

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

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

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Old Deer Creek Water Bank Project

Lead Agency: Saucelito Irrigation District

Contact Name: Nick Keller, Interim General Manager

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Project Location: Tulare County
City *County*

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

Please see attached project description.

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

Please see attached MMRP

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

No known areas of controversy.

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

No known responsible or trustee agencies for the project

Project Description

The Project proposes development of up to 50 acres of recharge basins and associated facilities. The recharge facilities will be operated in compliance with the SID *“Policy Principles for Saucelito Irrigation District Groundwater Banking Program”* (adopted on June 14, 2018, Banking Policy). The facilities will be designed, constructed, operated, and monitored in accordance with a water banking agreement between Capinero and SID (Capinero – SID Banking Agreement) as required by the Banking Policy (Project). In addition, the Project will be operated in compliance with the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETGSA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), submitted to the Department of Water Resources in January 2020, and the ETGSA Land Subsidence and Management Plan (“Subsidence Plan”), currently in draft form, once adopted. The Project will not include recovery wells and will be constructed in monitored phases to ensure that significant unacceptable water quality and water level impacts do not occur.

The Project is located in Tulare County, California, approximately 220 miles southeast of Sacramento and 45 miles northwest of Bakersfield.

PHASE I CONSTRUCTION

Phase I will entail construction of a 10-acre recharge basin at the farthest southwest corner of the Project property. Water will be delivered to the property using an existing SID turnout and then conveyed to the recharge basin through a new pipeline. Phase I activities will include the following:

- Removal of approximately 10 acres of walnut trees on the southwest corner of the property;
- Construction of a 10-acre recharge basin;
- Up to a 12-inch diameter, 2,200-foot-long temporary pipeline will be constructed to supply water to the basin. The pipeline will tie into the existing SID A-0.01N-1.01 turnout; and
- Construction of nine monitoring wells to supplement the existing monitoring system.

PHASE II CONSTRUCTION

Phase II will be constructed if the Monitoring Committee concludes that Phase I operations have not caused significant unacceptable impacts, to groundwater levels or quality, as detailed in [Section Error! Reference source not found.](#) The recharge capacity of this phase will exceed that of the existing SID turnout and thus Phase II will include construction of a larger diameter pipeline from District Lateral A-0.01N. Phase II activities will include the following:

- Removal of up to 20 acres of walnut trees due east of Phase I;
- Construction of up to 20 acres of recharge basins, supplementing Phase I to provide up to 30 acres of basins. The basins will be graded so that Phase I and the western Phase II basins fill first; and
- Construction of a pipeline to convey water to the Project, as described below.

Four pipeline alignment options have been analyzed to convey water to the Project. It is unknown at this time which alignment will be selected. Under all scenarios, the pump station at Avenue 120 and Road 208 may need to be upsized.

- Alignment Option 1: Up to a 48-inch diameter pipeline will be constructed along the west side of Road 208, parallel to existing District Lateral A-0.01N on the east side of Road 208. The new pipeline will cross APNs: 302-410-011, 302-410-012, 302-430-008, 302-430-010, 302-430-011.
- Alignment Option 2 (preferred option): Existing District Lateral A-0.01N along the east side of Road 208 will be replaced by a 15-inch to 24-inch diameter pipeline.
- Alignment Option 3: Up to a 48-inch diameter pipeline will be constructed through APNs: 302-410-011-000, 302-410-012-000, and 302-430-008-000.
- Alignment Option 4 (least preferred option): This alignment is the farthest west from Road 208. Up to a 48-inch diameter pipeline will be constructed through the APNs: 302-410-011-000, 302-410-012-000, and 302-430-008-000.

Construction of Phase II facilities is expected to be completed within 12 months of Monitoring Committee conclusion that Phase I operations did not cause significant unacceptable impacts to groundwater levels or quality.

PHASE III CONSTRUCTION

Phase III will be constructed if the Monitoring Committee concludes that Phase II operations have not caused significant unacceptable impacts, to groundwater levels or quality. Phase III activities will include the following:

- Removal of up to 20-acres of walnut trees due east of Phase II; and
- Construction of up to 20-acres of recharge basins, supplementing Phases I and II to provide up to 50 acres of basins. The basins will be graded so that Phase I and the Phase II basins fill first;

Construction of Phase III facilities is expected to be completed within 12 months of Monitoring Committee conclusion that Phase II operations did not cause significant unacceptable impacts to groundwater levels or quality.

OPTIONAL DRY WELL INSTALLATION

As detailed in future sections, there is a concern that Project recharge water could perch on fine grained layers and that this perched water might migrate beneath the Landfill. If Project monitoring, indicates that unacceptable mounding is occurring, Capinero may elect to install dry wells within the Project recharge basins to drain perched water down to the upper unconfined aquifer. Dry wells will likely consist of 18-inch diameter casing with perforations extending from above the perching layer to below the perching layer (likely screened from 15 to 40 and 55 to 80 feet below the land surface). These wells will be permitted and completed in accordance with Tulare County Environmental Health Division requirements.

Recharge Operations

It is anticipated that the Project will primarily bank Friant water. It is possible that the Project might bank water from other systems, but separate approvals will be required. As required by the Banking Policy, 10% to 30% of the recharged water will be allocated to SID's storage account. All phases of the Project will convey and bank water from the FKC through SID's turnout from the FKC through the existing pump station and be pumped through the new (or improved) pipeline facility to the recharge basin site. In all cases the Capinero's ability to divert and convey water will be contingent on approval from SID to ensure that Capinero's operations do not impair District operations and comply with District policies, rules and regulations.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Biological Resources					
BIO-1 (Avoidance):					
The Project's construction activities shall occur, if feasible, between September 16 and January 31 (outside of nesting bird season) in an effort to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	Prior to the start of construction	Once, prior to construction	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		
BIO-2 (Pre-construction Surveys Nesting Birds):					
If activities must occur within nesting bird season (February 1 to September 15), a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds within 10 days prior to the start of construction. The survey shall include the proposed work area and surrounding lands within 50 feet. All raptor nests will be considered "active" upon the nest-building stage.	If construction activities and/or vegetation removal must occur between February 1 and August 31, then within 10 days prior to the start of work	February 1-September 15	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		
BIO-3 (Establish Buffers):					
On discovery of any active nests near work areas, the biologist shall determine appropriate construction setback distances based on applicable CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines and/or the biology of the species in question. Construction buffers shall be identified with flagging, fencing, or other easily visible means, and shall be maintained until the biologist has determined that the nestlings have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest.	Prior to the start of construction .	February 1-September 15	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		
BIO-4 (Pre-construction Survey San Joaquin Kit Fox):					
Within 30 days prior to the start of construction, a pre-construction survey for San Joaquin kit fox shall be conducted on and within 200 feet of proposed work areas. If an active kit fox den is detected within or adjacent to the Project area, construction will be delayed, and CDFW and USFWS shall be consulted to determine the best course of action.	Within 30 days prior to the start of construction, a pre-construction survey for San Joaquin kit fox shall be conducted on and within 200 feet of proposed work areas	Daily during construction or ground disturbing activities.	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		
BIO-5 (Minimization):					
The Project shall observe all minimization and protective measures from the Construction and On-Going Operational Requirements of the USFWS 2011 Standardized Recommendations, including, but not limited to: construction speed limits, covering of pipes, installation of escape structures, restriction of herbicide and	During construction	Continuously	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
rodenticide use, proper disposal of food items and trash, prohibition of pets and firearms, and completion of an employee education program.					
BIO-6 (Mortality Reporting):					
The Sacramento Field Office of USFWS and the Fresno Field Office of CDFW will be notified in writing within three working days in the case of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during construction. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident and any other pertinent information.	In the event of mortality	Upon occurrence	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		
BIO-7 (Operational Hours):					
Construction activities shall be limited to daylight hours to reduce potential impacts to special status bats that could be foraging onsite.	During Construction Activities	During Construction Activities	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		
BIO-8 (Pre-Construction Bat Survey):					
Prior to removal or trimming of any trees, a pre-construction survey for bats will be conducted at dusk no more than 7 days before scheduled vegetation removal by a qualified biologist. A focused study in accordance with CDFW guidelines will be conducted should bats be detected in the trees marked for removal. If no bats are detected, no further actions are required.	Prior to removal or trimming of any trees	No more than 7 days before scheduled vegetation removal	SID with the assistance of a qualified biologist		
Cultural Resources					
CUL-1 (Archaeological Resources):					
In the event that archaeological resources are encountered at any time during construction, development or any ground-moving activities within the entire project area, all work in the vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery. The District shall implement all recommendations of the archaeologist necessary to avoid or reduce to a less than significant level potential impacts to cultural resource. Appropriate actions could include a Data Recovery Plan or preservation in place.	During ground disturbing activities and in the event potential archaeological artifacts or resources are uncovered	Daily during ground disturbing activities	SID with assistance of a qualified cultural subconsultant		
CUL-2 (Human Remains):					
If human remains are uncovered, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the Tulare County Coroner is to be notified to arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified—on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits—as those of a Native American origin, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resource Code 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) who will determine the manner in which the remains are treated.	During ground disturbing activities and in the event human remains are uncovered	Daily during ground disturbing activities	SID with assistance of a qualified cultural subconsultant		

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Hazards					
HAZ-1:					
Project operations shall not commence until a Monitoring Committee has been created. Capinero may be required to cease operation of the Project banking facility by the Monitoring Committee if it is determined that water being banked at the Project site is contributing to or causing water quality issues in the surrounding area.			SID		