# Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

*Mail to:* State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
*For Hand Delivery/Street Address:* 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**SCH #**

**Project Title:** Mathews Recharge Basin

Lead Agency: Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
Contact Person: Luis Verdugo
Mailing Address: 2975 North Farmersville Boulevard
Phone: (559) 747-5601
City: Farmersville Zip: 93223
County: Tulare

**Project Location:** County: Tulare County City/Nearest Community: Visalia
Cross Streets: Zip Code:
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ____° ____' ____" N / ____° ____' ____" W Total Acres:
Assessor's Parcel No.: 078-110-14 Section: 18 Twp.: 18S Range: 24E Base: MDBM
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 63 Waterways: St. Johns River
Airports: Railways: Schools: Riverway Elementary

**Document Type:**

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Draft EIR NEPA: ☐ NOI Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ EA ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) ☐ Draft EIS ☐ Other:
☒ Mit Neg Dec Other: ☐ FONSI

**Local Action Type:**

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Recharge Basin

**Development Type:**

☐ Residential: Units ____ Acres ____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Educational:
☐ Recreational:
☐ Water Facilities: Type ____ MGD ____
☐ Transportation: Type
☐ Mining: Mineral
☐ Power: Type ____ MW ____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type ____ MGD ____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type
☒ Other: Recharge Basin

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

☐ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☐ Recreation/Parks ☐ Vegetation
☐ Agricultural Land ☐ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Schools/Universities ☐ Water Quality
☐ Air Quality ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Septic Systems ☐ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☐ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☐ Minerals ☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☐ Noise ☐ Solid Waste ☐ Land Use
☐ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☐ Toxic/Hazardous ☐ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☐ Public Services/Facilities ☐ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: Tribal Cultural

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Zoning: AE-20 / General Plan: Rural Valley Lands Plan – Agriculture

**Project Description:** *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

See attached Project Description.

*Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.*

## Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| X | Air Resources Board | X | Office of Historic Preservation |
| | Boating & Waterways, Department of | | Office of Public School Construction |
| | California Emergency Management Agency | | Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| | California Highway Patrol | | Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| X | Caltrans District # 6 | | Public Utilities Commission |
| | Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | X | Regional WQCB # 5 |
| | Caltrans Planning | | Resources Agency |
| | Central Valley Flood Protection Board | | Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| | Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | | S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| | Coastal Commission | | San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| | Colorado River Board | | San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| | Conservation, Department of | | Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| | Corrections, Department of | | State Lands Commission |
| | Delta Protection Commission | | SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| | Education, Department of | X | SWRCB: Water Quality |
| | Energy Commission | | SWRCB: Water Rights |
| X | Fish & Game Region # 4 | | Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| | Food & Agriculture, Department of | | Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| | Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | X | Water Resources, Department of |
| | General Services, Department of | | |
| | Health Services, Department of | | Other: |
| | Housing & Community Development | | Other: |
| X | Native American Heritage Commission | | |

**Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)**

Starting Date April 23, 2025 Ending Date May 22, 2025

**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Address: 400 E. Main Street, Suite 300
City/State/Zip: Visalia, CA 93291
Contact: Ryan McKelvey
Phone: (559) 636-1166

Applicant: Mathews Ditch Company
Address: 15370 Avenue 256
City/State/Zip: Visalia, CA 93292
Phone: (559)747-1177

**Signature of Lead Agency Representative:** [signature] **Date:** 04/21/25

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

# Project Description

## Project Title

Mathews Recharge Basin

## Project Location

The Project is located in Tulare County, California, approximately 192 miles southeast of Sacramento and 65 miles north of Bakersfield. The Project site is located approximately on Assessor's Parcel Number 078-110-14. The centroid of the Project site is 36° 22' 04.47" N, 119° 18' 01.53" W.

## General Plan Designation and Zoning

Table 1: General Plan Designation and Zoning

| Project Area | General Plan Designation | Zoning District |
|---|---|---|
| **ONSITE** | Rural Valley Lands Plan – Agriculture | AE-20 (Agriculture, 20-acre minimum)<br>AE-40 (Agriculture, 40-acre minimum) |
| **ADJACENT LANDS** | Rural Valley Lands Plan – Agriculture, Residential, Conservation | AE-20, AE-40, R-A (Rural Residential) |

### *Project Description*

The MDC is proposing a recharge project located in Tulare County adjacent to the St. John's River on the north side of the City of Visalia. The Project includes construction of a multi cell recharge basin facility on an approximately 100-acre site with delivery from the St. John's River. The Project would assist the MDC in expanding its groundwater recharge efforts in response to the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Project would include a turnout and pump structure with a capacity for approximately 50 cubic feet per second. The proposed turnout facility would allow MDC to divert surface water from the St. John's River into the proposed basin area to increase groundwater storage. The proposed facility would consist of cast-in-place concrete structure, control gate(s), trash rack, and related appurtenances from the north bank of the St. John's River to divert to the proposed basin cells. The turnout structure would connect to an inlet structure approximately 300 linear feet (LF) from the St. John's River in a proposed distribution channel through reinforced concrete piping, equipped with a metered connection. The diversion structure excavation depth would be up to 15 feet below ground surface. Approximately six (6) inter-basin connection structures would also be constructed to connect the distribution channel to the proposed basin cells. Each connection would be equipped with two structures (delivery channel and basin cell), rip rap, and approximately 90 LF of piping. The Project would also include conservation space area that would be pedestrian accessible. Conservation space would be in the form of terraced grading within the basin cells with flatter side slopes (i.e. 6:1 or flatter) to facilitate plantings for native habitats and provide varying water depths such as areas with 3 feet of water depth, areas with 1.5 feet, and areas with 6-9 inches of water depth. Native habitat plantings would be in accordance with the recommended species outlined in the Kaweah MLRP Vegetation Outline document. There would also be graded dirt walking paths around and between the basin cells. The proposed facilities would be owned and operated by MDC.

Construction would include equipment mobilization, excavation of earthwork for the recharge basin cells, construction of basin perimeter berms and grading on the outer portion of the berms for the purpose of providing pedestrian-accessible habitat conservation space. The Project site would contain temporary staging areas for construction equipment and material storage during the construction effort. Basin components could include constructing ponds/cells within the basin, as well as performance testing and demobilization. Excavation material would be used on site for berm construction along the perimeter of the basin and between each proposed cell. Any excess material would be exported off site. It is anticipated that contractors would take the export material to their construction projects as needed. New berm construction would not exceed six feet in height, measured from the exterior toe to the top of new berm. The maximum depth of ground disturbance for the basin would be as much as nine (9) feet.

Through the improvements of this proposed multi-cell recharge basin, it is anticipated to recharge approximately 1,900 acre-feet (AF) in years when water is available. This is derived by an estimated recharge rate of 0.5 AF per acre across approximately 75 acres of wetted area. Assuming surplus water is available for approximately 50 days equates to the approximate 1,900 AF recharged. 50 days is the average annual amount of surplus surface water availability on the Kaweah and St. John's River system.

### *Construction Schedule*

Construction of the Project is anticipated to be completed within six months. Generally, construction would occur between the hours of 7am and 7pm, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays.

### *Equipment*

Construction equipment would likely include the following equipment used during construction:

- Excavators,
- Backhoes,
- Graders,
- Skid steers,
- Loaders,
- Hauling trucks,
- Scrapers,
- Compactors
- D9 dozer,
- Large tractor and large discing unit,
- Water trucks supplying water for dust control and conditioning soil for compaction, and
- Large watercannon and hoses

### *Operation and Maintenance*

The operation and maintenance would be consistent with MDC's other similar facilities in that groundwater conditions would be monitored to minimize negative impacts on the surrounding areas (such as nearby wells, crops, and septic systems). Monitoring would take place, at a minimum, twice per year corresponding with season highs in the Spring and seasonal lows in the Fall.