

### 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 #
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**Project Title: Johnson Slough Recharge Project**

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: City of Visalia

Cross Streets: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 36 ° 19 ' 57.88 " N / 119 ° 09 ' 51.83 " W Total Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor's Parcel No.: 111-140-073 Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Waterways: \_\_\_\_\_

Airports: \_\_\_\_\_ Railways: \_\_\_\_\_ Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

**Document Type:**

- |   |  |                                    |  |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP              | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR                 | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons             | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA        | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec                | (Prior SCH No.) _____                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI     |  |

**Local Action Type:**

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update    | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan              | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element   | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan         | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan                | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Recharge Basin</u> |

**Development Type:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Recharge Basin</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____               |  |

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

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

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

**Rural Valley Lands Plan – Agriculture/AE-40 (Agriculture, 40-acre minimum)**

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 an "X".  
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

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

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

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

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### Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Provost &amp; Pritchard Consulting</u>	Applicant: <u>Consolidated People's Ditch Co.</u>
Address: <u>400 E. Main Street, Suite 300</u>	Address: <u>15370 Avenue 256</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Visalia, CA 93291</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Visalia, CA 93292</u>
Contact: <u>Jarred Olsen</u>	Phone: <u>(559) 747-1177</u>
Phone: <u>(559) 636-1166</u>	

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Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 04/21/25

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

# 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).