

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:
H Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address:
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814
S County Clerk
County of: Tulare
Address: 221 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93291

From:
Public Agency: Saucelito Irrigation District
Address: 20712 Avenue 120
Porterville, CA 93257
Contact: Nick Keller, Acting General Manager
Phone: (559) 784-1208
FILED
TULARE COUNTY
Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address: same DEC 10 2021
Contact: ASRFSSQR/CLERK RECORDER
Phone: BY:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2021 110003

Project Title: Old Deer Creek Water Bank Project

Project Applicant: Capinero Creek, LLC

Project Location (include county):

Project Description: Avenue 120 & Road 208, Tulare County

Please see attached Project Description.

This is to advise that the Saucelito Irrigation District has approved the above (S Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on 12/09/2021 (date) has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Saucelito Irrigation District, 20712 Avenue Porterville, CA 93257

Signature (Public Agency): [Signature] We/ Title: Acting General Manager

Date: 12/10/2021 Date Received for filing at OPR:

## Project Description

### Project Location

The Project is located in Tulare County, California, approximately 220 miles southeast of Sacramento and 45 miles northwest of Bakersfield. The proposed site of the Old Deer Creek Water Bank Project is located approximately six miles southwest of the City of Porterville on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 302-020-013.

Additionally, the Project will lay pipeline extending south from the recharge basins crossing various APNs in one of the four following alignment options:

Alignment Option 1 – 302-410-011, 302-410-012, 302-430-008, 302-430-010, 302-430-011

Alignment Option 2 – 302-130-001

Alignment Option 3 – 302-410-011, 302-410-012, 302-430-008

Alignment Option 4 – 302-410-016, 302-410-010, 302-430-001

### Project Summary

The Project proposes to develop and operate up to 50 acres of recharge basins for banking and associated facilities. The Project site is currently walnuts and will be cleared and developed in three phases with a pipeline going north to south for a distance of approximately one mile, connecting to an existing District mainline along Avenue 120. 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 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.

As detailed in Chapter 2 of the Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), 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. 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.

### Recovery Operations

The Project will not include construction of recovery wells. There will also be no recovered water returned to the FKC. All banked water recovery will take place through in-ground transfers, as described in Chapter 2 of the IS/MND.

### Monitoring and Operational Constraint Plan (MOCP)

The Project will be designed, operated, and monitored in a manner to ensure that the beneficial effects of the Project are maximized while preventing significant unacceptable impacts to the aquifer, groundwater levels, groundwater quality, the FKC, or adjacent landowners relative to conditions that would have occurred absent the Project. A Monitoring Committee will be formed to ensure that district interests, adjacent landowners and FKC interests are protected. A full description of the MOCP can be found in Chapter 2 of the IS/MND.

### Ground Water Monitoring

Ground water monitoring will involve water level monitoring, baseline water quality sampling, monitoring of each phase of basin construction and operation, annual monitoring, and water accounting and monitoring. Full discussion of each of these monitoring steps can be found in Chapter 2 of the IS/MND.