

**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: Lateral 7R Pipeline Replacement ProjectLead Agency: Westlands Water DistrictContact Name: Kelly Vandergon, P.E., CP2Email: kvandergon@wwd.ca.govPhone Number: 559-224-1523Project Location: Fresno 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 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.

Not applicable.

# 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 Error! No text of specified style in document.-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

## 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).

Since the pipeline being replaced is a Federally owned but operated and maintained by Westlands and since WWD is acquiring new easements on USBR behalf, USBR will need to take action for the modification to the facility and transfer of the easements from WWD to USBR.

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.

## 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 Westlands Water District Lateral 7R Pipeline Replacement Project located in unincorporated Fresno 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**

<b>Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program</b>						
<b>Item</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>When Monitoring is to Occur</b>	<b>Frequency of Monitoring</b>	<b>Agency Responsible for Monitoring</b>	<b>Method to Verify Compliance</b>	<b>Verification of Compliance</b>
<b>Biological Resources</b>						
<b>San Joaquin Woollythreads, Panoche peppergrass, and showy golden madia</b>						
<b>BIO-1</b>	<b>(Protocol Rare Plant Surveys)</b> Prior to project implementation, a qualified botanist will conduct protocol-level botanical surveys within the on-site reach of Tumey Gulch corridor, defined as the gulch and adjoining swaths of uncultivated upland habitat. The surveys will be conducted in accordance with CDFW’s Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2018).	Prior to project implementation	Once	WWD		
<b>BIO-2</b>	<b>(Avoidance of San Joaquin Woollythreads)</b> If San Joaquin woollythreads individuals or populations are identified during the surveys, the qualified botanist will determine an appropriate “no work” buffer for their avoidance during construction.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-3</b>	<b>(Avoidance or Salvage of Panoche Peppergrass and Showy Golden Madia)</b> . If feasible, any Panoche peppergrass or showy golden madia individuals or populations that are found on site will be avoided as described above under Mitigation Measure 4.1.1b. If this is not feasible, then the affected population(s) will be salvaged in accordance with a plan prepared by a qualified biologist and approved by CDFW that will include contingencies for an unsuccessful salvage effort. The relocation area(s) will be located in portions of the site that support suitable habitat and soils for this species and will not experience project-related disturbance. Relocation areas will be monitored for a period of three years to ensure successful establishment.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>Giant Kangaroo Rat</b>						
<b>BIO-4</b>	<b>(Pre-construction Surveys)</b> Within 30 days prior to the start of work within the Tumey Gulch corridor, defined as the gulch and adjoining swaths of uncultivated upland habitat, a qualified biologist will	Within 30 days prior to the start of work within the Tumey Gulch corridor	Once	WWD		

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
	conduct a preconstruction survey for potential giant kangaroo rat burrows. The survey will encompass the on-site reach of the Tumey Gulch corridor and adjacent lands within 50 feet. All potential giant kangaroo rat burrows within the survey area will be mapped and flagged for avoidance.					
<b>BIO-5</b>	<b>(Avoidance)</b> If feasible, all potential giant kangaroo rat burrows identified during the preconstruction surveys will be avoided by a minimum distance of 50 feet during construction.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-6</b>	<b>(Trapping and Relocation)</b> Any potential giant kangaroo rat burrows that cannot be avoided by a minimum distance of 50 feet will be live trapped by a qualified and appropriately permitted biologist, and the captured animals relocated to suitable alternative habitat. This work will be conducted in accordance with a CDFW- and USFWS-approved trapping and relocation plan. Incidental take authorization from both agencies will be required in advance of the relocation effort.	Prior to construction	Once	WWD		
<b>BIO-7</b>	<b>(Small Mammal Burrow Excavation)</b> Following the trapping and relocation effort, any potential giant kangaroo rat burrows that cannot be avoided by a minimum distance of 50 feet will be excavated under the supervision of a qualified and appropriately permitted biologist. Any giant kangaroo rat individuals that are encountered during this effort will be captured and relocated in accordance with the CDFW- and USFWS-approved trapping and relocation plan.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-8</b>	<b>(Exclusion Fencing)</b> Following the small mammal burrow excavation effort, exclusion fencing will be installed to prevent giant kangaroo rats from entering the work area within the Tumey Gulch corridor during construction. The fencing design will be approved in advance by CDFW and USFWS, and the installation effort will be monitored by a	Prior to construction	Daily	WWD		



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
	qualified biologist. The fencing will be maintained in good repair for the duration of construction activities in the Tumey Gulch corridor.					
<b>BIO-9</b>	<b>(Construction Monitoring)</b> A qualified biologist will be on site during all ground-disturbing activities within the Tumey Gulch corridor. The purpose of the monitoring will be to (1) ensure that construction activities in the Tumey Gulch corridor remain within the fenced area, (2) ensure that the exclusion fencing remains intact and in good repair, and (3) periodically inspect open holes and trenches for trapped animals.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-10</b>	<b>(Employee Education Program)</b> A qualified biologist will provide training to all personnel who will be working on site. The training will include a description of the giant kangaroo rat and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of giant kangaroo rats in the project vicinity; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of the measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A handout will be provided to all attendees that summarizes the information presented in the training and presents the name and number of a designated representative to contact in case giant kangaroo rats are observed in or near the work area during construction.	Prior to construction	Once	WWD		
<b>San Joaquin Kit Fox</b>						
<b>BIO-11</b>	<b>(Pre-construction Surveys)</b> Between 14 and 30 days prior to the start of any project activity that could potentially affect the SJKF, a qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys for this species following the USFWS 2011 Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or during Ground Disturbance (“Standardized Recommendations”).	Between 14 and 30 days prior to the start of any project activity that could potentially affect the SJKF	Once	WWD		

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
	The primary objective will be to identify potential SJKF habitat features and evaluate their use by kit foxes.					
<b>BIO-12</b>	<b>(Avoidance)</b> Should one or more active kit fox dens be detected during preconstruction surveys, the USFWS and CDFW will be notified immediately. A disturbance-free buffer will be established around the dens in consultation with the USFWS and CDFW, to be maintained until an agency-approved biologist has determined that the dens have been abandoned.	Prior to construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-13</b>	<b>(Minimization)</b> The applicant will implement all minimization measures presented in the USFWS Standardized Recommendations. Such measures include but are not limited to: restriction of project-related vehicle traffic to established roads, construction areas, and other designated areas; measures to prevent the inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes in holes, trenches, and pipes; restriction of rodenticide and herbicide use; and proper disposal of food items and trash.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-14</b>	<b>(Employee Education Program)</b> A qualified biologist will provide training to all personnel who will be working on site. The training will include a description of the kit fox and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project vicinity; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of the measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A handout will be provided to all attendees that summarizes the information presented in the training and presents the contact name and number of a designated representative to contact in case SJKF individuals are observed in or near the work area during construction.	Prior to construction	Once	WWD		

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>Burrowing Owl</b>						
<b>BIO-15</b>	<b>(Take Avoidance Survey).</b> A take avoidance survey for burrowing owls will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the start of construction, following methods described in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012). The survey area will include all potential roosting and nesting habitat on and within 200 meters of the project site.	Within 30 days prior to the start of construction	Once	WWD		
<b>BIO-16</b>	<b>(Avoidance of Active Nests)</b> If project activities are undertaken during the breeding season (February 1-August 31) and active nest burrows are identified within or near project impact areas, a 200-meter disturbance-free buffer will be established around these burrows, or alternate avoidance measures implemented in consultation with CDFW. The buffers will be enclosed with temporary fencing to prevent construction equipment and workers from entering the setback area. Buffers will remain in place for the duration of the breeding season, unless otherwise arranged with CDFW. After the breeding season (i.e. once all young have left the nest), passive relocation of any remaining owls may take place as described below.	If project activities are undertaken during the breeding season (February 1-August 31) and active nest burrows are identified within or near project impact areas	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-17</b>	<b>(Avoidance or Passive Relocation of Resident Owls)</b> During the non-breeding season (September 1-January 31), resident owls occupying burrows in project impact areas may either be avoided, or passively relocated to alternative habitat. If the applicant chooses to avoid active owl burrows within the impact area during the non-breeding season, a minimum 50-meter disturbance-free buffer will be established around these burrows, or alternate avoidance measures implemented in consultation with CDFW. The buffers will be enclosed with temporary fencing and will remain in place until a qualified biologist determines that the	During the non-breeding season (September 1-January 31)	Daily	WWD		

<b>Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program</b>						
<b>Item</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>When Monitoring is to Occur</b>	<b>Frequency of Monitoring</b>	<b>Agency Responsible for Monitoring</b>	<b>Method to Verify Compliance</b>	<b>Verification of Compliance</b>
	burrows are no longer active. If the applicant chooses to passively relocate owls during the non-breeding season, this activity will be conducted in accordance with a relocation plan prepared by a qualified biologist.					
<b>American Badger</b>						
<b>BIO-18</b>	<b>(Preconstruction Surveys)</b> A preconstruction survey for American badgers will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 10 days prior to the start of construction. The surveys will target all suitable denning habitat of the project site.	Within 10 days prior to the start of construction	Once	WWD		
<b>BIO-19</b>	<b>(Avoidance)</b> Should an active sleeping den be identified during the preconstruction surveys, the den shall be identified in the field with brightly-colored fencing or flagging, and avoided until a qualified biologist has determined that it has been abandoned. Should an active natal den be identified during the preconstruction surveys, a suitable disturbance-free buffer will be established around the den and maintained until a qualified biologist has determined that the cubs have dispersed, or the den has been abandoned.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>Nesting Birds and Raptors including the Swainson’s Hawk, Tricolored Blackbird, and Short-eared Owl</b>						
<b>BIO-20</b>	<b>(Construction Timing)</b> If feasible, future construction activities will take place entirely outside of the avian nesting season, defined here as March 1-September 15 for the Swainson’ hawk and February 1 to August 31 for other nesting birds and raptors.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>BIO-21</b>	<b>(Preconstruction Surveys)</b> If construction must occur during the avian nesting season, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys for active bird nests within 10 days prior to the start of work during this period. The survey area will encompass the site and accessible surrounding lands within ½ mile for nesting Swainson’s hawks, 500 feet for other nesting raptors including the short-eared owl, 300 feet for	If construction must occur during avian nesting season, within 10 days prior to the start of work during this period	Once	WWD		

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
	the tricolored blackbird, and 250 feet for other nesting birds.					
<b>BIO-22</b>	<b>(Avoidance of Active Nests)</b> . Should any active nests be discovered in or near proposed construction zones, the biologist will identify a suitable construction-free buffer around the nest based on local conditions and agency guidelines. This buffer will be identified on the ground with flagging or fencing and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are capable of foraging independently.	During construction	Daily	WWD		
<b>Cultural Resources</b>						
<b>CUL-1</b>	<b>(Archaeological Remains)</b> Should archeological remains or artifacts be unearthed during any stage of project activities, work in the area of the 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 ground disturbing activities	Daily	WWD		
<b>CUL-2</b>	<b>(Human Remains)</b> In the event that human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Fresno County Coroner must be notified of that discovery (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5) and all activities in the immediate area if the find or in any nearby area reasonably suspected of 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 ground disturbing activities	Daily	WWD		
<b>Tribal Cultural Resources</b>						
	See <b>CUL-1</b> and <b>CUL-2</b> above					