

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: Lateral 7R Pipeline Replacement Project

Lead Agency: <u>Westlands Water District</u>	Contact Person: <u>Kelly Vandergon, P.E., CP2</u>
Mailing Address: <u>286 W Cromwell Ave</u>	Phone: <u>559-224-1523</u>
City: <u>Fresno</u> Zip: <u>93711</u>	County: <u>Fresno</u>

Project Location: County: Fresno City/Nearest Community: _____
 Cross Streets: see attached project description Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____° _____' _____" N / _____° _____' _____" W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec | (Prior SCH No.) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI | _____ |

Local Action Type:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Pipeline Replacement</u> |

Development Type:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Pipeline Replacement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

AE20 - Exclusive Agricultural, AE40 - Exclusive Agricultural/Westside Rangeland

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 # _____	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <u>SJVAPCD</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Native American Heritage Commission		

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

Starting Date October 4, 2024 Ending Date November 4, 2024

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group</u>	Applicant: <u>Westlands Water District</u>
Address: <u>455 W. Fir Avenue</u>	Address: <u>286 W. Cromwell Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Clovis, CA 93611</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Fresno, CA 93711</u>
Contact: <u>Briza Sholars</u>	Phone: <u>559-884-2523 ext. 107 office</u>
Phone: <u>559-449-2700</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 2024.10.02 13:25:39 -07'00' Date: 10-2-2024

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NAME

Lateral 7R Pipeline Replacement Project

LEAD AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS

Westlands Water District
 286 W Cromwell Ave
 Fresno, CA 93711

CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER

Kelly Vandergon, P.E., CP2
 Director of Operations and Maintenance
 559-884-2523 ext. 107 office

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located in western Fresno County, along the West Dinuba Avenue alignment both east and west of Interstate 5 (I-5) and west of State Route (SR) 33. It may be found on the Monocline Ridge United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle, in Sections 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, and 35 of Township 15 South, Range 13 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The centroid for the Project is 36.590 N, 120.558 W.

See table below for list of potentially affected Assessor’s Parcels:

Assessor’s Parcel Numbers			
027-171-04ST	027-171-40S	027-171-82S	027-180-68
027-171-05S	027-171-42	027-180-02S	027-180-69
027-171-08S	027-171-43S	027-180-07S	027-180-70
027-171-10S	027-171-44S	027-180-09S	027-180-85S
027-171-20S	027-171-79S	027-180-10S	027-180-86S
027-171-25S	027-171-80S	027-180-55ST	
027-171-39ST	027-171-81S	027-180-67	

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION AND ZONING

Table 1: General Plan & Zoning Designation for Project Area

Project Area	General Plan Designation	Zoning District
ONSITE	Westside Rangeland	AE20 - Exclusive Agricultural, AE40 - Exclusive Agricultural
ADJACENT LANDS	Agriculture	AE20 - Exclusive Agricultural, AE40 - Exclusive Agricultural

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Westlands Water District (WWD) was formed under California Water District Law in 1952 upon petition of landowners located within the WWD’s proposed boundaries. Nearly all the land within the current WWD boundaries was at one time farmed using groundwater. When the original WWD was organized, it included approximately 376,000 acres. In 1965, it merged with its western neighbor, Westlands Water Storage District, adding 210,000 acres. Additionally, lands comprising about 18,000 acres were annexed to the

District after the merger to form the 604,000-acre District. In 2004, WWD acquired and annexed Broadview Water District increasing the size of WWD to 614,000 acres. WWD has a contract for surface water supply from the United States Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Central Valley Project.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The Project's main objective is to replace and relocate an approximately 4.2-mile segment of the District's Lateral 7R pipeline. The existing pipe was installed in 1971 and has experienced increasing reliability concerns over the past five years. On average, this 4.2-mile section of pipe sees approximately 10 pipeline blows resulting in 30 days of service interruptions and the loss of an estimated 3,360 acre-feet (AF) of water annually. With its close proximity to I-5 and lack of a casing pipe under the traveled lanes, this existing pipe has the potential to impact vehicle travel along a critical travel corridor within the State. The new replacement pipe will be installed parallel to the existing one, but through existing dirt roads rather than through the farmed ground that the old alignment traverses. This will allow the existing line to remain in service through most of the construction and limit the service interruption for the connection to the existing pumping plants. The replacement/relocation effort will increase the reliability of the 7R pipeline and reduce potential impacts to I-5.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project would involve the replacement and relocation of an approximately 4.2-mile-long segment of the WWD Lateral 7R, with delivery tie-ins and connections to two District reservoirs at existing pumping plant facilities. The pipeline will be installed across the I-5 transportation corridor and associated California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way using jack-and-bore methods. Staging areas will be located onsite and adjacent to proposed pipeline within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The APE identified for biological and cultural surveys is approximately 50 acres.

The Project will replace an approximately 4.2-mile segment of the Lateral 7R, from STA. 109+81.60 to 212+88.30 and STA. 215+00.00 to 333+92.63. The existing mortar-lined steel pipe will be replaced with an equivalent size and class of High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe.

Dimensions of the existing pipe to be replaced are as follows:

- *2,660 linear feet (+-) of 42-inch diameter*
- *7,650 linear feet (+-) of 39-inch diameter*
- *2,180 linear feet (+-) of 36-inch diameter*
- *6,050 linear feet (+-) of 33-inch diameter*
- *3,660 linear feet (+-) of 30-inch diameter*

Dimensions of the replacement pipe are as follows:

- *13,943 linear feet (+-) of 48-inch diameter*
- *5,038 linear feet (+-) of 42-inch diameter*
- *3,674 linear feet (+-) of 36-inch diameter*

Pipeline replacement will entail using primarily open cut methods to install the new pipe parallel to the existing pipe. This will allow the existing pipe to remain in service during most of the construction window. While the existing pipeline travels through the landowner's farmable ground, the new alignment will be confined to existing dirt roads. Relocation of the pipeline alignment will require the acquisition of additional easements (four new easements across six Assessor's Parcel Numbers). The new lateral will be constructed

to a depth meeting the requirements of the new and existing easements, while minimizing construction costs and avoiding existing utilities including multiple gas and petroleum transmission mains.

Where the proposed alignment crosses Tumey Gulch, appropriate ingress and egress will need to be provided before open cut trenching can occur. First, vegetation and debris will be cleared from a 35- to 40-foot-wide corridor centered on the proposed pipeline location. Next, an excavator will be used to remove excess overburden from the trenching route, digging a path 14 to 16 feet wide and approximately 6 feet over the top of the proposed pipeline. The excavator would then be used to dig the trench for the pipe, following which the pipe would be placed (minimum depth of 6 feet below pre-project grade), backfilled, and compacted. Following pipeline installation across Tumey Gulch, the removed overburden will be returned to the trenching route, and the bed and banks of the gulch will be returned to pre-project contours to the maximum extent feasible.

Where the proposed pipeline crosses Interstate 5 and the associated Caltrans right-of-way (ROW), jack and bore methods will be used to first install a new 66-inch steel casing under the ROW, following which the new 42-inch HDPE water main (carrier pipe) will be pulled through the casing.

In addition to the pipeline replacement, nine delivery tie-ins up to and including the dresser coupling, and eight subline connections including the respective subline valves will be made. Additionally, the new pipeline will be connected into the inlet structure of the existing reservoirs at two separate pumping plants; these are identified as Reservoir 7R-B (Pumping Plant 7R-C) and Reservoir 7R-C (Pumping Plant 7R-D).

Following construction, the existing pipe will be abandoned in place and filled with a two-sack cement slurry to prevent collapse in the future as the pipe material degrades.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Construction will occur over approximately 12 months between March 2025 through March 2026. Generally, construction will occur between the hours of 7am and 5pm, Monday through Friday, excluding weekends and holidays.

EQUIPMENT

Construction equipment will likely include excavators, backhoes, bulldozer, boring machine, and generators to be used in construction to power construction equipment, but no long-term generators will be needed. Post-construction activities will include 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 replacement pipeline will be performed by the District as it is now for the existing pipeline.