

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: Westside Subbasin Ephemeral Creeks Recharge Projects

Lead Agency: Westlands Water District

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Project Location: Fresno, CA

City

County

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

The Project would entail (1) the construction and operation of new surface water diversion and groundwater recharge basins and facilities located along Arroyo Pasajero Creek and Panoche Creek, and (2) the conversion and operation of the existing Cantua Creek storage basin to a surface water diversion system and recharge basin facility. The proposed basins would provide a combined percolation area of 1,004.95 acres, up to a maximum of 1,485.3 acres. The District proposes to divert up to a total maximum of 26,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of surface waters from these three ephemeral drainages during periods of high flow to be retained in three (3) proposed diversion and recharge basin locations.

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

Implementation of the proposed Project could have substantial adverse effects, either direct or through habitat modifications, on the burrowing owl, the loggerhead shrike, Swainson's hawk, and the Western mastiff bat. Widening or otherwise modifying the channels of the three ephemeral drainages and installing infrastructure associated with the basins could substantially impact riparian habitat and therefore constitute a significant impact. The Project has the potential to impede the use of nursery sites for native birds protected under the MBTA and CFGC. The Project is considered to result in potentially significant impacts on buried, undiscovered archaeological and tribal cultural resources. Impacts would be reduced to a less than significant degree through implementation of the following mitigation measures:

- MM BIO-1: Burrowing Owl Surveys and Avoidance Measures
- MM BIO-2: Loggerhead Shrike Considerations and Surveys
- MM BIO-3: Swainson's Hawk Nest Protection
- MM BIO-4: Surveys for Roosting Western Mastiff Bats
- MM BIO-5: Riparian Vegetation Replacement Plan
- MM BIO-6: Protection of Nesting Birds
- MM CUL-1: Inadvertent Discovery Plan for Archaeological Materials
- MM CUL-2: Inadvertent Discovery Plan for Human Remains
- MM TCR-1: Inadvertent Discovery Plan for Archaeological and Tribal Cultural Resources

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

Areas of known public controversy include:

- Impacts to agricultural resources and loss of productive agricultural lands
- Impacts to biological resources from construction
- Impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources from construction
- Effects on groundwater resources

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

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Conservation
- California Department of Water Resources
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- County of Fresno