

### 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

<b>SCH #</b>
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**Project Title:** Porterville Irrigation District North Basin Recharge Project

Lead Agency: <u>Porterville Irrigation District</u>	Contact Person: <u>Sean P. Geivet, General Mgr</u>
Mailing Address: <u>22086 Avenue 160</u>	Phone: <u>(559) 784-0716</u>
City: <u>Porterville</u> Zip: <u>93257</u>	County: <u>Tulare</u>

**Project Location:** County: Tulare City/Nearest Community: Porterville  
 Cross Streets: see attachment for project details Zip Code: 93257

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 36 ° 09 ' 1819 " N / -119 ° 07 ' 2730 " W Total Acres: 7.9 total

Assessor's Parcel No.: 240-310-001 and 002 Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: Mt. Diablo

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Waterways: Friant-Kern Canal, Porter Slough  
 Airports: \_\_\_\_\_ Railways: \_\_\_\_\_ Schools: Burton Middle/William R. Buckley Elementary

**Document Type:**

CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR	NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI	Other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EA	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec	(Prior SCH No.) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec	Other: <u>Initial Study</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> FONSI	

**Local Action Type:**

<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Rezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Annexation
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Prezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Turnout, Recharge Basin</u>

**Development Type:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Turnout, Recharge Basin</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____	

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading	<input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>TCR</u>

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

See attached project description

**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 an "X".  
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

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|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of             | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency         | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>6</u>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>5</u>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board          | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy             | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission                             | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board                           | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of                     | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission                              | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>4</u>       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of              | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of    | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>SJAPCD</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>City of Porterville</u>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development                |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission |  |

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

Starting Date January 26, 2024 Ending Date February 26, 2024

**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: <u>Provost &amp; Pritchard Consulting Group</u>	Applicant: <u>Porterville Irrigation District</u>
Address: <u>455 W. Fir Avenue</u>	Address: <u>22086 Avenue 160</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Clovis, CA 93611</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Porterville, CA 93257</u>
Contact: <u>Briza Sholars</u>	Phone: <u>(559) 784-0716</u>
Phone: <u>(559) 449-2700</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 1-23-24

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

## 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.

<b>Recharge Capacities of the Porterville North Basin</b>								
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.*).