

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: Soledad Recycled Water Conveyance Project

Lead Agency: City of Soledad

Contact Name: Don Wilcox, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Email: dwilcox@cityofsoledad.gov

Phone Number: (831) 223-5124

Project Location: Soledad
City

Monterey
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Proposed Project consists of installing and operating infrastructure necessary to convey Title 22 recycled water from the City of Soledad's Water Reclamation Facility ("WRF") to up to 20 parks and schools throughout the City of Soledad. The Project includes the construction of a booster pump facility, distribution piping system, and appurtenances, new or converted irrigation systems, and cross-connection prevention assemblies, as well as construction management, environmental work, planning, and design. The expansion would replace a minimum of 165 acre-feet (54 million gallons) per year of groundwater pumping with recycled water to offset the use of potable water to irrigate sports fields and reduce groundwater use. Additional work on some of these park and school sites, consisting of installing irrigation meters, disconnecting the potable water system from the irrigation system, installing irrigation piping, and replacing sprinkler heads with Title 22 compliant purple colored recycled water sprinkler heads would be required to connect the existing sites' water systems to the recycled water distribution system.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Proposed Project would have potentially significant effects that would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures. Below is a list of each affected resource area and the applicable mitigation measures. Please see the Summary Form attachment for a description of each mitigation measure.

Biological Resources: BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-4.

Cultural Resources: CUL-1 and CUL-2.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: HAZ-1

Tribal Cultural Resources: TR-1

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

There are no known areas of controversy for the Soledad Recycled Water Conveyance Project.

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

California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW")
Monterey Bay Air Resource District ("MBARD")
State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB")
Regional Water Quality Control Board ("RWQCB")

MITIGATION MEASURES

Biological Resources

- BIO-1** A qualified biologist will conduct an Employee Education Program for the construction crew prior to any construction activities. The qualified biologist will meet with the construction crew at the onset of construction at the evaluation area to educate the construction crew on the following: 1) the appropriate access route(s) in and out of the construction area and review Project boundaries; 2) how a biological monitor will examine the area and agree upon a method which will ensure the safety of the monitor during such activities, 3) the identification of special status species that may be present; 4) the specific mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the construction effort; 5) the general provisions and protections afforded; and 6) the proper procedures if a special status species is encountered within the Project site to avoid impacts.
- BIO-2** A qualified biologist will conduct protocol-level surveys for Congdon's tarplant and Salinas pocket mouse within the Project boundaries within the WRF and within the agricultural/ruderal habitat prior to construction. Protocol-level surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist at the appropriate time of year for species with the potential to occur within the site. A report describing the results of the surveys shall be provided to the Project proponents prior to any ground disturbing activities. The report shall include but is not limited to 1) a description of the species observed, if any; 2) map of the location, if observed; and 3) recommended avoidance and minimization measures, if applicable.
- BIO-3** Prior to construction activities in the staging area, a qualified biologist will conduct a clearance survey in suitable habitat within the Survey Area for San Joaquin whipsnake. If San Joaquin whipsnake is observed during construction, measures will be taken to avoid the individual(s) and the species will be allowed to leave on its own volition or will be relocated outside of the survey area by the qualified biologist.
- BIO-4** Project activities that may affect protected nesting avian species (e.g., tree removal, noise, vibrations) shall be scheduled after September 15 and before February 1 to avoid the avian breeding and nesting season. Alternatively, a qualified biologist shall be retained by the Project applicant to conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting raptors and other protected avian species within 300 feet of proposed Project activities if work occurs between February 1 and September 15. Pre-construction surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the start of Project activities during the early part of the breeding season (February through April) and no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of these activities during the late part of the breeding season (May through September). Because some bird species nest early in spring and others nest later in summer, and because some species breed multiple times in a season, surveys for nesting birds may be required to continue during Project activities to address new arrivals. If Project activities are halted for more than 14 days during the avian nesting season, additional

surveys shall be conducted. The necessity and timing of these continued surveys shall be determined by the qualified biologist.

Cultural Resources

CUL-1 The City of Soledad shall note on any plans that require ground disturbing excavation that there is a potential for exposing buried cultural resources including prehistoric Native American burials. Archaeological site information supplied to the Contractor shall be considered confidential.

The City of Soledad shall retain a Professional Archaeologist on an “on-call” basis during ground disturbing construction to review, identify, and evaluate cultural resources that may be inadvertently exposed during construction. The archaeologist shall review and evaluate any discoveries to determine if they are historical resource(s) and/or unique archaeological resources or Tribal cultural resources under CEQA.

If the Professional Archaeologist determines that any cultural resources exposed during construction constitute a historical resource and/or unique archaeological resource or Tribal cultural resource under CEQA, he/she shall notify the City of Soledad and other appropriate parties of the evaluation. The Professional Archaeologist shall recommend mitigation measures to mitigate to less than significant in accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 15064.5. Tribal cultural resources shall be evaluated with the assistance of Native American tribes and/or individual Tribal members who have previously been contacted and responded to outreach efforts by the City of Soledad. Mitigation measures may include avoidance, preservation in-place, recordation, additional archaeological testing and data recovery among other options. The completion of a formal *Archaeological Monitoring Plan* (AMP) and/or *Archaeological Treatment Plan* (ATP) that may include data recovery may be recommended by the Professional Archaeologist if significant archaeological deposits (or Tribal cultural resources) are exposed during ground disturbing construction. Development and implementation of the AMP and ATP, and treatment of significant cultural resources and/or Tribal cultural resources will be determined by the City of Soledad in consultation with any regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes and Tribal individuals.

A *Monitoring Closure Report* shall be filed with the City of Soledad at the conclusion of ground disturbing construction if archaeological and Native American monitoring was undertaken.

CUL-2 The treatment of human remains, and any associated or unassociated funerary objects discovered during any soil-disturbing activity within the Project site shall comply with applicable State laws. This shall include immediate notification of the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office and the City of Soledad.

In the event of the coroner's determination that the human remains are Native American, notification of the Native American Heritage Commission, is required who shall appoint a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) (PRC Section 5097.98).

The City of Soledad, Professional Archaeologist and MLD shall make all reasonable efforts to develop an agreement for the treatment, with appropriate dignity, of human remains and associated or unassociated funerary objects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(d)). The agreement should take into consideration the appropriate excavation, removal, recordation, analysis, custodianship, curation, and final disposition of the human remains and associated or unassociated funerary objects. The California PRC allows 48 hours to reach agreement on these matters. If the MLD and the other parties do not agree on the reburial method, the Project will follow PRC Section 5097.98(b) which states that ". . . the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance."

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

HAZ-1 Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the contractor shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Spill Prevention and Control Plan that addresses potential impacts associated with hazardous material usage during construction and operation. The plan shall, at a minimum, consist of the following:

- Identify applicable safety and clean-up procedures in the event of a spill.
- Designate construction staging areas where hazardous materials may be stored. All staging areas shall be located outside of sensitive biological areas. Staging areas shall be designed to contain runoff to prevent contaminants (e.g., oil, grease, fuel products, etc.) from draining towards receiving waters and sensitive areas.
- Identify appropriate emergency notification procedures and emergency contacts (e.g., County of Monterey Environmental Health, City of Soledad Fire, etc.).
- Designated location where a spill kit shall be maintained on-site throughout the Project.
- Identify dedicated storage areas where hazardous material may be stored and/or used during operation.

Tribal Cultural Resources

TR-1 Prior to ground disturbance activities, a Tribal Cultural monitor shall provide cultural sensitivity training to all construction personnel. The training shall explain applicable statutes, regulations, enforcement provisions; the prehistoric and historic environmental setting and context, local Tribal groups; show sample artifacts; and what prehistoric and historic archaeological deposits look like at the surface and when exposed during construction. Construction personnel shall not be permitted to operate equipment within the construction area unless they have attended the training. A list of the names of all personnel who attended the training, and copies of the signed

acknowledgement forms shall be submitted to the City of Soledad Director of Public Works or a designee.