

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: Tulare
Address: 221 South Mooney Blvd. Room 105 Visalia, CA 93291

From: Lead Agency and Applicant

Public Agency: Tulare Irrigation District
Address: 6826 Ave 240 Tulare, CA 93274
Contact: Aaron Fukuda, General Manager
Phone: (559) 686-3425

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Tulare Irrigation District
Address: 6826 Ave 240 Tulare, CA 93274
Contact: Aaron Fukuda, General Manager
Phone: (559) 686-3425

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025010509

Project Title: Main Intake Canal Siphons Project

Project Applicant: Tulare Irrigation District, 6826 Ave 240, Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 636-3425

FILED TULARE COUNTY

Project Location (include county): Eastern Tulare County, along the St. Johns River and Kaweah River

Project Description:

MAR 17 2025

See attached Project Description.

ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:

This is to advise that the Tulare Irrigation District has approved the above (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on 3/11/2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Tulare Irrigation District, District Office located at 6826 Avenue 240, Tulare, CA 93274

Signature (Public Agency): Aaron Fukuda Title: General Manager

Date: 03-14-2025 Date Received for filing at OPR:

Project Location

The Project is located on two sites in the eastern portion of Tulare County, along the St. Johns River and the Kaweah River approximately 53-miles southeast of Fresno and 56 miles northwest of Bakersfield within Tulare Irrigation District (District). The Project sites are located on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 158-040-019 and 158-040-004. The area of potential effect (APE) for the St. Johns River siphon site is approximately 2.9 acres in size and the Kaweah River siphon site is approximately 3.4 acres in size, which equals a total Project size of approximately 6.3 acres. This includes all construction staging and access areas needed for construction equipment.

The approximate centroid of the Project site along the St. Johns River is 36° 21' 33.31" North, 119°10'26.22" West, while the approximate centroid of the site along the Kaweah river is 36°21'10.03" North, 119°10'47.28" West.

Project Description

The District is pursuing the construction of the two reinforced concrete pipe or box siphons, each connecting to the MIC. The Project proposes to install two new reinforced concrete pipe or box siphons adjacent and upstream of the existing siphons at each site. The new siphons will address the structural concerns of the existing siphons and will also enhance the maximum capacity to approximately 1,100 CFS. The Project will be completed in multiple construction phases. The initial phase will involve clearing and grubbing outside of the St. Johns and Kaweah River channels at the individual siphon sites, which could include minor vegetation removal. Upon completion of the first phase, the second phase of Project construction will be the excavation of the sending and receiving pits, one pit on either side of the Rivers at each siphon site. These pits are utilized for the jack and bore drilling installation method. In the sending pit, a boring machine and auger will drill into the earth beneath each river, installing pipe casing along the way to the receiving pit. It is anticipated the sending and receiving pits will be gravel or rock lined to stabilize the operation of the pipelines. This phase will also see the installation of head walls and wing walls on upstream and downstream sides as well as trash racks on the upstream side of the siphon intakes. The third phase of the Project will consist of reconditioning the water flow into the new siphons and into the MIC. The existing box culvert siphons will remain in place once construction of the new siphons is complete. A new bulkhead and control gate(s) will be installed to direct flow to the new siphons, unless high flows require the use of the existing siphon. Keeping the existing siphons in place in the riverbeds will provide added erosion protection for the new siphons in the Rivers by stabilizing the river bottom sediment in place.

Benefits associated with the Project include:

- Enhanced facility and system reliability
- Increased facility capacity
- Protection of functionality of the St. Johns River and Kaweah River
- Surface water reliability for irrigation and groundwater service