

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WOODVILLE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

**COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF TULARE**

The project hereafter described will, in our evaluation, have no significant effect on the environment provided the impact mitigation measures discussed below are implemented and does not, therefore, require the filing of an Environmental Impact Report.

Board of Directors
Woodville Public Utility District

By: *Andrew Castaneda*

Dated: *4-5-2022*

Project Location:

Northeast corner of Road 164 and Avenue 164 (extension). A portion of Section 19, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, Tulare County, California.

Brief description of project:

The proposed Well Replacement Project (Project) calls for the drilling, casing and development of a permanent well, for the well to be equipped with a water lubricated pump, electric motor and chlorine disinfection system and a hydropneumatic tank fabricated and installed for pressure control purposes. On-site improvements are proposed to include fencing and site surfacing. The well installation is proposed to be furnished with a standby generator to address power service during serving utility outage conditions.

The well is to be constructed on an easement dedicated to the District. Transmission pipelines are proposed to be constructed to connect the completed production well to the existing water distribution system. Other off-site improvements are to include provision of serving utility electrical power to the well site and an access road from the well site to a public road. Easements and permits are required to be obtained to accommodate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of off-site improvements.

Reason(s) for Mitigated Negative Declaration finding:

The Project will result in no adverse long-term environmental impacts and will assist in the District's effort to provide water service at a reasonable cost. Short-term construction related potential impacts will be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level by use of construction specifications requiring proper and defined mitigation measures.

Monitoring/avoidance measures:

Though no sensitive species were observed during the biological reconnaissance field survey conducted on September 10, 2019, a pre-construction survey is to be conducted prior to any ground disturbing activities to ensure that no sensitive species, such as ground nesting birds, have moved onto the site and could be potentially impacted and to further monitor for the occurrence of these species on the Project site. A Monitoring and Reporting Program has been developed for the Project and contains the details of the oversight structure adopted for the Project.

Initial study prepared by:

Dennis R. Keller, Consulting Engineer
Keller/Wegley Engineering

Initial study available at:

Woodville Public Utility District
16716 Avenue 168
Woodville, CA 93274

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

WELL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WOODVILLE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Well Replacement Project (Project) of the Woodville Public Utility District (District) calls for the drilling, casing and development of a permanent well, for the well to be equipped with a water lubricated pump, electric motor and chlorine disinfection system and a hydropneumatic tank fabricated and installed for pressure control purposes. On-site improvements are proposed to include fencing and site surfacing. The well installation is proposed to be furnished with a standby generator to address power service during serving utility outage conditions.

The well is to be constructed on a dedicated easement to the District. Transmission pipelines are proposed to be constructed to connect the completed production well to the existing water distribution system. Other off-site improvements are to include provision of serving utility electrical power to the well site and an access road from the well site to a public road. Easements and permits are required to be obtained to accommodate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of off-site improvements.

NESTING BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS

Nesting birds, their eggs and their nests could potentially inhabit fields, field edges and adjacent lands and could be negatively impacted by construction of the Project unless preventive measures are incorporated into the Project design. No nesting birds or nests were observed on the Project site during the reconnaissance survey, however, the survey was conducted outside of the nesting period.

To protect and preserve nesting birds and their nests, to avoid any impacts to them and their nests and to meet California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requirements, the following impact avoidance preventive measures are incorporated into the Project:

- NB #1. Prior to any construction activities on the Project site, in the February thru August period, a preconstruction (one-day) survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for nesting birds on the Project site. Results of the

preconstruction survey shall be prepared and transmitted to the District prior to initiation of any construction activities; and

- NB #2. If any active nests are observed, the nests shall be designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area and protected (while occupied) during construction activities. The CDFW shall be contacted, consulted and avoidance measures, specific to each incident, shall be developed in cooperation with the Project biologist.