

# 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: Turner Island Water District Shallow Well Drilling & Water Conservation Project

Lead Agency: Turner Island Water District

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Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_ **Merced County**  
*City* *County*

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

See attached Project Description.

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

See attached MMRP.

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

No controversy.

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

Not applicable

## Turner Island Water District Shallow Well and Water Conservation Project

### Project Description

The shallow well drilling portion of the Project would involve the construction and operation of two new agricultural irrigation wells screened above the Corcoran Clay so that their use could reduce the District's reliance on the lower aquifer water. Well No. 1 would be located roughly at the midway point on the eastern edge of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 074-030-011 near the Eastside Canal. Well No. 2 would be located roughly at the southeastern corner of APN 065-050-004 near the Eastside Canal. The new wells would be drilled to a maximum depth of approximately 200 feet. Up to two existing wells that have been drilled and screened below the Corcoran Clay may be abandoned as part of the Project. Transitioning pumping from the deep aquifer below the Corcoran Clay to the shallow aquifer above the Corcoran Clay would reduce subsidence over the long term. A Variance application approved by Merced County would be required to allow the two new wells to be located at a distance closer to the existing deep wells and a surface waterway than would normally be permitted (300 and 100 feet, respectively).

The water conservation portion of the Project would involve the modification of three existing weirs along the Mariposa Slough, and construction of two recharge basins adjacent to the Mariposa Slough. The weirs would be equipped with automated canal gates and flow measurement devices. Additionally, the existing pumps at each weir would be replaced with new pumps and would be sized with a capacity of up to 35 cubic feet per second (CFS). The new pumps which would return water to the head of the District's system and avoid or reduce losses in the last reach of Mariposa Slough. One recharge basin would be approximately 30 acres and would have the capacity to store up to 150 acre-feet (AF) of water. The second recharge basin would be approximately 23 acres and would have the capacity to store up to 115 AF of water. Both recharge basins would be constructed with levees that would be built up to a maximum height of six feet tall and would be comprised of excavation material from the proposed basin construction. No excavation material would be exported as it would be balanced onsite. Water would be diverted to each recharge basin via proposed pumps connecting to the Mariposa Slough. Each pump would have a conveyance capacity of up to 70 CFS. The proposed Project would allow the District to store surface water when available and delay the pumping of lower aquifer wells, thereby reducing strain on the groundwater resources from which these wells draw.

# CHAPTER 5 MITIGATION, MONITORING, AND REPORTING PROGRAM

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been formulated based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Turner Island Water District Shallow Well Drilling and Water Conservation Project in the County of Merced. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

**Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting** Program presents the mitigation measures identified for the Project. Each mitigation measure is numbered with a symbol indicating the topical section to which it pertains, a hyphen, and the impact number. For example, AIR-2 would be the second mitigation measure identified in the Air Quality analysis of the IS/MND.

The first column of **Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting** Program identifies the mitigation measure. The second column, entitled “When Monitoring is to Occur,” identifies the time the mitigation measure should be initiated. The third column, “Frequency of Monitoring,” identifies the frequency of the monitoring of the mitigation measure. The fourth column, “Agency Responsible for Monitoring,” names the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented. The last columns will be used by the Lead and Responsible Agencies to ensure that individual mitigation measures have been complied with and monitored.

**Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program**

<b>Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program</b>						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
<b>Biological Resources</b>						
<b>Migratory Birds, Raptors, and Special Status Birds</b>						
<b>BIO-1</b>	(Avoidance): The Project’s construction activities will occur, if feasible, between September 16 and January 31 (outside of the nesting bird season) to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	September 16 to January 31	Prior to construction activities	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>BIO-2</b>	(Pre-construction Surveys): If activities must occur within nesting bird season (February 1 to September 15), a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for Swainson’s hawk nests onsite and up to a 0.5-mile radius within five calendar days prior to the start of construction. The Swainson’s hawk survey will not be completed between April 21 to June 10 due to the difficulty of identifying nests during this time of year. The survey would also include inspecting for nesting migratory birds within up to 100 feet outside of the Project area and for other nesting raptors within up to 500 feet outside of the Project area. All raptor nests would be considered “active” upon the nest-building stage. If no active nests are observed, no further mitigation is required.	Prior to construction activities between February 1 to September 14	Once, prior to construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>BIO-3</b>	(Avoidance Buffers): On discovery of any active nests or breeding colonies near work areas, a qualified biologist will determine appropriate avoidance buffer distances based on applicable CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines, the biology of the species, conditions of the nest(s), and the level of Project disturbance.	During construction	As determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>Western Pond Turtle and Western Spadefoot</b>						
<b>BIO-4</b>	(Pre-construction Survey): A qualified biologist would complete a preconstruction survey for western pond turtle and western spadefoot within 3 calendar days of the start of construction activities.	Within 3 days prior to the start of construction	Once, prior to construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
<b>BIO-5</b>	(Avoidance): If any western pond turtles or western spadefoot are observed in the Project area, they should be allowed to leave the site of their volition.	During construction	During construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>BIO-6</b>	(Relocation): If avoidance is not feasible, a qualified biologist would relocate the animal out of harm's way. The biologist should take into consideration the biology of the species in question when choosing where to relocate the animal to.	During construction	During construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>Rare Plant Species</b>						
<b>BIO-7</b>	(Rare Plant Surveys): A qualified botanist/biologist will conduct focused rare plant surveys during the appropriate blooming seasons for alkali milk-vetch, alkali-sink goldfields, delta button-celery, heartscale, Heckard's pepper-grass, hispid salty bird's-beak, Hoover's spurge, prostrate vernal pool navarretia, San Joaquin spearscale, Sanford's arrowhead, and Wright's trichocoronis, according to CDFW's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (2018) for areas where ground disturbance will occur and prior to the start of construction.	During appropriate blooming seasons prior to the start of construction	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>BIO-8</b>	(Avoidance): If rare plants are identified, an avoidance buffer and, if necessary, use of exclusion fencing, will be placed around the area so as not to disturb the plants or their root system.	During construction	During construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>BIO-9</b>	(Relocation Plan): If rare plant individuals or populations are identified within Project work areas, and the plants cannot be avoided, a relocation plan will be prepared and approved by the appropriate agencies.	During construction	During construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>Riparian Habitat</b>						
<b>BIO-10</b>	(Avoidance): Permanent impacts to riparian habitat will be avoided.	During construction	During construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
<b>BIO-11</b>	(Agreement): Should permanent impacts to riparian habitat be required a CDFW Streamed Alteration Agreement will be obtained, as described in BIO-14.	During construction	During construction	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>Regulated Waters</b>						
<b>BIO-12</b>	(Delineation): Once Project activities are determined, an aquatic resources delineation will be prepared for the Project area, to determine the boundaries of all potentially jurisdictional waters present.	Prior to construction	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>BIO-13</b>	(Minimization): Based on the results of the aquatic resources delineation, the Project will be designed to minimize impacts to potentially jurisdictional waters to the maximum extent practicable while still achieving the goal of the Project.	Prior to construction	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>BIO-14</b>	(Permits): If the final Project design requires impacts to areas of jurisdictional waters, permits under Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act and a CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement will be obtained for the Project, and the Project will adhere to all conditions of the permits, such as compensatory mitigation requirements, survey requirements, monitoring requirements, timing requirements and reporting requirements.	Prior to construction	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	TIWD with assistance of a qualified biologist		
<b>Cultural Resources</b>						
<b>CUL-1</b>	All construction personnel take a Cultural Resources Awareness Training given by a qualified archaeologist in order to become familiar with the types of cultural artifacts that exist within the vicinity of the APE and could potentially be uncovered.	During construction	Daily during construction activities	TIWD		
<b>CUL-2</b>	In the unlikely event that cultural resources are identified during construction, it is recommended that all work be stopped within 100-ft of the discovery and a qualified archaeologist be called out to evaluate the find.	During construction	Daily during construction activities	TIWD		

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
<b>CUL-3</b>	In the event that any human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Merced County Coroner must be notified of the discovery (California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5) and all activities in the immediate area of the find or in any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains must cease until appropriate and lawful measures have been implemented. If the Coroner determines that the remains are not recent, but rather of Native American origin, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours to permit the NAHC to determine the Most Likely Descendent of the deceased Native American.	During construction	Daily during construction activities	TIWD		
<b>Geology and Soils</b>						
<b>GEO-1</b>	Should paleontological resources be encountered on the Project site, all ground disturbing activities in the area shall stop. A qualified paleontologist shall be contacted to assess the discovery. Mitigation may include monitoring, recording the fossil locality, data recovery and analysis, and a final report. Public educational outreach may also be appropriate. Upon completion of the assessment, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations shall be prepared and submitted to Merced County for review, and (if paleontological materials are recovered) a paleontological repository, such as the University of California Museum of Paleontology.	During construction	Daily during construction activities	TIWD		
<b>Tribal Cultural Resources</b>						
See <b>CUL-2</b> and <b>CUL-3</b> .						