

# Initial Study and Negative Declaration

Turlock Irrigation District

Oakdale Switchyard Communication Tower Project

August, 2021



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# **Negative Declaration**

## **Turlock Irrigation District**

### **Oakdale Switchyard Communication Tower Project**

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#### **Lead Agency:**

**TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
333 East Canal Drive  
P.O. Box 949  
Turlock, CA 95381-0949  
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#### **INTRODUCTION**

This document provides California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for Turlock Irrigation District's (TID) proposed Oakdale Switchyard Communication Tower Project. TID is the lead agency responsible for complying with the provisions of CEQA. TID proposes to replace an existing 80-foot communication tower with a 130-foot communication tower at its Oakdale Switchyard. The Oakdale Switchyard is located two miles south of the City of Oakdale on Patterson Rd. in Stanislaus County, California. The proposed communication tower site is within the boundary of the Oakdale Switchyard, which is owned by TID. There are existing microwave hops to the Oakdale Switchyard from other TID facilities.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project is entirely within the Oakdale Switchyard. Currently, the existing tower signal is compromised by deciduous trees that can block the signal between TID facilities. To address existing signal degradation between the Oakdale Switchyard and other facilities, the proposed project involves replacing the existing 80-foot lattice pole with a 130-foot monopole. After the monopole is installed, additional antennas may be added as necessary to provide communication links between Oakdale Switchyard and other facilities.

#### **FINDINGS**

As the CEQA lead agency, TID finds that the proposed project would be implemented without causing a significant adverse impact on the environment.

#### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

CEQA requires that TID assess whether its proposed project's incremental effects are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of other projects. Based on the analysis presented in the attached Initial Study (IS), the proposed project would not contribute incrementally to considerable environmental changes when considered in combination with other projects in the area. TID has determined that the proposed project will not significantly contribute incrementally to considerable

environmental change, as the potential environmental effects were determined to be less than significant.

**GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS**

TID exists as a public agency to supply irrigation water and electricity within its service territory. The proposed project is needed to ensure reliable data communications to and from TID facilities in remote locations.


TID has an obligation to serve its customers and new development approved by Stanislaus County. TID does not designate where and what new developments may occur. The proposed communication tower would not induce population growth; it would accommodate the current and projected future electrical service needs of TID's customers. Therefore, this project is not considered to be "growth inducing" as defined by CEQA. Furthermore, the proposed project would not cause increased demand on public infrastructure, public services, housing, circulation, or other resources.

**DETERMINATION**

On the basis of this evaluation, TID concludes the following:

- a. The proposed project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- b. The proposed project would not achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- c. The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- d. The proposed project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
- e. No substantial evidence exists to demonstrate that the proposed project would have a substantive negative effect on the environment.

This IS/ND has been prepared to provide the opportunity for interested agencies and the public to provide comment. Pending public review and Assistant General Manager approval, this ND will be filed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines. Written comments should be submitted to TID at the address previously identified by [time/date].

DocuSigned by:  
  
 76FF9A95B502427...

8/24/2021

(Signature)

(Date)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Negative Declaration .....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>1.0 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 OVERVIEW.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 CEQA CONSIDERATIONS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.0 Project Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVE.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.2 PROJECT LOCATION &amp; CHARACTERISTICS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.3 SURROUNDING LAND USE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.4 CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.5 PROJECT SCHEDULE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.0 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.0 Environmental Checklist.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.1 AESTHETICS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4.3 AIR QUALITY.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4.6 ENERGY.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING .....</b>	<b>33</b>

**4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES..... 34**

**4.13 NOISE ..... 35**

**4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING..... 37**

**4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES ..... 39**

**4.16 RECREATION ..... 40**

**4.17 TRANSPORTATION ..... 41**

**4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES..... 43**

**4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS ..... 44**

**4.20 WILDFIRE..... 46**

**4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE..... 48**

**5.0 References .....50**

**6.0 Tables.....51**

**7.0 Appendices .....54**

## LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

**TABLE 4.3.1 STATE AND NATIONAL CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANT STANDARDS AND POTENTIAL SOURCE..... 51**

**TABLE 4.3.2 AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA, 2017-2019 ..... 52**

**TABLE 4.3.3 PROPOSED PROJECT AREA ATTAINMENT STATUS..... 53**

**TABLE 4.12.1 STANISLAUS COUNTY NOISE LIMITS..... 53**

**TABLE 4.12.1 STANISLAUS COUNTY NOISE LIMITS..... 53**

**Figure 1: VICINITY MAP ..... 4**

**Figure 2: LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE..... 5**

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – NOTICE OF INTENT

APPENDIX B – SITE PHOTOS

APPENDIX C – PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT (*Available upon request*)

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 OVERVIEW**

This Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared for Turlock Irrigation District's (TID) proposed Oakdale Switchyard Communication Tower Project (hereinafter referred to as "the proposed project") located in unincorporated Stanislaus County, two miles outside the City of Oakdale, California. Currently, the existing tower signal is compromised by deciduous trees that can degrade signals over time. To prevent eventual signal loss, the proposed project involves replacing the existing 80-foot lattice pole with a 130-foot mono pole.

#### Section 1 - Introduction

Provides an introduction, and a description of the proposed project's CEQA considerations.

#### Section 2 - Project Description

Details the proposed project's setting and characteristics.

#### Section 3 - Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

Includes an environmental evaluation/checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project and a discussion of evaluation terminology.

#### Section 4 - Environmental Analysis (Checklist)

Contains the Environmental Checklist for CEQA Guidelines Appendix G with a discussion of potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project.

#### Section 5 - References

Alphabetically sorted list of sources consulted for the preparation of this IS/ND.

#### Tables

Contains tables referenced in the IS/ND.

#### Appendices

Contains technical reports and other information to supplement Section 3.



## **1.2 CEQA CONSIDERATIONS**

### **1.2.1 Regulatory Guidance**

This draft IS/ND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) §21000 et seq. and CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 et seq. A lead agency prepares an IS to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration (ND) is prepared if the lead agency determines that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment (i.e., there is no substantial evidence from which it can be fairly argued that such an effect may occur), and therefore, that the project will not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

### **1.2.2 Public Review Process**

This draft IS/ND is being circulated for a 20-day public review (CEQA Guidelines Section 15073) period to all individuals who have requested a copy, local libraries (Turlock and Oakdale Public Library), and the County of Stanislaus. A Notice of Intent (NOI) is being distributed to all property owners and occupants of record identified by the Stanislaus County Assessor's office adjacent to the proposed project boundaries. The NOI will also be posted in a local newspaper of general circulation (Turlock Journal and the Oakdale Leader). The NOI identifies where the document is available for public review and invites interested parties to provide written comments. A copy of the NOI is included in this document in Appendix A.

Prior to the ND being adopted by TID, all comments received from the public during the review process will be addressed in a Final Initial Study, after which a Notice of Determination will be sent to all previous recipients of the NOI.

### **1.2.3 Lead Agency**

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the Lead Agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose...." The lead agency for the proposed project is TID.

## **2.0 Project Description**

### **2.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

The objective of TID's proposed project is to create a direct signal between the Oakdale switchyard and other facilities. Without constructing the proposed communication tower, there will be insufficient communication between facilities. The proposed project involves replacing the existing 80-foot lattice pole with a 130-foot monopole. After the monopole is installed, additional antennas may be added as necessary to provide communication signals between facilities.



## **2.2 PROJECT LOCATION & CHARACTERISTICS**

The proposed project site is located two miles south of the City of Oakdale on Patterson Rd., between Kaufman Rd. and Albers Rd in unincorporated lands of Stanislaus County. It is zoned for agricultural use according to Stanislaus County Planning & Community Development (Figure 1). The existing 3.32-acre site is currently used for Switchyard facilities. The proposed project is located within the switchyard facility, north of the existing communication tower (Figure 2).

## **2.3 SURROUNDING LAND USE**

Land use surrounding the proposed project site consists of large parcel agricultural operations. The project site is adjacent to agricultural land on all sides. The switchyard has a Hetch Hetchy Right-of-Way running through the middle of the parcel and is surrounded by four other parcels designated as agricultural land for grazing, orchard, and crop land.

## **2.4 CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Construction for the proposed switchyard would consist of grading and site preparation, foundation excavation, and construction equipment delivery and installation. A 5–10-person crew would be used during construction. Major construction equipment includes a dump truck, a drill rig, and various support trucks.

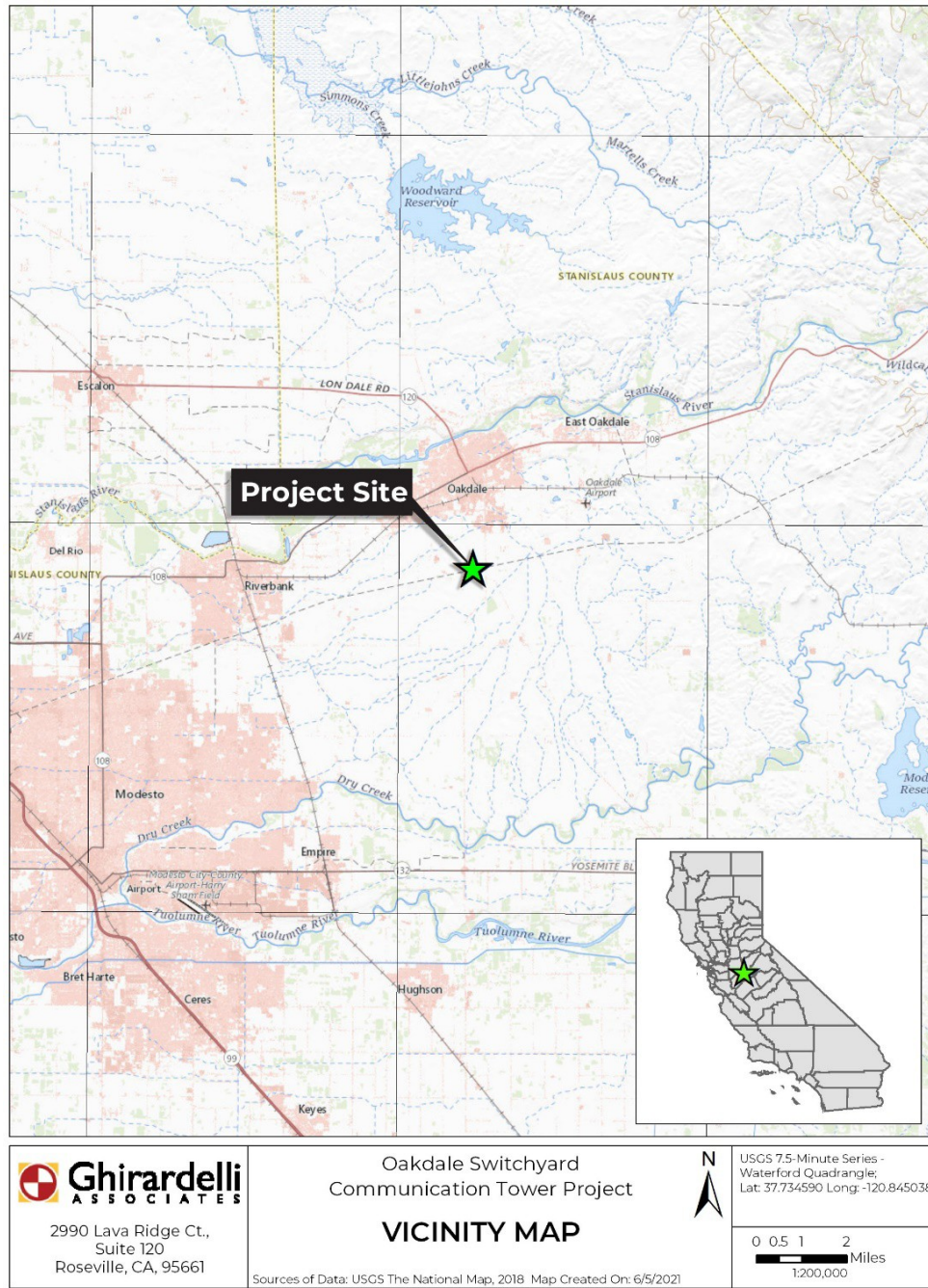
Construction materials would be delivered to the site and stored in a designated area within the 3.32-acre fenced site. Additional construction laydown would not be required. Deliveries would be made by concrete trucks, flatbed trucks and tractor-trailer rigs.

An estimated 2-3 deliveries of communication tower equipment would be made to the site location, and the workers are expected to commute an average of 40 miles round trip per day. Commute vehicles would consist of gasoline and diesel-powered pick-up trucks.

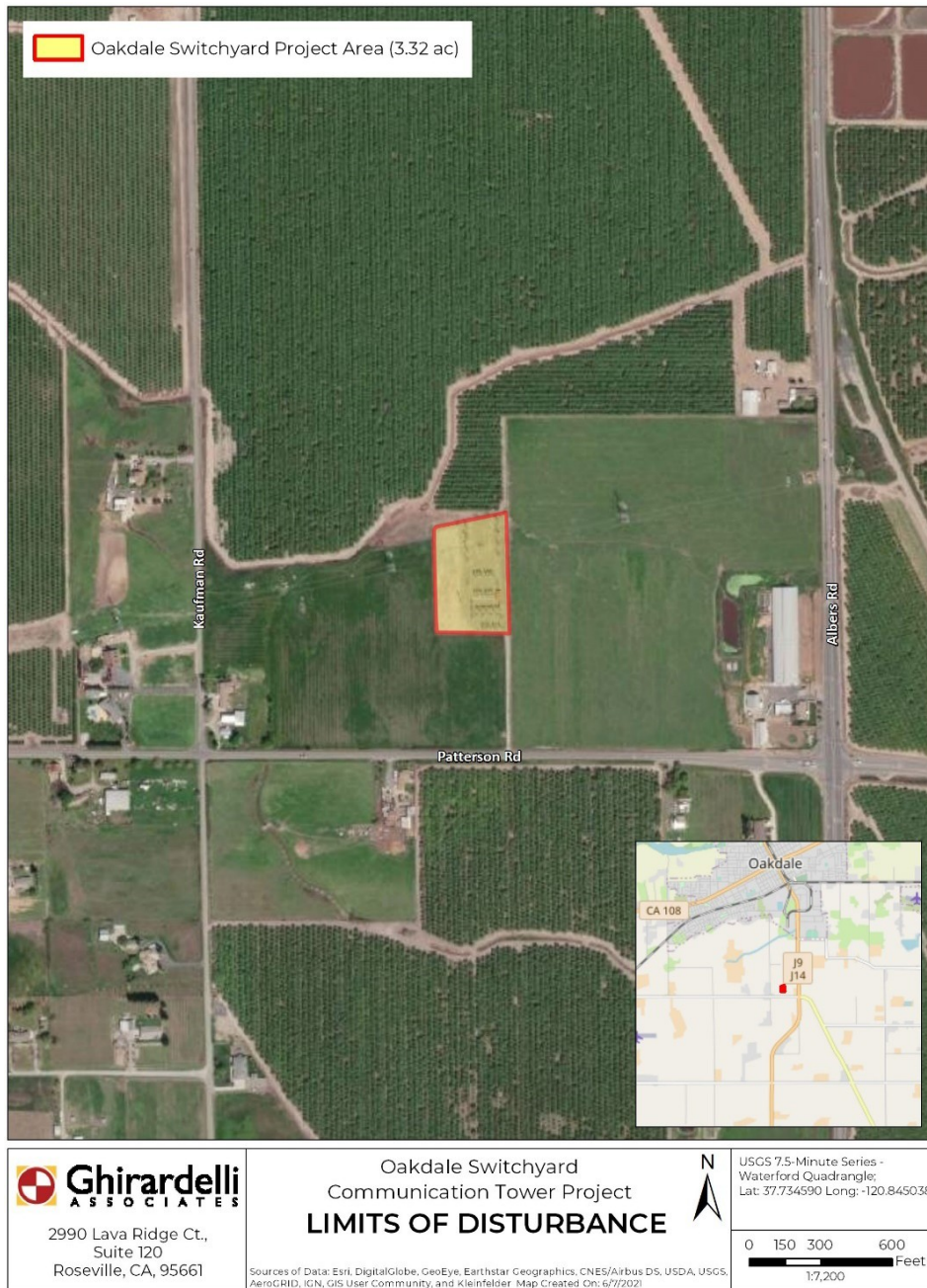
After startup, the proposed communication tower would be in continuous operation. Minor maintenance including routine inspections and equipment cleaning would need to be performed periodically. It is anticipated that the lifetime of the communication tower is approximately 25 years minimum.

## **2.5 PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The total duration of the construction period for the communication tower is approximately one month, but actual construction activity would occur according to Switchyard equipment delivery schedule and weather conditions over a period of approximately two months.



**FIGURE 1: VICINITY MAP**



**FIGURE 2: LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE**



### 3.0 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below will be potentially affected by the proposed project, involving at least one impact requiring mitigation to bring it to a less than significant level. The proposed project was determined to have a less than significant impact or no impact on unchecked resource areas as indicated by the checklist included in Section 4.0.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance

### 3.1 EVALUATION TERMINOLOGY

The following terminology is used to describe the levels of significance for impacts identified for each resource area discussed in Section 3.0.

- A conclusion of ***no impact*** is used when it is determined that the proposed project would have no impact on the resource area under evaluation.
- A conclusion of ***less than significant impact*** is used when it is determined that the proposed project's adverse impacts to a resource area would not exceed established thresholds of significance.
- A conclusion of ***less than significant impact with mitigation*** is used when it is determined that mitigation measures would be required to reduce the proposed project's adverse impacts below established thresholds of significance.
- A conclusion of ***potentially significant impact*** is used when it is determined that the proposed project's adverse impacts to a resource area potentially cannot be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

### 3.2 DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

*Mary Gill*

8/24/2021

Signature

Date

## 4.0 Environmental Checklist

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15063, an initial study (IS) should provide the lead agency with sufficient information to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration (ND) for a proposed project. The CEQA Guidelines state that an IS may identify environmental impacts by use of a checklist, matrix, or other method, if conclusions are briefly explained and supported by relevant evidence. If it is determined that a particular physical impact to the environment could occur, then the checklist must indicate whether the impact is Potentially Significant, Less Than Significant with Mitigation, or Less Than Significant. Findings of No Impact for issues that can be demonstrated not to apply to a proposed project do not require further discussion.

### 4.1 AESTHETICS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### SETTING

The proposed project is in an agricultural setting on Patterson Rd., approximately 1000 feet west of the intersection of Albers Rd. and Patterson Rd. in Stanislaus County. Surrounding land uses are predominantly large agricultural (orchard and row crop) parcels, along with TID's existing electrical facilities.

**DISCUSSION**

**a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista**

*No Impact*

There are no designated scenic vistas in the vicinity of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact to scenic vistas will occur as a result of the proposed project.

**b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway**

*No Impact*

No designated scenic vistas appear in the proposed project vicinity. Surrounding visual features include high-voltage transmission towers and the existing switchyard, which are visually align with the proposed communication tower. The proposed project will not substantially alter the local area’s scenic resources. The proposed project site is not adjacent to a State scenic highway and will have no effect on the visual resources adjacent to scenic highways. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on scenic resources or vistas, and no mitigation is required.

**c) In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project would be similar in appearance to the existing lattice tower and would not alter current visual character of the surroundings.

**d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area**

*No Impact*

The proposed project will introduce no new sources of light and glare. No nighttime project construction would occur, and routine operation and maintenance work would be performed during the day. No new lights are proposed as a component of the project and therefore, the proposed project will have no impact.

**4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC §12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC §4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code §51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**SETTING**

The proposed project site is in an area characterized by agricultural land uses in unincorporated lands of Stanislaus County.

**DISCUSSION**

**a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use**

*No Impact*

The project is to occur on TID owned land which is currently being used as a switchyard.

**b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract**

*No Impact*

No Williamson Act contract is active on the project site. The proposed project is compatible with existing zoning and similar surrounding land uses.

**c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC §12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC §4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code §51104(g))**

*No Impact*

No impact will occur, as no forestry resources exist within the vicinity of the proposed project.

**d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use**

*No Impact*

No impact will occur, as forestry resources do not exist within the vicinity of the proposed project.

**e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use**

*No Impact*

The proposed project will not involve changes in the existing environment which would result in the conversion of agricultural or forest resources. As such, no impact will occur due to the proposed project.

**4.3 AIR QUALITY**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SETTING**

The proposed project is located within Stanislaus County and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The SJVAPCD is the regional government agency charged with improving the health and quality of life for all valley residents through efficient, effective, and entrepreneurial air quality-management strategies.

**Climate, Topography, and Meteorology**

Air pollution is directly related to a region’s topography, climate, and meteorology. These attributes for the proposed project are described below.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB), which is about 35 miles wide and 250 miles long, is surrounded by the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the east, the Coast Ranges on the west, and the

Tehachapi Mountains to the south, leaving an opening only to the north. Airflow in the SJVAB is primarily influenced by marine air that flows through the Carquinez Straits where the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta empties into the San Francisco Bay.

Predominant winds are from the north during the summer and from the south during the winter with average wind speeds of seven miles per hour. The climate of the central San Joaquin Valley varies between wet, foggy conditions in winter and extreme heat in the summer. The average annual precipitation is approximately 13 inches. Summer temperatures can range from the high 50's to the low 90's, while winter temperatures can range from the high 30's to the low 60's (Weather Channel 2021). Due to the topography, air movement through and out of the basin is restricted, resulting in pollutant accumulation over time. Frequent transport of pollutants into the SJVAB from upwind sources also contributes to poor air quality, primarily during the summer months.

### **Local Air Quality**

The SJVAB includes all of Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Madera, Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties, and the Valley portion of Kern County. Current ambient concentrations of criteria pollutants are regulated by both national and state air quality standards, or the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (federal air quality standards) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (state air quality standards). The monitored air quality data for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), respirable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), as they relate to the current state and federal air quality standards are outlined in Table 4.3.1.

The nearest air monitoring stations are the Modesto-14th Street and Turlock-S Minaret Street stations, which are located about 14 miles southwest and 18 miles south, respectively, of the proposed project. The data is taken from the three most recent years (2017-2019) of available data, and as illustrated in Table 4.3.2, both stations have experienced frequent violations for O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

### **Attainment Status**

Areas are classified as either "attainment", "nonattainment", "unclassified", or "maintenance areas" with respect to state and federal air quality standards. These classifications are made by comparing actual monitored air pollutant concentrations to the state and federal standards (Table 4.3.3). If a pollutant concentration is lower than the state or federal standard, the area is classified as being in attainment of the standard for that pollutant. If a pollutant violates the standard, the area is considered a nonattainment area. If data are insufficient to determine whether a pollutant is violating the standard, the area is designated unclassified. Areas that were previously designated as nonattainment areas but have recently met the standard are called maintenance areas.

Currently, the SJVAB is designated as nonattainment for state ozone one-hour, nonattainment for federal and nonattainment for state ozone eight-hour, nonattainment for state particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and nonattainment for federal and state fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standards (Figure 4.3.1). Ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> violations within the SJVAB are primarily due to motor vehicles and agricultural activities, combined with the area's geography, weather, and temperatures. The surrounding mountains, stagnant weather patterns, hot summers, and foggy winters create optimal conditions for creating and trapping air pollution.

## **Sensitive Receptors**

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others. SJVAPCD defines sensitive receptors as facilities that house or attract children, the elderly, people with illnesses, or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Examples of sensitive receptors include convalescent facilities, hospitals, schools, residential areas, and places of worship (SJVAPCD 2015).

## **Significance Criteria**

The SJVAPCD has established thresholds of significance for construction impacts, project operations and cumulative impacts. For construction impacts the SJVAPCD has identified PM<sub>10</sub> as the pollutant of greatest concern, as the entire SJVAB is a nonattainment area for PM<sub>10</sub> state standards and any addition to the current PM<sub>10</sub> problem could be considered significant. However, rather than require quantification of construction-related emissions, the SJVAPCD has adopted a set of PM<sub>10</sub> Fugitive Dust Rules collectively called Regulation VIII. The SJVAPCD determines compliance with Regulation VIII for all sites and implements other control measures as appropriate, depending on the size and location of the project site that would reduce PM<sub>10</sub> impacts to a level considered less-than-significant (SJVAPCD 2015).

The SJVAPCD recognizes that construction equipment also emits carbon monoxide and ozone precursor emissions. However, the SJVAPCD has determined that these emissions may cause a significant air quality impact only in the cases of very large or very intense construction projects.

The SJVAPCD's Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI) also includes significance criteria for evaluating operational-phase emissions from direct and indirect sources associated with a project. Indirect sources include motor vehicle traffic associated with the proposed project and do not include stationary sources covered under permit with the SJVAPCD. SJVAPCD has defined a project will have a significant effect on air quality if operation-related emissions from projects within the SJVAB exceed:

- 10 tons/year of reactive organic gas (ROG)
- 10 tons/year of Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>)
- 15 tons/year of PM<sub>10</sub>
- 15 tons/year of PM<sub>2.5</sub>

## **DISCUSSION**

The proposed project entails the installation of a 130-foot communication tower mono pole. The proposed project will not generate new permanent roads or lanes, nor would the proposed project cause the need to add additional roads or lanes as an indirect result. Therefore, it is unlikely that the proposed project would affect vehicle miles traveled or traffic speeds in the project area. Air quality impacts were therefore evaluated for construction and operation of the proposed project. Construction would produce minimal dust and emissions from diesel and gasoline-powered equipment. Vehicle trips associated with the operation and maintenance would also produce dust and emissions, but at a minimal level.

**a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan**

*Less than Significant*

A project is deemed inconsistent with air quality plans if it would result in either the population or employment growth that exceeds growth estimated included in the applicable air quality plan. Such growth would generate emissions not accounted for in the applicable air quality plan emission budget. Therefore, proposed projects need to be evaluated to determine whether they would generate population and employment growth and, if so, whether that growth would exceed the growth rates included in the relevant air plans.

The goal of the proposed project is to ensure the reliability of TID's electrical transmission system based on sufficient signal between various facilities. The proposed project would not generate population growth or employment growth as a result of implementation. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan and is less than significant.

**b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?**

*Less than Significant*

The proposed project would not contribute to the cumulative net increase of criteria pollutants, and therefore the impact is considered less than significant.

**c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

*Less than Significant*

The proposed project is anticipated to involve the operation of diesel-powered equipment, however no sensitive receptors are nearby. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

**d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?**

*Less than Significant*

In general, the type of land uses that pose potential odor problems include refineries, chemical plants, wastewater treatment plants, landfills, composting facilities, and transfer stations. No such uses are proposed.

Diesel engines would be used for some construction equipment. Odors generated by construction equipment would be variable, depending on the location and duration of use. Diesel odors may be noticeable to some individuals at certain times but would not affect a substantial number of people. This is a less than significant impact.

#### 4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands as defined (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### SETTING

A biological resources assessment was conducted for the proposed project. Prior to conducting the onsite field survey, information relating to the site's biological resources was gathered and analyzed, including the following:

- USGS topographic maps;

- Aerial photographs obtained using Google Earth Pro™ (version 7.1.2.2041);
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey Geographic Database (NRCS 2021); and
- CDFW's California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) for locations of sensitive communities and special-status species occurrences within a 5-mile radius of the Site.

The above information sources were used to develop lists of special-status species and to identify other sensitive biological resources that could be present in the project region. Special-status species were listed if they were found to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project (5-mile radius of the project area), or if suitable habitat was known to be present in the area.

### Field Surveys

A field survey was performed by Ghirardelli Associates on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the potential for special status species to occur within the project area or if suitable habitat was present.

Although surrounded by agricultural lands, the Switchyard lacks vegetation (native nor exotic) due to a base of gravel and presumably routine herbicide applications. Similarly, no evidence of ponding was observed on Google Earth aerial photographs of the Switchyard.

The results of the pre-field and field survey investigation determined that the Switchyard does not support sensitive biological resources, including wetlands, other waters of the U.S., special-status species, or their dependent habitat.

The results of the CNDDDB (2021) search revealed 11 special-status species occurring within 5-mile radius of the Switchyard:

- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
- Riffle sculpin (*Cottus gulosus*)
- Sacramento hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda exilicauda*)
- Steelhead - Central Valley DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- Chinook salmon – Central Valley fall/late fall-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*)
- Colusa grass (*Neostapfia colusana*)
- San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia inaequalis*)
- Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*)

However, because the Switchyard lacks vegetation, wetlands, or other water bodies (lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.), potential habitat for these species does not occur onsite. For example: Swainson's hawk nest in large trees near agricultural fields (e.g., alfalfa) where it forages; tricolored blackbirds are colonial nesters in cattails, tules, and bramble; Burrowing owls occur in flat open areas short grass or bare soil; Riffle sculpin,



Sacramento hitch, Steelhead, and Chinook salmon occur in freshwater streams and large river systems; Valley elderberry longhorn beetles are found on red or blue elderberry plants, along rivers and streams; and Colusa grass, San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass, and Greene's tuctoria occur in vernal pools.

## DISCUSSION

- a) **Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?**

*No Impact*

### Special-Status Plant Species

As mentioned above, while special-status plant species have been identified within 5-miles of the proposed project, potential habitat for these species does not occur on site.

- b) **Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?**

*No Impact*

No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community exists within the proposed project area, and therefore no impact will occur.

- c) **Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project construction would not occur within, nor impact, any water feature.

- d) **Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project construction would not occur within, nor impact any wildlife species corridors or impede use of native wildlife nursery sites.

- e) **Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

*No Impact*

No biological resources are found on the proposed project site.

**f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

*No Impact*

There are no applicable HCPs or NCCPs in the proposed project area. Therefore, there would be no impact from the proposed project to the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP.

**4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SETTING**

The Project is located within the Great Valley geomorphic province in Central California (Wagner 2002), near the eastern edge of the northern San Joaquin Valley and the base of the gently sloping Sierra Nevada foothills. The approximate elevation of the Project Area (PA) is 130-150 ft. Above Mean Sea Level. Climate of the area is defined in the Köppen Climate System (Köppen 1936) as hot-summer Mediterranean with an average annual rainfall of 12.21 in. (Western Regional Climate Center 2016); however, the area is susceptible to drought approximately every 10-15 years (Kie 1988:118-119).

Predominant vegetation of the project area is cropland. Cropland habitats included a variety of sizes, shapes, and growing patterns. Historically croplands supported an abundance of wildlife unequalled in other sites however, current management practices for croplands have greatly reduced the wildlife richness and diversity of California (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988).

The Project is situated within a transitional zone of the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and the San Joaquin Basin, within the greater San Joaquin Valley (USGS 2021). According to John Parrish’s Geologic map of California (California Geologic Survey 2006), the PA consists of both Cenozoic (66 million years ago [mya] to present) nonmarine sedimentary rocks and alluvial deposits

associated with erosional deposition from the alluvial fans of the lower Sierra Nevada foothills, and older Mesozoic (252 mya ago to 66 mya) sedimentary and volcanic rocks in area where strong metamorphic processes occurred (ibid; USGS 2021). An in-depth review of cultural resources is discussed in Appendix C – Phase I Cultural Resource Inventory Report.

## DISCUSSION

The Phase I Cultural Resource Inventory Report (Appendix C) details the results of a cultural resources inventory of approximately ±3.30-acres in Oakdale, Stanislaus County, California. DZC Archaeology & Cultural Resource Consulting, LLC, was retained by Ghirardelli Associates to conduct a Phase I Cultural Resource Inventory and develop the report in support of the Oakdale Switchyard Tower Replacement Project. The Project Area (PA) is located in Township 2 North, Range 10 East, Section 26, Mt. Diablo Baseline Meridian, on the Waterford (1969) 7.5-Minute United States Geologic Survey (USGS) Topographic Quadrangle. The Turlock Irrigation District proposes to replace an existing 80-foot steel lattice transmission tower with a 130-foot monopole in order to prevent signal loss. Currently, the existing tower signal is compromised by deciduous trees between various facilities.

Prior to conducting the field survey, historical research was completed for the PA at the Central California Information Center of the California Historic Resources Information System. The review indicated six previously recorded resources within the 0.25-mile Environmental Study Limits and one previously recorded resource within the PA. The review also identified five prior surveys within the Environmental Study Limits, and two within the PA.

Two resources (P-50-02236 and P-50-000074) are present within the PA (Figure 4). Resource P-50-02236 (the Turlock Irrigation District Switchyard) consists of an electrical power switchyard (c.1956) that connects the Hetch Hetchy Water and Power transmission lines to the switchyard grounds and occupies two thirds of the PA. The Switchyard exists as a part of the irrigation district's electrical distribution, but the Switchyard is ubiquitous in nature and is field assessed as ineligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR. Additionally, the Project will not directly or indirectly impact the integrity of the switchyard, nor change the elements or character of the facility which may qualify it for future listing on the NRHP or the CRHP.

Resource P-50-000074 comprises two underground water pipes associated with the Hetchy-Hetchy Dam, a segment of the San Francisco Water System. The pipes pass underground, through the northern quarter of the PA. The status code for this resource indicates it may be eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A and CRHR Criterion 1. The Project will not directly or indirectly impact the integrity of the switchyard, nor change the elements or character of the facility which may qualify it for future listing on the NRHP or the CRHP.

The PA underwent archaeological survey in 1989 and 1992, both of which were negative for the presence of cultural resources. Additionally, Rosenthal and Meyer's 2004 geoarchaeological study for Caltrans District 10, indicate a low potential for buried prehistoric resources and a very low to low potential for prehistoric and historic-era surface resources within the parcel.

Due to the installation of the switchyard, the PA represents a highly disturbed environment. Switchyards require the installation of a copper grid underneath the entirety of the footprint, and, the grid must contact ground water in order to properly ground the switchyard. Therefore, the entire footprint of the switchyard has been disturbed to at least a depth of 25 in., down to the bedrock/water-table interface. The entirety of the PA is covered in imported gravel with no mineral surface visibility. Lastly, the pole installation will take place 50-100 feet to the north of the existing tower. Therefore, DZC did not recommend an intensive archaeological survey for the PA.

This cultural resource inventory is intended to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (as amended). This report recommends a Finding of No Adverse Impacts, as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act and the implementation of Inadvertent Discovery Protocols, as noted in Section 6.3. It is best practice to avoid cultural resources whenever possible. Additional survey will be required if the project changes to include areas not previously surveyed.

**DISCUSSION**

a) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?**

*No Impact*

b) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?**

*No Impact*

c) **Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

*No Impact*

**4.6 ENERGY**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SETTING**

Consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21100(b)(3), this impact analysis evaluates the potential for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project to result in a substantial increase in energy demand and wasteful use of energy. Temporary energy use in connection with project construction would entail consumption of diesel fuel and gasoline by construction equipment and by the transportation of earth moving equipment, construction materials, supplies, and construction personnel.

**DISCUSSION**

**a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**

*Less Than Significant*

Construction activities and corresponding fuel energy consumption would be temporary and localized, as the use of diesel fuel and heavy-duty equipment would not be a long-term condition of the project. All construction equipment would be maintained in proper tune according to manufacturer’s specifications. In addition, the use of diesel construction equipment meeting current California Air Resources Board certification standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines would be maximized and unnecessary vehicle idling restricted to five minutes or less. With these measures in place, wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use of energy resources is not anticipated, and impacts would be less than significant.

**b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project will follow existing standards for energy and would not conflict with or obstruct any State or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency; therefore, there would be no impact.

**4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				
ii.	Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii.	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv.	Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SETTING

### Topography

The San Joaquin Valley, overall, has a slight slope that causes drainage to the north, into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The topography of the Stanislaus County region is generally flat, with a gentle slope towards the Merced River south of the proposed project.

### Soils

Soils in the vicinity of the proposed project area are Peters clay, Madera sandy loam, and Snelling sandy loam. This soils series is nearly level fans that are imperfectly drained, slow permeability, and very slow runoff and weak concentrations of salts. Imperfect drainage is due to calcareous subsoils that rest on partially cemented calcareous beds of silts (NRCS 2021). Nonetheless, this soil series is not considered hydric and does not occur on the National hydric soils lists or on the County hydric soils list for Stanislaus County (NRCS.USDA.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/use/hydric).

## Geologic Hazards

The California Geological Society has mapped the potential relative intensity of ground shaking because of anticipated future earthquakes. The shaking potential is calculated as the level of ground motion that has a two percent chance of being exceeded in 50 years, and is largely determined by surface geology. According to this map, the region that encompasses the proposed project is distant from known, active faults and will experience lower levels of shaking less frequently (CGS 2016). Seismic ground shaking associated with major earthquakes can cause the collapse of, or structural damage to, man-made structures.

There are several known faults within and near Stanislaus County. In the western portion of the county, in the Diablo Range, the most recent fault movements have been along the Ortigalita Fault, which the State of California Division of Mines and Geology has designated as an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone. The 1,000-foot wide zone along the Ortigalita Fault extends into Stanislaus County approximately seven miles and is located approximately 60 miles southwest of the proposed project. Approximately 30 miles northeast of the proposed project, in the eastern portion of the county, the Bear Mountain and Melones Faults are believed to have been inactive for the past 150 million years.

Soil liquefaction occurs either because of an increase in pore-water pressures due to an earthquake or a human induced event, or in low lying areas that are comprised of unconsolidated, saturated, clay-free sands and silts. The phenomenon of liquefaction causes granular materials to behave in a liquid state. The liquefaction potential of soil is dependent upon the level and duration of seismic ground motions, the type and consistency of the soils, and the depth of groundwater. Soil conditions conducive to liquefaction are those with loose-packed grain structures capable of progressive rearrangement during repeated cycles of seismic loading.

Extreme ground shaking can cause saturated sediments to liquefy and lose supporting capacity as water from voids within the sediment is forced towards the ground surface. Although no specific liquefaction hazards have been identified in Stanislaus County, the potential exists in areas where unconsolidated sediments are very wet and where a high water table underlies these sediments. Man-made levees along canals in Stanislaus County are susceptible to liquefaction due to the use of artificial fill and the presence of nearby water.

## Landslides

Review of data available from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA 2014) indicates that the soils present in the area potentially affected by the proposed project are characterized by very shallow slopes and generally high clay content. The area has a low potential of landslide, liquefaction, and lateral spreading. The proposed project would not alter the overall topography of the area, nor place a heavy load on unstable soils.

## DISCUSSION

- a) **Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**



- i. **Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.**
- ii. **Strong seismic ground shaking?**
- iii. **Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**
- iv. **Landslides?**

*Less than Significant*

The proposed project is in a flat location, with low potential for seismic ground shaking and/or liquefaction. The proposed project will involve the construction and installation of electrical infrastructure which is potentially subject to damage from earthquakes. These hazards are unavoidable, but would be rendered less than significant, as all structures would be constructed in accordance with applicable the California Building Code, California Health and Safety Code 19100 et seq., General Order (GO 95), and IEEE standards and regulations.

**b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?**

*Less than Significant*

Soil Disturbance

Erosion

Construction will occur on relatively level ground and consequently, erosion is most likely to occur via wind action during the excavation and hauling of soil. The proposed project would not result in a substantial net increase in impervious surfaces over existing conditions and would be limited to equipment foundations. Although erosion is an unlikely cause of the proposed project, standard control measures will be followed to prevent the likelihood of soil erosion.

**c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?**

*Less than Significant*

**d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?**

*Less than Significant*

e) **Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project will not involve use installation a septic tank(s) or alternative waste water disposal system. Therefore, no impact will occur.

f) **Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?**

Although unlikely, considering the project area is underlain by alluvial, riverine, and basin deposits, the discovery of paleontological resources or sites is a possibility. Paleontological resources might include the fossilized remains of extinct plants and animals, including bones, teeth, petrified wood, and plant casts. Encountering these materials during project construction would result in a potentially significant impact. If, during the construction period, a unique paleontological resource is found, construction would immediately stop, and a qualified paleontologist would be consulted.

#### 4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### SETTING

Scientists have concluded that climate change (“global warming”) is a regional as well as global concern that is very likely caused primarily by human activity. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, primarily carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from fossil fuel combustion and vegetation removal, are increasing atmospheric concentrations of GHGs and are believed to be the primary cause of contemporary global warming. GHGs from human activities are shown to trap more of the sun’s heat in the earth’s atmosphere, resulting in warming. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) also contribute to global warming.

Executive Order S-3-05 establishes a goal to reduce California’s GHG emissions to: (1) 2000 levels by 2010; (2) 1990 levels by 2020; and (3) 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This goal was further reinforced with the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32 [AB 32]). AB 32 sets the same overall GHG emissions reduction goals, while further mandating that the California Air

Resources Board (CARB) create a plan (including market mechanisms), and implement rules to achieve “real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases.” Executive Order S-20-06 directs state agencies to begin implementing AB 32.

Scoping Plan for Achieving California’s 2030 Greenhouse Gas Target (Scoping Plan or 2017 Scoping Plan) identifies how the State can reach our 2030 climate target to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40 percent from 1990 levels, and substantially advance toward our 2050 climate goal to reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels (CARB 2017). Based on the emissions reductions directed by SB 32, the annual 2030 statewide target emissions level for California is 260 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO<sub>2</sub> e). CARB has identified an implementation timeline for the GHG reduction strategies in the Scoping Plan. Some measures may require new legislation to implement, some will require subsidies, some have already been developed, and some will require additional effort to evaluate and quantify.

Senate Bill 97 (SB 97) provides greater certainty to lead agencies that GHG emissions and the effects of GHG emissions are appropriate subjects for CEQA analysis. Pursuant to SB 97, the state’s Natural Resources Agency adopted amendments to the State CEQA Guidelines to address analysis and mitigation of the potential effects of GHG emissions in CEQA documents and processes.

## DISCUSSION

### a) **Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

#### *Less than Significant*

The proposed project will generate GHGs emissions during construction of the proposed project. Specifically, GHGs will be generated by on- and off-road construction vehicles and equipment, and by worker commute trips to the site over two months. Currently SJVAPCD has only established significance. Criteria for GHG emissions for stationary source projects and development (residential, commercial, and industrial) projects (SJAPCD 2009). In addition, at this time, no statewide government has adopted anything beyond a case-by-case quantitative significance criterion for evaluating a Project’s contribution to climate change. As a result, because the proposed project will only produce GHGs temporally during project construction, and will not increase operational GHG emissions, it is anticipated the proposed project will have a less than significant impact.

### b) **Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?**

#### *Less than Significant*

The California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has amended Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines to address impacts of GHG emissions. Although the amendments provide criteria to evaluate a Project’s GHG emissions, they do not establish quantitative significance thresholds. According to the revised Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to global climate change is considered significant if the proposed project will: generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or conflict with an

applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

As mentioned previously the SJVAPCD does not have construction-related thresholds for GHG emissions. Furthermore, as is described in response to question a, the proposed project will not increase operational GHG emissions.

The proposed project is consistent with SJVAPCD Climate Change Action Plan (SJVAPCD 2009a). Therefore, the proposed project will be consistent with applicable local plans, policies, and regulations and will not conflict with the provisions of AB 32, the applicable air quality plan, or any other State or regional plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, this impact is less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

#### 4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excess noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## SETTING

A hazardous material is a substance with physical or chemical properties that could pose a current or future risk to human health or ecological receptors when improperly handled, disposed of, or otherwise released into the environment. Hazardous materials are grouped into the following four categories based on their properties: toxic (causes adverse effects to human or wildlife health); ignitable (has the ability to burn); corrosive (causes severe skin burns or material degradation); and reactive (causes explosions or can generate toxic gases). A hazardous waste is any hazardous material that is discarded, abandoned, or will be recycled or disposed in accordance with regulatory guidance. With improper handling or by unforeseen accidents, hazardous materials and wastes may be released into the environment, resulting in health hazards to workers, the public, or the environment. The releases may occur directly to soil (which may then percolate to groundwater) or into the air in the form of vapors, fumes, or fugitive dust.

### Electrical and Magnetic Fields

Homeowners in neighborhoods adjacent to overhead power lines frequently express concerns regarding the potential for health effects from exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs). Available medical and scientific research has not demonstrated that EMF creates a health risk. However, research has not dismissed the possibility of such a risk.

Natural and human created EMFs occur everywhere. Electric fields are created between two objects that have a different voltage potential. Magnetic fields are created only when there is current flowing through a conductor or device. For example, when a lamp is plugged into a wall, an electric field is created around the cord to the lamp. A magnetic field is present when the lamp is turned on and current flows through the light bulb.

EMF are invisible fields of force created by electric voltage (electric fields) and by electric current (magnetic fields). These fields are associated with power lines, electric appliances, and the wiring in buildings of homes, schools, and work structures. Voltage on wire produces an electric field in the area surrounding the wire. Magnetic fields are produced from the flow of electricity (current) in a conductor (circuit) and can be calculated and measured.

Widespread misunderstanding exists regarding EMF levels from different types of facilities and the rate at which these levels decline with distance from the source. There are four basic factors that affect the strength of EMF: distance, conductor spacing, load, and phase configuration. An alternating current power line typically consists of three energized phase wires. The nature of three-phase alternating power systems results in a partial cancellation effect of the magnetic fields if the conductors are adjacent to each other.

Magnetic fields are very difficult to shield; placing the line underground does not shield the magnetic field. Overhead electric power lines also produce electric fields; however, a structure of a house will shield most of the electric field from outside sources. Other objects, such as trees, shrubs, walls, and fences, also provide electric field shielding.

## DISCUSSION

### a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

#### *No Impact*

The proposed project is not anticipated to create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. During construction activities, the use of equipment and vehicles containing petroleum products will occur on the site. However, refueling will occur offsite at a TID maintenance facility or a commercial fueling facility. Therefore, these operations would not increase the risk of a release within the construction area.

### b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

#### *Less than Significant*

During construction, minor spills of fuel or oils/lubricants from ruptured fuel and/or hydraulic lines on the construction equipment may occur. However, the risk hazardous material spill is low due to the small size of the proposed project and the short construction period. The proposed project would comply with applicable regulations and laws for the use, handling, and storage of common hazardous materials needed for the operation and loading of the transport vehicles. As required by design features and construction controls associated with the proposed project, equipment would be maintained according to industry-standard best management practices, including monitoring for leaks, and removal from service and replacement if necessary. In the event of an accidental release, all work in the area would cease, and materials would be immediately contained and handled in accordance with applicable regulations intended to protect environmental and public health and safety. Emergency spill kits would be maintained with crews on project vehicles during implementation. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

### c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

*No Impact*

The nearest school to the proposed project is Sierra View Elementary School located approximately 3 miles to the north, therefore, no impact will occur.

- d) **Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project is not on a hazardous material site pursuant to Government Code §65962.5. As a result, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and therefore no impact will occur.

- e) **For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?**

*No Impact*

The nearest publicly owned airport is the Oakdale Municipal Airport, which is located on Laughlin Rd., adjacent to Sierra Rd., in Oakdale, CA, approximately 2.85 miles northeast from the proposed project. As a result, the proposed project would not result in a safety or hazard for people residing or working in the project area. Therefore, due to the distance from the airport to the proposed project, no impact is anticipated to occur.

- f) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project is not in an area that will impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, there are no impacts related to emergency response or evacuation plans, and no mitigation would be required.

- g) **Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project is in a developed, agricultural area, and not in an area with wildland fuels. The proposed project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Therefore, there are no impacts relative to wildland fires, and no mitigation would be required.



## 4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
I. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				
II. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
III. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planning stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
IV. Impede or redirect flood flows?				
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or sseiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### SETTING

#### Regional Hydrology

The region is an alluvial plain that dips gently to the west from the Sierra Nevada mountains toward the San Joaquin River channel. Surface water flow is generally to the northwest (Stanislaus County 2012). The main sources of water are the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and San Joaquin River watersheds, all of which originate in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Tuolumne River, located approximately 9 miles south of the proposed project area, originates in Yosemite National Park and flows east to west; eventually draining into the San Joaquin River, which flows north to the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

TID provides groundwater to the project area through an onsite well.

### **Project Hydrology**

The switchyard site is flat with a gravel foundation and no known water source.

### **Project Water Features**

The subject site has no water features.

### **Precipitation**

The proposed project area is characterized by a Mediterranean-type climate with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. The majority of precipitation falls between November and March (TGBA 2008). Stanislaus County receives just over 13 inches of rain annually (Stanislaus County 2015).

### **Erosion Potential**

The United States Department of Agriculture, through its National Cooperative Soil Survey, has identified the basic soil type in the Project area as Peters clay and Madera sandy loam. The terrain is level to slightly sloping. Soil and topographic attributes indicate that runoff is very slow and water-related erosion potential is low.

### **Flood Potential**

Flooding in Stanislaus County occurs along the San Joaquin River and isolated stretches of the Tuolumne River (Stanislaus County 2015). The Federal Emergency Management Agency has determined the proposed project area to have a 0.2 percent chance of flooding in any given year (Zone X).

## **DISCUSSION**

- a) **Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?**

*No Impact*

- b) **Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project would not use or affect groundwater supplies. Additionally, none of the project features would interfere with groundwater recharge. As such, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed project implementation.

- c) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:**
  - i. **Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;**
  - ii. **Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or offsite;**
  - iii. **Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planning stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or**
  - iv. **Impede or redirect flood flows?**

*No Impact*

Implementation of the proposed project would not create additional impervious surfaces in the proposed project area and as a result would be not increase runoff from impervious surfaces to add to the potential for erosion. Potential increased sediment in runoff as a result of the proposed project is small to negligible.

- d) **In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation.**

*No Impact*

The proposed project is not within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone. No impacts related to these events would be anticipated with the implementation of the proposed project.

- e) **Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?**

*No Impact*

As stated previously the proposed project will not increase impervious surfaces or add to the overall hardscape of the area, and therefore will not obstruct any water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plans. As such no impact is anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.

#### **4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING**

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				

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a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SETTING**

The proposed project site is two miles outside of the City of Oakdale in unincorporated lands of Stanislaus County. The land use surrounding the proposed project area consists of large parcel agricultural operations. The proposed project is located on a TID site adjacent to agricultural land on all sides. The site is currently sectioned off and is being used as a switchyard for various facilities.

**DISCUSSION**

**a) Physically divide an established community?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project area is adjacent to agricultural land, and existing infrastructure will be utilized. The proposed project will not require work or acquisition of land outside the current boundaries, and as such will not encroach upon nor divide an established community. Therefore, the project will not physically divide an established community and no impact will occur.

**b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?**

*No Impact*

Proposed project is compatible with the Stanislaus General Plan.

**4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SETTING**

No mineral resources exist in the proposed project area.

**DISCUSSION**

**a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**

*No Impact*

No mineral resources exist within the project area, and no impact will occur.

**b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project is not located in an area delineated as a locally-important mineral resource recovery site.

**4.13 NOISE**

Would the Project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SETTING**

Noise levels in California are typically measured in dBA, which is the A-weighted sound level of decibels (dB). This scale gives greater weight to the frequencies of sound to which the human ear is most sensitive. Decibels are a unit of measurement indicating the relative amplitude or intensity of a sound. Sounds in the environment can vary over a short period of time, so environmental sounds are typically described in terms of  $L_{eq}$ , which is an average level that has the same acoustical energy as the

summation of all the time-varying events. Another measurement is the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), which is a measure of the cumulative noise exposure in a community, with a 5 dB penalty added to evening (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.), and a 10 dB addition to nocturnal (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) noise levels.

The intensity of a sound and the subjective noisiness or loudness are related, as is the intensity of a sound and a sensitive receptor's distance to that sound. A 10 dB increase in sound is an approximate doubling of the perceived loudness. Noise from construction activities and stationary sources is considered a "point source" of noise. Sound from this type of source radiates uniformly outward in a spherical pattern. The rate at which noise dissipates from a point source is 6 to 7.5 dBA for each doubling of the distance, depending on the ground absorption, atmospheric conditions, and other shielding factors. Traffic noise appears to be from a line rather than a point because the vehicles are moving and the noise spreads cylindrically rather than spherically. The rate at which traffic noise dissipates is 3 to 4.5 dBA for each doubling of the distance, depending on other shielding factors.

### **Stanislaus County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance**

Goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Stanislaus County Noise Element (Stanislaus County 2015) focus on:

- Preventing the encroachment of incompatible land uses near known noise producing industries, railroads, airports, and other sources to protect the economic base of the County; and
- Protecting the citizens of Stanislaus County from the harmful effects of exposure to excessive noise.

Specifically, new development of industrial, commercial, or other noise generating land uses will not be permitted if resulting noise levels will exceed 60 Ldn (or CNEL) in noise-sensitive areas. Additionally, the development of new noise-generating land uses which are not preempted from local noise regulation will not be permitted if resulting noise levels will exceed the performance standards contained within Table 4.13.1 in areas containing residential or other noise sensitive land uses.

The Stanislaus County Code, Chapter 10.46 Regulation of Nuisance Noise, was developed to protect citizens from loud and raucous noises from any and all sources. Exemptions are provided for activities on or in publicly owned property and facilities, or by public employees while in the authorized discharge of their responsibilities, provided that such activities have been authorized by the owner of such property or facilities or its agent or by the employing authority (Stanislaus County 2015). The Stanislaus County Code also provides noise exemptions to public utilities for construction and maintenance activities under Chapter 10.46.080 (J), which the proposed project would fall under.

### **DISCUSSION**

- a) **Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?**

*Less than Significant*

**b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

*Less than Significant*

Operational activities associated with the proposed project would not generate groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. Construction may generate temporary groundborne vibration. Construction equipment that will be used includes a dump truck, excavator, and various support trucks. Any groundborne vibration generated from construction activities utilizing this equipment is expected to be below a detectable level. Therefore, the project is expected to have no impact to groundborne vibration or noise, and no mitigation would be required.

**c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?**

*No Impact*

No public airport or airport land use plan exists within 2 miles of the proposed project. The Oakdale Municipal Airport is located approximately 5 miles northeast of the proposed project, within the Oakdale City limits just south of Highway 120. The City of Oakdale’s general plan lists the Oakdale Municipal Airport as a municipal airstrip owned by the City of Oakdale. The proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels associated with the airstrip. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact and no mitigation would be required. As such, no impact will occur as result of the implementation of the proposed project.

**4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## SETTING

The proposed project site is located in an area characterized by an agricultural environment, located in unincorporated lands of Stanislaus County. The proposed project would not displace any existing housing or require the construction of any replacement housing.

The proposed project would result in short-term construction employment. However, a sufficient labor pool exists within the region to meet the proposed project's construction worker requirements and no change in the local population base would be anticipated. The limited maintenance required for the Switchyards during operations will also have no effect on local population growth rates. Therefore, the proposed project would not induce substantial population growth and will have no new impact on population and housing.

## DISCUSSION

- a) **Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?**

### *No Impact*

The proposed project will employ the most people during the construction phase, this increase in population is anticipated to last no more than 2 months, and a sufficient labor pool exists in the area to meet the proposed project's need. Maintenance will require very few people and will be performed by existing staff at TID. Therefore, no impact will occur as, the proposed project will not induce a Switchyard population growth in the area either directly or indirectly.

- b) **Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

### *No Impact*

The proposed project will not require displacing housing through project activities and will not necessitate the need to build replacement housing elsewhere. Thus, no impact will occur as a result of the proposed project.

### 4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### SETTING

The objective of TID's proposed project is to prevent signal loss between various facilities. Without constructing the proposed communication tower, there will be insufficient communication between facilities.

As discussed previously in Section 4.14 of this document, the proposed project will not cause in an increase of population, and in addition will not require the permanent or temporary use of any public facility. As a result, it is not anticipated that the proposed project will increase the need for additional public services, require additional maintenance of existing facilities, or the relocation of facilities to a new location as a result of the proposed project implementation.

#### Fire Protection

Modesto Fire Department provides fire service for the City of Oakdale. The nearest fire station, Station #27, is located approximately 3 miles north from the proposed project.

#### Police Protection

Police services for the project area are primarily provided by the Oakdale Police Department. The nearest police department is located approximately 3 miles away at 245 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave in Oakdale.

#### Schools

**Parks**

Parks and other recreational opportunities within the vicinity of the project area are maintained by the City of Oakdale’s Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department. Currently the City of Oakdale has over 16 parks for its residents. The Red Park is the nearest public park located 2.4 miles north of the proposed project at 1700 block, Greger St.

**DISCUSSION**

a) **Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:**

- i. **Fire protection?**
- ii. **Police protection?**
- iii. **Schools?**
- iv. **Parks?**
- v. **Other public facilities?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project is expected to result in no change to existing levels of demand for public services or facilities.

**4.16 RECREATION**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SETTING**

The proposed project is in an area characterized by agricultural parcels outside the City of Oakdale. The proposed project will not increase the population in the area as a result of the proposed project implementation or cause adverse impacts to public facilities. In addition, no recreational facilities exist in the proposed project area. Finally, construction and operation of the proposed project is not anticipated create nor create the need for recreational facilities through direct or indirect means.

**DISCUSSION**

**a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project will not result in a significant increase in population to the area. As a result, the proposed project will not cause an increase to the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, and no impact will occur.

**b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project does not include any recreational facilities, nor will it require the construction/expansion of such. Therefore, no impact will occur.

**4.17 TRANSPORTATION**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## SETTING

### Roadways

The area road system generally consists of two-lane roadways, the capacity of which is governed by varying factors such as alignment, shoulder, and travel way width, passing sight distances, and the percentage of trucks, agricultural equipment, and/or recreational vehicles using the routes. All roads adjacent to the proposed project are classified as undivided two-lane collector streets.

### Railways

The nearest railway is the Sierra Northern Railway, located approximately 2.4 miles north of the project area.

### Bikeways

Bikeways are divided into three classes, defined by Caltrans in the Highway Design Manual as follows:

- Class I: Path physically divided from, and independent of, a roadway with its own right-of way (generally eight feet for two-way travel).
- Class II: Areas marked by a striped lane on a roadway designated primarily for bicycle use, although vehicle parking and vehicle and pedestrian cross flow are permitted.
- Class III: Bike routes marked only with signs, where bicycles share the road with pedestrians and vehicles.

## DISCUSSION

a) **Conflict with an a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project will not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, as none exist. Therefore, no impact will occur.

b) **Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?**

*No Impact*

No applicable congestion management program exists for the proposed project. Construction of TID's proposed project will result in a minor, temporary increase in traffic due to construction vehicles.

c) **Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project will not alter the current design of the transportation/traffic infrastructure and will not create or cause the need for additional land uses. Thus, no impact is expected to occur as a result of project implementation.

d) **Result in inadequate emergency access?**

*No Impact*

No impact to emergency services will occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

**4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources. Code Section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				

**SETTING**

**DISCUSSION**

- b) a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
- i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources. Code Section 5020.1(k), or



- ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

No Impact

#### 4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## SETTING

### Water Supply

Domestic water in the region is supplied by groundwater wells. TID provides groundwater to the project area through an onsite well.

### Wastewater

The Oakdale Wastewater Treatment Plant is located 5 miles north from the proposed project. The facility provides tertiary treatment of wastewater from the City of Oakdale.

### Solid Waste

TID contracts with local recyclers will apply for solid waste (excavation material) removal at the project site.

### Electrical Services

The proposed project is located within Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) electric service area, and Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) water service area.

## Existing Utility Locations

### Overhead Utilities

### Underground Utilities

## DISCUSSION

- a) **Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

*No Impact*

- b) **Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?**

*Less than Significant*

- c) **Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?**

*No Impact*

As mentioned above, the proposed project will not discharge wastewater during construction or maintenance, as such no wastewater treatment will be needed, and no impact will occur.

**d) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project’s solid waste disposal needs?**

*Less than Significant*

**e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

*No Impact*

TID plans to comply with all federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid wastes generated as a result of the project. No anticipated impact is expected to occur as a result of project implementation.

**4.20 WILDFIRE**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## SETTING

Modesto Fire Department provides fire service for the City of Oakdale. The nearest fire station, Station #27, is located approximately 3 miles north from the proposed project. The Project site is located within a Local Responsibility Area and Stanislaus County is responsible for fire suppression in the Project area. The proposed Project site is located in an Unzoned Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2007).

### Discussion

a) **Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

*Less Than Significant*

The proposed project site is adjacent to irrigated agriculture lands, and there is no vegetation within the project area, resulting in a low potential for wildland fires. The proposed project would not impair emergency roadway access, and it is not expected to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

b) **Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?**

*Less Than Significant*

The proposed project site is flat and is entirely covered with gravel. There is no vegetation within the project boundary. The proposed project would not exacerbate wildfire risk that would expose on-site personnel to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

c) **Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?**

*Less Than Significant*

The proposed project would involve the installation of a 130-foot communication tower within the switchyard facility. Wildfire potential in the area is low due to the irrigated agricultural land, and the minimal installation and maintenance of the communication tower is not expected to exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

d) **Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?**

*No Impact*

The proposed project area is flat with little runoff and is not located in an area within a flood zone. There are minimal characteristics that would represent potential for landslides because of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

## 4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### DISCUSSION

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

*No Impact*

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

*No Impact*

- c) **Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?**

*No Impact*



## 5.0 References

- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJAPCD). 2009. Climate Change Action Plan.
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- California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2008. Climate Change Scoping Plan, a Framework for Change. Sacramento, CA.
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## 6.0 Tables

**Table 4.3.1 STATE AND NATIONAL CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANT STANDARDS AND POTENTIAL SOURCES**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standard	National Primary Standard	Major Pollutant Sources
O <sub>3</sub>	1 hour	0.09 ppm	.*	On-road motor vehicles, other mobile sources, solvent extraction, combustion, industrial and commercial processes.
	8 hour	0.07 ppm	0.07 ppm	
CO	1 hour	20 ppm	35 ppm	Internal combustion engines, primarily gasoline-powered motor vehicles.
	8 hour	9.0 ppm	9.0 ppm	
NO <sub>2</sub>	1 hour	0.18 ppm	0.100 ppm	Motor vehicles, petroleum refining operations, industrial sources, aircraft, ships, and railroads.
	Annual Average	0.03 ppm	0.053 ppm	
PM <sub>10</sub>	24 hour	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Dust- and fume-producing industrial and agricultural operations, combustion, atmospheric photochemical reactions, and natural activities (e.g., wind-raised dust and ocean sprays).
	Annual Average	20 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	-	
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	24 hour	-	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Fuel combustion in motor vehicles, equipment and industrial sources; residential and agricultural burning. Also formed from photochemical reactions of other pollutants, including NO <sub>x</sub> , sulfur oxides, and organics.
	Annual Average	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	

Note: ppm=parts per million; and µg/m<sup>3</sup>=micrograms per cubic meter

\*The Federal One Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard was revoked on June 15, 2005.

Source: California Air Resources Board, available at [www.arb.ca.gov/research/aaqs/aaqs2.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/aaqs/aaqs2.pdf)

**Table 4.3.2** AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA, 2017-2019

Pollutant	Modesto-14th Street Monitoring Site Pollutant Concentration by Year			Turlock-S Minaret Street Monitoring Site Pollutant Concentration by Year		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
<b>O<sub>3</sub><sup>a</sup></b>						
<u>Highest 1-hour average, ppm<sup>b</sup></u>	<b>0.111</b>	<b>0.103</b>	<b>0.102</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>0.108</b>	<b>0.090</b>
Days over State Standard	3	2	1	3	7	0
Days over Federal Standard <sup>c</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Highest 8-hour average, ppm<sup>b</sup></u>	<b>0.098</b>	<b>0.091</b>	<b>0.083</b>	<b>0.100</b>	<b>0.096</b>	<b>0.083</b>
Days over State Standard	23	14	9	31	28	13
Days over National 0.070 Standard	21	13	8	31	26	13
<b>CO<sup>a</sup></b>						
<u>Highest 8-hour average, ppm<sup>c</sup></u>	NO SAMPLE DATA			NO SAMPLE DATA		
Days over State Standard						
Days over National Standard						
<b>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>a</sup></b>						
<u>Highest 1-hour average ppb<sup>c</sup></u>	NO SAMPLE DATA			NO SAMPLE DATA		
Days over State Standard						
Days over National Standard						
<u>Annual average, ppb<sup>b</sup></u>						
<b>PM<sub>10</sub><sup>a</sup></b>						
<u>Highest 24-hour average, µg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>d</sup></u>	<b>129.3</b>	<b>224.9</b>	<b>309.1</b>	<b>111.7</b>	<b>238.7</b>	<b>95.9</b>
Days over State Standard	58.2	N/A	N/A	91.8	79.6	60.5
Days over National Standard	0	4.3	1.1	0	6.1	0
<u>Annual average, µg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>b</sup></u>	<b>31.4</b>	32.1	<b>27.8</b>	<b>36.4</b>	36.8	<b>30.1</b>
<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub><sup>a</sup></b>						
<u>Highest 24-hour average, µg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>c</sup></u>	74.5	189.8	34.4	72.3	187.3	40.7
Days over National Standard	25.1	21.5	0	29.2	25.7	8.3
<u>Annual average, µg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>b</sup></u>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>15.2</b>	7.7	<b>12.7</b>	<b>17.2</b>	10.6

NOTE: **Bold** values are in excess of applicable state standard; *Italicized* values are in excess of applicable federal standards; Exceedance is not necessarily a violation of standards; NA = Not Applicable or Not Available.

<sup>a</sup> Data were collected at the Modesto-14<sup>th</sup> Street and Turlock-S Minaret Street Stations approximately 12 miles north and 2 miles southeast, respectively, of the proposed project

<sup>b</sup> ppm = parts per million; µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter; ppb = parts per billion

<sup>c</sup> Federal One Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard was revoked on June 15, 2005.

<sup>d</sup> Federal Annual PM<sub>10</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standard was revoked on December 17, 2006.

SOURCE: CARB, *Summary of Air Quality Data, Gaseous and Particulate Pollutants*, 2017, 2018, and 2019 data; www.arb.ca.gov/adam

**Table 4.3.3 PROPOSED PROJECT AREA ATTAINMENT STATUS**

Pollutant	Designation/Classification	
	Federal Standards*	State Standards*
Ozone— One Hour	No Federal Standard**	Nonattainment
Ozone— Eight Hour	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
PM <sub>10</sub>	Attainment	Nonattainment
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Unclassified	Attainment
Lead (Particulate)	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Visibility-Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified

\*State area designations current as of 2019 based monitoring data, Federal designations current as of 2018.

\*\*The Federal One Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard was revoked on June 15, 2005.

Source: CARB, [www.arb.ca.gov/degis/adm/adm.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/degis/adm/adm.htm)

represent air quality based on 2018-2019 monitoring data

A pollutant is designated unclassified if the data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or nonattainment.

**Table 4.12.1 STANISLAUS COUNTY NOISE LIMITS**

	Daytime 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Nighttime 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
Hourly L <sub>eq</sub> , dBA	55	45
Maximum level, dBA	75	65

Source: Stanislaus County, Stanislaus County General Plan, Noise Element 2015.

A: As determined at the property line of the receiving land use. When determining the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures, the standards may be applied on the receptor side of noise barriers or other property line noise mitigation measures.

Notes: Each of the noise level standards specified above shall be reduced by five dBA for pure tone noises, noiseconsisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. The standards in the table should be applied at a residential or other noise-sensitive land use and not on the property of a noise-generating land use. Where measured ambient noise levels exceed the standards, the standards shall be increased to the ambient levels.

## 7.0 Appendices