

3.21 Water Use, Supply, and Storage

LNC currently holds 15.5 acre-feet (AF) of water rights (mining and milling use) within the Project area. Additionally, LNC holds approximately 980 AF of water rights (irrigation use) within the Quinn River Valley, Orovada Subarea Hydrographic Basin, with options to purchase approximately 2,717 AF of additional water rights (irrigation use), also within the Quinn River Valley, Orovada Subarea Hydrographic Basin. LNC intends to transfer the water right point of diversion to the existing Quinn Production Well and Quinn Backup Well (Figure 7), and point of use to the plant site. Prior to initiating mining, LNC intends to change the manner of use from agricultural to mining and milling. LNC will perform the transfer of water rights, change in point of diversion, and change in manner of use through coordination with the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR). Prior to the implementation of Phase 2, LNC plans to acquire and transfer additional water rights to the Quinn Production Well for use in the mine and process operation. The consumptive water requirement for Project operations is estimated at 2,600 AF per year during Phase 1, and 5,200 AF per year during Phase 2.

Water from the Quinn Production Well will be piped to a water tank located in the plant area as shown on Figure 7 with the support of two booster pumps and/or a pump tank arrangement. LNC will construct a water pipeline for the Quinn Production Well and Quinn Backup Well to the raw water storage tank located in the plant. The proposed seven-mile underground pipeline will follow the proposed power line corridor (Figure 7). Two booster pumps will be installed along the pipeline or the wells will pump to a storage tank in the well field that will be used to pump water to the plant. Well water will primarily be used in the production of steam and sulfuric acid while recycled process water will be used throughout the production facility to slurry solids. A water storage tank will be in the tank farm area within the process plant (Figure 13).

Water to supply the mine area will be piped from the process plant area via the interplant pipe containment channel (Figure 7).

Water will be provided from the following sources: Quinn Production Well and the Quinn Backup Well, steam condensate, process condensate, and recycled process water.

The nominal capacity of the Quinn Production Well pumping and delivery system will be approximately 1,600 gpm for Phase 1 and approximately 3,200 gpm for Phase 2. The Quinn Backup Well will be located west of the existing Quinn Production Well in the Quinn River Valley as shown on Figure 7. Most of the pipeline and powerline construction corridor will be temporary and will be reclaimed upon construction of the pipeline and powerline. However, portions of the construction