

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

SCH #

Project Title: Turnout on the Friant-Kern Canal at Big Dry Creek Project

Lead Agency: Fresno Irrigation District Contact Person: Laurence Kimura
 Mailing Address: 2907 South Maple Avenue Phone: (559) 233-7161
 City: Fresno, Zip: 93725 County: Fresno

Project Location: County: Fresno City/Nearest Community: Clovis

Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 36 ° 52 ' 12.30 " N / 119 ° 35 ' 46.22 " W Total Acres: 15

Assessor's Parcel No.: 150-061-18; 150-061-26 and 150-061-25 Section: 20 Twp.: 12S Range: 22E Base: MDMB

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR 168 Waterways: Friant Kern Canal
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other: _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ FONSI _____

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: Canal turnout

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Educational: _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Recreational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ Other: Canal turnout

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Agriculture/AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum)/AE-40 (Exclusive Agricultural, 40-acre minimum)

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".

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>SJAPCD</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <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 June 28, 2024 Ending Date July 29, 2024

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group</u>	Applicant: <u>Fresno Irrigation District</u>
Address: <u>455 W. Fir Ave</u>	Address: <u>2907 South Maple Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Clovis, CA 93611</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Fresno, CA 93725</u>
Contact: <u>Briza Sholars</u>	Phone: <u>(559) 233-7161</u>
Phone: <u>(559) 449-2700</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: June 25, 2024

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

Project Description

Project Location

The proposed Project is located east of the City of Clovis in Fresno County, California, approximately 150 miles southeast of Sacramento and 105 miles northwest of Bakersfield. The Project site is located at mile post (MP) 14.6 on the west bank of the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) near State Route 168E. The Project site is located within United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) right-of-way (ROW), which is known as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 150-061-20T. The rest of the Project site is located on APNs 150-061-18; 150-061-46 and 150-061-47. The centroid of the Project site is 36° 52' 12.30" N, 119° 35' 46.22" W. The Project site or Area of Potential Effect (APE) is identified as approximately 15 acres for biological and cultural surveys.

Project Description

The District and Fresno County are proposing to construct a new canal turnout that would divert and deliver water from the FKC into Big Dry Creek (BDC), which would provide direct recharge along the BDC channel north and east of the City of Clovis as well as other water deliveries downstream for recharge and other beneficial uses. The City of Clovis, and the unincorporated and mostly rural residential areas of the County of Fresno, would also benefit from the Project.

The proposed turnout to BDC would be located in an area without surface water supplies and would directly benefit an area with declining groundwater levels and limited suitable areas for recharge.

In addition to conveying water down the existing creek channel, the proposed Project would provide storage and the potential for reconveyance of Friant water supplies because the diversion of water is upstream of the BDC Reservoir.

The proposed turnout, pipeline, and associated appurtenances would require a land use authorization from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as the FKC is owned and operated by Reclamation. The proposed turnout would be owned by Reclamation. Friant Water Authority would be responsible for operation of the new turnout, and the District would be responsible for the maintenance of the turnout.

The proposed turnout would be located at mile post 14.6, on the west bank of the FKC and the site would cover approximately 15 acres (including the construction staging area). The turnout would be situated on the downstream side of the existing BDC crossing. The proposed Project would involve installation of a turnout structure and pipeline leading to an open channel structure. The site is anticipated to be upwards of a two-bay turnout with up to a 72-inch pipe, each pipeline approximately 260 feet long. The turnout proposes delivering a maximum combined total of 300 cubic feet per second (CFS) to BDC. The new facility footprint is estimated to encompass an area 80 to 100 feet wide by 200 feet long within the FKC ROW. Excavation for construction would net up to 11,000 cubic yards of material. The proposed Project would also require electrical service from PG&E for the ancillary flowmeter, gate actuator and possibly traveling water screen.

Turnout Construction

A reinforced concrete turnout would be constructed at approximately MP 14.6 along the FKC at the BDC crossing. The turnout would require placement of reinforced concrete walls, gate valve assembly, and access platform. Excavation through the canal lining and into the canal embankment would reach approximately 120 feet horizontally at a depth of about 25 feet. A traveling water screen may be installed with a stop log.

Conveyance Pipeline/Channel Construction

The reinforced concrete turnout would connect to up to a 72-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipeline into a discharge structure/open channel to provide water to the BDC. The turnout would deliver up to 300 CFS total to the existing creek through the pipeline/channel. The total length of pipeline is projected to be approximately 260 feet for each turnout bay (520 feet total) and would be buried at a depth of up to approximately 20 feet below grade within the canal embankment and up to about 15 feet below grade for the remaining length of the pipeline. Excavation and trenching would conform to a 1.5:1 slope or as required by OSHA safety standards.

General Construction Process

Contractors would start with saw-cutting the liner in the place where the proposed turnout would be located. From there, the canal bank would be excavated to an elevation 1-2 feet below the proposed turnout structure floor. The excavated dirt would be stockpiled in the immediate vicinity to use as backfill around the structure and pipeline once constructed. No dirt is expected to leave the site and would be used to build back the canal bank behind the structure and liner.

Construction elements would consist of excavation in the FKC, compaction of the foundation, forming and pouring the structure floors, forming and pouring the structure walls, setting the pipeline, backfilling and compacting around both the structure and pipeline, then pouring the concrete liner within the canal. Excavation would utilize excavators to dig down to the target depth of approximately 25 feet to go slightly deeper than the structure in preparation of compaction below the structure floor. Contractors would slope out from a depth of approximately 25 feet at a 1.5:1 slope back to the existing ground surface or use vertical shoring. Sloping back would require a wider footprint and would, at the largest case be an approximately 80-foot horizontal impact to account for space around the structure. At the same time, the existing liner panels would be sawcut and removed, to the nearest expansion joint, over this same horizontal area.

Compaction would use compacting equipment such as rammers, rollers, and/or sheepsfoot rollers to condition and compact the soil under the structure and pipeline to the required compaction.

Pouring concrete would occur in distinct sections, with each step including formwork, setting reinforcing steel and pouring concrete. The first section would be the structure floor. The walls would be set and then poured after the floor has had some time to cure. The walls could potentially be poured in two segments, given the height of the structure. Pipeline would be started during the wall construction since the first stick of pipe is set within the wall. From there the pipeline would be laid within a trench approximately 10 feet wide and 10 feet deep from the proposed turnout to the BDC tie-in location. After setting pipeline and structure concrete, the excavated dirt would be backfilled and compacted in place to match existing conditions. All construction staging areas necessary for the proposed Project will be located within the 15-acre APE.

Construction Schedule

Construction is anticipated over approximately six months from September 2026 to February 2027 with turnout construction when the FKC is anticipated to be de-watered for maintenance (potentially mid-November 2026 – mid-January 2027). Generally, construction would occur between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays. Construction would require temporary staging and storage of materials and equipment onsite. Post-construction activities would include system testing, commissioning, and site clean-up.

Equipment

Construction equipment would likely include excavators, backhoes, graders, skid steers, loaders, saws, compactors, and hauling trucks. The site would be accessible via access roads and a vehicular gate off of Tollhouse Road (SR 168).

Operation and Maintenance

The operation and maintenance of the proposed Project would be consistent with that of other similar federal USBR facilities. This includes consistent cleaning of debris and sediment and regular monitoring. Friant Water Authority would be responsible for operation of the new turnout. The District would be responsible for the maintenance of the turnout, and Reclamation would own the proposed turnout on the FKC.