

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: Johnson Slough Recharge Basin

Lead Agency: Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District

Contact Name: Luis Verdugo, Engineer

Email: lverdugo@kdwcd.com Phone Number: (559) 747-5601

Project Location: _____
Visalia Tulare
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

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.

United States Army Corps of Engineers
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
State Water Resources Control Board

Project Background

Project Title

Johnson Slough Recharge Basin

Project Location

The proposed Project is located in Tulare County (County), California, approximately 193 miles southeast of Sacramento and 62 miles north of Bakersfield, and approximately 4.5 miles east of the City of Visalia. The Project site is located approximately on Assessor's Parcel Number 111-140-073. The centroid of the Project site is 36° 19' 57.88" N, 119° 09' 51.83" 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-40 (Agriculture, 40-acre minimum)
ADJACENT LANDS	Rural Valley Lands Plan – Agriculture	AE-20 (20-acre minimum), AE-40

Description of the Project

Project Background and Purpose

The Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company (CPDC or Company) is a private agricultural irrigation company located in Tulare County, ultimately within the San Joaquin Valley. Similar to other areas within the San Joaquin Valley, Tulare County is facing a groundwater depletion issue due to overdraft, which occurs when the amount of groundwater extracted exceeds the long-term average water supply. The benefit of the Project is two-fold. Primarily, the Project would assist in the effort of achieving groundwater sustainability by constructing a recharge basin. Secondly, the Project would increase the native habitat by include planting of native plant species.

Project Description

The CPDC is proposing to develop a recharge basin on a property north of the Johnson Slough east of the Kaweah Oaks Preserve along Road 182, north of Highway 198. The Project is anticipated to include an approximately 18-acre basin that is an off-stream basin diverting from Johnson Slough. It is also anticipated there will be an ability to return water from the new basin back into Johnson Slough for potential use downstream.

The Project would assist CPDC in expanding its groundwater recharge efforts in response to the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Project would include a turnout structure with a capacity for approximately 20 cubic feet per second. The proposed turnout facility would allow CPDC to divert surface water from Johnson Slough 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 Johnson Slough to divert to the proposed basin. The turnout structure would connect to an inlet structure approximately 150 linear feet (LF) from Johnson Slough 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 for establishing proper compaction under the structure and pipeline. Almost all this excavation material will be put back in place. The Project would also include conservation space in the way of native plant species planting. Native habitat plantings would be located along the perimeter of the proposed recharge basin

and species would be chosen in accordance with the recommended species outlined in the Kaweah MLRP Vegetation Outline document found in [Appendix D](#).

Construction would include equipment mobilization, excavation of earthwork for the recharge basin, and construction of basin perimeter berms. As standard practice, basin perimeter berms would be designed in accordance to be used as access roads for operation and maintenance (O&M) purposes. The Project site would contain temporary staging areas for construction equipment and material storage during the construction effort. Staging would not be located along or near Johnson Slough and would be located on an elevated surface away from basin construction. Basin construction would also include performance testing and demobilization. Excavation material would be used on site for berm construction along the perimeter. Any excess material would be exported off site. 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. The site is currently devoid of vegetation so no tree or vegetation removal is needed. Portions of the site have been recently disturbed by earthwork activities.

Through the development of this proposed recharge basin, it is anticipated to recharge approximately 450 acre-feet (AF) in years water will be available. This is derived by an estimated recharge rate of 0.5 AF per acre across approximately 18 acres of wetted area. Assuming surplus water is available for approximately 50 days equates to the approximate 450 AF recharged. 50 days is that average annual amount of surplus surface water availability on the Johnson Slough system.

Area of Potential Effects

The term Area of Potential Effects (APE), the overall Project footprint, including any buffers, encompasses a total of 41.1 acres. The APE encompasses a total of 34.3 acres. These acreages differ from the 18 acres due to the buffers provided for the respective field surveys.

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 of the recharge basin would be consistent with CPDC'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).

CHAPTER 5 MITIGATION, MONITORING, AND REPORTING PROGRAM

This MMRP has been formulated based upon the findings of the IS/MND for the Mathews Basin Project in Tulare County. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program presents the mitigation measures identified for the 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
Biological Resources						
General Project-Related Impacts						
BIO-1	(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, to aid workers in identifying special status resources that may occur within the Project site. 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 and sensitive habitats such as wetlands with potential to occur onsite, 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	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-2	(BMPs): The Project proponent will ensure that all workers employ the following BMPs in order to avoid and minimize potential impacts to special status species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles will observe a 15-mph speed limit while on unpaved access routes. • Workers will inspect areas beneath parked vehicles prior to mobilization. If special status species are detected beneath vehicles, 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 	During Construction Activities	Daily	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	

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>listed (rare, threatened, or endangered) species is prohibited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence of any special status species and/or any wildlife mortalities will be reported to the Project's designated biologist and the appropriate regulatory agencies. 					
Project-Related Mortality and/or Nest Abandonment of Migratory Birds, Raptors, and Special Status Birds						
BIO-3	(Avoidance): The Project's construction activities will occur, if feasible, between September 16 and January 31 (outside of the nesting bird season) in an effort to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-4	(Pre-construction Surveys): If activities must occur within the nesting bird season (February 1 to September 14), qualified biologist would conduct a pre-construction survey for Swainson's hawk nests onsite and within a 0.5-mile radius. This survey would 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 pre-construction survey would also provide a presence/absence survey for all other nesting birds within the APE and an additional 50 feet, no more than 7 days prior to the start of construction. All raptor nests would be considered "active" upon the nest-building stage.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-5	(Avoidance Buffers): On discovery of any active nests or breeding colonies near work areas, the biologist will determine appropriate construction setback distances based on applicable CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines and/or the biology of the species in question. Construction 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.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance to Burrowing Owl						
BIO-6	(Pre-construction Take Avoidance Survey): A qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction take avoidance survey for BUOWs in accordance with CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012) within 30 days prior to the start of construction activities. The survey will include the proposed work area and surrounding lands	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	

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																							
	within 500 feet. If no BUOW individuals or suitable burrows are observed, no further mitigation is required.																												
BIO-7	<p>(Avoidance): If an active BUOW burrow is detected, the occurrence will be reported to the local CDFW office and the CNDDDB, and disturbance-free buffers will be implemented in accordance with CDFW’s 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, as outlined in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Location</th> <th rowspan="2">Time of Year</th> <th colspan="3">Level of Disturbance</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Low</th> <th>Medium</th> <th>High</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nesting sites</td> <td>April 1 – August 15</td> <td>200 meters</td> <td>500 meters</td> <td>500 meters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nesting sites</td> <td>August 16 – October 15</td> <td>200 meters</td> <td>200 meters</td> <td>500 meters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nesting sites</td> <td>October 16 – March 31</td> <td>50 meters</td> <td>100 meters</td> <td>500 meters</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Time of Year	Level of Disturbance			Low	Medium	High	Nesting sites	April 1 – August 15	200 meters	500 meters	500 meters	Nesting sites	August 16 – October 15	200 meters	200 meters	500 meters	Nesting sites	October 16 – March 31	50 meters	100 meters	500 meters	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
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BIO-8	(Consultation with CDFW and Passive Relocation): If avoidance of an active BUOW burrow is not feasible, CDFW will be immediately consulted to determine the best course of action, which may include passive relocation during non-breeding season. Passive relocation and/or burrow exclusion will not take place without coordination with CDFW and preparation of an approved exclusion and relocation plan.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report																								
Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance of Bats																													
BIO-9	(Avoidance): The Project’s construction activities will occur, if feasible, between November 1 and February 28 (outside of bat maternity season) in an effort to avoid impacts to maternity roosts.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report																								
BIO-10	(Pre-Construction Survey): A pre-construction survey for bats will be performed if construction activities fall between March 1 and September 30 (bat maternity season) and if the Project includes tree removal. A qualified biologist will conduct the survey within (7) seven days prior to construction to identify potential roosting habitat within the APE and an additional 100-foot survey area around the designated APE. If no individuals, roosts, or suitable habitat is observed, no further mitigation is required.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report																								

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
BIO-11	(Establish Buffers): On discovery of any bat roosts near work areas, a qualified biologist will determine appropriate construction setback distances (buffer zones) based on applicable CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines, if appropriate. Construction 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.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-12	(Operational Hours): Construction activities will be limited to daylight hours to reduce potential impacts to special status bats that could be foraging onsite.	During Construction Activities	During Construction Activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance of Special Status Fossorial Mammals						
BIO-13	(Pre-construction Survey): A qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey of Project areas within 30 days prior to vegetation clearing or ground disturbing activities. Goals of this survey include a search for potentially active badger dens and suitable habitat within Project areas for American badger. Environmentally sensitive areas will be flagged for avoidance. If no American badger individuals or suitable burrows are observed, no further mitigation is required.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-14	(Camera Station): If potential dens with dimensions suitable for American badger (diameter of four (4) inches or greater) are detected during pre-construction surveys, each potential den will be monitored by a qualified biologist with remote camera stations 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 will be sealed or destroyed within 24 hours of the inactive findings.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-15	(Den Avoidance/Buffers): If an American badger is denning on or within 100 feet of the Project site, the Project proponent will avoid the den by a minimum 100-foot buffer. If the 100-foot buffer cannot be maintained, the Project proponent will contact CDFW for guidance on how to proceed.	During Construction Activities	During Construction Activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-16	(Consultation/ITP): Badgers will not be evicted from dens without CDFW consultation/coordination. In the event an active den is detected during surveys and cannot be avoided, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid	During Construction Activities	During Construction Activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified	Report	

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
	take. If take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an ITP pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA.			biological subconsultant		
Project-Related Impacts to Monarch Butterflies						
BIO-17	(Avoidance): The Project's construction activities will occur, if feasible between December and February (outside the monarch migration) in an effort to avoid impacts to monarch butterflies.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-18	(Pre-construction Surveys): If activities must occur within monarch butterfly migration season (March- November) a qualified biologist (someone who is familiar with the species ecology and habitat use) will conduct a pre-construction survey within 48 hours of the start of construction. The survey area will include the APE and all trees which overhang across the boundary of the APE. The goal of this survey is to search for roosting monarchs.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-19	(Avoidance Buffer): If a closed-winged monarch butterfly or cluster is discovered during a morning pre-construction survey it can be assumed the monarch butterfly(s) spent the night at the location. Therefore, a qualified biologist will set up the appropriate visual setback buffer which will remain in place until the qualified biologist has determined the buffer is no longer warranted.	During Construction Activities	During Construction Activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
Project-Related Impacts to Wildlife Movement Corridors						
BIO-20	(Wildlife Access): Access on both sides of the channel should not be blocked outside of construction hours or during overnight hours or weekends. If construction must block both sides of the channel an alternative route through the construction area should be identified by a qualified biologist and maintained throughout the construction schedule timeframe.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	
BIO-21	(Cover Excavations): Pipeline/culvert/siphon excavations and vertical pipes should be covered each night to prevent wildlife from falling in and becoming trapped or injured during migratory or dispersal movements.	Prior to construction activities	Prior to construction activities	KDWCD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	Report	

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
Cultural Resources						
CUL-1	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	Daily	KDWCD	Report	
CUL-2	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	During Construction Activities	Daily	KDWCD	Report	
Tribal Cultural Resources						
See CUL-1 and CUL-2 above.						