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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 #: _____

Project Title: Porterville Irrigation District North Basin Recharge Project

Lead Agency: Porterville Irrigation District

Contact Name: Sean P. Geivet, General Manager

Email: sgeivet@ocsnet.net Phone Number: (559) 784-0716

Project Location: Porterville (*City*) Tulare (*County*)

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

See attached Project Description.

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

See attached Environmental Commitments Document.

Revised September 2011

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

No known areas of controversy.

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

City of Porterville.

Project Title

Porterville Irrigation District North Basin Recharge Project (Project)

Project Location

The Project is located in and adjacent to the Friant Kern Canal just outside the western edge of the City of Porterville in Tulare County. The Project site is located on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 240-040-014 and 240-310-001.

Latitude and Longitude

The coordinates for the centroid of the Project are: 36° 05' 31.00" N, 119° 04' 22.40" W.

General Plan Designation

Project Area	General Plan Designation
General Plan Land Use(Onsite):	Tulare County – Valley Agricultural
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands): North	Tulare County – Valley Agricultural
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands): South	City of Porterville – Low Density Residential
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands): East	Tulare County – Valley Agricultural; City of Porterville – Low Density Residential
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands): West	Tulare County – Valley Agricultural

Zoning

Project Area	Zone District
Zoning (Onsite):	Tulare County – AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum)
Zoning (Adjacent Lands): North	Tulare County – AE-40 (Exclusive Agricultural, 40-acre minimum)
Zoning (Adjacent Lands): South	City of Porterville – PK (Parks and Public Recreation Facilities); RS-2 (Low Density Residential)
Zoning (Adjacent Lands): East	Tulare County – AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum); City of Porterville – PK (Parks and Public Recreation Facilities); RS-2 (Low Density Residential)
Zoning (Adjacent Lands): West	Tulare County – AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum)

Description of Project

Project Description

The Project proposes constructing a new turnout in the FKC, excavating an approximately five-acre basin for groundwater recharge, and connecting the FKC to the new basin with a 290-foot long, 36-inch to 48-inch diameter pipeline. The total Area of Potential Effect (APE) is 7.9 acres.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action/Project Objectives

The District currently contains large areas of land that do not have access to surface water supplies. Due to this lack of infrastructure, farmers rely heavily on groundwater supplies which has led to overdraft in the area. The

District and the City of Porterville need to find a way to recharge the underlying Tule Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The purpose of the Proposed Action/Project is to install a new turnout in the FKC so that surplus water, when available, could be recharged in the new recharge basin. Implementing the Project would enable the District to restore groundwater supplies by utilizing more of its Friant Division CVP water allocation rather than allowing it to leave the District. This recharge project is in response to SGMA and to help offset what is pumped in the surrounding area.

The primary objectives of the Proposed Action/Project include:

- Allow the District to utilize more of its existing Friant Division contract allocation;
- Allow the District to capture more high flow water supplies (floodwater) available from the Friant Division as well as from the Tule River;
- Reduce overdraft and contribute to sustainable groundwater management in accordance with SGMA;
- Recharge the Tule Subbasin;
- Effectively utilize the existing groundwater reservoir beneath the District to store additional water supplies and improve water supply reliability; and
- Raise groundwater levels in the District to reduce pumping costs for private well owners.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

This EA/IS considers two possible actions: The No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment. For purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative is the same as existing conditions.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not issue permits that would allow the proposed pipeline to cross Reclamation land or to install a new turnout in the FKC and the District would not construct the recharge basin.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would issue permits to the District that would allow them to place a pipeline across Reclamation land and install a new turnout in the FKC in support of the District's Project. Details of the Project are included below.

Project Components

The District's Project entails construction of a five-acre recharge basin (North Basin), a new turnout in the FKC, and a pipeline that would cross Reclamation land connecting the new turnout to the recharge basin. The proposed Project's construction is contingent on the next FKC downtime. The next FKC shut down for routine maintenance is planned for late 2026. The shutdown would be from November 2026 through January 2027. Using Nov. 1 as a start time. Construction will last approximately 6-months. The turnout would be constructed from Nov. 1, 2026, through Jan. 15, 2027. Then the next step would be construction of the junction box and grading the basin going out through May 2027.

Five-Acre Recharge Basin

The proposed North Basin will be excavated to a depth of approximately six to eight feet. Excavated material will build levee banks two to five feet in height, allowing for a maximum freeboard of two feet. The interior basin slopes are 6:1 and curve radii will be 100-feet. The total cut will be approximately 14,900 cubic yards with a net cut of roughly 84 cubic yards.

Friant-Kern Canal Turnout

The turnout would be approximately 31 feet long, 30 feet wide, 25 feet tall (to accommodate for the proposed raised liner under the Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project) and would be located in the FKC. Above existing grade, the turnout is shorter than two feet tall. The proposed turnout would be installed by excavating a portion of the canal bank out, casting in place the concrete structure, then back filling the area and replacing the canal lining.

Pipeline

The length of the 48-inch pipeline from the turnout to the junction box is 136 feet with a trench depth of approximately 18 feet and a width of 20 feet.

The length of the 24-inch pipeline from the junction box to the basin outlet is 137 feet with a trench depth of approximately 5.5 feet and a trench width of 6 feet.

The pipeline would be installed by using an excavator to dig a trench to set the pipe in. Then, the excavator would be used to backfill the trench. No excavation material would be taken off site. The total trench depth would be approximately 20-ft deep; however, once the pipe is installed it would have approximately five (5) feet of cover.

Operation & Maintenance

During wet periods, surplus surface water from the FKC will be delivered to the North Basin for recharge to, and storage within, the underlying Tule Subbasin of San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin from the proposed new turnout in the FKC. The surplus water would be conveyed to the recharge basin through the new pipeline connecting the turnout and recharge basin.

The proposed turnout will become part of the FKC, therefore a federal facility, and will be operated and maintained by Friant Water Authority. The pipeline on Reclamation land will be owned and operated by the District through the land use authorization. The recharge basin will be the District's and/or the City's responsibility.

The operation of the facility would be consistent with similar facilities in the area for the District and City in that groundwater conditions will be monitored to minimize negative impacts on the surrounding areas (such as nearby wells, crops, and septic systems). Water will be put into the basin for ground water recharge whenever surplus water is available. The basin is anticipated to hold a maximum of 20 acre-feet of water at any given point. The infiltration rate is estimated to be 0.5 feet/day. The estimated recharge capacities of the proposed 5-acre basin are described below in Table 1.

Recharge Capacities of the Porterville North Basin								
Facility	Gross Acres	Recharge Areas	Est. Peak Recharge Rate	Est. Long-Term Recharge Rate	Est. Long-Term Recharge	Anticipated Average Annual Recharge Window	Anticipated Average Annual Recharge Capacity	Maximum Est. Annual Recharge Capacity
	Ac.	Ac.	Ft./Day	Ft./Day	Ac. Ft./Month	Months	Ac. Ft./Year	Ac. Ft./Year
North Basin	5	5	0.8	0.8	101	4	405	1,215

Any operation and maintenance (O&M) of the new turnout and pipeline on Reclamation land is required to comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2005 Biological Opinion for *Reclamation's South-Central California Area Office's Operations and Maintenance Program* (2005 BiOp) or with applicable succeeding biological opinion(s) developed per requirements of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S. C. § 1531, *et seq.*).

Environmental Protection Measures

The District or their representatives shall implement the following mitigation/environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action/Project (Table 1).

Table 1. Environmental Protection Measures and Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	**Swainson's Hawk: Mitigation Measure 1a (Avoidance).** If feasible, the project will be constructed outside the Swainson's hawk nesting season, typically defined as March 1–September 15. **Swainson's Hawk: Mitigation Measure 1b (Preconstruction Surveys).** If the project must be constructed between March 1 and September 15, a qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys for Swainson's hawk nests on and within ½ mile of the project site within 30 days of the onset of these activities. **Swainson's Hawk: Mitigation Measure 1c (Establish Buffers).** Should any active nests be discovered in or near proposed construction zones, the biologist will identify a suitable construction-free buffer around the nest. This buffer will be identified on the ground with flagging or fencing and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged. **Swainson's Hawk: Mitigation Measure 1d (Monitor Nest).** Should construction activity be necessary within the designated buffer around an active Swainson's hawk nest, a qualified biologist will monitor the nest daily for one week, and thereafter once a week, for the duration of the activity or until the nest is no longer active, whichever comes first. Should construction activity within the buffer change such that a higher level of disturbance will be generated, monitoring will occur daily for one week and then resume the once-a-week regime. If, at any time, the biologist determines that construction activity may be compromising nesting success, construction activity within the buffer will be altered or suspended until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer at risk of failing.
Biological Resources	**San Joaquin Kit Fox: Mitigation Measure 2a (Preconstruction Surveys).** Preconstruction surveys for the SJKF shall be conducted on and within 200 feet of the project site, no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance activities on the site. The primary objective is to identify kit fox habitat features (e.g., potential dens and refugia) on and adjacent to the site and evaluate their use by kit foxes. If an active kit fox den is detected within or immediately adjacent to the work area, the USFWS shall be contacted immediately to determine the best course of action. Preconstruction surveys will be repeated following any lapses in construction of 30 days or more. **San Joaquin Kit Fox: Mitigation Measure 2b (Avoidance of Active Dens).** Should active kit fox dens be detected during preconstruction surveys, the Sacramento Field Office of the USFWS and the Fresno Field Office of CDFW will be notified. A disturbance-free buffer will be established around the burrows in

Resource	Protection Measure
	consultation with the USFWS and CDFW, to be maintained until an agency-approved biologist has determined that the burrows have been abandoned. **San Joaquin Kit Fox: Mitigation Measure 2c (Minimization).** The project will observe all minimization measures presented in the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations*. Such measures include, but are not limited to: restriction of construction-related vehicle traffic to established roads, construction areas, and other designated areas; inspection and covering of structures (e.g., pipes), as well as installation of escape structures, to prevent the inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes; restriction of rodenticide and herbicide use; and proper disposal of food items and trash. **San Joaquin Kit Fox: Mitigation Measure 2d (Employee Education Program).** Prior to the start of construction, the applicant will retain a qualified biologist to conduct a tailgate training for all construction staff on the San Joaquin kit fox. This training will include a description of the kit fox and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project vicinity; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of the measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during construction. Attendees will be provided a handout with all of the training information included in it. The applicant will use this handout to train any construction personnel that were not in attendance at the first meeting, prior to those personnel starting work on the site. **San Joaquin Kit Fox: Mitigation Measure 2e (Mortality Reporting).** The Sacramento Field Office of the USFWS and the Fresno Field Office of CDFW will be notified in writing within three working days in case of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during construction. Notification must include the date, time, location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal, and any other pertinent information.
Biological Resources	**Nesting Birds: Mitigation Measure 3a (Avoidance).** In order to avoid impacts to nesting raptors and migratory birds, construction will occur, where possible, outside the nesting season, or between September 1 and January 31. **Nesting Birds: Mitigation Measure 3b (Preconstruction Surveys).** If construction must occur during the nesting season (February 1–August 31), a qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys for active raptor and migratory bird nests within 30 days of the onset of these activities. Nest surveys will include all areas on and within 500 feet of the project site, where accessible. If no active nests are found within the survey area, no further mitigation is required. **Nesting Birds: Mitigation Measure 3c (Establish Buffers).** Should any active nests be discovered in or near proposed construction zones, the biologist will identify a suitable construction-free buffer around the nest. This buffer will be identified on the ground with flagging or fencing and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged.
Biological Resources	**Roosting Bats: Mitigation Measure 4a (Temporal Avoidance).** To avoid potential impacts to maternity bat roosts, removal of buildings and large trees should occur outside of the period between April 1 and September 30, the time

Resource	Protection Measure
	frame within which colony-nesting bats generally assemble, give birth, nurse their young, and ultimately disperse. **Roosting Bats: Mitigation Measure 4b (Preconstruction Surveys).** If removal of buildings or large trees is to occur between April 1 and September 30 (general maternity bat roost season), then within 30 days prior to their removal, a qualified biologist will survey them for the presence of bats. The biologist will look for individuals, guano, and staining, and will listen for bat vocalizations. If necessary, the biologist will wait for nighttime emergence of bats from roost sites. If no bats are observed to be roosting or breeding, then no further action would be required, and construction could proceed. **Roosting Bats: Mitigation Measure 4c (Minimization).** If a non-breeding bat colony is detected during preconstruction surveys, the individuals will be humanely evicted under the direction of a qualified biologist. **Roosting Bats: Mitigation Measure 4d (Avoidance of Maternity Roosts**). If a maternity colony is detected during preconstruction surveys, the biologist will identify a suitable disturbance-free buffer around the colony. The buffer will remain in place until the biologist determines that the nursery is no longer active.
Cultural Resources	**Cultural – Archaeological Remains: 5a.** In the unlikely event that buried archaeological deposits are encountered during ground-disturbing work, all work shall be halted and/or redirected in the area of discovery until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and make appropriate recommendations for mitigation. If the Project design and/or APE is altered, additional archaeological survey may be needed if Project limits are extended beyond the present APE. Additionally, if archaeological deposits are encountered and cannot be avoided by the Project, it will be necessary to formally evaluate the resource(s) to determine if they meet the criteria of significance and eligibility for listing in the NRHP or CRHR. **Cultural – Human Remains: 5b.** If human remains are uncovered during construction on non-federal lands, the Tulare County Coroner is to be notified to arrange their proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified—on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits—as those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resource Code 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendant, who will afford the opportunity to provide input about the manner in which the remains are treated. **Cultural – Human Remains: 5c.** In the event that human remains are identified within the portion of the APE owned by Reclamation, all activities will be stopped, and Reclamation's Regional Cultural Resources Officer shall be notified immediately. This notification shall be followed by a written report within 48 hours. Note that all human remains identified on lands owned by the federal government are subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA; 25 USC 3001). The procedures for dealing with the discovery of human remains on federal lands are described in the regulations that implement NAGPRA, found at 43 CFR Part 10. Project implementation in the

Resource	Protection Measure
	vicinity of the discovery may not resume until Reclamation complies with the 43 CFR Part 10 regulations and provides notification to proceed.
Water Quality	**Soils: Mitigation Measure 6a (Erosion Control Measures).** The applicant will define the limits of any construction taking place on top of the FKC levee or within its banks. Wattles or other appropriate erosion controls will be placed between ground-disturbing activities and ordinary high water of the FKC. **Soils: Mitigation Measure 6b (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan).** More than one acre of ground disturbance will require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The applicant will arrange for the preparation of a SWPPP that identifies measures to prevent erosion and sedimentation of the FKC and measures to prevent contaminants from entering storm water. The SWPPP will be implemented in full during project construction.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.