

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
HIGHLINE PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
LINDSAY-STRATHMORE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Highline Pipeline Replacement Project (Project) consists of replacing existing old water pipelines. The Project consists of constructing water distribution pipelines and water pipeline appurtenances.

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

SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

Two (2) special status plant species have some potential to occur on land affected by the Proposed Project: Kaweah brodiaea and San Joaquin adobe sunburst. The potential for these two (2) plants to occur is limited to the undeveloped grassland area located at the northern end of the pipeline alignment. If present, construction activities may damage or destroy individuals and populations of these two (2) plant species. The following impact avoidance preventative measures are incorporated into the Project:

SSP #1. Preconstruction Surveys. Preconstruction surveys will be conducted during appropriate times of year prior to construction to ensure that potential local populations of the target species are in bloom and readily identifiable. The surveys will target the Project's grassland habitat. A qualified biologist will conduct protocol-level rare plant surveys follow California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) *2018 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities*, or most current agency guidance.

SSP #2. Avoidance. If individuals or populations of the target species are identified in proposed Project impact areas, Project design will be modified, if at all feasible, to avoid the plants. A qualified biologist will identify an appropriate buffer around the plants and no developments or other Project-related activities will be permitted within.

SSP #3. Consultation and Incidental Take Permit. If the design of the Project cannot be modified and it is not feasible to avoid individuals or populations of special status plants

that are found on site, CDFW will be consulted to determine if an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) will be required. The District will complete ITP process. All terms and conditions of the CDFW ITP will be adhered to, including provisions such as seed salvage and compensatory mitigation.

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, the 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 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 site within 10 days prior to any construction activity. Results of any such preconstruction survey shall be 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.