

**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

<b>SCH #</b>
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**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lead Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Location:** County: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Nearest Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cross Streets: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N / \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" W Total Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assessor's Parcel No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Waterways: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Airports: \_\_\_\_\_ Railways: \_\_\_\_\_ Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

**Document Type:**

CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR	NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI	Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR	<input type="checkbox"/> EA	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec	(Prior SCH No.) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FONSI	_____

**Local Action Type:**

<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Rezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Annexation
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Prezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Development Type:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____	

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater
<input type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading	<input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

**Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

**Reviewing Agencies Checklist**

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

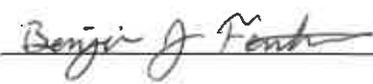
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of               | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency           | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>10</u>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>5</u>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy               | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission                               | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board                             | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of                       | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission                      | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of                         | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>4</u>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of                | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development                  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission   |  |

**Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)**

Starting Date January 28, 2022 Ending Date February 28, 2022

**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: <u>Provost &amp; Pritchard Consulting Group</u>	Applicant: <u>Central California Irrigation District</u>
Address: <u>400 E. Main Street, Suite 300</u>	Address: <u>1335 West I Street</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Visalia, CA 93291</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Los Banos, CA 93635</u>
Contact: <u>Amy Wilson</u>	Phone: <u>(209) 826-1421</u>
Phone: <u>(559) 636-1166</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 1/26/22

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

# Project Title

Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Expansion Project (Project)

## Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action/Project Objectives

The State of California is currently experiencing unprecedented water management challenges due to severe drought in recent years. Both the State and Federal water projects are forecasting very low storage conditions in all major reservoirs. In addition, south of Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors frequently experience reduced water supply allocations due to hydrologic conditions and/or regulatory requirements.

During dry periods, when surface water supplies are scarce, growers rely on groundwater or other sources of supply to meet their irrigation needs. Excessive groundwater pumping strains aquifers that are already in a state of overdraft, dropping the water level in some wells substantially and causing other wells to go dry. Additional constraints under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) (GSP) that apply to CCID and DPWD may limit the amount of groundwater pumping available, further reducing water supplies when they are most needed. As such, water purveyors, such as CCID and DPWD, need to find alternative sources of water to fulfill existing demands to stave off substantial impacts to crop production, the regional economy, loss of jobs, disadvantaged communities, etc. The purpose of the Proposed Action/Project is to provide a long-term solution to support regional agricultural operations by using excess storm and floodwaters with the objective to recharge groundwater supplies for future extraction with a 10% leave behind that would also help to prevent subsidence and reduce groundwater basin overdraft.

## Proposed Action/Project

Under the Proposed Action/Project Reclamation would issue a land use authorization to CCID for the installation, operation, and maintenance of facilities on Reclamation land as described in more detail below. In addition, CCID and DPWD propose to construct various infrastructure and recharge ponds that would expand the previously constructed Pilot Project.

The Proposed Action/Project includes five main components: (1) Securing a temporary and permanent water rights from Orestimba Creek, (2) Constructing diversion facilities and pipelines between Orestimba Creek, the DMC, and the recharge ponds, (3) Constructing recharge ponds (4) Developing recovery wells and associated pipelines, and (5) Conducting geotechnical and soil investigations to help determine the final design and delineate aquatic resources. In addition to the main components, staging areas for loading, unloading, and temporary storage of equipment and materials would be delineated within the work area boundaries. Maintenance would be done semi-annually. Maintenance activities include the removal of sediment, vegetation, and other materials to improve percolation capacity.

## Sources of Recharged Water

### Central California Irrigation District.

CCID in conjunction with the other members of the Exchange Contractors, would generate up to 16,500 AFY for recharge when supplies are available. The 16,500 AFY is comprised of existing water rights and the potential Water Right being pursued as part of the Proposed Action/Project. Supplies would consist of a combination of water from various sources such as conserved water, storm water and flood flows from adjoining watersheds for placement in the recharge ponds. The conserved water would be generated pursuant to the "Water Transfer Program for the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, 2014 – 2038", approved by Reclamation in a Record of Decision dated July 30, 2013. In addition, diversion of up to 35 cfs of Orestimba Creek storm flows is a potential source of water to be captured and delivered into the recharge ponds, as well as flood flows (through exchange via the DMC) from both the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers. The Proposed Action/Project is sized for recovery in two dry years and recharge in one wet year per 10 years. CCID may have 8 years of recharge to

develop the account to draw from in the two dry years. However, the Project design is based on one wet year per 10 years to achieve storage sufficient for recovery in two dry years.

#### Del Puerto Water District.

The DPWD is under contract with Reclamation for its water supply, which is delivered from the DMC, a feature of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The contract provides for the delivery of up to 140,210 AFY. DPWD will develop and provide up to 16,500 AFY for recharge when supplies are available. The 16,500 AFY will be made available from its contract supplies and will be generated through DPWD's use of various conservation and water resources projects to make the project water available in certain year types. These include DPWD's water conservation program, DPWD's program to generate water for its own use and for use by the local refuges through several existing contracts with Reclamation to develop CVPIA Level 2 (L2) supplies (GWD Exchange/Volta Wells Exchange and the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWP)), as well as the use of non-CVP supplies developed under the terms and conditions of various Warren Act contracts. The DPWD also has several existing contracts with Reclamation which support the development of Incremental Level 4 (IL4) Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) water supplies for Reclamation's Refuge Water Supply Program in exchange for the delivery of CVPIA Level 2 (L2) supplies for DPWD's use (NVRWP/GWD Exchange/Volta Wells Exchange), as well as access to non-CVP supplies developed under the terms and conditions of various Warren Act contracts. These sources, as well as the use delivery of Section 215 water directly to the Proposed Action/Project when made available by Reclamation, would allow DPWD to generate up to 16,500 AFY of supply. Additionally, diversion of up to 35 cfs of Orestimba Creek storm flows is a potential source of water to be recharged in the Proposed Action/Project. It is assumed that there would be two dry years and one wet year per recharge and recovery cycle.