

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

SCH #

Project Title: Le Grand-Athlone Water District Merced Irrigation District Canal Intertie Project

Lead Agency: Le Grand-Athlone Water District Contact Person: Phil Janzen
 Mailing Address: 216 Robertson Boulevard Phone: (559) 665-7070
 City: Chowchilla Zip: 93610 County: Merced

Project Location: County: Merced City/Nearest Community: Planada

Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37 ° 31'54" N / 120 ° 30'38" W Total Acres: 320

Assessor's Parcel No.: See attached Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: MDMB

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 99 Waterways: Deadman, Dutchman, Little Deadman, Mariposa, Owens Creeks

Airports: Not applicable Railways: Santa Fe Railroad Schools: Le Grand Elementary

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>TCR</u> |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

See attached Project Description

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

See attached Project Description.

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 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>6</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 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 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: <u>SJVAPCD</u>
<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 May 3, 2022 Ending Date June 3, 2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group</u>	Applicant: <u>Le-Grand-Athlone Water District</u>
Address: <u>1800 30th Street, Suite 280</u>	Address: <u>216 Robertson Boulevard</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Bakersfield, CA 93301</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Chowchilla, CA 93610</u>
Contact: <u>Dena Giacomini, Environmental Project Manager</u>	Phone: <u>(559) 665-7070</u>
Phone: <u>(661) 616-5900</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Brad Samuelson Digitally signed by Brad Samuelson
Date: 2022.05.03 09:29:17 -0700 Date: 5/3/2022

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

Project Location

The Le Grand-Athlone Water District (LGAWD or District) plans to construct the Le Grand-Athlone Water District Merced Irrigation District Canal Intertie Project (Project). The proposed Project is located within Merced County, California, approximately 110 miles southeast of Sacramento from its northern most point and 140 miles northwest of Bakersfield from its southern most point. This is a linear Project starting at the existing MID canal facilities approximately 1.8 miles northeast of the Town of Planada and continues south approximately 14.5-miles through agricultural, grazing, and open lands, ending approximately one mile north of the Chowchilla River. **Table 1** below identifies the Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs) associated with properties involved with this Project.

Table 1. APNs within Project APE

Project Associated APN Parcels				
068200009000	068030083000	053290021000	067010030000	053290020000
068190013000	068030047000	053290019000	068010001000	067010033000
068190005000	068030028000	053290018000	068010012000	068230057000
068200001000	068030090000	053290024000	068010010000	068030095000
068130041000	068030026000	053250014000	068010025000	068122009000
068130040000	068030089000	053150038000	068030024000	068122008000
068130006000	068010028000	053150040000	068030063000	068290020000
068130023000	068010016000	053150010000	068030086000	068290017000
068130005000	068010014000	053150009000	053100020000	068290011000
068030087000	068010027000	053150007000	053100038000	068290010000
068030069000	068010020000	053250003000	053100065000	068290009000
068030070000	068010026000	053100039000	053250002000	068290006000
068030051000	053290022000	053100030000	053250013000	068290013000
068030082000	053290016000	053100047000	053290017000	

Latitude and Longitude

The centroid of the Project area is 37° 14' 16" N and 120° 13' 50" W.

General Plan Designation & Zoning

The Project is located in a rural part of Merced County and designated for the following land uses:

A – Agriculture

FP – Foothill Pasture

In addition, the Project is zoned for the following:

A-1 – General Agriculture

A-2 – Exclusive Agriculture

Description of Project

LGAWD Board of Directors in a joint effort with MID proposes to construct the Project. MID’s canal system provides the primary conveyance of surface water in the Merced Subbasin and is the Project’s water source. The Project will construct a critical piece of infrastructure to help LGAWD, and the larger Merced Groundwater Subbasin, become more sustainable through reduced reliance on groundwater pumping. The Project includes improvements, rehabilitation, and expanding the existing MID canal capacity for approximately

9.8 miles and constructing approximately 4.9 miles of new canal and pipeline infrastructure from MID Booster Lateral #3 to LGAWD. The total Project are of potential effect is approximately 320 acres.

The Project would be completed in three phases. Phase 1 would result in the construction of a new intertie canal from Mariposa Creek to Dutchman Creek. Phase 2 would result in the expansion of existing canal facilities from a point of the MID Le Grand Canal approximately 1.8 miles northeast of Planada and run 9.8 miles south to the MID Booster Lateral #3 at Mariposa Creek. Phase 3 would result in the construction of a new LGAWD pump station immediately south of Dutchman Creek and a new buried pipeline that would cross under the Santa Fe Railroad continuing on private property until it reaches Earl Road. At this point an open canal would connect to the pipeline and run to a point approximately one mile north of the Chowchilla River, completing the Project. Phases 1 and 3 would result in approximately 4.9 miles of new canal/pipeline facilities. The new canal would create a way for flood flows to be captured, recharged, or used for agricultural demands in LGAWD that would otherwise be lost, introducing a new surface water supply source. The Project would cross Owens, Mariposa, Little Deadman, Deadman, and Dutchman Creeks. To cross these creeks, the Project would result in the construction of multiple new canal siphon structures. In addition, the Project would construct numerous new culverts under existing roadways that the Project would cross, as well as jack and bore activities to install steel casing under the Santa Fe Railroad. Where the Project would cross roadways, a partial lane-split road closure would be used to maintain through traffic during construction.

The Merced Subbasin is considered to be in critical overdraft and the Project would decrease reliance on groundwater pumping, energy consumption, and subsidence in the southern Merced Subbasin, while creating a new surface water supply, optimizing recharge, and also providing direct benefits to underrepresented Communities in the Le Grand-Athlone area and the southern Merced Subbasin. Construction of Phases 1 and 3 would last approximately 18 months and have a crew of 8-10 workers, while Phase 2 would last approximately 18 months with a crew of 4-10 workers. Project activities are summarized below:

Phase 1 and 3:

- *Replacement of Booster Pump #3 station*
- *Construction of new lined canal*
- *Construction of new earth canal*
- *Installation of new 63" Cement Mortar Lined and Coated Steel Pipe*
- *Construction of new canal inverts*
- *Construction of new canal banks*
- *Installation of new 84" CL III Rubber Gasketed Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RGRCP)*
- *Installation of new 72" CL III RGRCP*
- *Installation of new 84" RGRCP Siphons*
- *Installation of new 72" RGRCP Siphons*
- *Construction of a new LGAWD turnout*
- *Construction of a new spill structures with Creek turnouts*
- *Construction of a new pump station*
- *Jack and bore activities, installing steel casing beneath Sante Fe Railroad*
- *Installation of air vents*
- *Installation of air release valves*
- *Construction of new canal drop structure*

Phase 2:

- *Enlargement of earth lined canal*
- *Construction of new canal inverts*
- *Removal of 72" Corrugated Metal Pipe, replaced with 84" CL III RGRCP*
- *Enlargement of concrete lined canal, removal and replacement activities*
- *Enlargement of concrete lined earth canal*
- *Installation of new inverts*

- *Installation of new 72" CL III RGRCP*
- *Removal of culverts*
- *Installation of new 60" CL III RGRCP*
- *Installation of new 36" canal turnouts*
- *Excavation and re-sloping of canal bank slopes for canal enlargement*
- *Removal and replacement of farm bridges*

Site and Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project located in the northern San Joaquin Valley section of the Central Valley and is bounded by Sierra Mountain Range and foothills to the east, Coastal Mountains to the west, with Highway 140 to the north, with some smaller towns and the City of Fresno to the south. The Project runs parallel, east of Highway 99. The Project is characterized by gently rolling terrain and flat areas. There are a number of creeks that run near or through the area and include Owens, Mariposa, Little Deadman, Deadman, and Dutchman Creeks. The Project area is dominated by agriculture uses such as row crops and orchards, as well as grazing lands with minor, rural, single-family residences surrounding the Project.