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: 10-Year Out-of-District Water Sale Program

Lead Agency: Oakdale Irrigation District — Contact Person: Scot Moody

Mailing Address: 1205 East F Street — Phone: (209) 847-5508

City: Oakdale — Zip: 95361 — County: Stanislaus

Project Location: County: Stanislaus — City/Nearest Community: See attached Project Description

Cross Streets: _____ — Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ____° ____' ____" N / ____° ____' ____" W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: multiple — Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ 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: Water Transfer

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 Turnouts/pipeline MGD n/a
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☒ Other: Water Transfer

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: TCR, Wildfire

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project parcels with construction are designated Agriculture (AG), and zoned A-2-40, General Agriculture, buy the Stanislaus County General Plan.

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

See attached Project Description.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X	Air Resources Board	X	Office of Historic Preservation
	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency		Parks & Recreation, Department of
	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
	Caltrans District #		Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB # 5
	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of		State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of		SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region # 4		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of		
	Health Services, Department of	S	Other: SJVAPCD
	Housing & Community Development		Other:
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

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

Starting Date December 27, 2022 Ending Date January 26, 2023

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Address: 400 E. Main St., Ste 300
City/State/Zip: Visalia, CA 93291
Contact: Amy Wilson
Phone: (559) 636-1166

Applicant: Oakdale Irrigation District
Address: 1205 East F Street
City/State/Zip: Oakdale, CA 95361
Phone: (209) 847-5508

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ **Date:** 12/22/22

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

Project Description

Several parameters that would govern the Program implementation have been identified. The OOD lands would be subject to different water availability than the in-district lands. OOD lands shall only receive water under OID's pre-1914 water right. OID would use DWR snowfall and runoff forecasting, Tri-dam project snow surveys and real-time hydrology information throughout the irrigation season on the Stanislaus River from the Department of Water Resources California Data Exchange Center.[1] During the irrigation season OID would continuously monitor DWR's reported full natural flow at Goodwin Dam to determine the amount of pre-1914 water that was available and then ensure surface water diversions for these OOD lands did not exceed that. The amount of available pre-1914 surface water will change from month-to-month and year-to-year based on such a calculation. Additionally, the capacity of OID's existing conveyance system is limited when there is peak in-district demand, usually July to mid-August. Since in-District lands' ability to receive water would not be impacted by OOD deliveries there may be times when pre-1914 surface water is available but cannot be delivered due to capacity limitations within OID's system. During the peak of the irrigation season (generally July-August), OOD landowners can anticipate windows of time where the OID system has reached full capacity from in-district demand and water cannot be delivered to their OOD lands. OID would make as much surface water available as possible within the constraints listed above, without impacting in-district constituents. OID estimates that up to 25,000 acre-feet of water could be conveyed through the system to OOD lands throughout the irrigation season.

An analysis of New Melones Reservoir hydrology with the effects of the Project's proposed water transfer was conducted and is attached in the Hydrology Transfer Memo located in Appendix B at the end of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The analysis consists of a baseline operation in which there is no water transferred, and a proposed action operation in which 25,000 acre-feet is transferred in all water year types except critically dry. While the baseline conditions for the IS/MND do include some transferred water (OID has been delivering some OOD water since the mid-1990s), the baseline operation in the Hydrology Transfer Memo consisted of no transferred water for simplicity.

Compared to the analysis baseline, results of the operation comparison primarily show a lessening of reservoir storage in New Melones Reservoir in any year the transfer occurs, and during sequential years this annual depletion can accumulate. The exception to this result occurs in wetter years when the reservoir fills and inflow exceeds downstream demand releases and additional reservoir releases are needed to reach flood control reservoir storage reservation objectives.

Minimum release requirements below Goodwin Dam are always met in both Model scenarios. Due to the additional depletion of reservoir storage in the transfer operation and the subsequent accumulation of less reservoir storage, less release in excess of minimum release requirements will occasionally occur. This outcome will occur during times when reservoir flood control reservation objectives are initially approached in a year or when reservoir management releases occur during the summer. The results of the analysis demonstrate that the proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the storage capacity of New Melones, nor will it cause the cold-water pool to be reached more often than without the Project.

Existing OID policies will remain in effect during the Program term. OID's Fringe Parcels Policy (Policy) applies to those parcels that are partially within the District boundaries and have a total irrigated acreage in excess of that total acreage which lies within the OID boundaries. In accordance with the Policy, these fringe parcels are provided an allocation of water determined by crop type for their in-district acreage at

[1]Department of Water Resources California Data Exchange Center can be accessed here: California Data Exchange Center

in-district rates. Once they have exceeded that allocation, they are billed at the OOD volumetric rate. OOD water can be requested for these fringe parcels if and when it's needed during years when OOD water is determined to be available. These fringe parcels are not required to participate in the 10-year Program to remain eligible to receive OOD water from OID. Additionally, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns and operates the Orange Blossom Park along the Stanislaus River. Through an agreement with OID, the USACE has received OOD water for irrigation of the park. The park is also not required to participate in the 10-year Program to remain eligible to receive OOD water from OID. OOD water deliveries to fringe parcels, as well as to Orange Blossom Park, are accounted for within the 25,000 acre-feet of OOD water anticipated to be conveyed and delivered to OOD lands. Varying levels of construction by the participating landowners are anticipated to be needed in order for these OOD lands to receive OID surplus water. Some landowners have existing canal delivery points (turnouts) and pipelines in place; others are adjacent to an OID canal but require a turnout and short length of new pipeline to be installed; other landowners are not adjacent to OID canals and would require a new turnout and a considerable length of new pipeline to be installed, whether through developed agricultural ground or native ground. The Program also proposes two private reservoirs on private landowner property: one would be up to four acres; and the other would be up to 15 acres (see Figure 2-2 of the IS/MND). These reservoirs are located adjacent to, but not within, parcels that are participating in the Program. While the IS/MND is not intended to include a detailed assessment of each individual private construction project on the lands participating in the Program; the participating parcels would be included in the overall Program footprint and the IS/MND would provide all known anticipated potential impacts based on the parcel location, general construction information and known species of concern in the Program vicinity. A list of suitable mitigation measures based on all known potential impacts within the project footprint would be included in the IS/MND. Landowners of the participating parcels that need new infrastructure would be required to provide an independent biological field study performed by a qualified biologist to evaluate their specific Program area before any construction occurs. All applicable mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND will be followed during construction activities. Should any mitigation measures not identified in the IS/MND be required by the qualified biologist as a result of a site-specific field survey, then a subsequent CEQA review for that specific site would be required. All recommended mitigation measures must be met during construction activities. OID, as lead agency, maintains the right to supervise mitigation and monitoring activities during private construction activities. The following tables detail the Assessor's Parcel Numbers of the 124 parcels that would receive water through the Project. Table 1 lists the parcels that would not require construction to receive water, while Table 2 lists the parcels that would require construction to receive water.

Table 1: Program Parcels – No Construction Necessary to Receive Water

Program Parcels – No Construction Necessary to Receive Water				
001-012-005	002-053-009	002-063-050	002-064-007	002-074-025
001-012-008	002-063-004	002-063-052	002-065-011	002-074-026
001-012-010	002-063-041	002-063-053	002-066-008	010-019-058
001-012-015	002-063-042	002-063-054	002-066-015	010-019-059
002-020-005	002-063-043	002-063-055	002-066-016	011-005-064
002-023-015	002-063-044	002-064-001	002-074-011	011-005-065
002-040-006	002-063-046	002-064-002	002-074-019	011-005-066
002-040-007	002-063-047	002-064-003	002-074-020	011-005-073
002-040-017	002-063-048	002-064-005	002-074-021	
002-040-019	002-063-049	002-064-006	002-074-024	

Table 2: Program Parcels – Construction Required to Receive Water

Program Parcels – Construction Required to Receive Water				
001-011-032	002-072-005	010-020-031	011-005-072	015-002-022
001-011-034	002-072-006	010-084-001	011-006-008	015-002-044
001-011-036	002-072-015	010-084-002	011-006-009	015-081-007
001-011-037	002-072-016	010-084-003	011-006-040	015-081-038
002-020-004	002-072-017	010-084-005	011-006-041	015-081-048
002-020-015	002-072-018	010-084-007	011-006-042	015-081-050
002-021-073	002-072-019	011-003-027	011-006-043	015-081-061
002-054-005	002-072-020	011-005-043	011-006-044	015-081-062
002-054-008	002-072-021	011-005-044	011-006-045	015-082-001
002-054-012	002-072-022	011-005-045	011-006-046	015-082-002
002-064-004	010-015-056	011-005-046	011-006-049	015-082-003
002-064-008	010-015-062	011-005-058	011-007-003	015-082-004
002-072-001	010-015-068	011-005-059	015-001-048	
002-072-002	010-015-073	011-005-060	015-001-049	
002-072-003	010-015-075	011-005-068	015-001-050	
002-072-004	010-020-001	011-005-071	015-001-051	

Construction Schedule

Many of the participants in the Program would not require construction in order to receive water from OID (Table 1). Overall construction needs would include 12 turnouts off of the District's existing facilities, and up to 12 miles of pipeline to deliver water to some landowner properties, as well as two reservoirs totaling up to 19 acres. Approximate locations of all of these facilities can be seen in Figure 2-2, through Figure 2-15 of the IS/MND. Construction would take place over two years from 2023 to 2025, with the District responsible for constructing all turnouts off of their facilities and landowners responsible for constructing the various pipelines and private reservoirs needed to participate in the Program and receive the water to their parcels. Generally, construction would occur between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Construction Activities and Equipment

Construction activities would typically include excavation, connection to a District conveyance facility, installation of new pipelines and reservoirs, and installation of flow meters connected to OID's SCADA system. No new wells would be constructed as part of this Program. Construction equipment would likely include excavators, backhoes, graders, skid steers, loaders, and hauling trucks. Post-construction activities would include system testing, commissioning, and site clean-up. Construction would require temporary staging and storage of materials and equipment. Staging areas would be located onsite.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of new turnouts and pipelines would be largely passive and not require extensive regular maintenance or on-site personnel. The newly constructed facilities would be maintained similarly to existing facilities and site visits to said facilities would take place on an as-needed basis. Any infrastructure installed by private landowners would be their responsibility to maintain.