Q.5.7 - Public Health and Safety

The following impact evaluation is based on the environmental setting, regulatory setting, and thresholds of significance discussions provided for the proposed projects in Draft EIR Section 5.7, Public Health and Safety, and in Appendix I-1, Expanded Public Health and Safety Analysis. These previous discussions are not repeated in the following evaluation. The evaluation is a comparative analysis between the Preferred Project and Proposed Project 4.

Construction Activities

Q5.7-A:	**The proposed project could result in exposing residents, visitors, and construction personnel to health hazards from the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction activities.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, grading and construction activities may involve limited transport, storage, usage, or disposal of hazardous materials, such as the use of petroleum products for fueling/servicing of construction equipment. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional collection system facilities such as pump stations, standby power stations, and pipelines, as well as modifications to specific locations and size of facilities such as the central pump station, pipelines within streets, and pipelines crossing creeks compared to Proposed Project 4. In addition, the Preferred Project will include an Oxidation Ditch or Biolac® facility. Based on a review of the additions and modifications of the collection system and treatment plant facilities, the construction activities associated with these facilities would be similar to the facilities identified in Proposed Project 4 and the construction activities would be required to comply with the applicable regulations and laws pertaining to transport, storage, use, and disposal of potentially hazardous materials. Therefore, similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in less than significant health hazards from construction activities.

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the treatment plant site under the Preferred Project Past has been used for agricultural production in which agricultural chemicals could have been used. As with Proposed Project 4, construction activities associated with the Preferred Project could experience potential hazardous impacts from the potential past application of chemicals to the site, and this potential impact is considered to be potentially significant.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on public health and safety related to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction activities because there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

5.7.A.1 Prior to any onsite construction activities at the proposed treatment plant sites, soils shall be sampled and analyzed by a licensed engineer or geologist approved by the County of San Luis Obispo Health Department to determine the level of residue for pesticides, herbicides, chemicals, and associated metals. If residues are found to be within acceptable amounts in accordance with the San Luis Obispo County Health Department (SLOCHD) and Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) standards, then grading and construction may begin. If the residue is found to be greater than the SLOCHD and DTSC standards, all contaminated soils exceeding the acceptable limits shall be remediated and/or properly disposed of in accordance with SLOCHD and DTSC requirements. An appropriate verification closure letter from SLOCHD and DTSC shall be obtained and submitted to the County of San Luis Obispo Health Department. Depending on the extent of contaminated soils, a verification closure letter from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board may also need to be submitted to the County of Health Department. Site remediation can occur by the use of onsite transportable thermal treatment units or bio-remediation. The soil can also be excavated and shipped offsite to fixed incineration or bio-remediation facilities.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Operational Activities

Q5.7-B: The proposed wastewater facilities could result in exposing offsite residents and visitors to health hazards from the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Collection System

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the collection system under the Preferred Project is a gravity system. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional collection system facilities such as pump stations, standby power stations, and pipelines, as well as modifications to specific locations and size of facilities such as the central pump station, pipelines within streets, and pipelines crossing creeks compared to Proposed Project 4. Based on a review of the additions and modifications of the

collection system facilities, the Preferred Project would pose the same less than significant public health and safety impacts as Proposed Project 4 from transporting potentially hazardous materials throughout the community because wastewater facilities are a common feature of urban environments.

Treatment Plant Site

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed treatment plant facilities under the Preferred Project include treatment facilities, appurtenant structures and storage facilities located on the Tonini parcel. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project will include an Oxidation Ditch or Biolac® facility. The operation and maintenance of the treatment facility would include the storage, handling, and use of such hazardous materials as sodium hydroxide, which is corrosive and can cause severe irritation to eyes, skin, and mucous membranes, and sodium hypochlorine, which can result in a pronounced irritant effect and may cause severe burns to skin and eyes. As described under Proposed Projects 2 and 3, these hazardous materials could result in potentially significant impacts from the storage, handling, and use.

Disposal Sites

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed disposal systems under the Preferred Project include sprayfields at the Tonini parcel and leachfields at the Broderson parcel. Under the Preferred Project, the type of spray was revised to exclude percolation and as a result approximately 73 more acres of sprayfields are necessary to accommodate the 842 acre-feet of spray at Tonini compared to Proposed Project 4. The Preferred Project also includes setbacks from Turri Road and the property south of Tonini, and Proposed Project 4 did not include setbacks. Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would include the placement of a fence around the sprayfields as stated in PDF 5.7.B-1 to reduce potential permanent and temporary public health and safety impacts due to the effluent disposed at the sprayfields not meeting Title 22 tertiary treatment standards.

In addition, due to the revision to the type of spray irrigation that would occur on the Tonini property, berms within the 100-foot setback from the onsite streams are no longer required because surface water runoff from spray irrigation is not expected. Furthermore, the application of effluent in the subsurface features on Broderson would not require berms around the leachfields because the disposed effluent would not surface to the ground and result in surface water runoff.

The proposed sprayfields at the Tonini site are located in the vicinity of existing agricultural fields. Similar to Proposed Project 4, the use of pesticides within the adjacent farming areas would be controlled through the issuance of Restricted Materials Permits. Because of the limitations on pesticide near non-agricultural land uses, adherence to these regulations would reduce potential health hazards associated with pesticide use from agricultural activities to less than significant.

Combined Project Effects

A wastewater treatment system by its nature collects, transports, treats and disposes of hazardous material. Under the Preferred Project, the treatment process may require transport, storage, and use of

polymers, sodium hydroxide and sodium hypochlorite. Similar to the findings for Proposed Project 4, the hazardous materials impacts of the Preferred Project are potentially significant. Similar to Proposed Project 4, the long-term operational activities associated with the proposed facilities under the Preferred Project would result in a combined potentially significant effect related to public health and safety.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, since there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative impacts, implementation of the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on public health and safety related to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

5.7.B.1 Prior to operation of the wastewater project, a Hazardous Materials Management Plan shall be developed and submitted to the County of San Luis Obispo Health Department for approval. The plan shall identify hazardous materials utilized at the proposed wastewater facilities and their characteristics; storage, handling, training procedures, and spill contingency procedures. Additionally, the Hazardous Materials Management Plan shall identify procedures in the event of accidents such as the release of raw wastewater or secondary treated water into watercourses such as Los Osos Creek. These procedures shall include immediate response personnel to limit public access to spill areas, potentially shutting down pump stations, creating berms, use of vacuum trucks, and use of water booms to contain spills within open water areas. Furthermore, the Plan shall address response and containment of fuel at pump station sites.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Accident Conditions

Q5.7-C: **The project could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the hazardous materials into the environment.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed collection system piping may experience a break and result in an accidental release of raw wastewater. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional collection system facilities that may experience a break. The potential accidental releases could occur within streets or at creek crossings. Similar to Proposed Project 4, this untreated wastewater under the Preferred Project is considered hazardous; therefore, if there is a break, this potential impact is considered significant. Under the Preferred Project, the collection system piping would be placed on the bridges that cross the creeks; however, the potential for an accidental break on the bridge is similar to an accidental break under the creek with Proposed Project 4.

In addition, as described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional pump stations that could contribute to potential accidental releases due to a break or malfunction of the collection system at the pump station. The potential significant public health and safety impacts identified under Proposed Project 4 are the same for the Preferred Project.

Furthermore, the revision to include an oxidation ditch or Biolac® under the Preferred Project would result in a negligible potential for accidental releases of untreated effluent similar to Proposed Project 4. Therefore, this potential is considered less than significant.

Finally, with the revision to exclude berms from the sprayfields and leachfields, the potential for releases of secondary treated water from these sites is still considered less than significant due to the revision or the spray application on the sprayfield and the disposal of the effluent to subsurface facilities at the leachfields.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in less than significant health and safety impacts due to accident conditions. Since there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative impacts, the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on public health and safety related to an accidental release of hazardous materials during construction and/or operational activities.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

Implementation of Mitigation Measure 5.7.B.1 is required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Other Accident Conditions

Q5.7-D:	**The project may create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project may create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. The additional facilities as well as the modifications identified in Table Q.5-1 for the Preferred Project would result in similar construction activities as Proposed Project 4. These facilities could result in an accidental break in a main water supply line that could create a localized loss of water for firefighting. Therefore, similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project could result in a potential significant impact.

In addition, similar to Proposed Project 4, construction activities associated with the Preferred Project may increase calls for emergency personnel and may require specialized safety and rescue training and equipment. Because Contractors associated with construction activities are required to follow specific safety and rescue procedures in accordance with the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the increase in emergency calls that are due to construction activities would be considered less than significant.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in less than significant health and safety impacts due to accident conditions to water mains. Since there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative impacts, the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on public health and safety related to accident conditions to water mains.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

5.7.D.1 To reduce the potential temporary loss of water for firefighting that may occur as a result of construction activities, either of the following shall occur: (1) acquiring a water tender, to the satisfaction of the County Fire Chief; or (2) compensating for the potential temporary loss of water through some other equivalent means as determined by the County Fire Chief.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Schools

Q5.7-E:	**The project could emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional collection system facilities such as pump stations, standby power stations, and pipelines, as well as modifications to specific locations and size of facilities such as the central pump station, pipelines within streets, and pipelines crossing creeks compared to Proposed Project 4. Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would include pipelines along roadways that are within 0.25-mile from an existing school. In the event of any leakage from a pipeline, there is a potential for an accidental release of untreated wastewater. Similar to Proposed Project 4, the potential health and safety impact under the Preferred Project is potentially significant.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in a potential significant health and safety impact related to an accidental release of untreated wastewater within 0.25-mile of an existing school. Since there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative impacts, the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on public health and safety related to an accidental release of untreated wastewater within 0.25-mile of an existing school.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

Implementation of Mitigation Measure 5.7.B.1 is required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Hazardous Materials Site Listing

Q5.7-F:	**The project would not be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional facilities as well as modifications to facilities compared to Proposed Project 4. The database search that was conducted for the project encompassed the additions and modifications to the facilities as identified under the Preferred Project. Based on the database search that was conducted for the project, there are no hazardous materials sites that are located in any area proposed for facilities that are on the Cortese list. The sites identified on the Cortese list are those compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, similar to Proposed Project 4, the implementation of the Preferred Project would not create a hazard to the public or the environment related to existing listed hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed facilities within the Preferred Project are not located on a site that is on a regulatory list of hazardous materials compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, implementation of the Preferred Project will not contribute to a cumulative impact in relation to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

No impact.

Cumulative

No impact.

Airports

Q5.7-G:	**For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the facilities associated with the Preferred Project are not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

There would be no cumulative health hazard impacts related to proximity to a public airport or public use airport because the project is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

No impact.

Cumulative

No impact.

Private Airstrip

Q5.7-H:	**For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the facilities associated with the Preferred Project are not located in the vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, there would be no associated safety hazard related to people residing or working in the project area.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

There would be no cumulative health hazard impacts related to proximity to a private airstrip because there are no private strips in the vicinity of the project site.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

No impact.

Cumulative

No impact.

Emergency Plans

Q5.7-I:	**The project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, construction and operational activities associated with the facilities under the Preferred Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Since the Preferred Project would not contribute to impacts on emergency plans, the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on emergency plans.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

No impact.

Cumulative

No impact.

Wildland Fires

Q5.7-J: **The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

The Preferred Project includes additional collection facilities, modified collection system, a new treatment process, and additional sprayfields compared to Proposed Project 4. These facilities would result in a similar risk of wildland fire as the facilities identified under Proposed Project 4. Although the risk of damage to the proposed treatment structures under the Preferred Project exists due to their location in open agricultural areas, their proximity to roads and easy accessibility to firefighting personnel and equipment reduce the risk to structures to less than significant similar to Proposed Project 4.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in less than significant impacts related to wildland fires. Since there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative impacts, implementation of the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on public health and safety related to the exposure of people and structures to wildland fires.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Consistency with Local Goals and Policies Related to Public Health and Safety

Q5.7-K: **The proposed projects would not conflict with local goals and policies relating to public health and safety.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional facilities as well as modifications to facilities compared to Proposed Project 4. Based on a review of the County of San Luis Obispo goals and policies related to hazardous materials, the additional and modified facilities associated with the Preferred Project would result in the same finding of "no impact" to existing local

goals and policies related to public health and safety (hazardous materials) as the finding of Proposed Project 4.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in no impacts to existing local goals and policies related to public health and safety (hazardous materials). Therefore, implementation of the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts to existing local goals and policies related to public health and safety (hazardous materials).

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

No impact.

Cumulative

No impact.