

**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: Cameron Creek Linear Recharge ProjectLead Agency: City of VisaliaContact Name: Rebecca Keenan, Engineer; Brandon Smith, Principal PlannerEmail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: (559) 713-4636Project Location: Visalia 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 attached Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program Plan (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 known areas of controversy.

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

Not applicable.

# Project Description

## Project Title

Cameron Creek Linear Recharge Project

## Project Location

The Project is located in Tulare County just outside of the southeastern quadrant of the City of Visalia, approximately 200 miles southeast of Sacramento and 62 miles north of Bakersfield. The centroid of the Project area is 36° 18' 24.19" N, 119° 15' 01.48" W.

## General Plan Designation and Zoning

The Project area itself does not have a General Plan or Zoning designation as it consists of the existing Cameron Creek channel. Lands surrounding Cameron Creek contain both County of Tulare and the City of Visalia designations.

### *Project Description*

The proposed Project proposes to construct up to three (3) reinforced concrete check structure facilities within the Cameron Creek channel. All check structures would be equipped with control gates and weir boards capable of passing high flows (250 cubic feet per second) while maintaining high water levels in the channel making Cameron Creek a linear recharge basin. The section of the Cameron Creek to be utilized begins near the start of Cameron Creek where it diverts from TID's Main Intake Canal east of Road 156, with the end location northeast of the Lovers Lane and Caldwell Avenue intersection.

For each check structure, it is anticipated that excavation through the creek channel and embankment would reach approximately 65 feet horizontally at a depth of about 10 feet from channel top (excavation from channel bottom will likely only 3-4 feet). Excavation for construction will be minimal and would only be the amount necessary for constructing the structures. Once completed, excavated soil would be backfilled around the structure and the channel prism re-graded to match existing conditions. No material export is anticipated, and earthwork would be balanced on site.

The Area of Potential Effect contains a total of 14 acres. This includes the proposed Project construction areas and an additional 25-foot buffer surrounding the proposed Project site.

### *Construction Schedule*

The Project is anticipated to be constructed within approximately four months, beginning in September of 2025. Generally, construction would occur between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays. Construction would require temporary staging and storage of materials and equipment onsite. Post-construction activities would include system testing, commissioning, site clean-up, and then operation.

### *Equipment*

Construction equipment will likely include excavators, backhoes, graders, skid steers, loaders, water trucks, concrete trucks, and hauling trucks. Construction equipment used as a part of the Project would be Clean Fleet, Tier 4 equipment. Post-construction activities will include system testing, commissioning, and site clean-up. Construction will require temporary staging and storage of materials and equipment located at each site. The post-construction activities will largely be handled via pick-up trucks.

### *Operation and Maintenance*

This Project would be operated in coordination with TID. Under a pending agreement, TID would take over the responsibilities for post-construction operation of the three check structures. Maintenance is anticipated to be a joint effort between the two agencies to perform as-needed cleaning of debris and sediment as well as equipment monitoring and maintenance.

# 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 Cameron Creek Linear Recharge Project in the County of Tulare. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the proposed Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

**Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting** Program presents the mitigation measures identified for the proposed 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						
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>General Project-Related Impacts</b>						
<b>BIO-1</b>	(WEAP Training): 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” (someone who is familiar with the species on the document), to aid workers in identifying special status resources that may occur in the APE. 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 with potential to occur on the APE, 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	Prior to the start of any construction activities	As needed for any new construction personnel during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-2</b>	(BMPs): The project proponent will require that all workers employ the following best management practices (BMPs) in order to avoid and minimize potential impacts to special status species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles will observe a 15-mph speed limit while on unpaved access routes.</li> <li>• Workers will inspect areas beneath parked vehicles, equipment, and materials prior to mobilization. If</li> </ul>	Prior to the start of any construction activities	During Construction activities	City of Visalia		

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
	<p>special status species are detected, 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presence of any special status species will be reported to the project’s “qualified biologist”, who will submit the occurrence to the CNDDDB. If necessary, the biologist will report the occurrence to CDFW and/or USFWS</li> </ul>					
<b>Project-Related Mortality and/or Nest Abandonment of Migratory Birds, Raptors, and Special Status Birds</b>						
<b>BIO-3</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	Once	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-4</b>	(Pre-construction Surveys): If activities must occur within nesting bird season (February 1 to September 15), a “qualified biologist”(someone who is familiar with bird identification and nesting bird surveys) will conduct a pre-construction survey for Swainson’s hawk nests onsite and within a 0.5-mile radius within 5 calendar days prior to the start of construction. This survey will be conducted in accordance with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson’s Hawk Nesting Surveys in California’s Central Valley (Swainson’s Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000), or current guidance. 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 the APE and up to 50 feet outside of the APE, and for other nesting raptors within and up to 450 feet outside of the APE. 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	Once, as determined by qualified biologist prior to construction activities	City of Visalia		

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
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<b>BIO-5</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. 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.	On discovery of any active nests or breeding colonies near work areas	Once, as determined by qualified biologist prior to construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance to Burrowing Owl</b>						
<b>BIOI-6</b>	(Pre-construction Take Avoidance Survey): A “qualified biologist” (someone who is familiar with species identification and their sign, and habitat use) will conduct a pre-construction take avoidance survey for BUOW and suitable burrows, in accordance with CDFW’s Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012), within seven (7) days prior to the start of construction activities. The survey shall include the proposed work area and surrounding lands up to 500 feet. If no BUOW individuals or active burrows are observed, no further mitigation is required. If construction is halted for (7) consecutive days another pre-activity survey shall be completed.	7 days prior to construction	Once, as determined by qualified biologist prior to construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-7</b>	(Avoidance): If an active BUOW burrow is detected, the occurrence will be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database, and avoidance buffers shall be implemented. 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 burrow(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 and all BUOW have left the Project area.	Upon discovery of BUOW burrow	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-8</b>	(Passive Relocation): If avoidance of an active BUOW burrow is not feasible, passive relocation during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) could be utilized or during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31) if a	September 1 to January 31 or	Once, as determined by qualified biologist	City of Visalia		

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	“qualified biologist” determines that there are no young in the burrow. Prior to completion a “qualified biologist” will prepare a passive relocation plan that would detail the methods to be used. It would include the tools to exclude the BUOW from its burrow (i.e., one-way doors or other devices) and excavate the burrow (hand tools and machinery, if needed). Following completion of passive relocation, a report will be prepared that would document the methods and results of these efforts.	February 1 to August 31	during construction activities			
<b>Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance of Maternity Roosting Bats and Special Status Bats</b>						
<b>BIO-9</b>	<p>(Focused Surveys): Within seven days prior to the start of construction activities focused surveys will be conducted by a “qualified biologist” (someone who is familiar with the roosting behavior and habitat of the species and can identify the species sign). They will include a daytime roost survey and dusk emergence survey. The daytime roost survey will include surveying for roosting bats within potentially suitable structures (i.e., oak trees and bridges) within and adjacent to each APE, where accessible.</p> <p>The dusk emergence survey will include surveying for emerging bats at areas where bat sign or likely bat roost areas were observed during the daytime roost survey. It should be conducted on a warm night during dry weather conditions and from approximately 15 minutes before sunset to 1 hour after sunset. If no roosting bats are discovered tree or branch removal must be completed within two days.</p>	Within seven days prior to the start of construction activities	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-10</b>	(Avoidance Buffers): Should any active bat roosts be observed during the focused surveys, a “qualified biologist” will determine appropriate avoidance buffers (i.e., construction setback distances) based on the biology of the species, conditions of the roost(s), and the level of project disturbance, if appropriate. 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 roost will no longer be impacted by construction.	Upon discovery of any active maternity roosts	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-11</b>	(Eviction): If avoidance buffers are not feasible and it has been determined by a “qualified biologist” that the bats are no	During construction activities	Once, as determined	City of Visalia		



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	longer raising their young or are overwintering, the bats may be evicted. An eviction plan will first be prepared by a “qualified biologist” that identifies the materials and methods that will be used to safely evict the bats.		by qualified biologist during construction activities			
<b>Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance to San Joaquin Kit Fox</b>						
<b>BIO-12</b>	(Pre-Construction Survey): Within fourteen (14) days prior to the start of construction a “qualified biologist” will conduct a pre-construction survey for San Joaquin kit fox will be conducted on and within 200 feet of proposed work areas.	Within fourteen (14) days prior to the start of construction	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-13</b>	(Establish Buffers): On discovery of any SJKF dens near the project area a “qualified biologist” (someone familiar with the identification and sign of this species) will determine appropriate construction setback distances (buffer zones) based on applicable CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines (see below). If needed, construction buffers will be identified with flagging, fencing, or other easily visible means. They will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the den will no longer be impacted by construction. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 100 feet around den(s);</li> <li>2. At least 200 feet around natal dens (which SJKF young are reared); and</li> <li>3. At least 500 feet around any natal dens with pups (except for any portions of the buffer zone that is already fully developed).</li> </ol>	Upon discovery of any SJKF dens	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-14</b>	(Avoidance and Minimization): The project will observe all avoidance and minimization measures during construction and on-going operational activities as required by the “qualified biologist” and the USFWS’s Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance (2011), including, but not limited to: maintaining buffer zones, construction speed limits, covering of pipes, installation of escape structures, restriction of herbicide and rodenticide use, proper disposal of food items	During construction activities and operation	As determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		

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	and trash, prohibition of pets and firearms, and completion of an employee education program (see <b>BIO-1</b> ).					
<b>Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance to American Badger</b>						
<b>BIO-15</b>	(Pre-construction Take Avoidance Survey): A “qualified biologist” (someone familiar with the identification and sign of this species) will conduct a pre-construction survey of project areas within seven (7) days prior to vegetation clearing or ground disturbing activities. The goal of this survey is to search for potential badger dens.	Seven days prior to vegetation clearing or ground disturbing activities	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-16</b>	(Remote Cameras): If potential dens for American badger are detected during the pre-construction survey, each potential den will be monitored with remote cameras for a period of three consecutive nights. If there is no activity at the den location recorded for three consecutive nights, the den can be deemed “inactive” or “unoccupied” and closed or excavated.	Upon discovery of potential American Badger dens	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-17</b>	(Den Avoidance): If an American badger is denning on or within 50 feet of the project site, the project proponent shall avoid the den by a minimum 50-foot buffer.	Upon discovery of denning	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		
<b>BIO-18</b>	(Eviction and Den Excavation): If an American badger is denning on or within 50 feet of the project site and it cannot be avoided, the badger may be evicted, and the den excavated outside of the natal season (generally March 15 – June 15) or if it is determined that there are no kits in the den. Prior to the planned eviction and den excavation, a remote camera will be placed at the den entrance for a minimum of three consecutive nights to record the general time when the badger leaves the den. If it is outside of the natal season or it is determined by a “qualified biologist” that there are no “kits” present in the den the badger will be evicted from the den and the den excavated by hand, with the assistance of machinery, after it has left the den for that night. Should any “kits” be discovered during the	March 15 to June 15	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	City of Visalia		

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	excavation the work will stop and the crew will leave the site immediately so the female can rescue her kits and relocate them.					
<b>Cultural Resources</b>						
<b>CUL-1</b>	In the event that previously unidentified archaeological remains are encountered during development or ground-moving activities in the APE, all work should be halted until a qualified archaeologist can identify the discovery and assess its significance. In the event of accidental discovery of unidentified archaeological remains during development or ground-moving activities in the APE, all work shall be halted in the immediate vicinity until a qualified archaeologist can identify the discovery and assess its significance.	During construction activities	Continuously	City of Visalia		
<b>CUL-2</b>	If human remains are uncovered during construction, the Tulare County Coroner is to be notified to investigate the remains and arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits to be those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and PRC 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendent who will be afforded an opportunity to make recommendations regarding the treatment and disposition of the remains.	Upon discovery of human remains	Continuously	Applicant/Contractor		
<b>Tribal Cultural Resources</b>						
See <b>CUL-1</b> and <b>CUL-2</b> above.						