

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: Turlock Irrigation Distric Project Nexus

Lead Agency: Turlock Irrigation District Contact Person: Bill Penney
Mailing Address: 333 East Canal Drive Phone: 209-883-8385
City: Turlock Zip: 95381 County: Stanislaus

Project Location: County: Stanislaus City/Nearest Community: Ceres and Modesto
Cross Streets: Project is near Faith Home Road, Keyes Road, and intersection of Lake Road and Hawkins Road. Zip Code: _____
Lat. / Long. (degrees, minutes, and seconds): _____ " N/ _____ " W Total Acres: _____
Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SRs 99 and 132 Waterways: TID canals
Airports: _____ Railways: Union Pacific Schools: _____

Document Type:

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

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other _____

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Educational _____
 Recreational _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
 Transportation: Type _____
 Mining: Mineral _____
 Power: Type Solar Panels _____ MW _____
 Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Agriculture

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

See separate page

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".

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| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____ |
| <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 Mountains Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and 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 Mountains 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 type="checkbox"/> Fish & Wildlife Region # _____ | <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 type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

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

Starting Date 8/2/2022 Ending Date 9/1/2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Environmental Science Associates</u>	Applicant: <u>Turlock Irrigation District</u>
Address: <u>2600 Capitol Ave., Suite 200</u>	Address: <u>333 East Canal Drive</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Sacramento</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Turlock, CA 95381</u>
Contact: <u>Matt Fagundes</u>	Phone: <u>209-883-8385</u>
Phone: <u>916-564-4500</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 07/29/22

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

Project Description:

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID), in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Solar AquaGrid LLC, and the University of California (referred to in this document as *partners*), proposes to implement Project Nexus (Project Nexus, or Project), which includes installation of solar panels that would cover and span various sections of TID's existing irrigation canal system. Project Nexus would serve as a proof of concept to pilot, research, and study solar over canal designs and deployment on behalf of the State of California using TID land and electric grid access. It is expected that the Project would provide various co-benefits, including reduced water evaporation resulting from mid-day shade and wind reduction, water quality improvements through reduced vegetative growth, reduced canal maintenance through reduced vegetative growth, and renewable power generation, among other benefits. The Project also includes installation of energy storage facilities.

The proposed Project sites (referred to as *Site 1 and Site 2*) are along existing canals in Stanislaus County that are owned by TID. Project Site 1 is between Ceres and Turlock, approximately 2 miles west of State Route 99, and Project Site 2 is approximately 19 miles east-southeast of Modesto, about 1.6 miles south of State Route 132 (also known as Yosemite Boulevard).

Project Site 1 is a segment of the Ceres Main Canal/Upper Lateral 3 from Faith Home Road westward approximately 4,000 feet and the Ceres Main Canal/Lower Lateral 3 that would surround the recently approved future Ceres Main Reservoir Project on its north, east, and south sides with an extension from the reservoir to the north toward Keyes Road for approximately 5,000 feet. The subject segments of these canals have narrow spans that are approximately 20 to 25 feet wide, with dirt access roads that parallel immediately adjacent to each side of the canal and are between 12 to 15 feet wide. A high-voltage double-circuit power line with coupled conductors parallels the access road on the south side of Ceres Main Canal for approximately 0.5 miles of the segment. The land adjacent to Site 1 is zoned agricultural.

Project Site 2 would include approximately 500 linear feet of solar panels within an alignment of the Main Canal with the western terminus of the segment approximately 1,000 feet northeast of the Lake Road and Hawkins Road intersection. This segment of Main Canal is an approximately 110-foot-wide span with 25- to 35-foot-wide dirt access roads that parallel immediately adjacent to each side of canal. The land adjacent to Site 2 is zoned agricultural.