3.15 Utilities and Service Systems

This section includes an evaluation of potential impacts for identified Utilities/Service Systems that could result from implementation of the VEGA 6 project and Ramon Substation expansion. Utilities/Service Systems include wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater drainage facilities, water supply and treatment, and solid waste disposal. The impact analysis provides an evaluation of potential impacts to Utilities/Service Systems based on criteria derived from CEQA Guidelines in conjunction with actions proposed in Chapter 2, Project Description. Information contained in this section for the VEGA 6 project is summarized from the *Water Supply Assessment* (WSA) *for the ZGlobal Vega 6, LLC Solar Energy and Battery Storage Project* prepared by EMKO Environmental, Inc. as a subconsultant for ECORP Consulting, Inc. This report is included in Appendix K of this EIR. The information provided in this section for the Ramon Substation expansion area is summarized from review of publicly available data including the Department of Water Resources' Groundwater Bulletin and the 2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan.

Potential impacts with regards to solid waste disposal, storm drainage, and wastewater treatment would be less than significant. Therefore, these impacts are not addressed in detail in this EIR; however, the rationale for eliminating these issues is discussed in Chapter 6.0, Effects Found Not Significant.

3.15.1 Existing Conditions

VEGA 6

Section 10912(c) of the Water Code identifies a public water system as a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that has 3,000 or more service connections. The VEGA 6 project site is approximately five to 10 miles away from the nearest municipal water systems (i.e., the community of Westmorland and the City of Brawley, respectively). The VEGA 6 project site is located outside of the IID Imperial Unit and therefore, does not have water service from IID. There is not a public water system that will serve the VEGA 6 project (Appendix K of this EIR). Water supply for the VEGA 6 project would be provided by a new on-site groundwater supply well(s) that would be installed as part of the project.

Imperial Valley Groundwater Basin

The VEGA 6 project site is located within the northwestern part of the Imperial Valley Groundwater Basin. The Imperial Valley Groundwater Basin is bounded on the east by the Sand Hills and on the west by the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Fish Creek and Coyote Mountains. The northern boundary is the Salton Sea while the southern boundary is the international border with Mexico. The groundwater basin has an area of approximately 1,200,000 acres, or 1,870 square miles. The Basin has not been adjudicated (Appendix K of this EIR).

Groundwater occurs within two major aquifers, separated at depth by a semi-permeable aquitard that averages 60 feet thick and reaches a maximum thickness of 280 feet. The aquifers consist mostly of alluvial deposits of late Tertiary and Quaternary age that have eroded from the adjacent mountains and filled the valley. The upper aquifer has an average thickness of approximately 200 feet with a maximum thickness of 450 feet. The lower aquifer averages approximately 380 feet thick with a maximum thickness of 1,500 feet (Appendix K of this EIR).

GROUNDWATER SUPPLY AND RECHARGE

The majority of the Imperial Valley Groundwater Basin area consists of irrigated agriculture (refer to Figure 4 in Appendix K of this EIR). Surface water from the Colorado River provides almost all of the irrigation and municipal water supply, through IID. Ninety-seven percent of IID's 3.1-million-acre-foot entitlement is used to irrigate almost 500,000 acres of farmland (Appendix K of this EIR). The remaining three percent of IID's allocation supplies municipal, commercial, industrial, and rural domestic needs.

The total groundwater storage capacity of the Imperial Valley Groundwater Basin is estimated to be as much as 14,000,000 acre-feet (Appendix K of this EIR). Much of the groundwater is not usable for agricultural and municipal purposes due to high levels of dissolved solids. As a result, there are only seven public water supply wells and 57 total wells present within the 1,200,000-acre Basin (Appendix K of this EIR).

The average annual rainfall is very low and typically does not provide a sufficient quantity of moisture to percolate deep into the alluvial sediments. As a result, recharge of groundwater occurs primarily due to deep percolation of applied irrigation water and lateral inflow from adjacent groundwater basins. The average annual increase in groundwater storage in the Basin is estimated to be 17,000 acre-feet per year (Appendix K of this EIR).

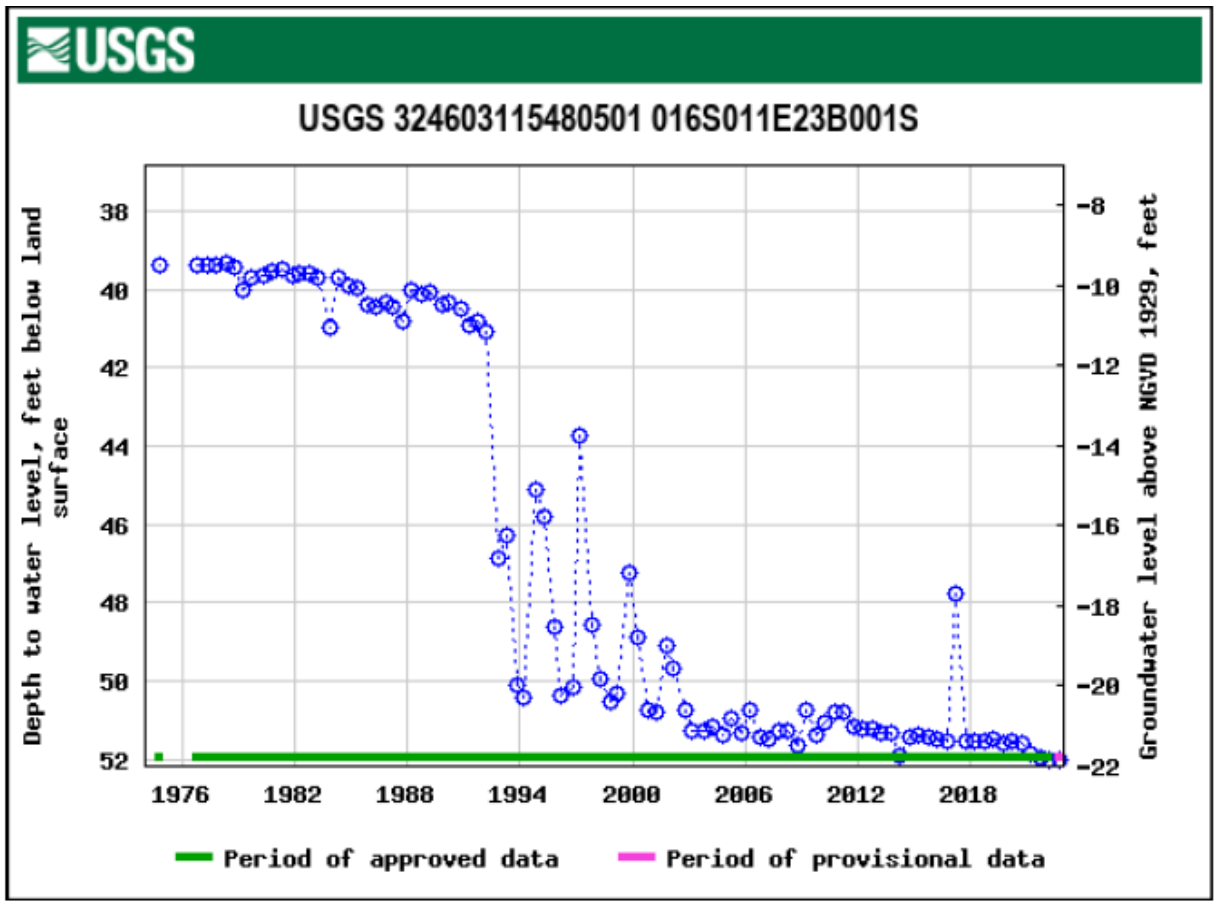
GROUNDWATER LEVELS

The nearest active monitoring well to the VEGA 6 project site is approximately 18 miles to the southwest of the VEGA 6 project site (USGS identification number 324603115480501 and California state well number 016S011E23B001). The ground surface elevation at the well location is reported to be 30 feet above mean sea level (ft msl) while the well depth is reported to be 114.7 feet below ground surface (bgs) (Appendix K of this EIR).

Figure 3.15-1 is a hydrograph from USGS (2023) showing the groundwater level and groundwater elevation measured since 1974 at Well 324603115480501. Data has been measured from October 1974 to October 2022. As indicated on Figure 3.15-1, from 1974 to 1992, the depth to groundwater changed from approximately 39.5 ft bgs to 41 ft bgs. Between 1992 and 1994, the groundwater level decreased relatively rapidly from 41 ft bgs to about 50 ft bgs. Since 1992, the groundwater level has decreased from 50 ft bgs to 52 ft bgs. From 1974 to 1992, the rate of change in the groundwater level was approximately 0.08 foot per year, while from 1994 to 2022 the rate of change in the groundwater level was approximately 0.7 foot per year. Between 1993 and 2002, the data indicate that fluctuations occurred seasonally, potentially as a result of pumping. The overall decline of 12.5 feet from 1974 to 2022 represents a reduction in the available water column in the well of approximately 17 percent (Appendix K of this EIR).

The water quality reported from Well 324603115480501 is much more saline than in many other parts of the Basin, based on the information reported by DWR (2003) and renders the groundwater unusable for potable or agricultural uses (Appendix K of this EIR).

Figure 3.15-1. USGS Groundwater Level Hydrograph



Source: Appendix K of this EIR

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

A series of three bills passed by the California legislature were signed by Governor Brown on September 16, 2014. These three bills, Assembly Bill (AB) 1739, SB 1168, and SB 1319, together comprise the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). SGMA provides a structure under which local agencies are to develop a sustainable groundwater management program. SGMA focuses on basins or subbasins designated by DWR as high or medium priority basins, and those with critical conditions of overdraft.

According to DWR, the Basin is a very low priority basin (Appendix K of this EIR). DWR has not identified the Basin as overdrafted nor has it projected that the basin will become overdrafted if present management conditions continue. Thus, the Basin is not subject to the current requirements of SGMA, including the formation of a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) and preparation of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP).

Ramon Substation Expansion

Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin

The Ramon Substation expansion area is located within the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin – Indio Subbasin. Indio Subbasin is located northwest of the Salton Sea and receives low precipitation, averaging about 6 inches per year, and a wide range of temperatures. The Banning fault bounds the

subbasin on the north and the semi-permeable rocks of the Indio Hills mark the northeast boundary. Impermeable rocks of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains bound the subbasin on the south. A bedrock constriction separates the Indio Subbasin from the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin on the northwest. The Salton Sea is the eastern boundary and the subbasin's primary discharge area. A low drainage divide forms a short boundary with the West Salton Sea Groundwater Basin in the southeast. The Indio Subbasin is drained by the Whitewater River and its tributaries. The Whitewater River rarely flows throughout the year and flow in tributaries such as San Gorgonio River is intermittent. Surface flow is southeastward to the Salton Sea. The Colorado River Aqueduct and the Coachella Branch of the All-American Canal convey imported surface water into the Coachella Valley which overlies the subbasin (DWR 2004).

Primary water-bearing materials in the subbasin are unconsolidated late Pleistocene and Holocene alluvial deposits. These deposits consist of older alluvium and the Ocotillo Conglomerate Formation, a thick sequence of poorly bedded coarse sand and gravel. The Ocotillo Conglomerate is greater than 1,000 feet thick in many places and is the primary water-bearing unit in the subbasin. In the upper part of the subbasin, groundwater is unconfined, whereas to the south and southeast groundwater is mostly confined except on the edges of the subbasin where unconfined conditions are found. Depth to groundwater varies widely in the southeast part of the subbasin and some wells historically delivered artesian flow. Confinement begins near Point Happy and continues south to the Salton Sea (DWR 2004).

GROUNDWATER LEVEL TRENDS

Prior to 1949, water levels steadily declined because of pumping. After 1949 and into the early 1980s, water levels in the central and southern subbasin area rose as imported Colorado River water begin to recharge parts of the subbasin. Elsewhere in the subbasin during this time water levels continued to decline. Since the 1980s, water levels in the central and southern areas have declined despite Colorado River imports. These declines are largely due to increasing urbanization and groundwater pumping (DWR 2004).

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

According to DWR, the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin – Indio Subbasin is designated as a medium-priority basin. The SGMA requires GSAs in medium- or high-priority groundwater basins to have an approved GSP or Alternative Plan to manage the basin. The Indio Subbasin is unique in that it is one of only nine subbasins throughout the State with an approved Alternative Plan. SGMA also requires that a GSA or Agencies be established to develop and implement the plan. In the Indio Subbasin, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), Coachella Water Authority (CWA), and Indio Water Authority (IWA) worked together as the Indio GSAs and updated their approved Alternative Plan to manage basin. The Alternative Plan Update was adopted and submitted to DWR in December 2021.

Coachella Valley Water District

The existing Ramon Substation and proposed expansion area are located within CVWD's water service area. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) relies on four sources of water to provide service to its customers: groundwater, recycled water, imported water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River via the Coachella Canal, a branch of the All-American Canal (CVWD 2023).

3.15.2 Regulatory Setting

This section identifies and summarizes federal, state, and local laws, policies, and regulations that are applicable to the project.

State

Senate Bill 610

With the introduction of SB 610, any project under CEQA shall provide a WSA if:

- The project meets the definition of the Water Code Section 10912:

  For the purposes of this part, the following terms have the following meanings:

  (a) "Project" means any of the following:

  1) A proposed residential development of more than 500 dwelling units.

  2) A proposed shopping center or business establishment employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 500,000 square feet of floor space.

  3) A proposed commercial office building employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 250,000 square feet of floor space.

  4) A proposed hotel or motel, or both, having more than 500 rooms.

  5) A proposed industrial, manufacturing, or processing plant, or industrial park planned to house more than 1,000 persons, occupying more than 40 acres of land, or having more than 650,000 square feet of floor area.

  6) A mixed-use project that includes one or more of the projects specified in this subdivision.

  7) A project that would demand an amount of water equivalent to, or greater than, the amount of water required by a 500 dwelling unit project.

  (b) If a public water system has fewer than 5,000 service connections, then ''project'' means any proposed residential, business, commercial, hotel or motel, or industrial development that would account for an increase of 10 percent or more in the number of the public water system's existing service connections, or a mixed-use project that would demand an amount of water equivalent to, or greater than, the amount of water required by residential development that would represent an increase of 10 percent or more in the number of the public water system's existing service connections.

After review of Water Code Section 10912, the proposed VEGA 6 project is deemed a "project" because it is a proposed industrial use occupying more than 40 acres of land per criterion 5 above.

California Water Code

Water Code Sections 10656 and 10657 restrict state funding for agencies that fail to submit their urban water management plan to the Department of Water Resources. In addition, Water Code Section 10910 describes the WSA that must be undertaken for projects referred under PRC Section 21151.9, including an analysis of groundwater supplies. Water agencies are given 90 days from the start of consultation in which to provide a WSA to the CEQA lead agency. Water Code Section 10910 also specifies the circumstances under which a project for which a WSA was once prepared would be

required to obtain another assessment. Water Code Section 10631 directs that contents of the urban water management plans include further information on future water supply projects and programs and groundwater supplies.

Water Code Section 10910(f) paragraphs 1 through 5, as modified by SB 1262, state:

> (f) If a water supply for a proposed project includes groundwater, the following additional information shall be included in the water supply assessment:(1) A review of any information contained in the urban water management plan relevant to the identified water supply for the proposed project.
>
> (2) (A) A description of any groundwater basin or basins from which the proposed project will be supplied. (B) For those basins for which a court or the board has adjudicated the rights to pump groundwater, a copy of the order or decree adopted by the court or the board and a description of the amount of groundwater the public water system, or the city or county if either is required to comply with this part pursuant to subdivision (b), has the legal right to pump under the order or decree. (C) For a basin that has not been adjudicated that is a basin designated as high- or medium priority pursuant to Section 10722.4, information regarding the following: (i) Whether the department has identified the basin as being subject to critical conditions of overdraft pursuant to Section 12924; and (ii) If a groundwater sustainability agency has adopted a groundwater sustainability plan or has an approved alternative, a copy of that alternative or plan. (D) For a basin that has not been adjudicated that is a basin designated as low- or very-low priority pursuant to Section 10722.4, information as to whether the department has identified the basin or basins as overdrafted or has projected that the basin will become overdrafted if present management conditions continue, in the most current bulletin of the department that characterizes the condition of the groundwater basin, and a detailed description by the public water system, or the city or county if either is required to comply with this part pursuant to subdivision (b), of the efforts being undertaken in the basin or basins to eliminate the long-term overdraft condition.
>
> (3) A detailed description and analysis of the amount and location of groundwater pumped by the public water system, or the city or county if either is required to comply with this part pursuant to subdivision (b), for the past five years from any groundwater basin from which the proposed project will be supplied. The description and analysis shall be based on information that is reasonably available, including, but not limited to, historic use records.
>
> (4) A detailed description and analysis of the amount and location of groundwater that is projected to be pumped by the public water system, or the city or county if either is required to comply with this part pursuant to subdivision (b), from any basin from which the proposed project will be supplied. The description and analysis shall be based on information that is reasonably available, including, but not limited to, historic use records.
>
> (5) An analysis of the sufficiency of the groundwater from the basin or basins from which the proposed project will be supplied to meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project. A water assessment shall not be required to include the information required by this paragraph if the public water system determines, as part of the review required by paragraph (1), that the sufficiency of groundwater necessary to meet the initial and projected water demand associated with the project was addressed in the description and analysis required by paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 10631.

The WSA prepared for the VEGA 6 project (Appendix K of this EIR) contains the additional information required pursuant to Water Code Section 10910(f).

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is comprised of a three-bill legislative package, including AB 1739, SB 1168, and SB 1319. SGMA requires local agencies to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) for the high and medium priority basins. GSAs develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) to avoid undesirable results and mitigate overdraft within 20 years (DWR 2023).

2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan

To implement SGMA in the Indio Subbasin, four local water agencies formed GSAs: CVWD, CWA, DWA, and IWA. In 2016, the Indio Subbasin GSAs entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative management of the Indio Subbasin under SGMA. On December 29, 2016, the Indio Subbasin GSAs submitted to the DWR the 2010 CVWMP, accompanied by a Bridge Document, as an Alternative Plan to a GSP for the Indio Subbasin. On July 17, 2019, DWR approved the 2010 CVWMP Update as an Alternative Plan. In compliance with SGMA, the GSAs have prepared Annual Reports which can be found on the program website (www.IndioSubbasinSGMA.org). SGMA also requires plan updates every 5 years. The Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update (Alternative Plan Update) fulfills that requirement (Indio Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies 2021).

The Alternative Plan Update incorporates a goal specifically for groundwater sustainability, which is to maintain a locally managed, economically viable, sustainable groundwater resource for existing and future beneficial uses in the Indio Subbasin by managing groundwater to avoid the occurrence of undesirable results. The planning process has demonstrated that with the proposed projects identified in the Alternative Plan Update, and despite anticipated climate changes, the Indio Subbasin GSAs are able to meet forecasted demands under a variety of conditions and maintain the Indio Subbasin in balance, even increasing groundwater storage over time (Indio Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies 2021).

Local

County of Imperial General Plan

The Imperial County General Plan provides goals, objectives, policies, and programs regarding the preservation and use of water. Table 3.15-2 provides a consistency analysis of the applicable Imperial County General Plan goals and objectives from the Conservation and Open Space Element, and Renewable Energy and Transmission Element, as they relate to the proposed VEGA 6 project. While the EIR analyzes the VEGA 6 project's consistency with the General Plan pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(d), the Imperial County Board of Supervisors ultimately determines consistency with the General Plan.

Table 3.15-1. Consistency with Applicable General Plan Policies

General Plan Policies	Consistency with General Plan	Analysis
Conservation and Open Space Element		
Preservation of Water Resources, Goal 6: The County will conserve, protect, and enhance water resources in the County.	Consistent	Water use for the VEGA 6 project site would be provided by a new well or wells that would be drilled and installed as part of the VEGA 6 project. Water would only be used during construction, periodically only as needed during operation, and decommissioning/restoration for non-drinking non-potable water needs.
Preservation of Water Resources, Objective 6.4: Eliminate potential surface and groundwater pollution through regulations as well as educational programs.	Consistent	Currently, groundwater quality in the region is poor. The VEGA 6 project would be required to comply with NPDES permits and regulations to address pollutants from run-off that may result during construction and operation of the VEGA 6 project.
Renewable Energy and Transmission Element		
Objective 1.6: Encourage the efficient use of water resources required in the operation of renewable energy generation facilities.	Consistent	Water use for the VEGA 6 project site would be provided by a new well or wells that would be drilled and installed as part of the VEGA 6 project. Water would only be used during construction, periodically only as needed during operation, and decommissioning/restoration for non-drinking non-potable water needs.

Source: ICPDS 1993
IID = Imperial Irrigation District

3.15.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section presents the significance criteria used for considering project impacts related to utilities and service systems, the methodology employed for the evaluation, an impact evaluation, and mitigation requirements, if necessary.

Thresholds of Significance

Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, project impacts related to utilities and service systems are considered significant if the following occur:

- Water Supply: have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years

Methodology

VEGA 6

The WSA (Appendix K of this EIR) was prepared using project-specific data to calculate the VEGA 6 project's water consumption during construction and at build-out collectively ("operational").

Ramon Substation Expansion

The analysis is based on a review of publicly available data including the Department of Water Resources' Groundwater Bulletin and the 2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan.

Impact Analysis

Impact 3.15-1 Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

VEGA 6

As previously noted, the proposed VEGA 6 project is located outside of IID's Imperial Unit and therefore, the VEGA 6 project does not receive water service from IID. Furthermore, there is not a public water system that would serve the VEGA 6 project. Water for the VEGA 6 project will be provided by a new on-site groundwater supply well or wells that would be drilled and installed as part of the VEGA 6 project.

CONSTRUCTION

The proposed VEGA 6 project is anticipated to take approximately 12-18 months from the commencement of the construction process to complete. During construction, water is required for dust control and soil conditioning during installation of the PV panels, battery storage units, and related infrastructure. The construction water demand is primarily for dust control. Thus, the water needs are proportional to the size of the disturbed area and the local climate. The construction water demand of the VEGA 6 project is estimated to be 160 AF, with an additional 10 AF required for dust control on offsite access roads that are not paved. Thus, as indicated in Table 3.15-2, the full construction water requirements are 170 acre-feet. Thus, the monthly water demand during that period may range from 9.4 AF to 14.2 AF, on average (Appendix K of this EIR).

Table 3.15-2. VEGA 6 Project Water Demand

Site	Area (acres)	Output (megawatts)	Construction Water (AF)	Operational Water (AF per year)
VEGA 6	320	80	170	8

Source: Appendix K of this EIR
AF = Acre-feet

The construction water demand represents 1.0 percent of the average annual increase in groundwater storage of 17,000 AF per year and 0.0015 percent of the volume of groundwater in storage in the Basin (accounting for the groundwater level decline from 1974 to 2022). Furthermore, the construction water needs are short-term and temporary. This temporary water use is not anticipated to cause persistent and long-term lowering of groundwater levels.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The operational water demand for panel washing and other maintenance needs is based primarily on the number of panels, which relates to the energy production or output, in megawatts. As shown in Table 3.15-2, the operational water demand is anticipated to be 8 acre-feet per year. Maintenance activities are anticipated to be conducted up to twice a year over a one-to-two-week period each event, so the maintenance water demand is intermittent and not spread throughout the year. The operational water demand will occur throughout the life of the VEGA 6 project which is anticipated to be 25 to 30 years.

The annual operational water needs are equivalent to 0.05 percent of the average annual increase in groundwater storage of 17,000 AF per year and 0.00008 percent of the volume of groundwater in storage in the Basin (accounting for the groundwater level decline from 1974 to 2022). Therefore, the long-term operation and maintenance of the VEGA 6 project would not have any measurable effect or impact on groundwater resources in the Basin.

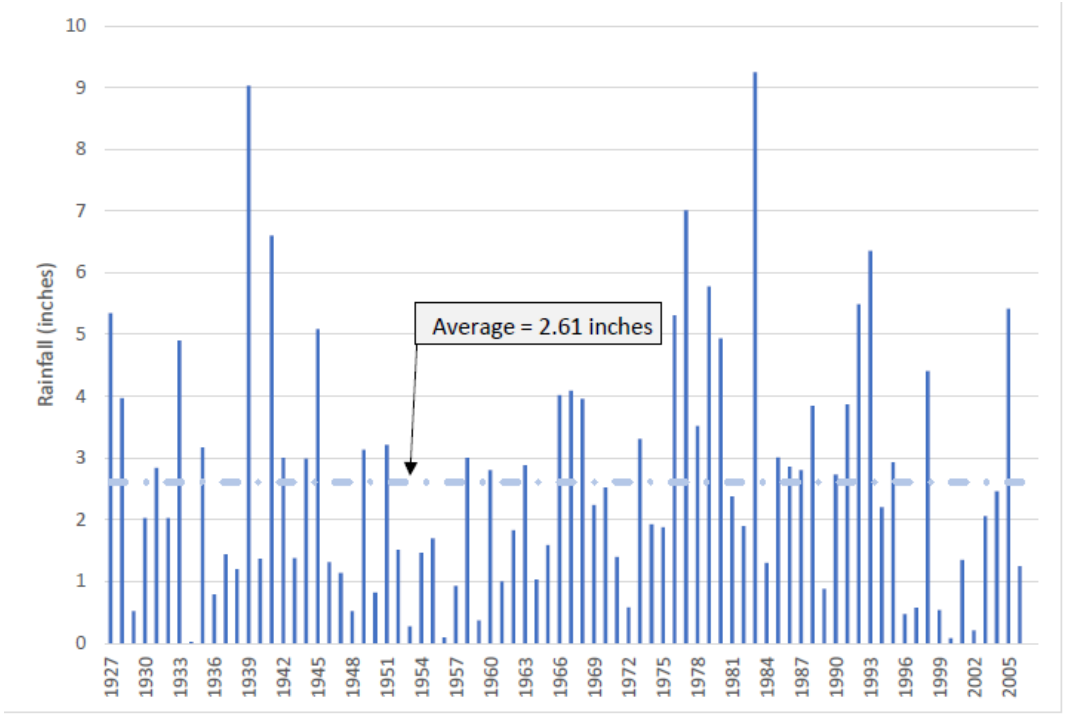
DRY YEAR SUPPLY

Local rainfall data were obtained from the Western Region Climate Center for the Brawley 2 SW meteorological station in Brawley, California, located approximately 15 miles east of the VEGA 6 project site. Figure 3.15-2 shows the annual water year rainfall for the Brawley 2 SW station from 1927 through 2007. The average water year rainfall during this period is 2.61 inches. The driest year was 2007, when no precipitation was recorded. The driest year with recorded rainfall was 1934, with only 0.2 inch of rainfall reported. The wettest year was 1983, when 9.25 inches of rain were measured. As indicated on Figure 3.15-2, a relatively wet period occurred from 1976 to 1986, with 14 of 18 water years exceeding the average annual rainfall. In comparison, the period from 1996 to 2012 was relatively dry, with 10 of 12 water years having below normal rainfall (Appendix K of this EIR).

The historic rainfall data on Figure 3.15-2 can be compared with the groundwater levels shown on Figure 3.15-1 to assess the effects of wet and dry periods on groundwater supply in the Basin. The wettest year recorded, 1983, and the relatively wet period from 1976 to 1986, correspond to a period when groundwater levels were consistently declining. During the dry period from 1996 to 2016, groundwater levels were also declining, but at a rate that was slightly less than during the wet period from 1976 to 1986. The relatively large decrease in groundwater levels between 1992 and 1994 corresponds to a period with above-normal rainfall. Thus, the available groundwater level and rainfall data do not indicate any relationship between wet, normal, single dry year, or multiple dry years and available groundwater supply. This is due to the recharge of groundwater primarily occurring through deep percolation of applied irrigation water and lateral inflow from adjacent groundwater basins.

The total groundwater storage capacity of the Basin is estimated to be 14,000,000 AF and the average annual increase in groundwater storage is estimated to be 17,000 AF per year. While the groundwater elevation data shown on Figure 3.15-1 indicates that there may have been a loss of groundwater in storage of up to 17 percent, the construction water demand of 170 AF and the annual operational water needs of 8 AF are miniscule (0.0015 percent and 0.00008 percent, respectively) compared to the available groundwater in storage after accounting for the potential 17 percent reduction indicated from Figure 3.15-1. Overall, there is adequate water available to supply the VEGA 6 project water needs during single dry year and multiple dry year periods (Appendix K of this EIR).

Figure 3.15-2. Water Year Rainfall at Brawley 2 SW



Source: Appendix K of this EIR

Based on the analysis above, there is sufficient water available for anticipated future water demands in the Basin to accommodate the proposed VEGA 6 project during normal, single dry year, and multiple dry year periods for the lifetime of the VEGA 6 project. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

Ramon Substation Expansion

CONSTRUCTION

The proposed Ramon Substation expansion is anticipated to take approximately 180 working days from the commencement of the construction process to complete. During construction, water is required for dust control and soil conditioning. The construction water demand is primarily for dust control. No groundwater use is proposed, water would be obtained from a municipal source. Therefore, no significant impact would occur.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The proposed Ramon Substation expansion would not induce population growth as no new residential uses are proposed. Therefore, the proposed expansion would not require new and expanded entitlements. The proposed expansion area would tie into an existing water line at the existing Ramon Substation. No additional operations and maintenance building or restroom would be required necessitating additional water demand. Therefore, no significant impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s)

VEGA 6

No mitigation measures are required.

Ramon Substation Expansion

No mitigation measures are required.

3.15.4 Decommissioning/Restoration and Residual Impacts

Decommissioning/Restoration

If at the end of the PPA term, no contract extension is available for a power purchaser, no other buyer of the energy emerges, or there is no further funding of the project, the project will be decommissioned and dismantled. Total water demand during decommissioning would be similar during construction. Therefore, it is assumed that the water demand during decommissioning would be 170 AF. As described above, there will be sufficient water available for existing water uses in the Basin, along with the project's water demands during normal, single dry year, and multiple dry year periods for the anticipated life of the project. The proposed VEGA 6 project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, and impacts would be less than significant.

Residual

The proposed project would not result in significant impacts on the water supply of Imperial County; therefore, no mitigation is required. The proposed project will not result in residual impacts.