

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

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

County Clerk
County of: Tulare
Address: 221 S. Mooney Blvd Visalia, CA 93291

From:

Public Agency: Porterville Irrigation District
Address: 22086 Avenue 160 Porterville, CA 93257
Contact: Sean Geivet, General Manager
Phone: (559) 784-0716

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Porterville Irrigation District
Address: 22086 Avenue 160 Porterville, CA 93257
Contact: Sean Geivet, General Manager
Phone: (559) 784-0716

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): 2024010798

Project Title: North Basin Recharge Project

Project Applicant: Porterville Irrigation District, 22086 Ave 160, Porterville, CA 93257

FILED TULARE COUNTY

Project Location (include county): Porterville, Tulare County

Project Description:

MAR 18 2024

Please see attached project description.

ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:

This is to advise that the Porterville Irrigation District has approved the above (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on 03/12/2024 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project [] will [x] 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. [x] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [x] were [] were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [x] was [] was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [] was [x] was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [] were [x] were not] 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:

Porterville Irrigation District Office - 22086 Ave 160, Porterville, CA 93257

Signature (Public Agency): [Signature] Title: General Manager

Date: March 12, 2024 Date Received for filing at OPR:

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

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 and adjacent ditch with a new pipeline. The total Area of Potential Effect (APE) is 7.4 acres. (APN No's 240-310-001 and 240-310-002).

Project Components

The District's Project entails construction of a five-acre recharge basin (referred to as the "North Basin"), a new turnout in the FKC, and a pipeline that would cross Reclamation land connecting the new turnout to the recharge basin. Construction would be conducted over a period of approximately 6-months and is anticipated to start in the fall/winter of 2024/2025. The turnout would be constructed during the first three months, followed by construction of the junction box, pipeline, and grading of the basin. Project construction staging would be located onsite. All excavation material would be balanced onsite.

Friant-Kern Canal Turnout

Once constructed, the turnout would be approximately 31 feet long, 30 feet wide, 25 feet tall (to accommodate the proposed raised liner under the Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project (reference)). Above existing grade, the turnout would be less than two feet tall. The proposed turnout would be installed by excavating a portion of the canal bank, 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 would be 137 feet with a trench depth of approximately 5.5 feet and a trench width of 6 feet.

The pipeline would be installed using an excavator to first dig the trench, set the pipe, and then backfill. The total trench depth would be approximately 20-ft, and the pipe would have approximately five (5) feet of cover. No excavation material would be taken off site.

Five-Acre Recharge Basin

The proposed North Basin will be excavated to a depth of approximately six to eight feet. Excavated material would be used to 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 would be 100-feet. The total cut will be approximately 14,900 cubic yards with a net cut of roughly 84 cubic yards.

Operation & Maintenance

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

The proposed turnout would become part of the FKC, so therefore a federal facility, and would be operated and maintained by Friant Water Authority. Reclamation would issue a MP-620 review to the Friant Water Authority that would allow for the modification and/or alternation of the Friant-Kern Canal, consisting of a new turnout and related appurtenances (i.e., pipeline and utility conduit). The pipeline on Reclamation land would be owned and operated by the District under a land use authorization agreement. The recharge basin would 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 would be monitored to minimize negative impacts on the surrounding areas (such as nearby wells, crops, and septic systems). Water would be put into the basin for groundwater 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**.

Table 1. Estimated Recharge Capacities of the Porterville North Basin

Gross Acres (acres)	Recharge Areas (acres)	Est. Peak Recharge Rate (feet/day)	Est. Long-Term Recharge Rate (feet/day)	Est. Long-Term Recharge (acre-feet/month)	Anticipated Average Annual Recharge Window (months)	Anticipated Average Annual Recharge Capacity (acre-feet/year)	Maximum Est. Annual Recharge Capacity (acre-feet/year)
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.*).