

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2018071019

Project Title: City of Merced Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update

Lead Agency: City of Merced

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Project Location: City of Merced Merced County
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The City's 2030 General Plan identifies wastewater infrastructure as crucial for meeting the growing potable and non-potable water needs of the SUDP/SOI. The 2022 Wastewater Collection System Master Plan (WCSMP) outlines wastewater infrastructure development to increase the system's average dry weather flow capacity to 27.2 million gallons per day and serve approximately 130,922 equivalent dwelling units. The Program includes six Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs 1-6) for interim and future capacity. The Program also includes North Merced and South Merced Major Improvements and Minor Program Improvements for sewer extensions and the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Expansion Projects for improving and expanding the existing WWTF. The North Merced and South Merced Major Improvements, Program Minor Improvements, and WWTF Expansion Projects are part of the programmatic analysis, which evaluates the environmental impacts of future projects. Construction on the CIPs 1-6 is expected to start in 2026.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

No significant and unavoidable impacts were identified to be associated with the Wastewater Collection System Master Plan. Chapter 3.0, Environmental Impact Assessment, identified potentially significant impacts. Potentially significant impacts were identified for aesthetics and visual resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural and tribal resources; geology, soils, and minerals; hazards, hazardous materials, and wildfires; hydrology and water quality; noise and vibrations; and transportation and traffic. All potentially significant impacts were reduced to Less Than Significant with Mitigation by implementation of the mitigation measures prescribed. Mitigation Measures are summarized in Table ES-1.A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, incorporating the mitigation measures set forth in this document, would be adopted at the time of certification of the Final EIR.

The REIR will address all CEQA Appendix G checklist environmental issue areas.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The City of Merced received comments regarding the potential adverse impacts to the following: air quality and greenhouse gases, agricultural resources, hydrology and groundwater resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, odor, aesthetics, biological resources, and traffic and transportation. Additionally, comments regarding alternatives, cumulative impacts, and General Plan consistency were also received. These concerns have been addressed in Chapter 3.0, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Recirculated EIR.

Additionally, comments regarding urban blight, environmental justice, impacts to minority communities, and economic impacts were also received. Generally, and as raised by comments, these topics would not result in an environmental impact as a result of the project and are not topics that are required for consideration under the CEQA Guidelines. Where these topics overlap discussions of potential environmental impacts, potential impacts from these topics were also discussed within a specific environmental resource area as applicable. The NOP and comments received on the NOP are included in Appendix A of the RDEIR.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Air Resources Board
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Office of Historic Preservation