

## Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

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 #: 2021100580

Project Title: Big Sandy Rancheria Wastewater System Improvements

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board

Lead Agency Contact: Brian Cary

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Project Location: Big Sandy Rancheria, one mile east of Auberry in Fresno County

Project County: Fresno County

**Project Description:** The project involves the construction and operation of a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and associated wastewater collection system within the Big Sandy Rancheria. The project site consists of the area in which the following components would be located: the proposed WWTP site; proposed wastewater collection pipelines and two lift stations that would accommodate 57 service connections; abandonment of 56 existing septic systems; and electrical improvements to facilitate the new components.

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

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration identified potential impacts to the following resource areas:

- **Agriculture and Forestry:** Interior live oak woodland community is present at the project site and approximately 50 oak trees would be removed.
  - Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-3: Minimizing disturbance around oak driplines to the maximum extent possible. A qualified arborist or biologist will provide recommendations to avoid or minimize damage to the root systems during construction for oak trees within a 50-foot radius of the Biological Study Area (BSA). An oak planting and monitoring plan will be implemented to replace oak trees removed within the BSA.
- **Air Quality:** There is a potential for a short-term net increase of criteria pollutants for which the project region is in nonattainment.
  - MM AIR-1: Implementing dust emission controls using water, chemical stabilizers and ground covers will be required to minimize construction emissions to less than significant levels.
- **Biological Resources:** There is potential impact on special-status wildlife and plant species. This includes the monarch butterfly species that relies on milkweed species as a larval host plant, a plant present in the BSA. Also, nesting birds have potential to occur in the BSA and may be impacted by vegetation removal. Additionally, temporary water impacts to aquatic resources are expected due to trenching of ephemeral drainages for sewer pipe installation.
  - MM BIO-1: Pre-construction surveys will be conducted prior to any work to evaluate bird nesting activity and monarch butterfly breeding activity. Monarch butterfly surveys will be conducted only if the species is listed as federally endangered at the time construction activities begin.
  - MM BIO-2: Initial grading and vegetation removal activities will be limited to the non-nesting season. Any construction occurring during the nesting season requires pre-construction nesting surveys and avoiding disturbance to nesting activities.
  - MM BIO-3: See description above.
  - MM BIO-4: Best management practices and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be followed to

minimize the effects to aquatic resources. All temporarily disturbed aquatic resources shall be restored to pre-construction contours.

- Cultural Resources: Potential historical resources were identified in the project area and will be identified as environmentally sensitive areas.
  - MM CUL-1: Fencing shall be installed around these sensitive areas prior to the start of construction. Work within 50 feet of the fenced area will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and representative of the Big Sandy Rancheria.
  - MM CUL-2: Vegetation clearing and staking activities in archaeologically sensitive areas will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and representative of the Big Sandy Rancheria.
  - MM CUL-3: If deposits of pre-contact or historic-period archaeological materials are found, all work within 50 feet of the discovery shall be redirected and protective fencing shall be installed.
  - MM CUL-4: If any human remains are discovered onsite, the County Coroner must be identified immediately, and no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has determined origin and disposition. If the remains are found to be Native American, the Big Sandy Rancheria will determine the appropriate treatment of remains found on tribal lands.
- Geology and Soils: The project's grading activities could result in short-term soil erosion during the construction period.
  - MM GEO-1: The potential for soil erosion will be reduced through an Erosion Control Plan in conformance with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. After construction, any unpaved slopes steeper than 20 percent shall be hydroseeded and/or planted with shallow rooted groundcover to reduce risk of erosion.
  - MM GEO-2: If any paleontological resources are found during construction, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet shall be redirected and a qualified paleontologist shall provide recommendations for treatment of the discovery.
- Hydrology and Water Quality: There are potential impacts to water quality standards, discharge requirements, and surface and groundwater quality without mitigation.
  - Mitigation: Required compliance of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Best Management Practices to reduce the discharge of construction-related stormwater pollutants.
  - MM GEO-1: See description above.
- Noise: There is potential for construction to cause a temporary increase in ambient noise levels.
  - MM NOI-1: Required measures for the project contractor to minimize construction-related noise impact on noise-sensitive receptors.
- Tribal Cultural Resources: Potential historical resources were identified in the project area and will be identified as environmentally sensitive areas.
  - See CUL-1 through CUL-4 above.

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

N/A.

**Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project:**

N/A.