

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: Groundwater Recharge Capacity Expansion Project - Ferro Recharge

Lead Agency: United Water Conservation District

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Project Location: Vineyard Avenue, unincorporated Ventura County
City _____ County _____

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

United operates and maintains approximately 600 acres of groundwater recharge basins, which are used to percolate water and recharge groundwater supplies with Santa Clara River water diverted at the Freeman Diversion. In previous years when conditions were dry with less precipitation, United did not have a need for additional groundwater recharge capacity as its current basins were sufficient to recharge the allowable amount of water. United is permitted to divert from the Santa Clara River. However, with wetter conditions and above average precipitation occurring over the last two years, an opportunity exists to recharge additional surface water within the allowable diversion amounts. The Noble Basin and Ferro Basin, located along Vineyard Avenue, are among the groundwater recharge basins United operates. The Ferro Basin is not currently connected to United's diversion and recharge infrastructure and, as such, cannot be used for artificial groundwater recharge. United proposes to construct an undercrossing beneath Vineyard Avenue and install pipelines to connect the Ferro Basin to the Noble Basin, which would enable the conveyance of water to the Ferro Basin for artificial groundwater recharge. United estimates connecting the basins would, on average over time, provide capacity for an additional 2,000 to 3,000 acre-feet of groundwater recharge per year. Project construction would occur over approximately six to eight months, and would start as early as July 2025; however, in the event of project delays, United would delay construction to be complete by June 2027. Construction activities would generally occur from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; trenchless pipeline installation may require constant (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) construction activities. The proposed pipeline would be installed via open cut trench on either side of Vineyard Avenue, and via trenchless methods underneath Vineyard Avenue in accordance with California Department of Transportation requirements. The project would also involve grading and contouring of the embankments along the pipeline alignment and in the Ferro Basin to facilitate recharge.

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

Potentially significant but mitigable impacts were identified in relation to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and geology and soils.
Mitigation Measure AQ-1 (Ferro Basin Grading NOx Emissions Reduction) requires a minimum of two of the five scrapers anticipated to be used for grading to be equipped with United States Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4 Final or better diesel engines, or requires a maximum of three scrapers to be used during Ferro Basin Grading.
Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Nesting Birds) requires pre-construction nesting bird surveys and buffer areas.
Mitigation Measure CUL-1 (Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources) identifies required protocols in the event that archaeological resources are unexpectedly encountered during ground-disturbing activities.
Mitigation Measure GEO-1 (Unanticipated Discovery of Paleontological Resources) identifies required protocols in the event that paleontological resources are unexpectedly encountered during ground-disturbing activities.
Mitigation Measure NOI-1 (Nighttime Construction Noise Reduction Measures) identifies noise reduction measures such that construction noise levels do not exceed 70 dBA Leq (8-hour) at nearby residences, consistent with Federal Transit Administration noise thresholds.

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

N/A

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

Responsible agencies include the California Department of Transportation as a Utility Encroachment Permit would be required, and the State Water Resource Control Board as Coverage under the Construction Stormwater General Permit (Order No. 2022-0057-DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System No. CAS000002) would be required.