



STANISLAUS COUNTY CLERK  
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

50-2023-051

**FILED**

March 15, 2023  
DONNA LINDER  
STANISLAUS COUNTY  
CLERK-RECORDER

By: *Donna Linder*  
Deputy Clerk

Mail to:

Name: Jackie Lancaster

Address: 400 E. Main St., Ste 300

City, State, Zip Visalia, CA 93291

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

Canyon Tunnel Project

Check Document being Filed:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- Other (Please fill in type): **Notice of Determination**

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE STANISLAUS	
COUNTY CLERK ON <u>03/15/2023</u>	
Posted <u>03/15/2023</u>	Removed <u>4/18/2023</u>
Returned to agency on _____	
DEPUTY <u><i>Donna Linder</i></u>	<u><i>Donna Linder</i></u>

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:
Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address:
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
Public Agency: South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Address: 11011 E. Highway 120
Manteca, CA 95336
Contact: Forrest Killingsworth
Phone: (209) 249-4600

County Clerk
County of: Stanislaus
Address: 1021 I Street, Suite 101
Modesto, CA 95354

Lead Agency (if different from above):
South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Address: 11011 E. Highway 120
Manteca, CA 95336
Contact: Forrest Killingsworth
Phone: (209) 249-4600

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2023010504

Project Title: Canyon Tunnel Project

Project Applicant: South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Project Location (include county): Calaveras County, Stanislaus County, and Tuolumne County

Project Description:

See attached Project Description.

This is to advise that the South San Joaquin Irrigation District has approved the above
described project on 03/14/2023 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
described project.

- 1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

South San Joaquin Irrigation District, 11011 E. Highway 120, Manteca, CA 95336

Signature (Public Agency): [Handwritten Signature] Title: Engineering Department Manager

Date: 3/14/23 Date Received for filing at OPR:

## Description of Project

### Project Background and Purpose

The Project consists of a new water conveyance tunnel (approximately 12,000 lineal feet, 1,000 feet hard rock and 11,000 feet soft rock) to bypass approximately 12,250 lineal feet of existing canal, referred to as the Joint Supply Canal (JSC). The purpose of the Project is to improve long-term reliability of this critical water supply system because existing canal segments along this bypass reach are extremely vulnerable to catastrophic failure, primarily due to unstable rock slopes that are present along the canyon wall above the JSC.

The JSC provides water supply for both South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) and Oakdale Irrigation District (OID). SSJID provides JSC maintenance and is the lead agency for this project. The JSC is located along the north bank of the Stanislaus River in Calaveras and Stanislaus Counties, California, near the town of Knights Ferry. Water is diverted into the JSC at Goodwin Dam; Goodwin Dam was constructed circa 1913 and was raised in 1958. Goodwin Dam is operated by the Tri-Dam Project, an agency owned jointly by SSJID and OID. The maximum design flow capacity of the existing JSC is approximately 1,250 cubic feet per second (cfs); the existing flows and annual diversion limits would not be modified as a part of this Project but would increase the reliability of supplies. Based on subsurface conditions data and evaluation of potential tunneling methods, a recommended tunnel route was selected. The Project evaluated is a tunnel intake located upstream of the dam; with a submerged intake from the existing forebay pool approximately 20 feet from the dam.

Project objectives would be as follows:

- Increase water supply reliability: The Project would increase reliability of supplies available for both SSJID and OID.
- Reduce rockfall hazard: The Project would provide rockfall protection, thus limiting/minimizing/preventing rocks, sand, gravel, trees, and other material cleanup within the canal, by redirecting flows through the tunnel thus minimizing rockfall issues/concerns.
- Increase Safety: Provide much safer working conditions for facilities maintenance personnel.

### Project Description

The work would include temporary construction access, laydown, and staging areas; permanent downstream tunnel portal and tie-in to the existing canal; approximately 12,000 lineal feet of new tunnel; permanent upstream tunnel portal and tie-in to either the existing Goodwin Reservoir; and permanent access improvements leading to the existing Goodwin Dam right abutment:

The Project specifically includes the following components:

- Construction of approximately 12,000 feet tunnel; approximately 16-foot-wide by 13.8-foot-high;
- Use of existing roads paved and dirt roads to be rehabilitated where necessary;
- Rehabilitation of an existing barge landing and new barge platform:
  - Sectional barge would consist of eight pre-cast concrete segments (each 10 feet by 15 feet) with a combined 30-foot by 40-foot area, measuring 7 feet in depth, which is required for 65,000 pound of live load weight during construction;
  - Rehabilitation of the existing landing would be constructed at the same location and same footprint at the south shore of Goodwin Dam Reservoir at the current parking lot location;
  - Protective cofferdam would be used to dewater around the existing barge landing;
  - Tensioned guide cable would be secured for barge movement alignment;

- South end would be attached below the reconstructed concrete landing with rock bolts;
- North end would be attached to the existing concrete trash rack wall; and
- Electric winches would be used to move the barge platform back and forth.
- Improve and re-align existing livestock fences including barbed wire fencing and panel gates;
- Tunnel inlet would start on the north side of the reservoir, upstream of the dam, above the existing diversion canal and on the dry side of the forebay and trash rack;
- Installation of new control gates at the tunnel inlet;
  - The tunnel size would be approximately 16 feet in diameter
- Temporary installation of stop logs at the existing trash rack for forebay dewatering;
- Installation of a concrete cover cap over the existing forebay to provide rockfall protection;
- Existing ram pump to be abandoned;
  - Proposed vertical conduit to be drilled vertically to tunnel for upland property owner (well with steel casing, removable screen and sump at tunnel sidewall, submersible solar power pump);
- Existing canal gates at dam to remain for side-spill
- Existing canal inlet gates to be abandoned
- Tunnel Outlet would be located at the south end of the Project area at the downstream portal.
- The proposed Canyon Tunnel would bypass the existing canal for approximately 12,000 feet and tie back into the existing canal through a downstream tunnel portal.

Construction Phases are as follows and are referenced throughout the document:

1. Excavate Portal Work Area
2. Shotcrete Portal Face
3. Excavate First 916 LF D + S
4. Tunnel Excavation, Stage 1 Shotcrete
5. Stage 2 Shotcrete
6. Place Concrete Slab D+S and Invert Concrete
7. Tunnel Cleanup

### **Cultural Area of Potential Effect**

The cultural Area of Potential Effect (APE) for ground disturbing activities is approximately 8.5 acres outlined below:

#### **Tuolumne County**

Existing Staging Area (barge landing and related improvements) = 16,560 sf = ~0.4 acres

Existing Access Road (may need to be widened) = 780 lf @ 16'w = 12,480 sf = ~0.3 acres

#### **Stanislaus County**

Existing Access Road (From Diversion Works – improvements to restore conditions following construction) = 5,481 lf @ 16'w = 87,696 sf = ~2.2 acres

Temporary Contractor Laydown Area (improve then reclaim) = ~3 acres

#### **Calaveras County**

New Barge Landing/Cap over Upstream Portal = 12,093 sf = ~0.3 acres

Existing Access Road (To Downstream Tunnel Portal and Staging Area - improvements to restore conditions following construction) = 1,508 lf @ 16'w = 24,128 sf = ~ 0.6 acres

New Downstream Tunnel Portal and Staging Area = 19,446 sf = ~ 0.5 acres

Temporary Construction Staging, Spoils Pile/Staging Area with connecting Road (improve then reclaim) = 49,285 sf = ~ 1.2 acres

### **Construction Schedule**

Construction will occur over two to three years and consist of several phases including clearing, grading, and excavation. Equipment maintenance visits are anticipated to occur weekly.

### **Equipment**

Construction equipment would include air compressors, all-terrain vehicles, concrete mixers, concrete pumps, concrete vibrators, electric generators, excavators, light plants, loaders, water pumps, dump/haul trucks, road header tunneling machine, various hand tools, forklift, drill rig, grout pump, concrete transit trucks, and a temporary barge to transport equipment. Temporary construction staging area would be located within the Project boundary and used for storage of materials and equipment.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Operation and maintenance of the facility would be consistent with current activities to maintain infrastructure. The new water conveyance tunnel and associated infrastructure would have the same intent and operational needs as the existing JSC. SSJID would be responsible for operation and maintenance of the Project. Current maintenance equipment access to the north abutment is provided through the JSC during the non-irrigation season (annually November through February). Because the bypassed segment of JSC will be abandoned and no longer available for access, future permanent access to the north abutment will be provided by the new barge.

### **Setting and Surrounding Land Uses**

The Project is located within Calaveras, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties, north of the unincorporated community of Knights Ferry, California. This area lies within the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range adjacent to the San Joaquin Valley. The topography is made up of rolling hills with elevations ranging from approximately 300 to 700 feet, with underlying rock formations of older metamorphic rock and younger volcanic flows and sandstone. The hills are made up of large oak woodland and grassland habitat. Outside of the community of Knights Ferry are residential homes and ranches on larger lot sizes.

Like most of California, the Sierra foothills experience a Mediterranean climate. Warm, dry summers are followed by cool, moist winters. Summer temperatures range between 70- and 90-degrees Fahrenheit (°F), but often exceeds 100 °F. Winter minimum temperatures are near 40 °F. The average annual precipitation is approximately 13 inches, falling mainly from October to April.





State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print**      **StartOver**      **Finalize&Email**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 50-03/15/2023-034  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)  
 2023010504

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03/15/2023
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN JOAQUIN	DOCUMENT NUMBER 50-2023-051	

PROJECT TITLE  
 CANYON TUNNEL PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (209) 249-4600
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 11011 E HIGHWAY 120	CITY MANTECA	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 96336

**PROJECT APPLICANT** (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency     
  School District     
  Other Special District     
  State Agency     
  Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)      \$ 3,839.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)      \$ 2,764.00 \$ 2,764.00
- Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW      \$ 1,305.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Exempt from fee
  - Notice of Exemption (attach)
  - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)
  
- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)      \$ 850.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- County documentary handling fee      \$ 57.00 \$ 57.00
- Other      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

- Cash     
  Credit     
  Check     
  Other     
 TOTAL RECEIVED      \$ 2,821.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> <i>Romeo Mora</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Romeo Mora Deputy Clerk
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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

**NOTICE**

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

**COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE**

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

**COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

**Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):**

- Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- Mail filing fees for **CRP** document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due).*

**Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE)** *(Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))*

- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due).*

**Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected**, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

**The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:**

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

**DOCUMENT RETENTION**

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

**RECEIPT NUMBER**

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

**DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.**

**Mail to:**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Accounting Services Branch  
 P.O. Box 944209  
 Sacramento, California 94244-2090

Donna Linder  
Stanislaus County  
County Clerk-Recorder  
1021 "I" Street  
Modesto, CA 95354  
(209) 525-5279

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Public

Receipt No.: 2023134594

Cashier: 53

Register: CHPXZV2

Date/Time: 03/15/2023 09:57 AM

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Negative Declaration	
Filing Time:	09:57 AM
Filing Fee:	\$2,764.00
Filing Total:	\$2,764.00
Administration Fee	
Filing Time:	09:57 AM
Filing Fee:	\$57.00
Filing Total:	\$57.00
<hr/>	
Total Amount Due:	\$2,821.00
<hr/>	
Total Paid	
Check Tendered:	\$2,821.00
#45964	
Amount Due:	\$0.00

THANK YOU  
PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE