

Negative Declaration

Turlock Irrigation District

Oakdale Switchyard Communication Tower Project

Lead Agency:
TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
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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 site is located two miles south of the City of Oakdale on Patterson Rd. in Stanislaus County. Currently, the existing tower signal is compromised by deciduous trees between two remote TID facilities. To prevent eventual signal loss, 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 this Initial Study (IS)/Negative Declaration (ND), 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 water and electricity. 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].

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(Signature)

8/24/2021

(Date)