



SCOPE OF WORK & BUDGET: CEQA SERVICES

CWA CHROMIUM 6 TREATMENT FACILITIES PROJECT

Prepared for the

COACHELLA WATER AUTHORITY

COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA

Background

California officially adopted a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for Chromium-6 (hexavalent chromium; Cr-6 or Cr(VI)) in drinking water, effective October 1, 2024. This regulation makes California the first state to set a specific limit for this carcinogen, stricter than the current 100-ppb total chromium federal standard. Until its readoption of the 10-ppb threshold, Cr-6 was regulated in California applying a 50-ppb threshold. The Coachella Water Authority (CWA) is now required to comply with state requirements to lower Cr-6 levels in drinking water by October 2027.

CWA's existing water system consists of different pressure zones, groundwater wells, storage reservoirs, booster pumping stations, and distribution facilities. CWA has one principal source of water supply: local groundwater pumped from CWA owned and operated wells. There are currently six (6) wells within the CWA's distribution system; all six (6) wells are currently operational. A seventh well (Well No. 20) has been drilled and is under construction.

The total pumping capacity of active wells is approximately 11,400 gallons per minute (gpm) or 16.5 million gallons per day (MGD). CWA has three (3) storage reservoirs within the City, with a total reservoir storage capacity of approximately 10.5 MG. The current system serves approximately 9,000 customers.

Project Summary

This scope of work describes the effort that will be completed by Terra Nova under the direction of the CWA to review the City's compliance measures for Cr-6 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and provide CEQA-Plus analysis and compliance for the CWA Chromium-6 Treatment Facilities Project. CWA has determined that it will prepare an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) as the CEQA-Plus documentation for the project, and it will serve as Lead Agency for CEQA purposes.

CWA will also be applying for funding through the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB or SWB) State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. Therefore, the CEQA document will be prepared in accordance with the SWRCB's CEQA-Plus requirements to comply with applicable federal EPA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, as the SRF consists in part of pass-through funds from the U.S. EPA. The primary objective of the Chromium-6 Treatment Facilities Project is to enable CWA to achieve compliance with the new Cr-6 regulations.

Project Description

The CWA has just completed a Cr-6 compliance study which identifies six of existing groundwater wells and one future well (under construction) that will be equipped with treatment facilities that will lower Cr-6 levels below the 10-ppb threshold. Existing wells No. 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, Well 19 and the future Well 20 will be equipped to provide treatment that will allow CWA to comply with the MCL of 10 µg/L (eq. 10-ppb).

CWA's engineering consultants, Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC (Corona) and Water Works Engineers, LLC (WWE) have completed the preliminary design of each of the well sites' treatment measures using reduction/coagulation/filtration (RCF) treatment technology. The RCF treatment process includes ferrous iron chemical injection to reduce Cr-6 to less soluble trivalent chromium (Cr(III) or Cr-3) through reduction contact vessels. The water is then injected with sodium hypochlorite (SHC) to oxidize residual ferrous iron to ferric iron in the solid form of ferric hydroxide. Water is then sent to filtration vessels to remove the Cr(III) and ferric hydroxide particles.

CWA's design includes the release of backwash water into the municipal sewer system. Backwash water management alternatives were evaluated and potential system deficiencies addressed with the use of backwash equalization tanks on some of the well sites. Based on the analysis, three sewer line segments will exceed capacity based on the sewer pipeline depth-to-diameter ratios, which will require sewer pipeline upsizing. Onsite backwash recycling with approximately weekly solids off-hauling to a licensed landfill is recommended for at least one of the project wells. New well equipment would include reduction vessels, filter vessels, associated pumps and motors, chemical feed system, and backwash tanks.

Environmental Clearances

The project will require preparation of an Initial Study that complies with both the CWA's rules to implement CEQA, and the SWB's SRF requirements for CEQA Plus compliance. This will include not only the Initial Study itself, but also biological resources and cultural resources analyses, which will be completed to federal standards.

CWA will serve as the CEQA Lead Agency and SWB will serve as the NEPA reviewer. No federal or state regulatory permitting associated with environmental clearances is anticipated. The following scope of work provides a task-based description for this project.

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Exhibit A: Scope of Work

- A. Project Initiation and Team Meetings: Terra Nova will work with City and its consulting team to establish a project schedule and periodic team meetings. For purposes of this proposal, we have assumed 3 team meetings.
- B. Historic Property Survey/Cultural Resources Analysis: Terra Nova will contract for and manage a cultural resources analysis within the project area. The cultural/historic resources analysis report will include the following tasks:
- Work with City and SWB staff to establish an Area of Potential Effect (APE).
 - Conduct a historical/archaeological resources records search using the California Historical Resources Inventory and other sources from the South Coastal Information Center at San Diego Conduct on site investigation of potential cultural resources.
 - The California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local tribes will be contacted for a Sacred Lands File search and consultation with Native American tribes.
 - Conduct a field inspection of each well site APE following standard professional archaeological procedures, which would include, among other standard procedures, systematically inspecting each APE, taking detailed notes, and recording the current condition by taking overview photographs.
 - Complete a site record and/or site update for all resources according to the guidelines set forth by the California State Office of Historic Preservation and submit the site record to the South Coastal Information Center, as required.
 - Prepare a draft Historic Property Survey Report and an Archaeological Survey Report according to standard format and guidelines to document the findings of the procedures outlined above, identifying known and potential historic properties within or adjacent to each APE, evaluating their historical significance and integrity under criteria for the National Register of Historic Places (to the extent possible), incorporate comments and recommendations from the Tribe(s) (if any), and recommend subsequent courses of actions regarding cultural resources, as necessary.
 - Review any comments, plan, and organize responses to them, and prepare another draft version of the reports for submission to CWA and SWB.
 - The findings of the report will be incorporated into the Initial Study.
- C. Biological Resources Analysis: Terra Nova will contract for and manage a general biological resources analysis within the project area. The general biological resources analysis report will include the following tasks:
- On site investigation of current conditions of each well site APE and inventory of species identified.
 - Review of State databases for species likely to inhabit the project site.
 - Preparation of maps and exhibits supporting the findings.

- Recommendations for any further species-specific study, planning, or environmental effort are not anticipated.
 - The findings of the report will be incorporated into the Initial Study.
- D. Air Quality & GHG Analysis: Terra Nova shall conduct air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) analyses using the current version of the CalEEMod model, which cover requirements of the City and South Coast AQMD (CEQA), and provide federal Clean Air Act conformance documentation for the SWB. Analysis shall be both quantitative and qualitative. The assessment will include quantifying emissions from excavation and demolition (if any) of existing facilities, roadway and/or structures, site preparation and grading, use of construction equipment, haul trips and material deliveries, construction workers commute, and construction activities. GHG emissions shall also be quantified and analyzed pursuant to thresholds. The findings of the analysis will be integrated into the Initial Study.
- E. Initial Study Research and Documentation: Terra Nova will prepare an integrated CEQA-Plus Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration based on the preliminary scoping activities set forth in this scope of work. The CWA CEQA-Plus IS/MND will analyze the Proposed Action selected by the CWA; no alternatives analysis is planned. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration shall also include a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as needed. The CWA will be the CEQA Lead Agency and the SWB will be the “Cooperating Agency” pursuant to NEPA. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB) shall also be a Responsible Agency and shall use the approved CEQA IS/MND to process a SWPPP or equivalent.
- F. Initial Study Screencheck Review: Terra Nova will prepare a screencheck draft of the Initial Study for review by CWA and SWB staff prior to completion of a final document. Terra Nova and its consultants will confer with Client and CWA and SWB staff regarding comments, and will amend the screencheck draft accordingly. One review round is included in this proposal. If additional reviews are required, they will be billed on a time and materials basis.
- G. Notice Preparation and IS Distribution: Terra Nova will work with CWA and City staff on an IS/MND transmittal list and document transmittal based on CWA-approved agency transmittal list. Terra Nova will also prepare a Notice of Completion (NOC) or Notice of Intent (NOI) for transmittal and placement in the newspaper, along with the Draft IS/MND, and will transmit same to the Riverside County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse (SCH) for posting for a 30-day period. CWA will be responsible for publication of the NOI in the newspaper and posting at City Hall. Once the CWA has acted on the CEQA-Plus IS/MND, Terra Nova will prepare a Notice of Determination (NOD) for CWA signature and will post same at the County Clerk and SCH, which will begin a 30-day statutory appeal period. CWA will be responsible for the NMD posting fees.
- H. Hearing Attendance: Terra Nova will work with CWA staff in coordination of staff report and hearing materials. Terra Nova will attend one CWA Board hearing and represent the Initial Study at that hearing.

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EXHIBIT B: BUDGET & FEE SCHEDULE

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Environmental Consulting Services	
Project Administration and Management (Principal Planner: 15 Hrs. @ \$225/Hr.) (Assistant Planner: 10.75 Hrs. @ \$125/Hr.)	\$ 4,718.75
Meetings, Coordination, Hearing Attendance (Principal Planner: 15.25 Hrs. @ \$225/Hr.) (Assistant Planner: 13.5 Hrs. @ \$125/Hr.)	\$ 5,118.75
Research, Data Collection and Documentation (Principal Planner: 12.50 Hrs. @ \$225/Hr.) (Assistant Planner: 11 Hrs. @ \$125/Hr.)	\$ 4,187.50
Draft & Final CEQA-Plus IS/MND (Principal Planner: 66.00 Hrs. @ \$225/Hr.) (Associate Planner: 22.00 Hrs. @ \$175/Hr.) (Assistant Planner: 24.00 Hrs. @ \$125/Hr.)	\$ 21,700.00
GIS Mapping, Graphics & Exhibits (GIS/Graphic Design: 32 Hrs. @ \$85/Hr.)	\$ 2,720.00
Administrative Support (Administrative Assistant: 40 Hrs. @ \$65/Hr.)	\$ 2,600.00
Sub-Total	\$ 41,045.00
Specific Studies & Services: Inclusive of Terra Nova Management	
Air Quality and GHG Analysis	\$ 5,250.00
Biological Resources Assessment, MSHCP Consistency	\$ 10,975.00
Cultural Resources Assessment	\$ 12,660.00
Sub-Total	\$ 28,885.00
Reimbursable Expenses¹	
Misc. Office Expenses and Miscellaneous Printing	\$ 500.00
Document Printing: IS/MND, Notices, etc.	\$ 1,000.00
Document Translations for Disabled Braille Works (if required)	\$ 1,000.00
Sub-Total	\$ 2,500.00
Total Project Budget	\$ 72,430.00

¹ Reimbursables are best estimates and will be billed on a time and materials basis.



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STANDARD FEE SCHEDULE
2026

Terra Nova invoices its clients on a cost-basis using an hourly billing system. The scope of each planning effort is typically broken down by task and assigned estimated necessary staff time and the applicable hourly rate. Reimbursable expenses are charged on a cost basis, except where otherwise indicated. All payments for services rendered are to be made payable to Terra Nova Planning & Research, Inc. unless otherwise indicated. Clients are invoiced on a monthly basis, and invoices are due and payable upon receipt. The current fee schedule is provided below:

Terra Nova Staff	Hourly Rate
Principal Planner	\$ 225.00
Senior Planner	\$ 175.00
Associate Planner	\$ 160.00
Assistant Planner	\$ 125.00
Graphic Design Specialist	\$ 85.00
Administrative Assistant	\$ 65.00
REIMBURSABLES	
Photo Copies (8.5" X 11" BW)	\$ 0.15 ea.
(8.5" X 11" Color)	\$ 0.30 ea.
(11" X 17" BW)	\$ 0.60 ea.
(11" X 17" Color)	\$ 0.60 ea.
Large Format Plots	Cost
Telephone Toll Charges	Cost
FAX Transmittals	Cost
Reproduction, Special photographic services, document printing, aerial photogrammetry, postage, etc.	Cost

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EXHIBIT C: PROJECT SCHEDULE

It is understood that time is of the essence and that CWA requires completion of the CEQA-Plus clearances as soon as possible. Constraining factors include the time required to conduct literature searches, consultations and other required activities associated with the cultural resources analysis. Upon initiation of work, we will immediately start data collection, literature and other research, and expedite special studies and other analyses to the greatest degree practicable. We appear to have sufficient information to concurrently begin other research and IS/MND drafting and exhibit and mapping preparation. Based on our current understanding, we plan to have a complete Administrative Draft CEQA-Plus IS/MND for CWA and SWB review within 120± days of receipt of authorization to proceed. Following comments from CWA and SWB, we will revise and finalize the Draft IS/MND for public review within approximately two weeks. The public review period will be for 30 days, following which Terra Nova will respond to comments and prepare a draft of the Final IS/MND within two weeks following the end of the public comment period. Assuming an April 1 start, the subject CEQA could be adopted in mid-September 2026. Every effort will be made to expedite the schedule.