

INITIAL STUDY
AND PROPOSED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT AND
CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND ANNEXATION
INTO CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT

Lead Agency:

Stockton East Water District

Post Office Box 5157
Stockton, CA 95025-0157

Responsible Agencies:

Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission

October 27, 2022

**STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The Stockton East Water District (**Stockton East**) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the Stockton East Water District and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Sphere of Influence Update and Annexation Project (**Project**).

Project Title: Stockton East Water District and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Sphere of Influence and Annexation Project.

Project Location: The Project is located within the boundaries of the Stockton East Water District and the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, within San Joaquin County.

Project Description: Review of the Sphere of Influence of the two districts prior to consolidation, and review of annexation of approximately 3,966 acres of property within Central's proposed SOI into the boundaries of the consolidated Stockton East Water District, generally located east of Central, south of State route 4 and Sonora Road, and north of Carter Road.

Determination: Stockton East has reviewed the Project and has determined that the Project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the Public Resources code of the State of California).

Public Review: The Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the Project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated for 30 days from November 4, 2022 through December 5, 2022. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 12:00 noon on December 5, 2022 to Stockton East Water District, Attention: Mr. Justin Hopkins, General Manager, Post Office Box 5157, Stockton, California 95205-0157, or by email at jhopkins@sewd.net. Comments will be reviewed by Stockton East, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by Stockton East, which is scheduled for December 20, 2022 at noon.

This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070 of the California Administrative Code.

A copy of the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration may be reviewed/obtained at the office of the district at the address set forth above.

Justin Hopkins, General Manager

PROPOSED
STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) and a determination has been made that it will not have a significant effect upon the environment.
2. PROJECT NAME: Stockton East Water District and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Sphere of Influence and Annexation Project.
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: Review of the Sphere of Influence of the two districts prior to consolidation, and review of annexation of approximately 3,966 acres of property within Central's proposed SOI into the boundaries of the consolidated Stockton East Water District, generally located east of Central, south of State route 4 and Sonora Road, and north of Carter Road.
4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The Project is located within the boundaries of the Stockton East Water District and the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, within San Joaquin County.
5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: Stockton East Water District, Justin Hopkins, General Manager, Post Office Box 5157, Stockton, California 95205-0157.
6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None
7. A copy of the Initial Study regarding the environmental effect of this project is on file at the offices of the Stockton East Water District set forth above. This study was:
 - Adopted as presented.
 - Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.
8. The Stockton East Water District considered this Negative Declaration at a public meeting of its Board of Directors on December 20, 2022.
9. DETERMINATION: *(To be completed by the Lead Agency)*

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Justin Hopkins

Date

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Project Information, Description, and Environmental Checklist contained herein constitute the contents of an Initial Study in accordance with Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines:

Project Title: Stockton East Water District and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Sphere of Influence and Annexation Project (“**Project**”)

Lead Agency: Stockton East Water District
Post Office Box 5157
Stockton, CA 95025-0157

Contact Information: Justin Hopkins, General Manager
209-948-0333
jhopkins@sewd.net

Responsible Agency: Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
11 S San Joaquin St,
Stockton, CA 95202

San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission
(San Joaquin LAFCo)
509 W Weber Avenue, Suite 420
Stockton CA 95203

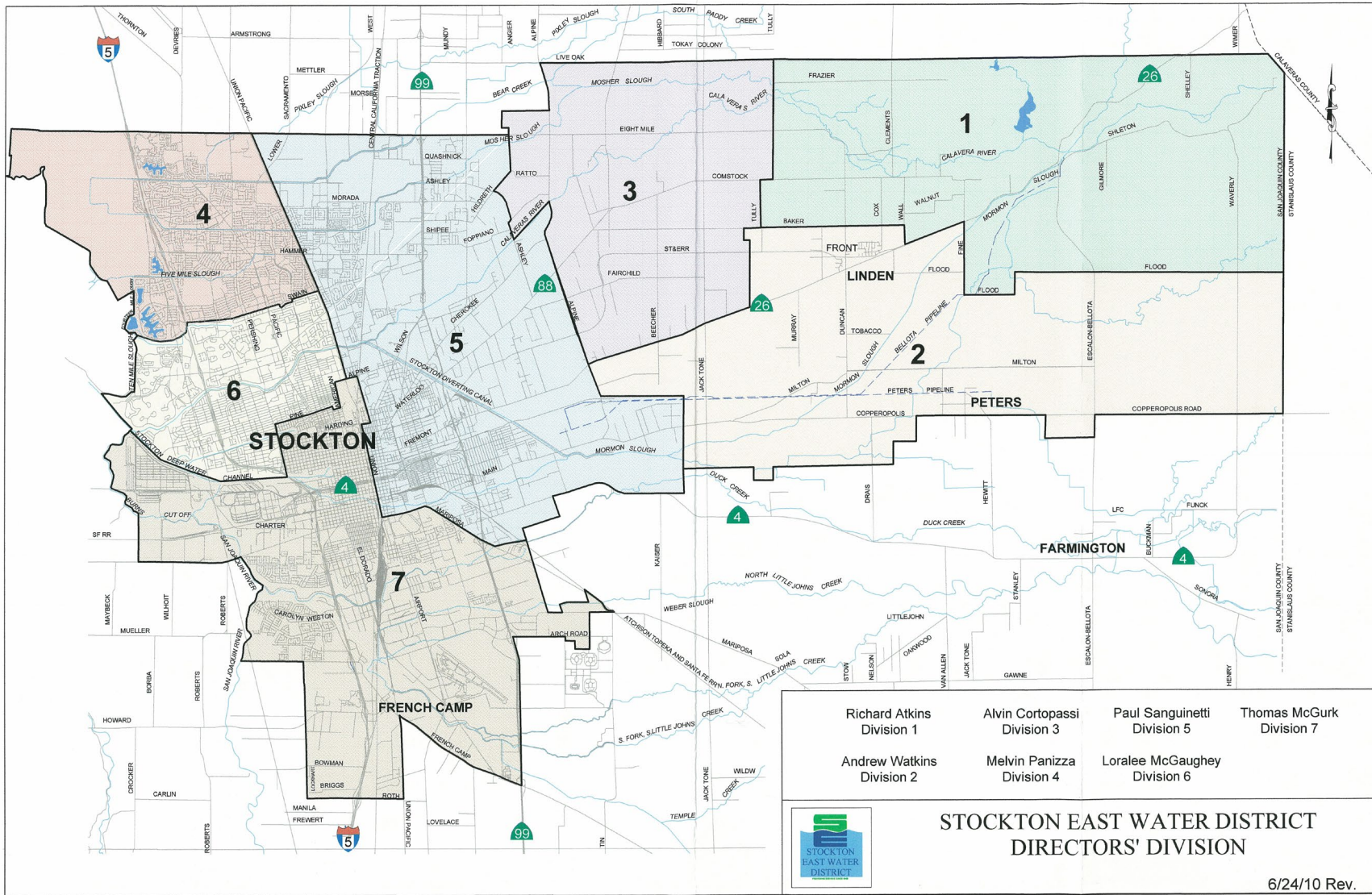
Project Location: Stockton East Water District (Stockton East) and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (Central) are both located in San Joaquin County, as well as a portion of Calaveras County as shown in **Figures 1 and 2.**

Area Land Use Located in a major agricultural area, both districts provide irrigation water for commercial agriculture including row crops, orchards, vineyards, and hay/alfalfa. In addition, Stockton East provides treated surface water for urban use to the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County and California Water Service Company.

General Plan Designation Within San Joaquin County, and outside of the greater Stockton urban area, land within both districts is designated as General Agriculture (A/G) with minimum parcel sizes ranging from 20-acres to 160-acres. Land within the greater Stockton urban area includes a range of urban uses.

Zoning Within San Joaquin County, and outside of the greater Stockton urban area, land within both districts is generally zoned General Agriculture (AG Zone). Land within the greater Stockton urban area includes a range of zoning districts.

**FIGURE 1
MAP OF STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT**



**STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
DIRECTORS' DIVISION**

6/24/10 Rev.

Surrounding Land Uses	Lands adjacent to both Stockton East and Central are primarily agricultural in nature
Project Description	Review of the Sphere of Influence of the two districts prior to consolidation, and review of annexation of approximately 3,966 acres of property within Central’s proposed SOI into the boundaries of the consolidated Stockton East Water District, generally located east of Central, south of State route 4 and Sonora Road, and north of Carter Road.

Environmental Considerations

The subject of this Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is an Update to the Sphere of Influence (SOI) for the consolidated Stockton East (which will include Central territory), and the annexation of approximately 3,966 acres of property within Central’s proposed SOI into the boundaries of the consolidated Stockton East Water District, generally located east of Central, south of State route 4 and Sonora Road, and north of Carter Road. Both the SOI Update and annexation are characterized as projects and are subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The underlying project is the consolidation of Stockton East and Central. This action is categorically exempt from environmental review under Class 20 (Section 15320) – Change in Organization, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This categorical exemption allows changes of organization involving the consolidation of two or more districts having identical powers.

Much of the analysis developed for the SOI Update is contained within a draft Municipal Service Review (MSR) prepared for the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (San Joaquin LAFCo) dated October 27, 2022, and incorporated herein by reference. The MSR is categorically exempt from environmental review under Class 6 (Section 15306) – Information Collection, of the CEQA Guidelines. This categorical exemption allows for the preparation of studies leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded (e.g., adoption of an SOI Update by San Joaquin LAFCo).

Overall Project Description

The current Sphere of Influence for Stockton East is coterminous with its boundary; that is, the SOI boundary and the Stockton East boundary are one in the same as shown in **Figure 1**. The current SOI for Central is broader than its current boundaries, as shown on **Figure 3** – and includes land outside of Central’s current boundaries, identified as Area B, as shown in **Figure 4**.

Chapter 8 of the MSR addresses Sphere of Influence considerations for both Stockton East and Central. As proposed in Chapter 8, three options for updating the SOI are described as follows:

1. Retain the existing boundaries and SOI for Stockton East and Central as separate entities;
2. Consolidate the two districts without expanding either boundaries or SOI for either district;

3. Consolidate both districts into one Stockton East successor district, retain the existing SOIs, and annex the proposed land into the consolidated district.

Option 1 would not change the current individual SOI for each district, and as such, would be characterized as a 'No Project' alternative under CEQA.

Option 2 is similar to Option 1 and would also likely be considered a 'No Project' alternative as consolidation of the two districts is categorically exempt from CEQA.

Option 3 is the most comprehensive of the options; it incorporates Option 2 and adds annexation of 3,966 acres of property into the consolidated district.

For purposes of environmental review, Option 3 will be analyzed under the Environmental Checklist.

DRAFT

**FIGURE 3
MAP OF CENTRAL SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**

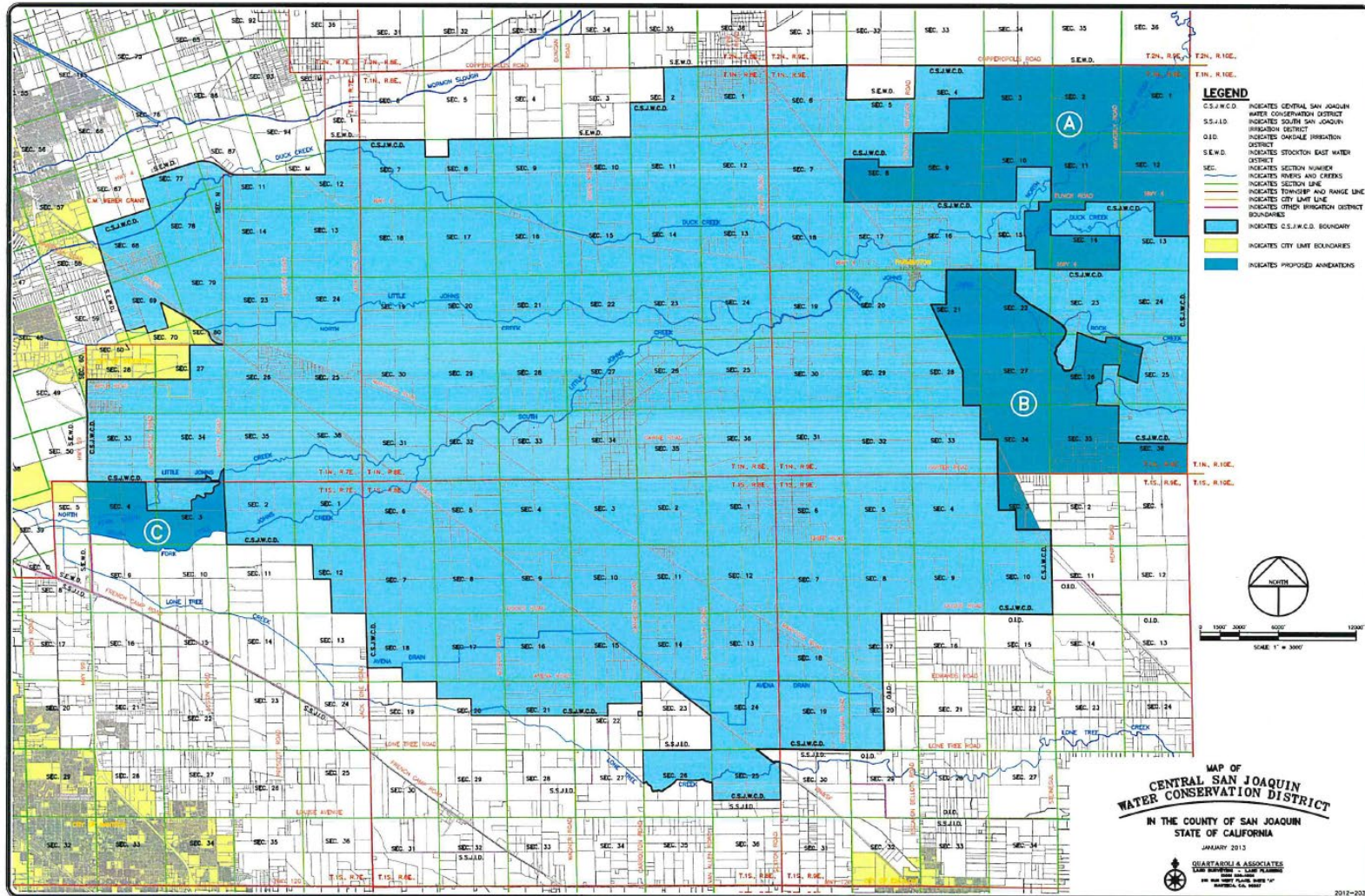
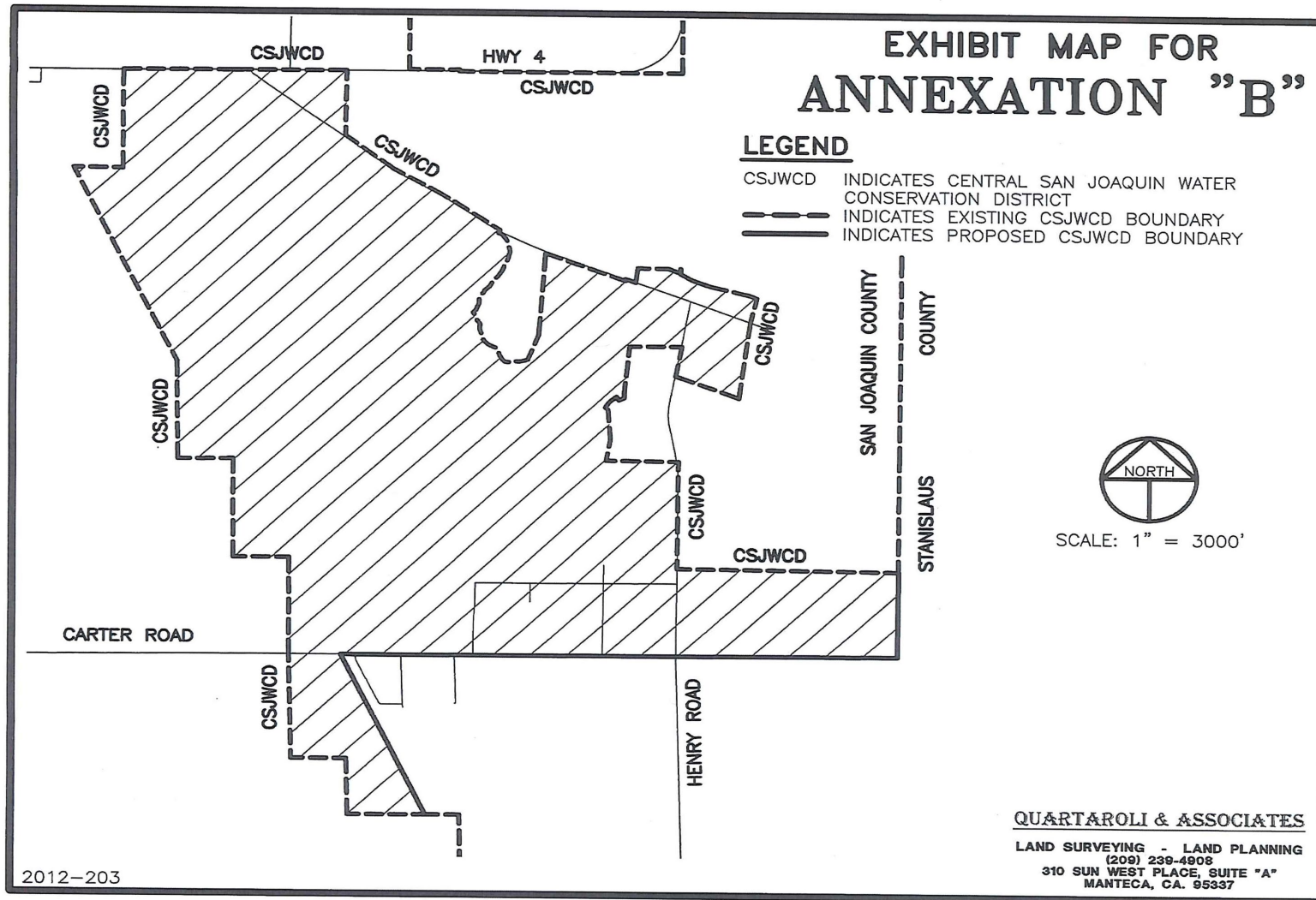


FIGURE 4
AREA TO BE ANNEXED (AREA B)



Lands to be Annexed – Option 3

The lands to be annexed include those lands within the Central Sphere of Influence that are not currently within Central’s service boundaries. The area is commonly referred to as Area B and includes approximately 3,966 acres. The general description of the boundaries of the territory include all or a portion of Sections 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 34, 35 and 36 of Township 1 North, Range 9 East and a portion of Section 3 of Township 1 South, Range 9 East bordered generally by Highway 4 on the north and the San Joaquin County line to the east.

Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

Board of Directors, Stockton East Water District
Board of Directors, Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission

Referenced Documents

A number of documents have been consulted in the preparation of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, and are incorporated herein by reference, as follows:

County of San Joaquin

2035 General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report
ESA Associates
October 2014

2035 General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report
ESA Associates
September 2016

City of Stockton

Envision Stockton 2040 General Plan General Plan 2011 Final Supplemental Environmental December 4, 2018 Adopted

Envision Stockton 2040 General Plan Update and Utility Master Plan Supplements Draft EIR
June 2018

Envision Stockton 2040 General Plan Update and Utility Master Plan supplements Final EIR and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
October 10, 2018

Regulatory Guidance

This document is an initial study, which provides justification for a Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA. This Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines 14 California Code Regulations Section 15000 et seq.

An initial study is conducted by the Lead Agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, an EIR must be prepared if an initial study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration may be prepared instead, if the Lead Agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons why the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, why it does not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a proposed Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) The initial study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
- b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:
 - (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur and;
 - (2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

**STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

1. **Project Title:** Stockton East Water District and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Sphere of Influence and Annexation Project.

2. **Lead agency name and address:**

Stockton East Water District
Post Office Box 5157
Stockton, California 95205-0157

3. **Contact person and phone number:** Justin Hopkins 209.948.0333

4. **Project location:** The Project is located within the boundaries of the Stockton East Water District and the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District sphere of influence, within San Joaquin County, as shown on **FIGURES 1, 2, 3** and **4**.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Lead Agency

6. **General plan designation:** various

7. **Zoning:** various

8. **Description of Project:** Review of the Sphere of Influence of the two districts prior to consolidation, and review of annexation of approximately 3,966 acres of property within Central's proposed SOI into the boundaries of the consolidated Stockton East Water District, generally located east of Central, south of State route 4 and Sonora Road, and north of Carter Road.

9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The majority of the project land is agricultural and rural residential, but also includes the City of Stockton, and the communities of Linden, Farmington and Colledgeville.

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required:**
 - a. Central San Joaquin Water Conservation Distirct

 - b. San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	Aesthetics		Agriculture and forest Resources		Air Quality
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Geology/Soils
	Greenhouse Gases		Hazards and Hazardous Materials		Hydrology/Water Quality
	Land Use/Planning		Mineral Resources		Recreation
	Transportation/Traffic		Utilities/Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance
	Tribal Cultural Resources				

DETERMINATION: On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.
- I find that the project proposed MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in the earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Justin Hopkins

DATE:

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

In each area of potential impact listed in this section, there are one or more questions which assess the degree of potential environmental effect. A response is provided to each question using one of the four impact evaluation criteria described below. A discussion of the response is also included.

- **Potentially Significant Impact.** This response is appropriate when there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, upon completion of the Initial Study, an EIR is required.
- **Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.** This response applies when the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact". The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
- **Less than Significant Impact.** A less than significant impact is one which is deemed to have little or no adverse effect on the environment. Mitigation measures are, therefore, not necessary, although they may be recommended to further reduce a minor impact.
- **No Impact.** These issues were either identified as having no impact on the environment, or they are not relevant to the Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the most current Appendix "G" Environmental Checklist Form, contained in the CEQA Guidelines. Impact questions and responses are included in both tabular and narrative formats for each of the 18 environmental topic areas.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. <u>AESTHETICS</u> -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a - e) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not directly result in changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. <i>Would the project:</i></p>				
<p>a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
<p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-e) Lands within the two districts include Prime Farmland, Farmland of State Importance, Unique Farmland and Grazing Land. Under the Project, no lands currently are proposed to be converted to non-agricultural uses. The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------

III. **AIR QUALITY** – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determination. *Would the project:*

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-e) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- <i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a – f) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. No change is contemplated to either of the districts’ existing activities. As a result, the project will cause no change in water diversions from any water body; therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-d) Most of San Joaquin County was part of the former territory of the Penutian-speaking Northern Valley Yokuts. Their territory extended from the foothills of the Coast Range east into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, north to the Calaveras River and south to the San Joaquin River. During the 1850's, the more productive parts of the Central Valley were taken up by farmers and stockmen, By 1885, most of San Joaquin County was under cultivation, wheat being the major crop. As agriculture increased in the Central Valley, most of the former land grants were broken up into numerous small farms, and the valley began to take on its present densely settled, highly productive aspect.

Area within the districts and the area to be annexed may contain cultural or historic resources; although the likelihood is quite low since these areas are, or have been under cultivation for many years. Nevertheless, the proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental or earth moving activities beyond the existing baseline are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u> –				
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-e) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. <u>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</u> --				
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-b) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved that could increase greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. <u>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</u> -- <i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-h) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The

consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- <i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

X

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

X

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

X

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Discussion

a-j) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. No changes in the physical environmental are involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the project that would affect hydrology or water quality in any way. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues

Potentially Significant Impact Less Than Significant with Mitigation Less Than Significant Impact No Impact

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING - *Would the project:*

a) Physically divide an established community?

X

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

X

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

X

Discussion

a-c) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No construction or land alterations are involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the project; therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project:*

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |

Discussion

a, b) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No construction or land alterations are involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the project; therefore, the project would have no impact on mineral resources.

Issues

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------

XII. NOISE –
Would the project result in:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would people in the area be exposed to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-f) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. <u>POPULATION AND HOUSING</u> -- <i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-c) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No construction or land alterations are involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the project; therefore, the project would have no impact on population or housing.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. <u>RECREATION</u> --				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Does the project include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a, b) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. <u>TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</u> -- <i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation systems, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-f) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact on transportation or traffic.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS --

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |

Discussion

a-g) The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. The consolidated district will not provide surface water to lands that were not irrigated prior to annexation. No changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact on utilities or service systems.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a-c) The proposed SOI Update and annexation would add approximately 3,966 acres to the consolidated district. This is a small, but incremental increase in the number of acres within the boundaries of the consolidated districts. Before any services could be provided to the annexed lands, additional facilities would have to be constructed to convey surface water, and appropriate environmental review would be undertaken. There are no plans to provide services to the annexed area in the near future.

The proposed project is review of the sphere of influence for Stockton East and Central, and annexation of approximately 3,966 acres into the consolidated district. The annexation would not involve changes to existing land use, or the provision of new services to undeveloped lands. No

changes in the physical environmental are involved. Therefore, there are no mandatory findings of significance.

CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Both the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District and the San Joaquin County Local Agency Formation Commission are responsible agencies under Public Resources Code §21080.3 and 14 California Code of Regulations §15381. CEQA requires that as soon as the lead agency has decided that an initial study is required, it must consult informally with all responsible agencies to obtain their recommendation on whether an EIR or a Negative Declaration should be prepared. Public Resources Code §21080.3; 14 Cal Code Regs §15063(g). Stockton East has been working jointly with Central, and has been communicating with San Joaquin County LAFCO regarding the consolidation and the CEQA process.

DETERMINATION

Based upon the information contained in the Initial Study, it is determined that the Negative Declaration should be adopted.