

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 #: _____

Project Title: Palo Verde Union Elementary School District Water System Improvement ProjectLead Agency: Palo Verde Union Elementary School DistrictContact Name: Phil Anderson, Interim SuperintendentEmail: phil.anderson@paloverdeschool.org Phone Number: (559) 688-0648Project Location: _____
City *Tulare County*
County

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

Please see attached Project Description.

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

Please see attached MMRP.

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

No known areas of controversy.

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

- State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW)
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency, Building Division
- County of Tulare, Environmental Health Services Division
- California Division of the State Architect (DSA)

Description of Project

Project Background and Purpose

The school currently has two wells on site. One 80 gallons per minute (gpm) domestic well (Well No. 1), and a newer 200 gpm domestic well (Well No. 2). Well No. 1 does not produce enough water to meet the domestic, fire flow and irrigation needs of the school. Well No. 2 was drilled when the new gymnasium was being built in order to assist with fire flow and irrigation needs. Unfortunately, this well has been found to be contaminated and cannot be used for domestic water. It is currently used as back up for fire flow. The school is currently in the process of applying for a grant for a new domestic standard well that will meet the State standards for drinking water and fire flow. When this Project was originally undertaken a portion of the layout was different. Biological and cultural subconsultant assessments were completed in 2018 by Odell Planning and Research, Inc., and Sierra Valley Cultural Planning (under contract to Odell Planning and Research) but the CEQA document was never finished or adopted. The Project approach was updated in 2020 and a portion of the Project APE was outside of what the subconsultants originally assessed. Kleinfelder was hired in 2020 to provide supplemental assessments to the original biological and cultural assessments to include the portion of the Project site that was outside of the original survey area. Both the original assessments and the supplemental assessments are included in their respective appendices at the end of this document.

Project Description

The Project proposes to drill and construct a new domestic standard well (Well No. 3) for the school at the location illustrated in . The new well is expected to yield about 300 gpm. In addition to the construction of Well No. 3, the following items will also be constructed:

- A 10,000-gallon pressure tank. The pressure tank will measure approximately 20 feet in height and approximately 30 feet in diameter and will be located at the new well site.
- A gate valve with valve box
- Backflow preventer
- 15hp booster pump
- 6 ft high chain link fence around new well and appurtenant facilities, with a 30-ft wide double drive gate.
- 166 linear feet (LF) of new water distribution line (using open-trench method of construction installation)
- 500-LF of new irrigation main to all valve boxes from the well.

These Project components contained within the APE as defined above, are illustrated in [Error! Reference source not found.](#) In addition to constructing a well, associated infrastructure, and water pressure tank, the Project proposes to abandon the Well No. 1, per Tulare County standards and remove the associated existing 10,000 gal. water pressure tank, pump and electrical service.

Construction

Construction of the Project is anticipated to be completed within three months, which will include the demolition of Well No.1, drilling and installation of Well No. 3, construction of a water storage tank, booster pumps, and associated infrastructure, and connection to the existing distribution system. Construction equipment will likely include a drilling rig, excavator, graders, backhoes, skidsteers, loaders, and hauling trucks. The Project will involve approximately 0.25 acres of ground disturbance.

Generally, construction will occur between the hours of 7am and 5pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Post-construction activities will include system testing, commissioning, and site clean-up.

Construction will require temporary staging and storage of materials and equipment. Staging areas will be located onsite.

Although construction is not expected to generate hazardous waste, field equipment used during construction has the potential to contain various hazardous materials such as diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, grease, solvents, adhesives, paints, and other petroleum-based products.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of the water system will continue to be performed by the school's existing maintenance staff.

Chapter 4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been formulated based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the ~ (Project) in the unincorporated community outside of Tulare. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

Table 4-1 presents the mitigation measures identified for the proposed Project. Each mitigation measure is numbered with a symbol indicating the topical section to which it pertains, a hyphen, and the impact number. For example, AIR-2 would be the second mitigation measure identified in the Air Quality analysis of the IS/MND.

The first column of **Table 4-1** identifies the mitigation measure. The second column, entitled “When Monitoring is to Occur,” identifies the time the mitigation measure should be initiated. The third column, “Frequency of Monitoring,” identifies the frequency of the monitoring of the mitigation measure. The fourth column, “Agency Responsible for Monitoring,” names the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented. The last columns will be used by CCSD to ensure that individual mitigation measures have been complied with and monitored.

Chapter 4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Water System Improvement Project

Table 4-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Biological Resources					
Special Status Birds					
BIO-1 (Avoidance)					
If feasible, any vegetation removal or ground disturbance will take place between September 1 and February 1 to avoid impacts to nesting birds in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If vegetation removal must occur during the nesting season, project construction may be delayed due to actively nesting birds and their required protective buffers.	Prior to the start of construction activities	Prior to ground disturbing activities and the start of construction	PVUESD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to PVUESD	
BIO-2 (Pre-construction Surveys)					
a. If vegetation removal or ground disturbance will commence between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds within 14 days prior to the initiation of disturbance activities. This survey will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Potential nest sites in trees, bushes, or grass within species-specific buffers of the project area (Swainson's hawk – 0.5-mile, other raptor species such as white-tailed kite – 500 ft, non-raptor species (loggerhead shrike, tricolored blackbird. – 300 ft). ii. Survey protocol developed by the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) should be followed (CDFG 2000), which includes survey timing and requirements for repeated visits. 	February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds within 14 days prior to the initiation of disturbance activities	Prior to ground disturbing activities and the start of construction	PVUESD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to PVUESD	
b. Surveys for burrowing owl will occur within 14 days prior to any ground disturbance, no matter the season. This survey will cover potential burrowing owl burrows in the project area and suitable habitat within 150 m (500 ft). Evaluation of use by owls shall be in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife survey guidelines (CBOC 1993, CDFG 1995, CDFG 2012). Surveys will document if burrowing owls are nesting or using habitat in or directly adjacent to the project area. Survey results will be valid only for the season (breeding (Feb 1-Aug 31) or non-breeding (Sept 1-Jan 31) during which the survey is conducted.	A qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds within 14 days prior to the initiation of disturbance activities no matter the season	Prior to ground disturbing activities and the start of construction	PVUESD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to PVUESD	

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
c. If no active nests or burrows are detected during the pre-construction survey, then no further action is required. If an active nest or burrow is detected, then the following minimization measures will be implemented.					
BIO-3 (Minimization/Establish Buffers)					
a. Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, tricolored blackbird and MBTA-protected species: If any active nests are discovered (and if construction will occur during bird breeding season), the USFWS and/or CDFW will be contacted to determine protective measures required to avoid take. These measures could include fencing off an area where a nest occurs, or shifting construction work temporally or spatially away from the nesting birds. Biologists are required on site to monitor construction while protected migratory birds are nesting in the project area to ensure that the buffer is adequate and that the nest is not stressed and/or abandoned. If an active nest is found after the completion of the pre-construction surveys and after construction begins, all construction activities will stop until a qualified biologist has evaluated the nest and erected the appropriate buffer around the nest.	Prior to initiating any construction-related site disturbance	Once prior to initiating any ground disturbances	PVUESD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Written reporting/photos to PVUESD and CDFW, if required by biologist in accordance with requirements of CDFW	
b. Burrowing owl: If burrowing owls are detected within the survey area, CDFW should be consulted to determine the suitable buffer. These buffers will consider the level of disturbance of the project activity, existing disturbance of the site (vehicle traffic, humans, pets, etc.), and time of year (nesting vs. wintering). If avoidance is not feasible, the District will work with CDFW to determine appropriate mitigation, such as passive exclusion or translocation, and associated mitigation land offset. If avoidance is not feasible, a qualified biologist will develop appropriate mitigations that will reduce project impacts to sensitive biological resources to a less than significant level. The type and amount of mitigation will depend on the resources impacted, the extent of the impacts, and the quality of habitats to be impacted. Mitigations may include but are not limited to: 1) Compensation for lost habitat in the form of preservation or creation of in-kind habitat protected by conservation easement; 2) Purchase of appropriate	Prior to initiating any construction-related site disturbance	Once prior to initiating any ground disturbances	PVUESD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Written reporting/photos to PVUESD and CDFW, if required by biologist in accordance with requirements of CDFW	

Chapter 4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
Water System Improvement Project

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
credits from an approved mitigation bank or land trust servicing the Tulare County Area; 3) Payment of in-lieu fees.					
Cultural					
CUL-1 (Archaeological Resources)					
In the event that archaeological resources are encountered at any time during development or ground-moving activities within the entire project area, all work in the vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery. PVUESD shall implement all recommendations of the archaeologist necessary to avoid or reduce to a less than significant level potential impacts to cultural resource. Appropriate actions could include a Data Recovery Plan or preservation in place.	In the event archaeological resources are uncovered	During excavation	PVUESD	Report from qualified archaeologist	Site visits and review of construction reports
CUL-2 (Human Remains)					
If human remains are uncovered, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the Tulare County Coroner is to be notified to arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified—on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits—as those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resource Code 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendent who will determine the manner in which the remains are treated.	In the event human remains are uncovered	During excavation	PVUESD	Report from qualified archaeologist	Site visits and review of construction reports