MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

TONYVILLE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REHABILITATION AND RELIABILITY PROJECT

LINDSAY-STRATHMORE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Tonyville Water Distribution System Rehabilitation and Reliability Project (Project) consists of replacing old water pipelines and eliminating existing distribution system dead ends. The Project consists of constructing water distribution pipelines, water services and fire hydrants. The Project also includes the installation of a standby engine generator at the water system's surface water treatment plant to address power service during serving utility outage conditions.

The water distribution system improvements are to be constructed within Tulare County road rights-of-ways on District owned land and areas covered by executed easements. Easements and permits are required to be obtained to accommodate construction, operation and maintenance of the Projcct improvements.

NESTING BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS

Nesting birds, their eggs and their nests could potentially inhabit fields, field edges and adjacent lands and could potentially be negatively impacted by construction of the Project unless preventive measures are incorporated into the Project design. No nesting birds or nests were observed on the Project site during the conducted reconnaissance survey, however, thc survey was conducted outside of the avian nesting period of February 1 through August 31.

To protect and preserve nesting birds and their nests, to avoid any impacts to them and their nests and to meet California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requirements, the following impact avoidance preventive measures are incorporated into the Project:

NB #1. Preconstruction Surveys. If Project construction occurs between the period of February 1 and August 31, preconstruction (one-day) surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for nesting birds on the Project sitc within 10 days prior to any construction activity. Results of any such preconstruction survey shall he prepared and transmitted to the District prior to initiation of any construction activities; and

NB #2. Avoidance of Active Nests. If any active nests are observed within or near a construction site, a biologist will establish a suitable construction free buffer around the nest. A buffer will be established on the ground with flagging or fencing. The buffer will be maintained until the biologist determines that the young birds have fledged and are capable of foraging independently.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

During the field reconnaissance survey for the Project, a Swainson's Hawk was observed flying over the Project area. Suitable nesting sites within the Project area do not exist, but can be found on surrounding lands. The possibility exists that construction activities may affect nesting Swainson's Hawks. To protect the Swainson's Hawk from construction-related disturbances, the following impact avoidance preventative measures are incorporated into the Project:

SH #1. Preconstruction Surveys. If Project construction occurs between the period of March 1 and September 15, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for Swainson's Hawk nesting on and within ½ mile of the Project site. Any such pre-construction survey will be conducted within 30 days prior to the start of construction activities;

SH #2. Establishment of Buffer Zone. Upon discovery of an active nest, the biologist will identify a suitable construction-free buffer zone around any such nest. The buffer zone will be established with flagging or fencing. The buffer zone will be maintained until a biologist establishes that the young birds have fledged; and

SH #3. Monitor Nest. If construction activity occurs within a designated buffer zone, a qualified biologist will monitor the nest daily for one week and, thereafter, once per week during construction within the buffer zone, or until the nest is no longer active, whichever comes first. If at any time the biologist determines that construction activity is compromising nesting success, construction activity within the buffer zone will be altered or suspended until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer at risk of failing.