

# Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2023120577

Project Title: Sandridge Irrigation Pipeline Extension Project

Lead Agency: Stratford Public Utility District

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Project Location: Stratford (Census Designated Place) Kings  
*City* *County*

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

The proposed project encompasses construction of an approximately 5.5-mile long, underground 48-inch irrigation water pipeline that would connect to and from existing Sandridge water distribution systems and replace existing open irrigation ditches. The proposed project includes segments that are both constructed (approximately 3.2 miles) and yet to be constructed (approximately 2.3 miles); these segments collectively comprise the proposed project (approximately 5.5 total miles of pipeline). The proposed project is designed to integrate with existing Sandridge water conveyance systems (i.e., pipelines and canals).

Operation of the proposed project would involve the transport of groundwater supplies from seven existing Sandridge groundwater wells located north of Stratford (in addition to any residual runoff that flows into the open sections of Sandridge irrigation canals) to irrigate approximately 3,200 acres of existing Sandridge-owned farmlands located in the vicinity of Stratford within Kings County.

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

Potential to disturb special-status species and their habitat, nesting birds, riparian habitat, and wetlands and waters of the U.S. and State implement mitigation measures (mitigation measures 3.3-1 through 3.3-3) to avoid special-status species and minimize and or replace for the loss of sensitive habitats.

Potential to unearth, expose, or disturb previously unidentified subsurface cultural or Tribal cultural resources implement mitigation measures (mitigation measures 3.4-1 and 3.4-2) that include protocols for unanticipated discovery of resources.

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

In Fall 2021, Sandridge Partners LP (Sandridge) began construction of an approximately 5.5 mile, 48-inch diameter irrigation water pipeline that would connect to and from existing Sandridge water distribution systems in Kings County, California. Approximately 2.4 miles of the pipeline between State Route 41 and the north side of the Tulare Lake Canal, as well as approximately 0.8 mile of pipeline from the south side of the Tulare Lake Canal to Blakely Canal were constructed between Fall of 2021 and March 2022. It is estimated that the installation of these pipeline sections had a 10-foot area on either side for staging and construction activities, with a total footprint of approximately 7.7 acres.

Construction required a 320-foot-long by 20-foot-wide right-of-way easement across the southeast corner of property owned by the Stratford Public Utility District (SPUD) (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs] 026-132-013-000 and 026-132-019-000). The SPUD Board of Directors considered the Sandridge easement request at its October 6, 2021, special meeting and at its October 13, 2021, regular meeting. Before each of these meetings, SPUD provided notice of the meeting date, time, and location, as well as a meeting agenda, which included the Sandridge easement request. SPUD granted Sandridge the right-of-way easement in October 2021.

Construction activities for the proposed project were put on hold after a legal challenge to SPUD's grant of the easement was filed by the Tulare Lake Canal Company alleging that SPUD failed to comply with CEQA. TLCC obtained a temporary restraining order preventing further project construction and use in March 2022, which remains in place pending resolution of the CEQA litigation.

Comments addressing air quality, biological resources, cultural and Tribal cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, including groundwater use, were received from agencies and the public in response to the Notice of Preparation.

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

- Kings County Department of Public Works
- Stratford Public Utility District
- Stratford Irrigation District
- Tulare Lake Canal Company
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Office of Historic Preservation
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers