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: Basins and Stormwater Capture Project

Lead Agency: City of Los Banos — Contact Person: Charles Bergson, P.E.

Mailing Address: 411 Madison Avenue — Phone: 209-827-2466

City: Los Banos — Zip: 93635 — County: Merced

Project Location: County: Merced — City/Nearest Community: Los Banos

Cross Streets: _____ — Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37 ° 05 ′ 00.75 ″ N / 120 ° 49 ′ 09.37 ″ W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: See attached project description — Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☐ Neg Dec ☒ Mit Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) _____ Other: _____

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other: _____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan
☐ Specific Plan ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan
☐ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☐ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Coastal Permit ☒ Other: Basin & Stormwater Capture

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☒ Other: Basin & Stormwater Capture

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

See attached project description

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 and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X	Air Resources Board	X	Office of Historic Preservation
	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency		Parks & Recreation, Department of
	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
	Caltrans District #		Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB # 5
	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of		State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of		SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region # 4		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of		
	Health Services, Department of	S	Other: APCD
	Housing & Community Development		Other:
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date August 28, 2024 Ending Date September 27, 2024

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Address: 400 E Main Street, Suite 300
City/State/Zip: Visalia, CA 93291
Contact: Amy Wilson
Phone: 559-636-1166

Applicant: City of Los Banos
Address: 520 J Street
City/State/Zip: Los Banos, CA 93635
Phone: 209-827-2466

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: [signature] **Date:** 8/27/24

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Location

The Project is located in the City of Los Banos and unincorporated Merced County, California, approximately 125 miles south of Sacramento and 168 miles northwest of Bakersfield. The Project site is located on Merced County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) 082-020-024, 424-010-003, 424-010-004, and 073-220-014. The coordinates of the centroid of the Project site are 37° 05' 00.75" [N], 120° 49' 09.37" [W].

General Plan Designation and Zoning

Project Area	General Plan Designation	Zoning District
ONSITE		
Merced County	Agriculture/Medium Density Residential	A-1 General Agriculture
Los Banos (City)	Agriculture/Rural	Public Use/Institutional; A-1 General Agriculture
ADJACENT LANDS		
Merced County	Agriculture/Medium Density Residential	A-1 General Agriculture
Los Banos (City)	Agriculture/Rural, Low Density Residential, Park	A-1 General Agriculture; R-1 Low Density Residential, Park; Public Use/Institutional

Description of Project

The proposed Project would construct a basin for the purposes of surface and storm water capture as well as for incidental groundwater recharge with approximately three internal cells. The basin would provide multiple benefits in terms of storage, recharge, and re-regulation of various City and GWD water sources and possess a combined storage capacity of approximately 500 AF. GWD operates two canals near the Project site: the San Luis Canal bordering the site on the west and the Santa Fe Canal to the east. The San Luis Drain, which is part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Central Valley Project (CVP), is situated between the Santa Fe Canal and the Project site. From either canal, GWD could physically deliver floodwaters, storm drainage, CVP and local surface water supplies, or other existing water supplies from the Mendota Pool on the San Joaquin River.

The proposed Project would be surrounded with low lying embankments to contain the water supplies. The site would be separated into multiple cells with an interconnection between the cells, as well as have a connection at the northerly end to return water supplies to the San Luis Canal. The separation of the basin into three cells separated by levees would allow for access, installation, and repair of existing and future utilities that cross the site, in addition to access for operation and maintenance. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for biological and cultural surveys is identified as approximately 180 acres with the multi-cell basin accounting for approximately 160 acres. Based on the canal water surface elevation compared to the proposed ground surfaces, turnouts to the property would require pumping plants to deliver the supplies. The basin would allow GWD to divert flows off either canal when there are capacity limitations in the canals or extra supplies, temporarily storing water on the site for later use, as well as

perform groundwater recharge activities. The City has multiple existing stormwater discharge outfalls to the San Luis Canal upstream and adjoining the Project site. Diverting these flows to the Project site can reduce the peaking flows in the canal, which would reduce possible downstream flooding and provide capacity flexibility for GWD operations.

The detention basin would contain the following components:

- Basin embankment heights would be less than six feet above the existing ground surface;
- Turnouts on each side of the property, one from the Santa Fe Canal and one from the San Luis Canal;
    - Major components of the turnouts would include a concrete structure, pumping plants with electrical motors, metering, discharge pipeline and outlet structure;
- Excavation would be balanced on site, if possible;
- Inter-basin cells connection structure; and
- Return flow structure and pipeline to the San Luis Canal.

The USBR San Luis Drain encroachment would be constructed with bore and jack or open cut methods. The discharge carrier pipeline would likely be cased with a steel pipeline sleeve. The City is in the process of developing other projects for sewer and drinking water pipelines that would also cross the drain and canals, however the turnout and pipeline off the Santa Fe Canal would likely be further south and may or may not be combined with other projects with one encroachment process. Due to budgetary processes and funding limitations, it is likely that the project will be constructed in phases, with the embankment earthwork, connections to the San Luis Canal and inter-basin structures being constructed first, then pump and electrical work, and the easterly turnout off the Santa Fe Canal constructed at a later date than the rest of the Project.

Construction Schedule

Construction of the Project is expected to be completed in phases, totaling nine to 12 months. Initially, the proposed basin embankments/cells, structures off the San Luis Canal, and basin inter-connection structures would be constructed over the course of approximately six months. The Project includes mobilization, site preparation, and berm construction surrounding the basin; earthwork and structures placement; Project turnouts, metering stands, and inter-basin and basin outfall structures. New berm construction would be less than six feet, measured from the exterior toe to the top of the new levee. The Project would include approximately three ponds/cells within the detention basin separated by berms. A 15-foot-wide drive/access road would be constructed to surround the basins. The proposed road would not require any special surfacing and would be used for maintenance access and operations. After construction completion, performance testing and demobilization would occur. At a later date, installation of the pumping plant and electrical service for the turnout off the San Luis Canal, crossing the USBR San Luis Drain (once federal approvals are obtained), and construction of an additional turnout and pump station off the Santa Fe Canal are proposed to be constructed, over about a three-month period.

Equipment

Construction equipment would likely include, but not be limited to, the following types:

- Excavators;
- Backhoes;

- Graders;
- Skid steers;
- Loaders;
- Hauling trucks;
- Scrapers;
- Sheepsfoot compactors;
- Dozers,
- Large tractor and large discing unit,
- Water trucks supplying water for dust control and conditioning soil for compaction; and
- Large watercannon and hoses.

Post-construction activities would include system testing, commissioning, and site clean-up. Construction will require temporary staging and storage of materials and equipment. Staging areas would be located onsite within the identified APE or at the City of Los Banos wastewater treatment plant property.

Operation and Maintenance

Management and operations of the basin would include monitoring existing nearby wells and flows in and out of the basins, plus estimated recharge quantities will be maintained to assist with City understanding and management of the groundwater levels and recharge. The City's operation of the basin would be consistent with the City's other similar facilities in that groundwater conditions would be monitored to minimize negative impacts on the surrounding areas (such as nearby wells, crops, and the existing wastewater treatment plant). Discing, mowing or spraying weeds will likely be required, as well as occasional grading of embankment roadways.