

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: Flood Capture Basin Project

Lead Agency: East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Contact Name: Michael Hagman

Email: mhagman@lindmoreid.com Phone Number: (559) 303-4150

Project Location: Woodlake Eastern Tulare 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 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attachment.

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 known areas of controversy.

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

None.

Project Location

The Project site is located in Tulare County outside of the city limits of the City of Woodlake due west of Bravo Lake and adjacent to Wutchumna Ditch and is approximately 197 miles southwest of Sacramento and 71 miles north of Bakersfield. The Project site is approximately 27 acres and is located on Assessor's Parcel Number(s) 060-160-003 and 060-160-058. The centroid of the Project site is 36°24'15.74"N, 119° 6'20.47"W.

Description of Project

Project Background and Purpose

Sentinel Butte Mutual Water Company (SBMWC) has received funding through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to construct a multi-cell flood capture basin (Project). The funding will allow the SBMWC to construct several basin cells that would allow for approximately 80-acre-feet of storage. This Project would increase the flood water capture/storage capacity for the City of Woodlake which in recent years has suffered heavy damages, the storm season of Winter 2023 being a prime example. Flood hazards in the area are further exacerbated by the lack of a Flood Control District in Woodlake, making this type of Project vital for the city and surrounding area.

Project Description

The Project is located in Woodlake, Tulare County. The Project would entail constructing a new multi-cell flood water capture basin on an approximate 27-acre site and connecting to existing infrastructure. The proposed basin Project would capture high flows during flood periods primarily from the Kaweah River through the Wutchumna Ditch. The Project would consist of the construction of a cells excavated to an approximate depth of 6' below existing grade, and the basins would have the capacity to store approximately 50 acre-feet (AF) of water. The Project will also include a new turnout structure within Wutchumna Ditch to divert water into the proposed basin cells. The turnout structure will connect to a basin inlet structure through 120 LF of piping, equipped with a metered connection and rip rap. The turnout structure will be located northwest of the proposed basin cells along the south bank of the existing ditch. Three interbasin connection structures will also be constructed to connect the proposed cells, each connection will be equipped with two structures, rip rap and approximately 50 LF of piping. A basin outlet connection will also be incorporated through the construction of a basin outlet structure, equipped with approximately 45 LF of piping and rip rap. The basin outlet pipeline will terminate at an existing control box operated by SBMWC. In the future when water is available, SBMWC will set a temporary sump pump in the outlet pipeline to pump into the existing standpipe for delivering the flood water to their existing system..

Construction activities will include excavating to an approximate depth of 6' below existing grade with a basin cut of approximately 90,000 cubic yards. The Project will also include three stockpile locations to store excess dirt on site. Over time, the basin footprint may grow as additional dirt is removed from the stockpiles on site and that area could be utilized for additional storage volume. Once initial excavation is completed the basins will be graded and constructed as per design specifications.

Through these improvements the project is anticipated to capture 30 AF/y of flood waters. This estimate assumes that the basin cells developed will provide 50 AF of volume. During wet years it is assumed the

cells will completely fill and empty approximately three (3) times providing for 150 AF in those years. Estimating two (2) wet years in 10 years, the average annual is 30 AF/y.

Construction Schedule

Construction activity for the Project is anticipated to be completed over approximately 4-6 months, beginning in Fall of 2024 (estimated December) and ending by May of 2025. The Project includes mobilization, site preparation, earthwork and structures placement; turnout structures, interbasin and basin outlet structures. After construction completion, performance testing and demobilization would occur.

Equipment

Construction equipment will likely include the following equipment used during construction:

- Excavators,
- Backhoes,
- Graders,
- Skid steers,
- Loaders,
- Hauling trucks,
- Scrapers,
- D9 dozer,
- 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 will include system testing, commissioning, and site clean-up. Construction will require temporary staging and storage of materials and equipment. Staging areas will be located onsite.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of the stormwater capture basin will be performed by SBMWC existing maintenance staff.

Site and Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

Table 1: Existing Uses, General Plan Designation, & Zone Districts of Surrounding Properties

Direction from Project Site	Existing Use	General Plan Designation	Zone District
NORTH	Basin	Industrial	PF (Public Facilities)
EAST	Residential	Low Density Residential	R-L (Low Density Res)
SOUTH	Municipal Airport	Public Facilities	PF
WEST	Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)	Public Facilities	PF

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 SBMWC Flood Capture Basin Project located in Tulare County . 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

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program					
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Biological Resources					
General					
BIO-1 (WEAP Training)					
<p>Prior to initiating construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction will attend a mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to aid workers in identifying special status resources that may occur in the Project site. The specifics of this program will include identification of the sensitive species and suitable habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of sensitive resources, and review of the limits of construction and mitigation measures required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area. This training will discuss special status species, describe the laws and regulations in place to provide protection of these species, identify the penalties for violation of applicable environmental laws and regulations, and include a list of required protective measures to avoid “take.” A fact sheet summarizing this information, along with photographs or illustrations of sensitive species and sensitive habitats such as wetlands with potential to occur onsite, will also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and all other personnel involved with construction of the Project. All trainees will sign a form documenting that they have attended WEAP training and understand the information presented to them.</p>	Prior to the start of any construction activities	As needed for any new construction personnel during construction activities	SBMWC		
BIO-2 BMPs					
<p>(BMPs):The Project proponent will ensure that all workers employ the following best management practices (BMPs) in order to avoid and minimize potential impacts to special status species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. vehicles will observe a 15-mph speed limit on unpaved access routes. ii. Workers will inspect areas beneath parked vehicles, equipment, and materials prior to mobilization. If special status species are detected, 	Prior to the start of any construction activities	During Construction	SBMWC		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program					
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
the individual will either be allowed to leave of its own volition or will be captured by the qualified biologist (must possess appropriate collecting/handling permits) and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat beyond the influence of the Project work area. "Take" of a state or federal special status (rare, California Species of Special Concern, threatened, or endangered) species is prohibited.					
Northwestern Pond Turtles					
BIO - 3 (Pre-construction Survey)					
Within seven (7) days prior to the start of construction, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for northwestern pond turtle within the Project site and within surrounding areas up to 330 feet. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted in accordance with the draft Western Pond Turtle (<i>Emys marmorata</i>) Visual Survey Protocol for the Southcoast Ecoregion (United States Geological Survey 2006). If no northwestern pond turtles are observed during the pre-construction survey, then construction activities may begin. If construction is delayed or halted for more than seven (7) days, another pre-construction survey for northwestern pond turtle will be conducted. If the surveys result in the identification of a northwestern pond turtle or an individual is found on the site during construction activities, it will be allowed to leave the site on its own and the qualified biologist shall determine appropriate buffers to be implemented to avoid impacts to the individual(s).	7 days Prior to construction	Once, Prior to the start of construction	SBMWC		
BIO - 4 (Monitor)					
If northwestern pond turtles are observed on the Project site, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-activity clearance survey each day and remain onsite to oversee all vegetation clearing and ground disturbing activities	During construction activities	Daily, During construction activities	SBMWC		
BIO-5 (Formal Consultation)					
If northwestern pond turtles within the site cannot be avoided, the Project proponent will initiate protection plans and/or relocation plans in consultation with CDFW and/or USFWS	Prior to construction activities	Once, Prior to construction activities	SBMWC		
Project-Related Mortality and/or Nest Abandonment of Migratory Birds, Raptors, and Special Status Birds					
BIO-6 (Pre-construction Survey and Avoidance Buffers)					

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program					
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Within seven (7) days prior to the start of construction, a qualified biologist (someone familiar with this species and their habitats) will conduct a pre-construction survey for western spadefoot within the Project site and surrounding areas up to 50 feet. If no western spadefoot individuals are observed during the pre-construction survey, then construction activities may begin. If construction is delayed or halted for more than seven (7) days, another pre-construction survey for western spadefoot will be conducted. If the surveys result in the identification of a western spadefoot or an individual is found on the site during construction activities, it will be allowed to leave the site on its own and the qualified biologist shall determine appropriate buffers to be implemented to avoid impacts to the individual(s)	7 days Prior to construction	Once, Prior to the start of construction	SBMWC		
BIO-7 (Monitor)					
If western spadefoot individuals are observed on the Project site, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-activity clearance survey each day and remain onsite to oversee all vegetation clearing and ground disturbing activities until the individual(s) have left the site	During construction activities	Daily, During construction activities	SBMWC		
BIO-8 (Formal Consultation)					
If western spadefoots within the site cannot be avoided, the Project proponent will initiate protection plans and/or relocation plans in consultation with CDFW and/or USFWS	Prior to construction activities	Once, Prior to construction activities	SBMWC		
Project-Related Mortality and/or Nest Abandonment of Migratory Birds, Raptors, and Special Status Birds					
BIO – 9 (Avoidance)					
The Project's construction activities will occur, if feasible, between August 15 and January 31 (outside of the nesting bird season) to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	August 15-January 31	During construction	SBMWC		
BIO – 10 (Pre-construction Survey)					
If activities must occur within the nesting bird season (February 1 to August 14), a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests within five (5) calendar days prior to the start of construction. It will be completed within the Project site, and up to 100 feet outside of the Project site for nesting migratory birds and up to 500 feet outside of the project site for nesting raptors. Raptor nests are	During active nesting season February 1- August 14	Once prior to initiating any ground disturbances	SBMWC		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program					
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
considered “active” upon the nest-building stage. If no active nests are observed, no further mitigation is required.					
BIO – 11 (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. If necessary, avoidance buffers will be identified with flagging, fencing, or other easily visible means, and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the nestlings have fledged	During active nesting season February 1- August 14	As determined needed by qualified biologist during construction activities	SBMWC		
Special Status Plant Species					
BIO-12 (Focused Botanical Survey)					
A qualified botanist/biologist will conduct focused botanical surveys during the appropriate blooming seasons for alkali-sink goldfields, Coulter’s goldfields, Greene’s tuctoria, Hoover’s spurge, San Joaquin adobe sunburst, San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass, Sanford’s arrowhead, and spiny-sepaed button-celery, according to CDFW’s <i>Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities</i> (2018) for areas where ground disturbance will occur and prior to the start of construction. Reference sites for these plants will be visited prior to completing surveys within the Project site.	Prior to construction activities	Once, Prior to construction activities	SBMWC		
BIO-13 (Avoidance)					
If Sanford’s arrowhead individuals are identified during the focused botanical surveys, an avoidance buffer and, if necessary, use of exclusion fencing, will be placed around the area as to not disturb the plants or its root system..	During construction activities	As determined needed by qualified biologist during construction activities	SBMWC		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program					
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
BIO-14 (Formal Consultation)					
If Sanford's arrowhead individuals are detected within Project work areas during the focused botanical surveys, and the plants cannot be avoided, the Project proponent will initiate consultation with CNPS and/or CDFW to determine next steps for relocation.	Prior to construction activities	Once, Prior to construction activities	SBMWC		
Project-Related Impacts to Wildlife Movement Corridors and Native Wildlife Nursery Sites					
BIO-15 (Wildlife Access)					
Construction activities will be limited to a half hour after sunrise through a half hour before sunset to reduce potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors.	During construction activities	During construction activities	SBMWC		
BIO-16 (Pre-Construction Survey)					
If the wetlands and depressions or the 50-foot buffer must be impacted when the wetlands or depressions are inundated, a preconstruction survey will be completed within five days prior to disturbance. It will include a qualified biologist using a seine, dip-net, or other net to look for amphibian eggs or larvae. If no eggs or larvae are observed, the Project may proceed.	5 days prior to construction activities	Once, Prior to construction activities	SBMWC		
BIO-17 (Avoidance Buffer)					
Should any amphibian eggs or larvae be observed during the pre-construction survey, a 50-foot buffer will be placed around the wetland/depression habitat that contains the eggs or larvae and will remain in place until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have dispersed, or the wetlands or depressions are no longer inundated.	Prior to Construction activities	Once, Prior to construction activities	SBMWC		
Cultural Resources					
CUL – 1 (Archaeological Remains)					
Should archaeological remains or artifacts be unearthed during any stage of project activities, work in the area of discovery shall cease until the area is evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If mitigation is warranted, the Project proponent shall abide by recommendations of the archaeologist.	During Construction Activities	During Construction	SBMWC		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program					
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
CUL – 2 (Human Remains)					
In the event that any human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Tulare 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 Activities	During Construction	SBMWC		
Tribal Cultural Resources					
See CUL-1 and CUL-2 above					