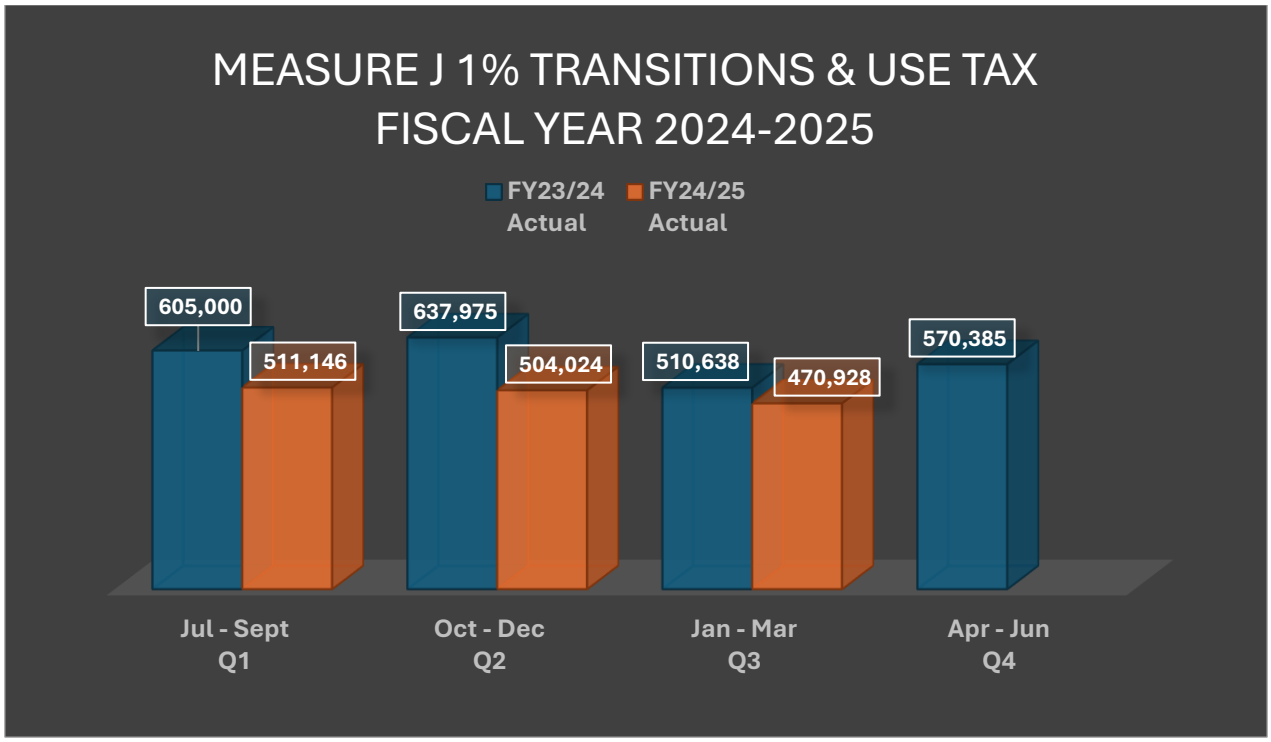
Measure J

1% Transitions & Use Tax

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Reporting Period	Total
2024-Jul	**167,759**
2024-Aug	**160,279**
3rd Quarter True Up	**183,108**
2024-Oct	**187,463**
2024-Nov	**171,712**
4th Quarter True Up	**144,849**
2025-Jan	**140,748**
2025-Feb	**135,296**
1st Quarter True Up	**194,885**
2025-Apr	
2025-May	
2nd Quarter True Up	
Total	**1,486,099**

Approved Revenue Budget	2,166,042
Anticipated Targeted Revenue	1,624,531
% of Revenue received over/(under) Targeted Revenue	-9%
Amount of Revenue received over/(under) Targeted Revenue	(138,433)


MEASURE J 1% TRANSITIONS & USE TAX
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
FY23/24 Actual
FY24/25 Actual
605,000
511,146
637,975
504,024
510,638
470,928
570,385
Jul - Sept Q1
Oct - Dec Q2
Jan - Mar Q3
Apr - Jun Q4

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Information Only - Implementation of California Assembly Bill 413 – Daylighting Law
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Jose Garza, Chief of Police

I. RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for informational purposes only. No Council action is required at this time. This was a future agenda item requested by Councilman Horn.

II. BACKGROUND:

California Assembly Bill (AB) 413, also known as the "Daylighting" law, took effect on **January 1, 2025**. The legislation prohibits stopping, standing, or parking within **20 feet** of the vehicle-approach side of any marked or unmarked crosswalk. Where curb extensions (bulb-outs) are present, the restriction is reduced to **15 feet**.

The intent of the law is to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety by increasing visibility at intersections, thereby reducing the risk of collisions. The restriction applies regardless of whether curb markings or signage are present.

III. DISCUSSION:

Staff has reviewed the provisions of AB 413 and identified that compliance with the new law may impact existing curbside parking, crosswalk approaches, and other infrastructure within the City.

To address these potential impacts, **City staff will be working closely with the City Engineer** to:

- Identify locations where current parking or infrastructure does not meet the new requirements.
- Develop a plan for necessary modifications, including red curb painting, signage installation, and potential removal of parking spaces where required.
- Prioritize improvements in high-pedestrian areas such as school zones, downtown intersections, and areas with limited visibility.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

Recognizing that this law is new to the public, the City will implement a phased approach to enforcement and education:

1. **Warning Period** – The Police Department will initially issue **warnings** rather than citations to inform drivers of the new requirements.
2. **Press Releases & Outreach** – The City will distribute press releases (draft attached), update the

City's website, and utilize social media platforms to educate the public on AB 413.

3. **Coordination with Community Partners** – Information will be shared with schools, business organizations, and community groups to maximize awareness.

This proactive approach is intended to give residents time to adjust to the new law while encouraging voluntary compliance before formal enforcement begins.

AB 413 introduces statewide parking restrictions at crosswalk approaches intended to improve public safety. The City will work with the City Engineer to identify impacted locations, conduct public outreach, and issue warnings during an initial adjustment period. Council will be updated as the assessment and outreach efforts progress.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

At this stage, fiscal impacts are anticipated to be minimal, limited to staff time, curb painting, and public outreach materials. Any future infrastructure modification costs will be identified and presented to Council once site assessments are complete.

ATTACHMENTS:

	File Name	Description
🗋	Press_release_AB_413.docx	Press Release AB413

City of Coalinga

Police Department

Jose Garza, Chief of Police

270 N. Sixth St.
Coalinga, CA 93210
Phone: (559) 935-1525
Fax: (559) 935-1756
E-Mail: police@coalinga.com

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Date: August 21, 2025

Prepared By/Contact Person: Jose Garza, Police Chief

Coalinga Police Department Advises Residents of New California "Daylighting" Law

Coalinga, CA – The Coalinga Police Department is reminding residents and visitors that **California Assembly Bill 413**, also known as the "Daylighting" law, took effect on **January 1, 2025**. This new state law is designed to improve pedestrian safety by increasing visibility at crosswalks and intersections.
Under AB 413, it is now **illegal to stop, stand, or park within 20 feet of the approach side of any crosswalk**, whether it is marked or unmarked. For crosswalks with curb extensions (also called bulb-outs), the restriction is reduced to **15 feet**. The law applies regardless of whether curbs are painted red or signage is posted.

What This Means for Drivers in Coalinga:

- Do not park within **20 feet** of a crosswalk on the approach side (the side a vehicle would drive up to before crossing).
- At intersections with curb extensions, keep **15 feet** clear.
- The restriction applies to **all crosswalks**, including those without painted lines.

Warning Period in Effect
The Coalinga Police Department understands this law is new and will be implementing an **initial warning period** before issuing citations. During this time, officers will focus on educating drivers through warnings, informational flyers, and community outreach.

Public Awareness Campaign
In addition to officer contact, the City of Coalinga will share information through press releases, social media, and the City's website. Our goal is to ensure residents are aware of the changes and understand how they improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.

For more information on AB 413 and to view a visual guide to the new parking restrictions, contact the Coalinga Police Department Records Department at (559) 935-1525 ext.161.

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Authorize Manager to Execute Task Orders with the City Engineer for Right-of-Way (ROW) Engineering for Segment 6 of the Coalinga Multi-Trail System Funded by the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant Program
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Sean Brewer, City Manager

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Council Authorization for the City Manager to execute Task Order for Right-of-Way (ROW) Engineering Services for the Coalinga Multi-Trail Segment 6 of the Multi-Trail System Funded by the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant Program.

II. BACKGROUND:

In November 2024 the City of Coalinga received a grant award notification through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program in the amount of $160,000.00 for the ROW Phase of Segment 6 of the Multi-Use Trail System. Segment 6 starts at E Polk St along Warthan Creek north to Trail Segment 3N, 1.3 miles multi-use, safety enhancements, amenities, solar lights, sidewalks & safety bollards.

III. DISCUSSION:

Attached is the work order for ROW Engineering from the City Engineer for the ROW support of Segment 6 of the Trail Plan. Once approved by the City Council, the City Engineer will begin immediately on the ROW process in order to proceed with this project expeditiously.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

None.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

The ROW task order is not to exceed $36,000. All costs associated with ROW Engineering is budgeted and paid from the proceeds of the CMAQ grant award.

There will be no impact to the General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
3067_Work_Order_ROW_Engineering_Multi_Trail_6.pdf	Work Order ROW

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WORK ORDER
RIGHT-OF-WAY ENGINEERING

This agreement entered into the 21 day of August, 2025 between City of Coalinga (hereinafter called the Client) and the Consultant Tri City Engineering (hereinafter called Consultant) for services in connection with the following project: CMAQ Coalinga Multi-Trail Segment 6 (Polk to Trail 3N). The Client and Consultant's rights, duties, and obligations hereunder will be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Professional Services between Client and Consultant dated October 26, 2021 which is fully incorporated herein by reference.

I. Scope of Services. The Consultant's services will consist of the following:

- Right-of Way Certification Package: Consultant will work with the City's Assistant City Manager and Consulting Appraiser to coordinate the entire acquisition process which shall include coordinating with Caltrans "Right-of-Way" Division and acquiring Caltrans "Right-of-Way Certification. Providing assistance with "turn-key" appraisal, acquisition, title, escrow services, legal descriptions and plats necessary to acquire Multi-Trail easements and temporary construction easements.

II. Additional Services. Any services not specifically provided for under Section I above shall be Additional Services. Only if mutually agreed to in writing by client or consultant shall consultant perform such additional services.

III. Consultant's Compensation. In consideration for Consultant providing the services noted above, the Client agrees to compensate the Consultant as follows:

Right of Way Certification Package:
Engineer Support Services

$ 36,000.00

Retainer. The Client shall make an initial payment of -0- dollars ($0.00) (retainer) upon execution of this Agreement. This retainer shall be held by the Consultant and applied against final invoices.

Payment Due. Invoices shall be submitted by the Consultant monthly, are due upon presentation, and shall be considered past due if not paid within ten (10) calendar days of the due date.

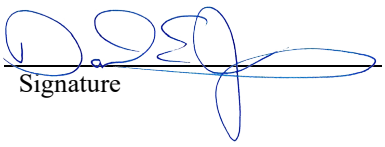
Interest. If payment in full is not received by the Consultant within 30 calendar days of the due date, invoices shall bear interest at one-and-one-half (1.5) percent of the PAST DUE amount per month, which shall be calculated from the invoice due date. Payment thereafter shall first be applied to accrued interest and then to the unpaid principal.

Collection Costs. If the Client fails to make payments when due and the Consultant incurs any costs in order to collect overdue sums from the Client, the Client agrees that all such collection

costs incurred shall immediately become due and payable to the Consultant. Collection costs shall include, without limitation, legal fees, and expenses, court costs, collection bonds and reasonable Consultant staff costs at standard billing rates for the Consultant's time spent in efforts to collect. This obligation of the Client to pay the Consultant's collection costs shall survive the term of this agreement or any earlier termination by either party.

Set-offs, Back charges, Discounts. Payment of invoices shall not be subject to any discount or set-offs by the Client, unless agreed to in writing by the Consultant. Payment to the Consultant for services rendered and expenses incurred shall be due and payable regardless of any subsequent suspension or termination of this Agreement by either party.

In witness thereof, the parties hereto have accepted, made and executed this agreement upon the terms, conditions and provisions above stated, the day and year first above written.

Consultant:	By	 Signature	Client:	By	Signature
Name:		Daniel E. Jauregui For: Tri City Engineering	Name:		Sean Brewer For: City of Coalinga
Title:		President	Title:		City Manager
Address:		4630 W Jennifer Ave #101 Fresno, CA 93722	Address:		155 W. Durian Ave Coalinga, CA 93210

Reference: 3067ROW

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Authorize City Manager to Execute a Task Order with the City's On-Call Right-of-Way (ROW) Consultant for ROW Services for the Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North Project Through the Active Transportation Program (ATP)
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Sean Brewer, City Manager

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Council Authorization for the City Manager to Execute one (1) Task Order with the City's On-Call Right-of-Way (ROW) Consultant, Bender Rosenthal, Inc. for ROW Services for the Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North Project.

II. BACKGROUND:

The City of Coalinga will be using California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Active Transportation Program funding for the right-of-way (also referred as ROW or R/W) services of the Coalinga Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North of the Coalinga Multi-Use Trails Master Plan.

Active Transportation Program funding can include Federal, State, or both Federal and State funds. The Coalinga Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North is limited to State funds however; a right-of-way phase was granted for both the right-of-way consultant, Bender Rosenthal, Inc. (BRI) and city engineering consultant, Tri City Engineering (TCE) for reimbursement of services.

The total amount awarded for the R/W Phase is $120,000.00.

III. DISCUSSION:

The City of Coalinga (City) is proposing the design, construction, and operation of one segment (Segment 3-North [3N]) of the City's planned 8.8-mile perimeter trail and spur system identified in the City of Coalinga Trails Master Plan (Coalinga TMP) using California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Active Transportation Program funding. The Coalinga Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North (project) would develop an approximately 1,917-foot-longpedestrian trail and associated improvements in the city of Coalinga, Fresno County, California. The proposed trail segment would include a 14-foot-wideshared-use bicycle and pedestrian trail. The proposed trail would consist of a 10-foot-wide paved asphalt concrete (AC) trail between 2 feet of unpaved shoulders on both sides. Other proposed trail components would include a 24-foot-long sidewalk at the Gregory Way crosswalk; one prefabricated bike/pedestrian bridge over Los Gatos Creek with 42-inch-tall guardrails; two curb ramps; a roundabout with an island consisting of signage, shade trees, and a bench; and one solar light on the west side of the Gregory Way crosswalk. The proposed trail segment would connect existing and planned segments of the City's perimeter trail network, including Segment 3 near Walnut Street, Segment 2 at the roundabout, and Segment 1E at Phelps Avenue.
The trail segment would be positioned away from the nearest roadways but with connectivity at key intersections to existing sidewalks and Class II and III bicycle routes on existing roads near the perimeter trail. The project would develop one segment of the City's planned 8.8-mile perimeter trail and spur system to

connect residents in Coalinga (and a disadvantaged census tract) to activity centers such as schools, parks, a college, shopping, neighborhoods, and jobs. The project would provide a safe option to enable increased bicycle/pedestrian transportation use. Increased active transportation would address health disparities in a community that faces higher than average California city rates of asthma, obesity, and heart disease.

Part of the project requires ROW services to acquire the right of way necessary for Project completion. Right of way services include task management with city and city engineers, appraisal and review services, including title reports, right of way acquisition services, escrow coordination, Caltrans right of way certification, and real estate acquisition parcel information for permanent easements, impacting parcels near the proposed trail.

The City of Coalinga also released an RFQ for an On-Call Right of Way Consultant for services on various projects. Bender Rosenthal, Inc. won the award for $250,000.00 total services. This project and task order is their second project under those On-Call Services. The City also approved a task order for City Engineers (TCE) for services related to the ROW Phase for the amount of $36,000.00.

The Right of Way Consultant, Bender Rosenthal, has submitted a task order for right of way services and appraisal coordination as part of the original On-Call Right of Way Services, dated October 3, 2024, in the amount of $14,792.94. This amount does not consider appraisals for the permanent easements. This second task order has been attached for the Council's consideration.

R/W Awarded: $120,000.00
R/W On-Call Consultant Services: $14,792.94
R/W City Engineering Services: $36,000.00
Remaining amount towards contingency and appraisals: $69,207.06

The Council must consider and make the following findings:
Approval of City Manager to approve the second task order for BRI

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

Do not authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the one (1) task order submitted by the Right of Way Consultant.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

Total authorization request for this contract is $14,792.94. This project is funded by an Active Transportation Program (ATP).

There will be no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
Work_Order_-_ATP-6_Trail_3N_RW_Consultant.pdf	Work Order ATP 6

EXHIBIT A
SCOPE OF WORK

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Coalinga's (City) Coalinga Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North - Active Transportation Program Cycle 6, Multi-Use Pavement Pedestrian/Bike Trail, Trail Segment 3, North (Project) one segment of the City's planned 8.8-mile perimeter trail and spur system identified in the City of Coalinga Trails Master Plan. This Project will develop an approximately 1,917-foot-long pedestrian trail and associated improvements, including a 14-foot-wide shared-use bicycle and pedestrian trail. Other proposed trail components would include a 24-foot-long sidewalk at the Gregory Way crosswalk; one prefabricated bike/pedestrian bridge over Los Gatos Creek with 42-inch-tall guardrails; two curb ramps; a roundabout with an island consisting of signage, shade trees, and a bench; and one solar light on the west side of the Gregory Way crosswalk.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Consultant shall acquire the right of way necessary for Project completion. Right of way requirements will be permanent easements, impacting four (4) parcels, under one (1) unique ownership. Right of way will be acquired within ten (10) months of Notice to Proceed (NTP), with Project Certification thereafter. The City is currently obtaining a topographic map to refine the alignment and verify the easement areas.

The Scope of Work shall consist of the following tasks and deliverables.

TASK 1: TASK ORDER MANAGEMENT

Consultant shall provide task order management services. This work includes, but is not limited to, coordination with City staff, attending meetings (including teleconference calls), coordination with the City's design consultant, and site visits as needed.

The Consultant will:

- Attend meetings or teleconference calls with City staff.
- Document decisions made, action items and resolutions.

Deliverables:

- Invoices.
- Progress Reports.
- Meeting Notes.

TASK 2: RESTRICTED APPRAISAL AND APPRAISAL REVIEW SERVICES

Consultant shall provide Preliminary Title Reports (PTRs) for each impacted property in order to determine current ownership. Consultant shall appraise the impacted parcels and provide external appraisal reviews for each restricted appraisal.

Deliverables:

- One (1) PTR.
- One (1) Restricted Appraisal.
- One (1) Appraisal Review.

TASK 3: RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION SERVICES

The Consultant shall provide negotiation and acquisition services for each parcel identified below. Right of way action includes communication with property owners as required to facilitate payment. If a settlement is not attainable, the Consultant shall inform the City.

The Consultant will:

- Establish and maintain a communication log with the property owner.
- Coordinate with the City where an impasse is reached with the property owner.

Deliverables:

- Draft First Written Offer Package.
- Acquisition of permanent property rights from one (1) ownership.
- Files on each negotiation, acquisition, and project settlement.

TASK 4: ESCROW COORDINATION

Consultant will deliver documents and checks to the escrow company and review all final title and escrow documents. Consultant will coordinate escrow closings and file all applicable forms and documents with the County Assessor's office.

Deliverables:

- Facilitate Title and Escrow support for one (1) ownership.

TASK 5: CALTRANS RIGHT OF WAY CERTIFICATION

Consultant to supply all required documentation for the draft and final Right of Way Certification Document 13-B at certification level 1 or 2.

Deliverables:

- One (1) draft Right of Way Certification Document.
- One (1) final Right of Way Certification Document.

REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION PARCEL INFORMATION

APN 071-020-16S: 6,166 SF required from the property
APN 071-020-23S: 16,908 SF required from the property
APN 071-020-39S; 14,190 SF required from the property

PERMANENT EASEMENT TOTAL: 37,264 SF

MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CITY

- Appraisal Exhibits, Plats and Legals.
- Approved Just Compensation.
- Delegation of authority for administrative settlements.

EXHIBIT B
PROJECT SCHEDULE

TASK 1: TASK ORDER MANAGEMENT

NTP + Ten (10) Months

TASK 2: RESTRICTED APPRAISAL AND APPRAISAL REVIEW SERVICES

NTP + Five (5) weeks for Restricted Appraisal + Two (2) weeks for review

TASK 3: RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION SERVICES

Approval to Acquire + sixty (60) days

TASK 4: ESCROW COORDINATION

Signed Contract + thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days, assuming no partial reconveyance and/or consent to easement

TASK 5: CALTRANS RIGHT OF WAY CERTIFICATION

NTP + Ten (10) Months

*** TASK 1** and **TASK 4** may be extended. This will not impact Caltrans Right of Way Certification.

EXHIBIT C
FEE SCHEDULE

The fee for services is **$14,792.94**

Please see **EXHIBIT D** on the following page.

EXHIBIT D

EXHIBIT 10-H COST PROPOSAL
ACTUAL COST-PLUS-FIXED FEE OR LUMP SUM OR FIRM FIXED PRICE CONTRACTS
(DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES)

Note: Mark-Ups are Not Allowed ☑ Prime Consultant ☐ Subconsultant ☐ 2nd Tier Subconsultant

Consultant: BENDER ROSENTHAL, INC.

Project No. ATP CYCLE 6 - Trail 3N Contract No. TBD Date May 28, 2025

Project Name Coalinga Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North

DIRECT LABOR

Classification/Title	Name	Range	Hours	Actual Hr Rate	Total
Project Manager	Rebekah Green	$62.00 - $75.00	8	$ 70.00	$ 560.00
Senior Administrative Support	Staff - TBD	$35.00 - $65.00	4	$ 40.00	$ 160.00
Administrative Support	Staff - TBD	$20.00 - $40.00	2	$ 25.00	$ 50.00
			14		

LABOR COSTS

a) Subtotal Direct Labor Costs	$ 770.00	
b) Anticipated Salary Increases	$23.10	
c) **TOTAL DIRECT LABOR COSTS** [(a) + (b)]		**$ 793.10**

INDIRECT COSTS

d) Fringe Benefits (Rate: 39.83%)	c) Total Fringe Benefits [(c) x (d)]	$ 315.89		
f) Overhead (Rate: 28.46%)	g) Overhead [(c) x (f)]	$ 225.72		
h) General and Admin (Rate: 54.42%)	i) Gen & Admin [(c) x (h)]	$ 431.61		
	j) **TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS** [(e) + (g) + (i)]			**$ 973.21**

FIXED FEE k) **TOTAL FIXED FEE** [(c) + (j)] x fixed fee 10%] **$ 176.63**

l) **CONSULTANT'S OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC) – ITEMIZE (Add additional pages if necessary)**

Description of Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
Permanent/Temporary Acquisition	1	Each	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,500.00
Restricted Appraisal Reports	1	Report	$ 3,800.00	$ 3,800.00
Preliminary Title Reports	1	Report	$ 900.00	$ 900.00
Right of Way Certification	1	Package	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00
Mileage/Travel	400	Miles	$ 0.70	$ 280.00
Shipping	2	Package	$ 35.00	$ 70.00
i) **TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS**				**$ 11,050.00**

m) **SUBCONSULTANTS' COSTS** (Add additional pages if necessary) Independent Appraisal Reviews - 1 @ $1,800 $ 1,800.00

m) **TOTAL SUBCONSULTANTS' COSTS** **$ 1,800.00**

n) **TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS INCLUDING SUBCONSULTANTS** [(l) + (m)] **$ 12,850.00**

TOTAL COST [(c) + (j) + (k) + (n)] **$ 14,792.94**

NOTES:
1. Key personnel **must** be marked with an asterisk (*) and employees that are subject to prevailing wage requirements must be marked with two asterisks (**). All costs must comply with the Federal cost principles. Subconsultants will provide their own cost proposals.
2. The cost proposal format shall not be amended. Indirect cost rates shall be updated on an annual basis in accordance with the consultant's annual accounting period and established by a cognizant agency or accepted by Caltrans.
3. Anticipated salary increases calculation (page 2) must accompany.

EXHIBIT 10-H COST PROPOSAL
ACTUAL COST-PLUS-FIXED FEE OR LUMP SUM OR FIRM FIXED PRICE CONTRACTS
(CALCULATIONS FOR ANTICIPATED SALARY INCREASES)

1. Calculate Average Hourly Rate for 1st year of the contract (Direct Labor Subtotal divided by total hours)

Direct Labor Subtotal per Cost Proposal		Total Hours per Cost Proposal		Avg Hourly Rate	**5 Year Contract Duration**
$770.00		14	=	$55.00	Year 1 Avg Hourly Rate

1. Calculate hourly rate for all years (Increase the Average Hourly Rate for a year by proposed escalation %)

	Avg Hourly Rate		Proposed Escalation			
Year 1	$55.00	+	3.0%	=	$56.65	Year 2 Avg Hourly Rate
Year 2	$56.65	+	3.0%	=	$58.35	Year 3 Avg Hourly Rate
Year 3	$58.35	+	3.0%	=	$60.10	Year 4 Avg Hourly Rate
Year 4	$60.10	+	3.0%	=	$61.90	Year 5 Avg Hourly Rate

3. Calculate estimated hours per year (Multiply estimate % each year by total hours)

	Estimated % Completed Each Year		Total Hours per Cost Proposal		Total Hours per Year	
Year 1	0.0%	*	14	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 1
Year 2	100.0%	*	14	=	14	Estimated Hours Year 2
Year 3	0.0%	*	14	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 3
Year 4	0.0%	*	14	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 4
Year 5	0.0%	*	14	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 5
Total	100.0%		Total	=	14	

4. Calculate Total Costs including Escalation (Multiply Average Hourly Rate by the number of hours)

	Avg Hourly Rate (Calculated above)		Estimated hours (Calculated Above)		Cost Per Year	
Year 1	$55.00	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 1
Year 2	$56.65	*	14	=	$793.10	Estimated Hours Year 2
Year 3	$58.35	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 3
Year 4	$60.10	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 4
Year 5	$61.90	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 5
			Total Direct Labor Cost with Escalation	=	$793.10	
			Direct Labor Subtotal before Escalation	=	$770.00	
			Estimated total of Direct Labor Salary Increase	=	$23.10	Transfer to Page 1

NOTES:
1. This is not the only way to estimate salary increases. Other methods will be accepted if they clearly indicate the % increase, the # of years of the contract, and a breakdown of the labor to be performed each year.

2. An estimation that is based on direct labor multiplied by salary increase % multiplied by the # of years is not acceptable. (i.e. $250,000 x 2% x 5 yrs = $25,000 is not an acceptable methodology)

3. This assumes that one year will be worked at the rate on the cost proposal before salary increases are granted.

4. Calculations for anticipated salary escalation must be provided.

EXHIBIT 10-H COST PROPOSAL

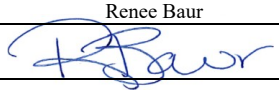
Certification of Direct Costs:

I, the undersigned, certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that all direct costs identified on the cost proposal(s) in this contract are actual, reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the contract in accordance with the contract terms and the following requirements:

1. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
2. Terms and conditions of the contract
3. Title 23 United States Code Section 112 - Letting of Contracts
4. 48 Code of Federal Regulations Part 31 - Contract Cost Principles and Procedures
5. 23 Code of Federal Regulations Part 172 - Procurement, Management, and Administration of Engineering and Design Related Service
6. 48 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9904 - Cost Accounting Standards Board (when applicable)

All costs must be applied consistently and fairly to all contracts. All documentation of compliance must be retained in the project files and be in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements. Costs that are noncompliant with the federal and state requirements are not eligible for reimbursement. Local governments are responsible for applying only cognizant agency approved or Caltrans accepted Indirect Cost Rate(s).

Prime Consultant or Subconsultant Certifying:

Name**:	Renee Baur	Title**:	Chief Executive Officer
Signature:		Date of Certification (mm/dd/yyyy):	5/28/2025
Email**:	r.baur@benderrosenthal.com	Phone Number:	(916) 978-4900
Address:	2825 Watt Ave. Suite 200, Sacramento CA 95821		

**An individual executive or financial officer of the consultant's or subconsultant's organization at a level no lower than a Vice President or a Chief Financial Officer, or equivalent, who has authority to represent the financial information utilized to establish the cost proposal for the contract.

List services the consultant is providing under the proposed contract:

Right of Way Services

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Authorize City Manager to Execute a Task Order with the City's On-Call Right-of-Way (ROW) Consultant for ROW Services for the Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Sean Brewer, City Manager

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Council Authorization for the City Manager to Execute one (1) Task Order with the City's On-Call Right-of-way (ROW) Consultant, Bender Rosenthal, Inc. for ROW Services for the Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 Project.

II. BACKGROUND:

In November 2024 the City of Coalinga received a grant award notification through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program for the right-of-way (also referred as ROW or R/W) services for the Coalinga Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 portion of the Coalinga Multi-Use Trails Master Plan.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) Program funding can include Federal, State, or both Federal and State funds. The Coalinga Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North is limited to both Federal and State funds; a right-of-way phase was granted for both the right-of-way consultant, Bender Rosenthal, Inc. (BRI) and city engineering consultant, Tri City Engineering (TCE) for reimbursement of services.

The total amount awarded for the R/W Phase is $160,000.00.

III. DISCUSSION:

The City of Coalinga (City) is proposing the design, construction, and operation of one segment (Segment 6) of the City's planned 8.8-mile perimeter trail and spur system identified in the City of Coalinga Trails Master Plan (Coalinga TMP) using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program funding. The Coalinga Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 (project) would develop an approximately 1.3 mile-long pedestrian trail and associated improvements in the city of Coalinga, Fresno County, California. The proposed trail segment would include a 14-foot-wideshared-use bicycle and pedestrian trail. The proposed trail would consist of a 10-foot-wide paved asphalt concrete (AC) trail between 2 feet of unpaved shoulders on both sides. Other proposed trail components would include one (1) trail, one (1) spur, one (1) rest area and sidewalk improvements. It will connect the perimeter trail from E Polk St to trail segment 3N which is west of the pedestrian bridge that crosses over Los Gatos Creek and east of Acabedo Lane. The proposed trail segment would connect the perimeter trail from E Polk St to trail segment 3N which is west of the pedestrian bridge that crosses over Los Gatos Creek and east of Acabedo Lane.

The trail segment would be positioned away from the nearest roadways but with connectivity at key intersections to existing sidewalks and Class II and III bicycle routes on existing roads near the perimeter

trail. The project would develop one segment of the City's planned 8.8-mile perimeter trail and spur system to connect residents in Coalinga (and a disadvantaged census tract) to activity centers such as schools, parks, a college, shopping, neighborhoods, and jobs. The project would provide a safe option to enable increased bicycle/pedestrian transportation use. Increased active transportation would address health disparities in a community that faces higher than average California city rates of asthma, obesity, and heart disease.

Part of the project requires ROW services to acquire the right of way necessary for Project completion. Right of way services include task management with city and city engineers, appraisal and review services, including title reports, right of way acquisition services, escrow coordination, Caltrans right of way certification, and real estate acquisition parcel information for permanent easements, impacting parcels near the proposed trail.

The City of Coalinga also released an RFQ for an On-Call Right of Way Consultant for services on various projects. Bender Rosenthal, Inc. won the award for $250,000.00 total services. This project and task order is their third project under those On-Call Services.

The Right of Way Consultant, Bender Rosenthal, has submitted a task order for right of way services and appraisal coordination as part of the original On-Call Right of Way Services, dated October 3, 2024, in the amount of $49,898.15. This amount does not consider appraisals for the permanent easements. This third task order has been attached for the Council's consideration.

R/W Awarded: $160,000.00
R/W On-Call Consultant Services: $49,898.15
R/W City Engineering Services (also on agenda to be approved): $36,000.00
Remaining amount towards contingency and appraisals: $74,101.85

The Council must consider and make the following findings:
Approval of City Manager to approve the third task order for BRI

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

Do not authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the one (1) task order submitted by the Right of Way Consultant.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

Total authorization request for this contract is $49,898.15. This project is funded by a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program.

There will be no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
Work_Order_-_CMAQ_Trail_6_RW_Consultant.pdf	Work Order ATP 6 ROW Consultant

EXHIBIT A
SCOPE OF WORK

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Coalinga's (City) Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 (Project) is funded by the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program one segment of the City's planned multi-use pedestrian/bike trails identified in the City of Coalinga Trails Master Plan. This Project will develop an existing soil trail from Polk St. and connect to the Trail 3N.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Consultant shall acquire the right of way necessary for Project completion. Right of way requirements will be permanent easements, impacting seven (7) parcels, under four (4) unique ownerships. Right of way will be acquired within ten (10) months of Notice to Proceed (NTP), with Project Certification thereafter. The City is currently obtaining a topographic map to refine the alignment and verify the easement areas.

The Scope of Work shall consist of the following tasks and deliverables.

TASK 1: TASK ORDER MANAGEMENT

Consultant shall provide task order management services. This work includes, but is not limited to, coordination with City staff, attending meetings (including teleconference calls), coordination with the City's design consultant, and site visits as needed.

The Consultant will:

- Attend meetings or teleconference calls with City staff.
- Document decisions made, action items and resolutions.

Deliverables:

- Invoices.
- Progress Reports.
- Meeting Notes.

TASK 2: RESTRICTED APPRAISAL AND APPRAISAL REVIEW SERVICES

Consultant shall provide Preliminary Title Reports (PTRs) for each impacted property in order to determine current ownership. Consultant shall appraise the impacted parcels and provide external appraisal reviews for each restricted appraisal.

Deliverables:

- Four (4) PTRs.
- Four (4) Restricted Appraisals.
- Four (4) Appraisal Reviews.

TASK 3: RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION SERVICES

The Consultant shall provide negotiation and acquisition services for each parcel identified below. Right of way action includes communication with property owners as required to facilitate payment. If a settlement is not attainable, the Consultant shall inform the City.

The Consultant will:

- Establish and maintain a communication log with the property owners.
- Coordinate with the City where an impasse is reached with the property owners.

Deliverables:

- Draft First Written Offer Package.
- Acquisition of permanent property rights from four (4) ownerships.
- Files on each negotiation, acquisition, and project settlement.

TASK 4: ESCROW COORDINATION

Consultant will deliver documents and checks to the escrow company and review all final title and escrow documents. Consultant will coordinate escrow closings and file all applicable forms and documents with the County Assessor's office.

Deliverables:

- Facilitate Title and Escrow support for four (4) ownerships.

TASK 5: CALTRANS RIGHT OF WAY CERTIFICATION

Consultant to supply all required documentation for the draft and final Right of Way Certification Document 13-B at certification level 1 or 2.

Deliverables:

- One (1) draft Right of Way Certification Document.
- One (1) final Right of Way Certification Document.

REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION PARCEL INFORMATION

APN 071-020-70S: 893 SF required from the property
APN 071-262-09S/071-253-11S: 9,706 SF required from the properties
APN 071-262-08S; 3,195 SF required from the property
APN 071-020-43S; 62,610 SF required from the property
APN 071-020-62S; 20,192 SF required from the property
APN 071-020-23S; 1,099 SF required from the property

PERMANENT EASEMENT TOTAL: 97,695 SF

MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CITY

- Appraisal Exhibits, Plats and Legals.
- Approved Just Compensation.
- Delegation of authority for administrative settlements.

EXHIBIT B
PROJECT SCHEDULE

TASK 1: TASK ORDER MANAGEMENT

NTP + Ten (10) Months

TASK 2: RESTRICTED APPRAISAL AND APPRAISAL REVIEW SERVICES

NTP + Five (5) weeks for Restricted Appraisals + Two (2) weeks for reviews

TASK 3: RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION SERVICES

Approval to Acquire + sixty (60) days

TASK 4: ESCROW COORDINATION

Signed Contract + thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days, assuming no partial reconveyance and/or consent to easement

TASK 5: CALTRANS RIGHT OF WAY CERTIFICATION

NTP + Ten (10) Months

*** TASK 1** and **TASK 4** may be extended. This will not impact Caltrans Right of Way Certification.

EXHIBIT C
FEE SCHEDULE

The fee for services is **$49,898.15**.

Please see **EXHIBIT D** on the following page.

EXHIBIT D

EXHIBIT 10-H COST PROPOSAL
ACTUAL COST-PLUS-FIXED FEE OR LUMP SUM OR FIRM FIXED PRICE CONTRACTS
(DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES)

Note: Mark-Ups are Not Allowed ☑ Prime Consultant ☐ Subconsultant ☐ 2nd Tier Subconsultant

Consultant: BENDER ROSENTHAL, INC.

Project No. CMAQ Trail 6 Contract No. TBD Date May 28, 2025

Project Name Multi-Use Trail Segment 6

DIRECT LABOR

Classification/Title	Name	Range	Hours	Actual Hr Rate	Total
Project Manager	Rebekah Green	$62.00 - $75.00	32	$ 70.00	$ 2,240.00
Senior Administrative Support	Staff - TBD	$35.00 - $65.00	8	$ 40.00	$ 320.00
Administrative Support	Staff - TBD	$20.00 - $40.00	6	$ 25.00	$ 150.00
			46		

LABOR COSTS

a) Subtotal Direct Labor Costs	$ 2,710.00	
b) Anticipated Salary Increases	$81.30	
c) **TOTAL DIRECT LABOR COSTS** [(a) + (b)]		**$ 2,791.30**

INDIRECT COSTS

d) Fringe Benefits (Rate: 39.83%)	c) Total Fringe Benefits [(c) x (d)]	$ 1,111.77	
f) Overhead (Rate: 28.46%)	g) Overhead [(c) x (f)]	$ 794.40	
h) General and Admin (Rate: 54.42%)	i) Gen & Admin [(c) x (h)]	$ 1,519.03	
	j) **TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS** [(e) + (g) + (i)]		**$ 3,425.20**

FIXED FEE k) **TOTAL FIXED FEE** [(c) + (j)] x fixed fee 10%] **$ 621.65**

l) **CONSULTANT'S OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC) – ITEMIZE (Add additional pages if necessary)**

Description of Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
Permanent/Temporary Acquisition	4	Each	$ 3,500.00	$ 14,000.00
Restricted Appraisal Reports	4	Report	$ 3,800.00	$ 15,200.00
Preliminary Title Reports	4	Report	$ 900.00	$ 3,600.00
Right of Way Certification	1	Package	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00
Mileage/Travel	400	Miles	$ 0.70	$ 280.00
Shipping	8	Package	$ 35.00	$ 280.00
i) **TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS**				**$ 35,860.00**

m) **SUBCONSULTANTS' COSTS** (Add additional pages if necessary) Independent Appraisal Reviews - 4 @ $1,800 $ 7,200.00

m) **TOTAL SUBCONSULTANTS' COSTS** **$ 7,200.00**

n) **TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS INCLUDING SUBCONSULTANTS** [(l) + (m)] **$ 43,060.00**

TOTAL COST [(c) + (j) + (k) + (n)] **$ 49,898.15**

NOTES:
1. Key personnel **must** be marked with an asterisk (*) and employees that are subject to prevailing wage requirements must be marked with two asterisks (**). All costs must comply with the Federal cost principles. Subconsultants will provide their own cost proposals.
2. The cost proposal format shall not be amended. Indirect cost rates shall be updated on an annual basis in accordance with the consultant's annual accounting period and established by a cognizant agency or accepted by Caltrans.
3. Anticipated salary increases calculation (page 2) must accompany.

EXHIBIT 10-H COST PROPOSAL
ACTUAL COST-PLUS-FIXED FEE OR LUMP SUM OR FIRM FIXED PRICE CONTRACTS
(CALCULATIONS FOR ANTICIPATED SALARY INCREASES)

1. Calculate Average Hourly Rate for 1st year of the contract (Direct Labor Subtotal divided by total hours)

Direct Labor Subtotal per Cost Proposal	Total Hours per Cost Proposal		Avg Hourly Rate	**5 Year Contract Duration**
$2,710.00	46	=	$58.91	Year 1 Avg Hourly Rate

1. Calculate hourly rate for all years (Increase the Average Hourly Rate for a year by proposed escalation %)

	Avg Hourly Rate		Proposed Escalation			
Year 1	$58.91	+	3.0%	=	$60.68	Year 2 Avg Hourly Rate
Year 2	$60.68	+	3.0%	=	$62.50	Year 3 Avg Hourly Rate
Year 3	$62.50	+	3.0%	=	$64.38	Year 4 Avg Hourly Rate
Year 4	$64.38	+	3.0%	=	$66.31	Year 5 Avg Hourly Rate

3. Calculate estimated hours per year (Multiply estimate % each year by total hours)

	Estimated % Completed Each Year		Total Hours per Cost Proposal		Total Hours per Year	
Year 1	0.0%	*	46	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 1
Year 2	100.0%	*	46	=	46	Estimated Hours Year 2
Year 3	0.0%	*	46	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 3
Year 4	0.0%	*	46	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 4
Year 5	0.0%	*	46	=	0	Estimated Hours Year 5
Total	100.0%		Total	=	46	

4. Calculate Total Costs including Escalation (Multiply Average Hourly Rate by the number of hours)

	Avg Hourly Rate (Calculated above)		Estimated hours (Calculated Above)		Cost Per Year	
Year 1	$58.91	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 1
Year 2	$60.68	*	46	=	$2,791.30	Estimated Hours Year 2
Year 3	$62.50	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 3
Year 4	$64.38	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 4
Year 5	$66.31	*	0	=	$0.00	Estimated Hours Year 5
		Total Direct Labor Cost with Escalation		=	$2,791.30	
		Direct Labor Subtotal before Escalation		=	$2,710.00	
		Estimated total of Direct Labor Salary Increase		=	$81.30	Transfer to Page 1

NOTES:
1. This is not the only way to estimate salary increases. Other methods will be accepted if they clearly indicate the % increase, the # of years of the contract, and a breakdown of the labor to be performed each year.

2. An estimation that is based on direct labor multiplied by salary increase % multiplied by the # of years is not acceptable. (i.e. $250,000 x 2% x 5 yrs = $25,000 is not an acceptable methodology)

3. This assumes that one year will be worked at the rate on the cost proposal before salary increases are granted.

4. Calculations for anticipated salary escalation must be provided.

EXHIBIT 10-H COST PROPOSAL

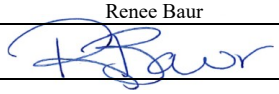
Certification of Direct Costs:

I, the undersigned, certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that all direct costs identified on the cost proposal(s) in this contract are actual, reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the contract in accordance with the contract terms and the following requirements:

1. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
2. Terms and conditions of the contract
3. Title 23 United States Code Section 112 - Letting of Contracts
4. 48 Code of Federal Regulations Part 31 - Contract Cost Principles and Procedures
5. 23 Code of Federal Regulations Part 172 - Procurement, Management, and Administration of Engineering and Design Related Service
6. 48 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9904 - Cost Accounting Standards Board (when applicable)

All costs must be applied consistently and fairly to all contracts. All documentation of compliance must be retained in the project files and be in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements. Costs that are noncompliant with the federal and state requirements are not eligible for reimbursement. Local governments are responsible for applying only cognizant agency approved or Caltrans accepted Indirect Cost Rate(s).

Prime Consultant or Subconsultant Certifying:

Name**:	Renee Baur	Title**:	Chief Executive Officer
Signature:		Date of Certification (mm/dd/yyyy):	5/28/2025
Email**:	r.baur@benderrosenthal.com	Phone Number:	(916) 978-4900
Address:	2825 Watt Ave. Suite 200, Sacramento CA 95821		

**An individual executive or financial officer of the consultant's or subconsultant's organization at a level no lower than a Vice President or a Chief Financial Officer, or equivalent, who has authority to represent the financial information utilized to establish the cost proposal for the contract.

List services the consultant is providing under the proposed contract:

Right of Way Services

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Authorize City Manager to Execute a Task Order with the City's On-Call Environmental Consultant for Environmental Services for the Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Sean Brewer, City Manager

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Council Authorization for the City Manager to Execute one (1) Task Order with the City's On-Call Environmental Consultant, SWCA Environmental Consultants for Environmental Services for the Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 Project.

II. BACKGROUND:

In November 2024 the City of Coalinga received a grant award notification through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program for the environmental services for the Coalinga Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 portion of the Coalinga Multi-Use Trails Master Plan.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) Program funding can include Federal, State, or both Federal and State funds. The Coalinga Perimeter Trail Interconnect Gregory North is limited to both Federal and State funds; an environmental phase was granted for both the environmental consultant, SWCA Environmental Consultant (SWCA) for reimbursement of services.

The total amount awarded for the Environmental Phase is $85,000.00.

III. DISCUSSION:

The City of Coalinga (City) is proposing the design, construction, and operation of one segment (Segment 6) of the City's planned 8.8-mile perimeter trail and spur system identified in the City of Coalinga Trails Master Plan (Coalinga TMP) using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program funding. The Coalinga Perimeter Multi-Use Trail Segment 6 (project) would develop an approximately 1.3-mile-long pedestrian trail and associated improvements in the city of Coalinga, Fresno County, California. The proposed trail segment would include a 14-foot-wideshared-use bicycle and pedestrian trail. The proposed trail would consist of a 10-foot-wide paved asphalt concrete (AC) trail between 2 feet of unpaved shoulders on both sides. Other proposed trail components would include one (1) trail, one (1) spur, one (1) rest area and sidewalk improvements. It will connect the perimeter trail from E Polk St to trail segment 3N which is west of the pedestrian bridge that crosses over Los Gatos Creek and east of Acabedo Lane.

The trail segment would be positioned away from the nearest roadways but with connectivity at key intersections to existing sidewalks and Class II and III bicycle routes on existing roads near the perimeter trail. The project would develop one segment of the City's planned 8.8-mile perimeter trail and spur system to connect residents in Coalinga (and a disadvantaged census tract) to activity centers such as schools, parks, a college, shopping, neighborhoods, and jobs. The project would provide a safe option to enable increased

bicycle/pedestrian transportation use. Increased active transportation would address health disparities in a community that faces higher than average California city rates of asthma, obesity, and heart disease.

Part of the project requires Environmental services to prepare and receive approval of an environmental reports to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act and Federal Preliminary Environmental Study and all federal requirements. Environmental services include task management with city and city engineers, environmental coordination, Caltrans environmental certification, research and reporting services, project description, preliminary environmental study form, preparation of anticipated technical studies, and preparation of an initial study and reports for areas near the proposed trail.

The City of Coalinga also released an RFQ for an On-Call Environmental Consultant for services on various projects. SWCA Environmental Consultants won the award for $150,000.00 total services. This project and task order is their second project under those On-Call Services.

The Environmental Consultant, SWCA, has submitted a task order for environmental services and appraisal coordination as part of the original On-Call Environmental Services, dated April 8, 2024, in the amount of $86,922.00. This second task order has been attached for the Council's consideration.

Environmental Awarded: $85,000.00
Environmental On-Call Consultant Services: $86,922.00
Estimated Over Budget: $1,922.00

The Council must consider and make the following findings:
Approval of City Manager to approve the second task order for SWCA

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

Do not authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the one (1) task order submitted by the Environmental Consultant.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

Total authorization request for this contract is $86,922.00. This project is funded by a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program for $85,000.00.

There will be a fiscal impact to the General Fund for the amount of $1,922.00.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
Work_Order_-_CMAQ_Trail_6_Env_Consultant.pdf	Work Order ATP 6 Env Consultant

SWCA®
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
Sound Science. Creative Solutions.®

4111 Broad Street, Suite 210
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
Tel 805.543.7095 Fax 805.543.2367
www.swca.com

June 06, 2025

Erika Lansburgh
Tri City Engineering, Inc.
City Engineers for City of Coalinga
City of Coalinga
155 West Durian Avenue
Coalinga, CA 93210

Submitted via email: elansburgh@tricityengineering.com

Re: Proposal for the City of Coalinga Multi-Use Trail Project Segment 6 Environmental Services / SWCA Project No. P99141

Dear Erika Lansburgh;

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide the **City of Coalinga (City)** with our scope of work and cost estimate to provide environmental services for the City of Coalinga Trails Master Plan Segment 6 (project). With over 30 years of environmental review and documentation experience, including substantial recent experience on similar projects, we feel we are highly qualified to prepare the required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Our scope of work reflects familiarity with applicable City of Coalinga (City) plans and policies, including the Trails Master Plan; extensive experience conducting environmental review for similar projects; and a clear understanding of the project setting and key environmental and procedural issues likely to be associated with the project. In addition to our relevant experience preparing CEQA/NEPA documentation for projects for other jurisdictions, we believe our experience preparing CEQA/NEPA technical studies for the City's other recent Trails Master Plan segments make us uniquely qualified to perform the services required for this project. We know what the resources of concern are for the proposed trail segments, and we have a clear understanding of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) expectations.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to work with you. After receiving a signed contract, we will be able to start work immediately. Should you have any questions regarding our scope of work or cost estimate, please feel free to contact me at (916) 234-5522 or jacqueline.markley@swca.com.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Markley

Jacqueline Markley, M.S., AICP
Project Manager / Principal Environmental Planner

WORK PLAN

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) is pleased to submit our proposal to provide environmental services to the **City of Coalinga (City)**, specifically to prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) technical studies for the City of Coalinga Trails Master Plan Segment 6 (project). The following scope of work provides a description of the CEQA services that SWCA will provide for the project and an estimated cost associated with the completion of these tasks. The scope is based on our understanding of the project, our experience with similar projects, preliminary investigation and research, and background information provided by the City.

SCOPE OF WORK

TASK 1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

SWCA project management will include general management of the SWCA team, coordination and correspondence with the City, management of the project scope and budget, and quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC). SWCA Project Manager / Principal Environmental Planner Jacqueline Markley will be the day-to-day contact and responsible for overseeing all aspects of the environmental analysis, communicating and coordinating with City staff, and ensuring adherence to the schedule and budget. This task also includes ongoing correspondence and periodic meetings with City staff to discuss the progress of the project and any items needing additional coordination.

TASK 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive and stable project description, including the project purpose and objectives, is essential to successful completion of the environmental documentation process. SWCA will prepare a draft project description based on the project details provided by the City and existing documentation available for the site. SWCA will review all materials associated with the project and submit a data request (if needed) to the City where additional information or clarification may be needed to support the CEQA environmental determination. Upon receipt of requested project information, SWCA will prepare a preliminary project description for the City's review and approval. Project design details in the project description will be supplemented with any information needed to facilitate the scoping and environmental review process. This task assumes one round of review of the project description by the City.

TASK 3. PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY FORM

SWCA will prepare a PES Form, using the most updated version available on the Caltrans SER, which is required for all Local Assistance projects. The content of the PES will be populated with information that would have been gathered during preparation of the TMP, and the PES will provide sufficient information to determine the environmental issues to be addressed and the evaluations and/or studies that must be undertaken for CEQA/NEPA environmental clearance. Sections A–G of the PES must be completed, and an early coordination meeting with the City and Caltrans District Local Assistant Engineer (DLAE) will be requested. Based on our recent experience, we anticipate this meeting may be virtual or may not be necessary, as determined by Caltrans staff. SWCA will utilize the PES prepared and approved by Caltrans for previous segments as an example and will take previous Caltrans feedback into consideration while preparing the PES for this project to avoid receiving redundant comments from Caltrans and hopefully facilitate a faster review process. SWCA staff will also be available to assist City staff with any follow-up coordination with Caltrans if questions about the PES arise.

TASK 4. PREPARATION OF ANTICIPATED TECHNICAL STUDIES

Based on our understanding of the project, project area, resources of concern, and experience preparing the PES and technical studies for previous segments, as well as our coordination with Caltrans staff during the preparation of those deliverables, we have identified the following technical studies we anticipate will be identified in the PES for this

project. To the extent feasible, SWCA will utilize technical studies prepared for previous segments as templates for preparing the following technical studies to be as efficient as possible with our budget and schedule.

Task 4.1: Natural Environment Study – Minimal Impacts

SWCA understands biological resources, including wetlands and special-status species, were considered during preparation of the TMP and wetlands were found to be present in the vicinity of Segment 6. The following 22 special-status species are considered to have the potential to occur in the City of Coalinga:

- great Valley Mesquite Scrub
- pale-yellow layia (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] Rank 1B.1)
- San Joaquin woollythreads (Federal Endangered)
- forked fiddleneck (CNPS Rank 4.2)
- California jewelflower (Federal Endangered, State Endangered)
- Hoover's eriastrum (CNPS Rank 4.2)
- recurved larkspur (CNPS Rank 1B.2)
- Northern California legless lizard (State Species of Special Concern [SSC])
- California glossy snake (State SSC)
- San Joaquin coachwhip (State SSC)
- blunt-nosed leopard lizard (Federal Endangered, State Endangered)
- Hopping's blister beetle (CDFW Special Animal)
- Morrison's blister beetle (CDFW Special Animal)
- tricolored blackbird (State Threatened)
- LeConte's thrasher (State SSC)
- burrowing owl (State SSC)
- Swainson's hawk (State Threatened)
- short-nosed kangaroo rat (State SSC)
- western mastiff bat (State SSC)
- American badger (State SSC)
- San Joaquin kit fox (Federal Endangered, State Threatened)
- San Joaquin pocket mouse (State SSC)

SWCA will evaluate the presence/absence of sensitive botanical and wildlife resources and provide the findings in a Natural Environment Study – Minimal Impacts (NES-MI). The NES-MI will consist of an impact analysis of the sensitive biological resources with potential to occur within the project impact area. In preparation of this proposal, SWCA has reviewed the existing data and conducted an updated review of species that would need to be evaluated for this project. This list of species was acquired through a 5-mile radius search of the project impact area, through queries of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database and CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB).

In support of the NES-MI, SWCA would request an official species list from the USFWS, which lists all federal species that would need to be taken into consideration. SWCA will also reach out to the Caltrans District Biologist to request that Caltrans submit a request for a species list from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) as a matter of protocol, even though we do not anticipate any impacts to sensitive aquatic species. This is a recent required protocol of Caltrans and may be subject to change in the future by NOAA. Per Caltrans requirements, the official species lists must be acquired within 6 months of submitting the NES-MI for review.

Following the database search and literature review, SWCA will coordinate with our Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) subconsultant, Aardvark Biological Services LLC, to conduct a field survey for Segment 6 to collect the baseline information for vegetation communities, habitat types, and plant and wildlife species. Resources identified during field surveys will be mapped with Global Positioning System (GPS)/GIS and overlain on plans and/or aerials provided by the City.

In order to comply with agency guidelines for botanical resources, Aardvark staff will conduct up to two floristic botanical surveys in order to accommodate the range of blooming periods (i.e., the identification periods) for the

special-status plant species with potential to occur within the study area. Botanical surveys will follow the applicable guidelines from the USFWS *General Rare Plant Survey Guidelines* and CDFW *Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities*. Reconnaissance wildlife surveys will be conducted concurrently with the botanical surveys to add to the previous botanical and wildlife inventory.

The NES-MI will include a description of each project alternative currently under consideration; regulatory overview; study methods; documentation of existing conditions; special-status plant and animal species, sensitive habitats, and jurisdictional features (wetlands/other waters) with potential for occurrence; evaluation of permanent, temporary, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; and recommended avoidance and minimization measures. The NES-MI will also adequately address invasive plant species as required by Executive Order 13112.

SWCA feels our team is particularly well qualified to prepare the NES-MI in the most efficient manner possible since our staff have already completed biological and botanical surveys for several previous segments. Our staff have prepared and are currently preparing several NES-MI documents for various local agency clients, and our biologists prepared NES-MIs directly for Caltrans under a 9-year staff augmentation contract with Caltrans District 5. SWCA has a very thorough understanding of the NES-MI template and requirements. To maintain a high level of efficiency, SWCA would use existing documents from the area to the extent feasible, which would be primarily used as reference to capture existing data on species occurrences in the region. SWCA will compile information from these individual studies and will use the most current Caltrans SER template available to prepare the Draft NES-MI for submittal to Caltrans.

Task 4.2 Biological Assessment

If, during preparation of the NES-MI, SWCA determines the project has the potential to result in adverse effects to a federally listed species or critical habitat that necessitate mitigation, preparation of a BA will be required. The BA shall be prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to species that are listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate species under the FESA. The BA shall be prepared in accordance with the legal requirement founds in Section 7(a)(2) of the FESA (16 United States Code [USC] 1536(c) and shall follow the latest template in the Caltrans SER.

Task 4.3: Cultural Resources Studies

Task 4.3.1: Archaeological Survey Report

Area of Potential Effects Mapping Assistance

SWCA will prepare an Area of Potential Effects (APE) map that includes a delineation of the area of direct impact and area of indirect effects. The map will depict the existing and proposed right-of-way, staging areas, and location of any cultural resources identified in the APE. The map will be created at a scale of 1":200' and printed on 11 × 17 sheets. The APE map will be consistent with the guidance in the Caltrans SER and consistent with previous guidance received from Caltrans staff. The APE map will also include the appropriate signature blocks for Caltrans reviewers.

Records Search

SWCA will conduct a records search for the project area at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC), located at California State University, Bakersfield. SWCA assumes that Caltrans will require a 1-mile search radius. SWCA further assumes that the records search will be completed at the SSJVIC for a maximum direct cost of $900.00 and will be conducted at standard rates. If rush rates are required, then a Change Order may be necessary. We will also check to see how the records search results we received for previous segments can be used to avoid any unnecessary overlap with this records search to try to reduce costs.

Native American Coordination

Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 800.4(a)(3), preparation of the ASR and HPSR will include coordination with up to 20 local Native American individuals and groups who may have knowledge of, or concerns about, Native American resources in the area. SWCA will initiate this task by contacting the NAHC to request a Sacred Lands File search and a list of Native American contacts. Upon receipt of the Sacred Lands File search, SWCA will prepare and mail letters to each of the NAHC-listed contacts, requesting information, in writing, concerning any Native American religious or cultural resources within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Up to two telephone calls will be made to each of the Native American groups on the NAHC list to document good-faith efforts at follow-up. This consultation is for NHPA Section 106 purposes only. SWCA assumes that the City will conduct Native American consultation as required by AB 52.

Archaeological Survey Report

SWCA will conduct an intensive-level archaeological survey of the area of direct impacts. SWCA will survey the APE and prepare updates to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 Series forms for the portion of the site within the APE. No testing or excavation will be conducted, nor will any artifacts, samples, or specimens be collected during the survey.

Upon completion of the field survey, SWCA will prepare the ASR according to Caltrans' current guidance as specified in the SER. The ASR will document the results of the records search, Native American scoping, and field survey. The report will include maps depicting the area surveyed for cultural resources. Locations of sensitive archaeological sites or Native American cultural resources may be depicted or described in the report and will be considered confidential; therefore, the report may not be distributed to the public. This report will be submitted to the City and Caltrans for review.

SWCA assumes that no archaeological resources will be encountered; any additional previously unrecorded or newly recorded archaeological resources identified during the records search or survey would require a change order for formal recordation. The survey area will be limited to the direct APE. SWCA assumes that preparation of the ASR will not require more than one revision based on comments from Caltrans or the City.

Task 4.3.2: Historic Resources Evaluation Report

SWCA understands that portions of the areas surrounding the APE were historically developed, and historical resources may be required to be evaluated as part of the cultural resources studies. SWCA understands that several prior studies (including those prepared for Segments 3, 4, and 9 and by Caltrans for work along State Route 99) have been conducted within and near the APE, which, upon receipt of the records search effort described under Task 4.3.1, will be reviewed for adequacy and applicability to the current project. The following is a basic summary of steps taken to complete the HRER.

Local Governments/Local Historic Group Coordination

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(3), documentation will include coordination with up to five individuals and organizations who may have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area. Coordination will include inquiries to local governments and historic groups regarding their knowledge of historic properties in the immediate vicinity of the APE. Up to two telephone calls will be made to each of the groups to document "good-faith" efforts of follow-up.

Built Environment Survey, Archival Research, and California Department of Parks and Recreation Forms

Our qualified architectural history team is highly familiar with the SER *Volume 2, Cultural Resources: Exhibit 1.1*, which outlines the 2014 *First Amended Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Transportation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as It Pertains to the Administration of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in California* (Caltrans PA). In addition to providing guidance for the assessment of effects to historic properties, the Caltrans PA provides evaluation exemptions for various types of properties within the APE, including those that visibly lack integrity.

Per Caltrans requirements, SWCA qualified architectural historians will direct an intensive-level survey of the entire APE to identify and document previously unrecorded historic properties that may be impacted by the proposed project. For the purposes of this proposal and cost estimate, SWCA assumes that the APE will include the direct project footprint and any adjacent buildings, structures, or objects. During the survey, architectural historians will record each property address within the APE using tablet computers prepopulated with relevant data about the project area and its setting to streamline and accelerate the field recordation process. Field documentation will also include digital photographs of each property to support field observations. Following the field survey, archival research will be conducted to ascertain the age, alterations, and significance of each architectural resource. The archival research will entail a review of historic documents, records, and photographs for information about each property and resources that may be contained therein. Properties that are found to be significantly altered and no longer contain sufficient integrity to convey their historical significance will be exempted from further study, in accordance with the Caltrans PA. Details of these properties and the justification for their exemption will be presented to the Caltrans reviewer for concurrence.

Properties that do not qualify for exemption in accordance with the Caltrans PA will be formally recorded on individual DPR Series 523 forms and will be evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and for local listing. SWCA understands that the project area is highly urbanized with buildings older than 45 years of age, some of which have not been previously evaluated for historical significance. SWCA assumes that a maximum of four properties containing buildings of historic age, that cannot be exempted in accordance with the Caltrans PA, are located within the project area and would require recordation on DPR Series 523 forms. Should additional resources older than 45 years be identified within the project area, SWCA would request a change order to conduct the additional work.

Historical Resources Evaluation Report

Upon completion of the APE map, coordination with local historical groups, and the built environment survey and archival research, SWCA will prepare an HRER. The HRER will be prepared according to current guidance as specified in Caltrans SER Volume 2. SWCA assumes only one round of revisions to the HRER will be required.

Task 4.3.3: Historic Property Survey Report

Upon completion of the ASR (Task 4.3.1), SWCA will prepare a short-format Caltrans HPSR according to Caltrans' current guidance, as specified in the SER. The HPSR is the overarching document that summarizes the results of the cultural resources investigation; it will include a project description; a description of the APE; details of coordination with Native American groups/individuals, local government, and historic groups; a summary of identification efforts; information regarding any properties identified within the APE; a list of attached documentation; and the findings of the study. SWCA assumes that only one revision to the HPSR will be required. If the project APE is found to contain historic properties, as described under NHPA Section 106, additional cultural studies would become necessary, SWCA has provided additional budget to include up to four additional resources.

Task 4.4: Phase I Initial Site Assessment

Haro Environmental, our DBE teaming partner, will prepare a Phase I ISA consistent with ASTM Standard E1527-13, *Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments* and Caltrans SER *Environmental Guidance Handbook, Volume 1, Chapter 10 Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Waste, and Contamination, Initial Site Assessment*. The purpose of the ISA is to evaluate the potential for soil or groundwater contamination from current or past use, storage, and/or handling of hazardous materials on or near the project area. To evaluate the potential for hazardous materials, Haro Environmental will research the past land use near the project area through aerial photographs, oil and gas well maps, interviews, and other records.

Haro Environmental will prepare a report summarizing the results of the ISA, which will present the findings regarding past land use on and around the project area, an opinion regarding the potential for soil or groundwater contamination potentially affecting the project area, the potential for lead-based paint and asbestos, and recommendations for

additional assessment, if deemed necessary. The collection and analysis of any media (e.g., soil, groundwater) is not part of this scope. Based on the findings of the ISA, recommendations for additional assessment including a PSI will be provided, if warranted.

Task 4.5: Environmental Commitment Record

SWCA will prepare an Environmental Commitment Record (ECR) for the proposed project. The ECR will compile all relevant environmental information, making it easier to track progress and easier for project team members (e.g., Environmental Staff, Project Engineer, Project Manager, Resident Engineer) to identify actions they need to take. SWCA will prepare the ECR once all other technical studies have been prepared and approved by Caltrans and will submit the ECR to the City for review and approval.

TASK 5. PREPARATION OF AN INITIAL STUDY

Based on preliminary information, we anticipate that an IS/ND or IS/MND will be the appropriate CEQA environmental determination for the proposed project, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15170. If at any time potentially significant, adverse, unavoidable impacts are identified, we will contact the City immediately.

Task 5.1. Administrative Draft Initial Study

SWCA will prepare an Administrative Draft IS Checklist for review by the City. Preparation of the IS Checklist will include an assessment of all resources as required by State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. The IS will be prepared using the City's preferred template. The IS will be written in language understandable to the public and decision-makers and will utilize graphics and tables to clearly present information. It will be concise and focus on the most important issues identified through internal scoping. This task assumes one round of review by the City.

Task 5.2. Public Draft IS/MND and Noticing

Following receipt of comments from the City, SWCA will finalize the Draft IS/MND and prepare the document for public review and circulation. SWCA will prepare drafts of all required CEQA notices, including the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI), Summary Form for State Clearinghouse submittal, and Notice of Completion (NOC). SWCA will submit electronic copies of the Draft IS/MND, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), and notices and assumes the City will reproduce the project CEQA document and submit to all agencies and interested parties identified on a City-approved mailing list, including the State Clearinghouse for circulation. SWCA assumes the City will be responsible for all public noticing, such as on-site posting, newspaper advertisement listing, and filing the NOI with the County of Fresno (County) Clerk. SWCA can also assist with the State Clearinghouse

Task 5.3. Response to Comments and Final IS/MND and MMRP

After the close of the 30-day public comment period of the Draft IS/MND, SWCA will review all agency and public comments received by the City. Although not strictly required by CEQA for an IS/MND, if requested by the City, SWCA will prepare written responses to substantive comments received on the IS/ND or IS/MND for the administrative record and to inform decision-makers. SWCA assumes no more than 10 substantive comments will require responses. SWCA will incorporate any necessary clarifications and edits and prepare the Final IS/MND and MMRP (if applicable). SWCA will prepare a draft Notice of Determination (NOD) for the City's review and assumes the City will file the NOD at the County Clerk's office upon final project determination. This task does not include payment of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) CEQA Environmental Document Filing Fees or County Clerk processing fees.

SCHEDULE

SWCA is prepared to initiate this scope of work immediately after receiving authorization to proceed. Table 1 sets out anticipated general timeframes for completion of the identified environmental services. Please note that these timeframes are estimates; we are willing to commit to the overall project schedule developed by the City and will provide environmental documentation within the timeframes necessary to maintain the overall project schedule to the extent feasible. Please also note that the schedule below does not include City review timeframes.

Table 1. Proposed Work Schedule

TASK	ESTIMATED COMPLETION PERIOD[1]
Task 1. Project Management	Throughout project duration
Task 2. Project Description	2 weeks following notice to proceed and receipt of requested information
Task 3. Preliminary Environment Study (PES)	2–4 weeks following receipt of requested of CHRIS records search results
Task 4.1. Natural Environment Study – Minimal Impacts (NES-MI)	4–6 weeks following finalization of Project Description
Task 4.2. Biological Assessment (BA)	2-4 weeks following approval of NES-MI[2]
Task 4.3.1. Archaeological Survey Report (ASR)	8–12 weeks following finalization of Project Description[3]
Task 4.3.2. Historic Resources Evaluation Report (HRER)	8–12 weeks following finalization of Project Description[3]
Task 4.3.3. Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR)	8–12 weeks following finalization of Project Description[3]
Task 4.4. Phase I Initial Site Assessment (ISA)	4-6 weeks following approval of PES
Task 4.5. Environmental Commitment Record (ECR)	1 week following approval of all technical studies
Task 5.1. Administrative Draft Initial Study	30 days following completion of technical studies
Task 5.2. Public Draft Initial Study and Noticing	2 weeks following receipt of comments on Admin IS/MND
Task 5.3. Response to Comments, Final Initial Study, and MMRP	2 weeks following close of 30-day public review period
TOTAL	**Approximately 5–6 months (including 30-day public circulation period)**

[1] This timeframe does not account for City or other agency review periods.

[2] This schedule will commence once requested data is obtained. The timing of botanical surveys is seasonally restricted and must be completed during early summer, which will affect the overall project duration.

[3] This schedule assumes no delays due to receipt of records search results or delays in response from the NAHC. For a project of this size, the typical response time from the SSJVIC and the NAHC is 2–3 weeks. In the event requests are received sooner than the typical 3-week timeframe, it is possible this study may be completed before the estimated 45 days.

COST ESTIMATE AND ASSUMPTIONS

Based on thoughtful consideration of the project requirements, and a thorough estimate of the attendant labor and direct costs, SWCA has developed the following project cost estimate (Table 2). SWCA will not proceed with any work in excess of the time-and-materials not-to-exceed budget without prior authorization to proceed.

Table 2. Time and Materials Not-to-Exceed Cost Estimate

TASK	LABOR $	EXPENSES $	T&M NTE TOTAL $
Task 1. Project Management	$6,050.64	--	$6,050.64
Task 2. Project Description	$2,001.74	--	$2,001.74
Task 3. Preliminary Environment Study (PES)	$3,788.56	--	$3,788.56
Task 4.1. Natural Environment Study – Minimal Impacts (NES-MI)	$7,440.94	--	$7,440.94
Task 4.2. Biological Assessment (BA)	$5,790.94	--	$5,790.94
Task 4.3.1. Archaeological Survey Report (ASR)	$6,971.28	$1,054.00	$8,025.28
Task 4.3.2. Historic Resources Evaluation Report (HRER)	$20,079.96	--	$20,079.96
Task 4.3.3. Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR)	$5,189.64	--	$5,189.64
Task 4.4. Phase I Initial Site Assessment (ISA)	$9,508.44	--	$9,508.44
Task 4.5. Environmental Commitment Record (ECR)	$1,014.06	--	$1,014.06
Task 5.1. Administrative Draft Initial Study	$10,927.84	--	$10,927.84
Task 5.2. Public Draft Initial Study and Noticing	$3,552.02	--	$3,552.02
Task 5.3. Response to Comments, Final Initial Study, and MMRP	$3,552.02	--	$3,552.02
PROJECT TOTAL	**$85,868.00**	**$1,054.00**	**$86,922.00***

** Project total includes 17% DBE allocation

Note: Rates are based on our current On-Call Environmental Services Contract with the City of Coalinga (effective October 3, 2024).

ASSUMPTIONS

- SWCA assumes all deliverables will be electronic and no in-person meetings will be required.
- SWCA assumes the City will conduct necessary AB 52 coordination.
- SWCA assumes the City will be responsible for all public noticing, such as on-site posting, newspaper advertisement listing, and filing the NOI with the County Clerk.
- SWCA assumes no more than 10 substantive comments will require responses if an IS/ND or IS/MND is prepared and circulated for public review.
- To accommodate project changes and scheduling, it is assumed that SWCA will be able to use the overall project funding and will not be held to phase and task limits so long as the overall budget is not exceeded.

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Direction to Proceed with Rehabilitation and Accessibility Improvements for the Frame Park Gazebo in Partnership with Community Groups
Meeting Date:	Thursday, February 1, 2024
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Sean Brewer, City Manager

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council provide direction to the City Manager to work collaboratively with the Community Scholarship Alliance, the Lions Club, and other interested community members to advance the rehabilitation and modernization of the gazebo at Frame Park, incorporating ADA improvements as recommended by the City's Building Inspector.

II. BACKGROUND:

The gazebo at Frame Park is a long-standing and well-loved community landmark, serving as a focal point for events, small performances, photography sessions, and community gatherings. Over time, the structure has deteriorated, and the City's Building Inspector has identified several ADA-related accessibility improvements necessary to ensure compliance and usability for all residents.

In 2024, the City Council directed the City Manager to work with CSA and other community partners to undertake the rehabilitation of the gazebo. A copy of CSA's letter is attached which updates the council on their anticipated efforts.

III. DISCUSSION:

Recently, the Community Scholarship Alliance (CSA), along with community members Tito Balling, Tom Kulikov, and Mike Zwicky, has renewed its interest in leading the rehabilitation of the gazebo. The Lions Club has also agreed to participate, recognizing the project as an opportunity to restore a meaningful part of their history in Coalinga. This strong community commitment creates an ideal opportunity to move forward collaboratively, combining volunteer labor and donations with City resources to complete the project.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

Do not authorize the City Manager to work with CSA (not recommended)

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY26 budget includes $10,000 identified as a one-time project allocation for modernization efforts at Frame Park. These funds may be applied toward the ADA improvements identified by the Building Inspector, such as accessible pathways, compliant entryways, and related modifications including design by

the City Engineer.

Additional funding sources from the non-profit, donations, and volunteer support are anticipated to reduce City costs and allow for expanded enhancements such as repainting, structural repairs, and landscaping.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
CSA_Letter_to_City_Council_re_Gazebo.pdf	CSA Letter to City Council - Gazebo

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ALLIANCE

August 13, 2025

Subject: Interest in Renovating the City Park Gazebo

Dear Council Members,

We are writing to express our renewed interest in coordinating the renovation of the gazebo in Frame Park. The gazebo is a well loved feature, but it needs repairs and updates to ensure it remains a safe, functional, and attractive gathering place in our community.

Recently this project has been discussed and a group of loyal community members, including Tito Balling, Tom Kulikov and Mike Zwicky are eager to help with the project. We have also approached the Lions Club who have agreed to join the revitalization efforts and are looking forward to restoring a special part of their history in Coalinga.

The gazebo serves as a focal point where our community hosts events, small performances, portrait sessions and more. We would like to enhance its appearance, extend its lifespan, and improve accessibility for all members of our community.

We would like to request that the City Council consider partnering with us by improving the accessibility to the gazebo for community members. We would be happy to discuss potential renovation plans and ways we can work together to make this project a reality. We believe that partnering with the Lions Club, community members and the City, would greatly benefit our city's residents and help preserve the charm of Frame Park.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to speak with you further and collaborate on this community improvement.

Sincerely,

Community Scholarship Alliance Board

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Appeal Hearing – Administrative Citation #12804 – Alleged Possession and Use of Illegal Fireworks
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Greg DuPuis, Fire Chief

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council conduct the appeal hearing in accordance with Coalinga Municipal Code Section 4-8.130 and applicable due process procedures, and render a decision to uphold, modify, or dismiss Administrative Citation #12804.

II. BACKGROUND:

On July 4, 2025, Administrative Citation #12804 was issued to Mr. Victor Bernal of 405 College Avenue, Coalinga, for the alleged possession and use of illegal fireworks in violation of Coalinga Municipal Code (CMC) Section 4-8.120.

On July 31, 2025, Mr. Bernal submitted a timely written appeal contesting the citation. In accordance with CMC Section 4-8.130, an appeal hearing before the City Council has been scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Coalinga City Council Chambers.

III. DISCUSSION:

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with administrative due process requirements and will follow this order of proceedings:

1. **Introduction by the City Attorney** – Overview of the appeals process.
2. **City's Presentation (5 minutes)** – Staff will present evidence supporting issuance of the citation.
3. **Appellant's Presentation (5 minutes)** – Mr. Bernal will present his response and any supporting evidence.
4. **City's Rebuttal (3 minutes)** – Staff may respond to appellant's presentation.
5. **Appellant's Closing Remarks (5 minutes)** – Appellant may provide final comments.
6. **City's Closing Remarks (5 minutes)** – Staff may provide final comments.
7. **Council Deliberation and Decision** – Council will deliberate and render a decision.

The City Council's decision is final and not subject to further administrative review.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

None at this time.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

The Citation is for $1,000.00.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
No Attachments Available	

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject:	Appeal Hearing – Administrative Citation #12805 – Alleged Possession and Use of Illegal Fireworks
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 21, 2025
From:	Sean Brewer, City Manager
Prepared by:	Greg DuPuis, Fire Chief

I. RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council conduct the appeal hearing in accordance with Coalinga Municipal Code Section 4-8.130 and applicable due process procedures, and make a determination to uphold, modify, or dismiss Administrative Citation #12805.

II. BACKGROUND:

On July 12, 2025, Administrative Citation #12805 was issued to Mr. Shawn Benson of 302 Dartmouth Avenue, Coalinga, for the alleged possession and use of illegal fireworks in violation of Coalinga Municipal Code (CMC) Section 4-8.120.

On July 23, 2025, Mr. Benson submitted a timely written appeal contesting the citation. In accordance with CMC Section 4-8.130, an appeal hearing before the City Council has been scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Coalinga City Council Chambers.

III. DISCUSSION:

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with administrative due process requirements and will follow this order of proceedings:

1. **Introduction by the City Attorney** – Overview of the appeals process.
2. **City's Presentation (5 minutes)** – Staff will present the evidence supporting issuance of the citation.
3. **Appellant's Presentation (5 minutes)** – Mr. Benson will present his response and any supporting evidence.
4. **City's Rebuttal (3 minutes)** – Staff may respond to appellant's presentation.
5. **Appellant's Closing Remarks (5 minutes)** – Appellant may provide final comments.
6. **City's Closing Remarks (5 minutes)** – Staff may provide final comments.
7. **Council Deliberation and Decision** – Council will deliberate and render a decision.

The City Council's decision is final and not subject to further administrative review.

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

None.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

The citation was issued for $1,000.00.

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description
No Attachments Available	

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject: REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 070-060-76 located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Chevron USA. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

Meeting Date:

From:

Prepared by:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject: REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 070-060-82T & 070-060-88T located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Coalinga-Huron Park and Recreation District (CHRPD). UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

Meeting Date:

From:

Prepared by:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject: REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 070-060-85 located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Granite Construction. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

Meeting Date:

From:

Prepared by:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject: REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 071-020-23S located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Lewis, et al. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

Meeting Date:

From:

Prepared by:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject: REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 071-020-58S located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: JRyKO Joint Venture. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

Meeting Date:

From:

Prepared by:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description

STAFF REPORT - CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Subject: REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - Government Code Section 54956.8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. PROPERTY: APN: 071-164-02S located in the City of Coalinga. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Sean Brewer; and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. NEGOTIATING PARTIES: Valdez. UNDER NEGOTIATION: Price and Terms of Payment

Meeting Date:

From:

Prepared by:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

II. BACKGROUND:

III. DISCUSSION:

IV. ALTERNATIVES:

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Description