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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. 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 #: _____

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

Lead Agency: Le Grand-Athlone Water District

Contact Name: Phil Janzen

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Project Location: unincorporated *City* Merced County *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

See attached Project Description.

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

See attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Revised September 2011

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

No known areas of controversy at this time.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Not Applicable.

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 Sante 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.

Chapter 4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been formulated based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Project in the Le Grand-Athlone Water District. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

Table 4-1 presents the mitigation measures identified for the proposed Project. Each mitigation measure is numbered with a symbol indicating the topical section to which it pertains, a hyphen, and the impact number. For example, AIR-2 would be the second mitigation measure identified in the Air Quality analysis of the IS/MND.

The first column of **Table 4-1** identifies the mitigation measure. The second column, entitled "When Monitoring is to Occur," identifies the time the mitigation measure should be initiated. The third column, "Frequency of Monitoring," identifies the frequency of the monitoring of the mitigation measure. The fourth column, "Agency Responsible for Monitoring," names the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented. The last two columns will be used respectively by LGAWD to verify the method utilized to confirm or implement compliance with mitigation measures and identify the individual(s) responsible to confirm mitigation measures have been complied with and monitored.

Table 4-1. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Aesthetics					
AES-1: Construction Hours					
Limit construction near residences to daylight hours. Construction activities scheduled to occur between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. near residential areas within 0.25 mile of construction sites will not take place before or past daylight hours, which vary according to season. This will reduce the amount of construction experienced by viewer groups because most construction activities would occur during business hours when most viewer groups are likely to be at work and eliminate the need to introduce high-wattage lighting sources that would operate near residences.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Contractor to provide construction schedule and construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
AES-2.: Fugitive Lighting					
Minimize fugitive light from portable sources used for construction. Any nighttime lighting used for nighttime construction will be evaluated for its ability to safely light the construction work area while reducing light spill and glare. At a minimum, the construction contractor will minimize Project-related light and glare to the maximum extent feasible, given safety considerations, for all viewer groups. Color-corrected halide lights or balloon lights, if suitable for construction of the Project, will be used. Portable lights will be operated at the lowest allowable wattage and height and raised to a height no greater than 20 feet. All lights will be screened and directed downward toward work activities and away from the night sky and nearby residential areas to the maximum extent possible. The number of nighttime lights used will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
Air Quality					
AQ-1: **Dust Control**					
The Project will maintain dust controls pursuant to the SJVAPCD standards on fugitive dust control.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Posting of Dust control plan on LGAWD website	
Biological Resources					
BIO-1a (Avoidance):					

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
The Project's construction activities will occur, if feasible, between September 16 and January 31 (outside of nesting bird season) in an effort to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	Between September 16 and January 31	10 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Contractor's construction schedule	
BIO-1b (Pre-construction Surveys):					
If construction activities must occur within nesting bird season (February 1 to September 15), a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for Merlin, Mountain Plover, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, and Tricolored Blackbird nests onsite and within a 0.5-mile radius. These surveys will be conducted in accordance with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's hawk Technical Advisory Committee, 2000) or current guidance. In addition to the focused Swainson's hawk survey, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for all other nesting birds within 10 days prior to the start of construction. The survey will include the proposed work area and surrounding lands within 50 feet. All raptor nests will be considered "active" upon the nest-building stage.	February 1 to September 15	10 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey	
BIO-1c (Establish Buffers):					
On discovery of any active nests near work areas, the biologist will determine appropriate construction setback distances based on applicable CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines and/or the biology of the species in question. Construction buffers will be identified with flagging, fencing, or other easily visible means, and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the nestlings have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest.	Prior to the start of construction activities	10 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey	
BIO-1d (WEAP Training):					
All personnel associated with Project construction will attend mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist, prior to initiating construction activities (including staging and mobilization). The specifics of this program will include identification of the special status species and suitable habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of the species, and review of the limits of construction and mitigation measures required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information, along with photographs or illustrations of the special status species, will also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and all other personnel involved with	Prior to the start of any construction activities	Prior to the start of construction and whenever new construction staff arrive on-site	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist will provide sign-in sheets and species fact sheets to all construction crews prior to the start of construction activities	

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
construction of the Project. All employees will sign a form documenting that they have attended WEAP training and understand the information presented to them.					
BIO-1e (Minimization):					
The Project will observe all minimization and protective measures from the Construction and On-Going Operational Requirements including, but not limited to: construction speed limits, covering of pipes, installation of escape structures, restriction of herbicide and rodenticide use, proper disposal of food items and trash, prohibition of pets and firearms, and completion of an employee education program.	During Construction Activities	Daily	Construction Contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
BIO-2a (Pre-construction Survey):					
If activities must occur within breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for eagle nests within 30 days prior to the start of construction. The survey will include the proposed work area and surrounding lands within one mile. Eagle nests are considered "active" upon the nest-building stage.	Prior to the start of any construction activities - February 1 to August 31	30 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey	
BIO-2b (Establish Buffers):					
On discovery of an active eagle nest near work areas, the following no-disturbance buffers will be maintained around each nest: Bald Eagle: 660-foot no-disturbance buffer. If a 600-foot buffer zone is infeasible, the Project proponent will contact CDFW for guidance on how to proceed.	On discovery of an active eagle nest near work areas	30 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey	
BIO-2c (Reporting):					
All detected eagle nests will be reported to CDFW and USFWS immediately. This includes any nest that has been used by a bald eagle in the past or is being used currently as a primary or alternate nest site. The discovery of any bald eagle carcasses and any non-lethal or lethal incidental "take" of these species will be reported to CDFW and USFWS immediately.	During construction activities	Daily	LGAWD	Qualified biologist or LGAWD will provide notification	
BIO-3a (Pre-construction Survey):					
Within 30 days prior to the start of construction, a pre-construction survey for San Joaquin kit fox will be conducted on and within 200 feet of proposed work areas. If a potential San Joaquin kit fox den is detected within 200 feet or of construction activities, a Focused Survey will be performed in accordance with the USFWS 2011 Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance by a qualified biologist to determine if	Prior to the start of any construction activities	30 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey and if necessary, a Focused survey report	

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
the den is active or inactive and appropriate buffer zones will be placed to protect the dens, if found active. If the active dens cannot be avoided, CDFW and/or USFWS will be contacted to determine next steps.					
BIO-3b (Mortality Reporting):					
The Sacramento Field Office of USFWS and the Fresno Field Office of CDFW will be notified in writing within three working days in the case of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during construction. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident and any other pertinent information.	During construction activities	Upon observation of mortality	LGAWD	Qualified biologist or LGAWD will provide notification	
BIO-4a (Pre-construction Survey):					
Within 10 days prior to the onset of construction activities, a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for western spadefoot and giant garter snake individuals and suitable habitats within the proposed work area and surrounding lands within 50 feet of canals and wetlands. If no individuals, active burrows, or suitable habits are observed during the preconstruction survey, then construction activities may begin. If construction is delayed or halted for more than 30 days, another pre-construction survey for western spadefoot and giant garter snake will be conducted. If the survey results in the identification of a western spadefoot or giant garter snake, the qualified biologist will determine if appropriate buffers can be implemented to avoid impacts to the individual(s).	Prior to the start of any construction activities	10 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey	
BIO-4b (Biological Monitoring):					
If suitable habitat for western spadefoot and/or giant garter snake are identified during the pre-construction survey, a biological monitor will be required to oversee construction actives within the areas identified.	During construction activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist daily log	
BIO-5a (Avoidance):					
The Project's construction activities will occur, if feasible, between May 1 and September 30 (outside of wet season) in an effort to avoid impacts to California tiger salamander.	May 1 and September 30 of each year	Prior to the start of construction activities	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Contractor's construction schedule	
BIO-5b (Pre-construction Survey):					
If activities must occur within the wet season (October 1 to April 30), a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for California tiger salamanders within 30 days prior to the start of construction. The survey will be conducted within the sensitive habitat areas as identified in Appendix B.	Prior to the start of any construction activities	30 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey	

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
BIO-5c (Exclusion fencing):					
The Project will install exclusion fencing around active construction to ensure California tiger salamanders do not enter the site during construction. Fencing will be installed as directed by a qualified biologist prior to ground disturbing activities in areas deemed sensitive habitat for California tiger salamander (See Appendix B).	Prior to the start of construction activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Qualified biologist report of pre-construction survey	
BIO-5d (Equipment and materials):					
The Project will check all equipment and materials for California tiger salamanders, daily, prior to the beginning of construction activities. Further, any trenches with walls too steep for a salamander to exit, will be completely covered at the end of each day.	During Construction Activities	Daily	Construction contractor and construction field supervisor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
BIO-5e (Formal Consultation):					
If any California tiger salamanders are observed during construction, work will stop immediately. A qualified wildlife biologist, approved to handle and remove California tiger salamander will be called to identify and remove the species. If take of any individual California tiger salamanders occurs, work will stop, and USFWS will be notified immediately, before more construction proceeds.	During construction activities	Daily	LGAWD	Qualified biologist or LGAWD will provide notification	
BIO-6a (Pre-Construction Survey):					
A qualified botanist/biologist will conduct focused botanical surveys for the three special status plants listed above, according to CDFW's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (2018).	Between September 16 and January 31	10 days prior to start of construction	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Contractor's construction schedule	
BIO-6b (Avoidance):					
If special status plants are identified during a survey, a disturbance-free buffer and use of exclusion fencing will be placed around the area as not to disturb the plants or its root system.	Prior to the start of construction activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
BIO-6c (Formal Consultation):					
If rare plant individuals or populations or sensitive natural communities are detected within Project work areas during the focused botanical survey, the Project proponent will initiate consultation with CDFW and/or USFWS. If CDFW and/or USFWS determines that "take" cannot be avoided, the Project proponent may be required to obtain an Incidental Take Permit.	During construction activities	Daily	LGAWD	Qualified biologist or LGAWD will provide notification	
BIO-7a (Operational Hours):					

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Construction activities will be limited to daylight hours to reduce potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Contractor's construction schedule	
BIO-7b (Wildlife Access):					
At no point will access along the MID canal be blocked on parallel sections of bank at the same time overnight. If construction is occurring on both banks during the day, a wildlife access route through the construction area will be identified before sunset.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
BIO-7c (Excavations):					
The ends of open Pipelines/culverts/siphons shall be blocked each night to prevent wildlife from entering. Excavations shall be covered or sloped to prevent wildlife from falling in and becoming trapped or injured during migratory or dispersal movements. The existing canal is precluded from this mitigation since the banks are not steep enough to prevent wildlife from escaping.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
BIO-8a (Avoidance):					
No construction activities will occur on the banks adjacent to the two wetlands (Wetland A and Wetland B) identified within the Aquatic Resources Delineation.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
Cultural Resources					
CUL-1 (Archaeological Remains):					
Should archaeological remains or artifacts be unearthed during any stage of project activities, work in the area of discovery shall cease until the area is evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If mitigation is warranted, the project proponent shall abide by recommendations of the archaeologist.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	LGAWD with assistance of a qualified cultural subconsultant	
CUL-2 (Human Remains):					
In the event that any human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Merced County Coroner must be notified of the discovery (California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5) and all activities in the immediate area of the find or in any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains must cease until appropriate and lawful measures have been implemented. If the Coroner determines that the remains are not recent, but rather of Native American origin, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours to permit	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	LGAWD with assistance of a qualified cultural subconsultant	

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
the NAHC to determine the Most Likely Descendent of the deceased Native American.					
Geology and Soils					
GEO-1 (Geologic Resources Recovery):					
Should a unique paleontological resource, site, or unique geological feature be unearthed during any stage of Project activities, work in the area of discovery will cease until the area is evaluated by a qualified geologist or paleontologist. If discoveries are uncovered, the Project proponent will abide by recommendations of the geologist or paleontologist.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	By subconsultant/contractor reports to LGAWD	
Tribal Cultural Resources					
See CUL-1 and CUL-2 above	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	By subconsultant/contractor reports to LGAWD, Merced County Coroner notification and report, and notification to NAHC, if applicable	
Wildfire					
WILD-1 (Defensible Space):					
Pre-wildfire mitigation measures focus on the maintenance of defensible space and fire-focused landscaping, and may include: a) Highly flammable vegetation near Project will be maintained to reduce fire fuel, as appropriate. b) Dispose of debris, such as dry debris, leaves, and dead limbs near and within the Project. c) Design defensible spaces with fire breaks around the Project, as appropriate.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	
WILD-2 (Water Source):					
Adequate on-site water sources will be made available during high fire risk construction activities and will include, but not limited to, water truck, water backpacks, and/or fire extinguishers.	During Construction Activities	Daily	LGAWD and/or construction contractor	Construction field supervisor to verify compliance	