

APPENDIX D. CALAVERAS RIVER INTEGRATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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**STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The General Manager for the Stockton East Water District (SEWD) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the following described project:

**THE CALAVERAS RIVER INTEGRATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT
(CRISWP) – Groundwater Recharge Component at SEWD North Site**

Project Description:

The CRISWP provides both stormwater and groundwater recharge benefits to the region by removing up to 30,000 gpm or 66.67 cfs from the Calaveras through the existing Bellota Pipeline diversion, which is upstream of the City of Stockton to offset a like amount of contributed water from the urban area Wisconsin storm water pumping station located in RD #1614. Once diverted, this flow will be recharged on the Project site, delivering this surface water to the groundwater basin. The Project combines benefits of groundwater recharge with SEWD's ability to remove stormwater flow from the Calaveras River for the benefit of the residents of RD #1614, located in the western portion of the City of Stockton urban area. For this reason, SEWD and RD #1614 have joined forces to propose the CRISWP.

The SEWD North Site would be used as one of the project sites for the Farmington Groundwater Program. In addition to providing storm water management benefits and bolstering local aquifer levels, this Project would benefit and increase groundwater supplies in the Calaveras River watershed. Activities would consist of construction activities (site grading, pipeline and equipment installation, erosion control), and system operation, monitoring, and maintenance. Initial construction and system installation activities completed between April and October of the first year would include: Constructing a staging area for materials and equipment; constructing berms, and weirs between recharge cells with excavated material from cells; grading the cells into either ridges or trenches; installing water conveyance system of about 3,630 linear feet of 48-inch and 24-inch diameter pipeline; and constructing or rehabilitating up to eleven (11) wells.

Project Location:

The SEWD North Site will be located on what is currently open land that has produced tomatoes for the last number of years. It is immediately adjacent to both existing SEWD drinking water treatment plant and SEWD direct groundwater recharge facilities. The Project site is located 0.4 mile north of East Main Street approximately two miles east of Highway 99 and the City of Stockton, California. Parcel Assessor Numbers 101-050-02, 101-040-22, 101-170-34, 101-170-33, 101-170-35, 101-040-23, 101-010-27, 101-010-26, 101-010-24, and 101-010-25.

Determination:

SEWD has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project, as described above and analyzed in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California).

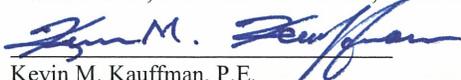
Public Review:

This Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated for over 30 days from January 22, 2013 to February 21, 2013. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 12:00 noon on February 21, 2013 to:

Mr. Kevin Kauffman
General Manager
Stockton East Water District
Post Office Box 5157
Stockton, California 95205
(209) 948-0333 phone
(209) 948-0423 fax
sewd@sewd.net

Comments will be reviewed by SEWD, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by SEWD, which is scheduled for February 26, 2013.

This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070 of the California Administrative Code. A copy of this document may be reviewed/ obtained at the Stockton East Water District, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California, 95215.



Kevin M. Kauffman, P.E.
General Manager

INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR THE

**Calaveras River Integrated Stormwater Management
Project – Groundwater Recharge Component at SEWD
North Site**

Prepared by:

Stockton East Water District

6767 East Main Street

Stockton, CA 95215

P.O. Box 5157

Stockton, CA 95205

January 22, 2013

Initial Study

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1. SUMMARY

Project Title: **Calaveras River Integrated Stormwater Management Project – Groundwater Recharge Component at SEWD North Site**

Project Location: San Joaquin County

Lead Agency: Stockton East Water District

Agency Carrying Out Project: Stockton East Water District

Contact Person: Kevin M. Kauffman, P.E.
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Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geological Problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy and Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Identified |

2. INTRODUCTION

Introduction and Background

The Stockton East Water District (SEWD) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in a cost-share agreement created the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program with the intent of replenishing the aquifer to insure future groundwater supply and protect against saltwater intrusion. The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program aims to obtain 25 to 30 parcels of land, totaling 1,200 acres, for directly recharging surface water to the groundwater aquifer. It is estimated that the development of these parcels into recharge areas may return approximately 35,000 acre-feet of water per year into the over drafted groundwater basin in eastern San Joaquin County.

Due to a long history of predominantly sole reliance on groundwater, primarily for agricultural use, severe groundwater overdraft conditions exist in the eastern portion of San Joaquin County. Long-term groundwater pumping in excess of natural replenishment has dramatically lowered groundwater levels and allowed the intrusion of saline water to portions of the aquifer. If groundwater overdraft continues, it will exacerbate saline water intrusion, and result in the demise of the groundwater resource. Urban and

agricultural sectors, dependent on groundwater as a water supply, will experience increased economic losses.

The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program will primarily benefit the local aquifer. However, local groundwater availability and quality will also improve. Water quality and abundance will also improve in the Calaveras River with the recharging of the groundwater aquifer.

The SEWD North Site will be located on what is currently open land that has produced tomatoes for the last number of years. It is immediately adjacent to both existing SEWD drinking water treatment plant and SEWD direct groundwater recharge facilities. The SEWD North Site is ideal for SEWD to expand its direct groundwater recharge facilities inventory, and complement past progress of the Farmington Program.

The Calaveras River Integrated Stormwater Management Project (CRISWP) – Groundwater Recharge Component at SEWD North Site combines benefits of groundwater recharge with SEWD’s ability to remove stormwater flow from the Calaveras River for the benefit of the residents of RD #1614, located in the western portion of the City of Stockton urban area. For this reason, SEWD and RD #1614 have joined forces to propose the CRISWP.

This initial study (IS) intends to investigate all potential impacts of the CRISWP as they relate to suing the SEWD North Site.

Organization of the Initial Study

This Initial Study contains the following sections:

Chapter 1 – Summary. Provides information about the proposed Project location, lead agency, and identification of environmental issues determined to be “potentially Significant Impacts” as indicated by the Environmental Checklist contained in Section 4.

Chapter 2 – Introduction. Provides background information about the proposed Project. This section also describes the content of the Initial Study.

Chapter 3 – Project Description. Describes the Project location, surrounding land uses, Project objectives, and characteristics of the proposed Project.

Chapter 4 – Environmental Checklist. Contains the Environmental Checklist presented in Appendix I of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist is used to describe the impacts of the proposed Project. A discussion follows each environmental issue identified in the Checklist.

Chapter 5 – Determination. States the determination by the Lead Agency. In this case mitigation measures have been either incorporated into project design or would be implemented separately to reduce Project impacts to a less than significant level.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Objective

Provide both stormwater and groundwater recharge benefits to the region by removing up to 30,000 gpm or 66.67 cfs from the Calaveras through the existing Bellota Pipeline diversion, which is upstream of the City of Stockton to offset a like amount of contributed water from the Wisconsin storm water pumping station located in RD #1614. Once diverted, this flow will be recharged on the project site, delivering this surface water to the groundwater basin.

Project Area

The Project site encompasses about 246 acres that is divided into seven (7) bermed recharge cells. The Project site is located 0.4 mile north of East Main Street approximately two miles east of Highway 99 and the City of Stockton, California. Parcel Assessor Numbers of interest to SEWD are 101-050-02, 101-040-22, 101-170-34, 101-170-33, 101-170-35, 101-040-23, 101-010-27, 101-010-26, 101-010-24, and 101-010-25.

Project Characteristics

The SEWD North Site would be used as one of the project sites for the Farmington Program. In addition to providing storm water management benefits, this Project will bolster local aquifer levels, increase groundwater supply reliability in the Calaveras River watershed, and provide seasonal habitat for migratory waterfowl. Activities would consist of construction activities (site grading, pipeline and equipment installation, erosion control), and system operation, monitoring, and maintenance.

Initial construction and system installation activities completed between April and October of the first year would include:

1. Construction of a staging area for equipment and material storage
2. Constructing berms and weirs between cells with excavated material from cells
3. Constructing the recharge cell areas into either ridges or trenches layouts
4. Installing a water conveyance system of about 3,630 linear feet of 48-inch and 24-inch diameter pipeline
5. Constructing bank stabilization to prevent erosion
6. Construction or rehabilitation of up to eleven (11) wells to be used for recovery of banked surface water

Recharge activities would include:

1. Diverting water right or contract surface water through SEWD's conveyance systems (New Melones and New Hogan)
2. Monitoring and maintaining water depth between 0.5 and 4.5 feet above recharge cells finished grade
3. Monitoring recharge rates, source water quality for turbidity, pH, temperature and electrical conductivity, and groundwater levels and quality
4. Implementing vector controls in cooperation with the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District (SJC MVCD)

Operation and maintenance of the system would include driving to the site to inspect piping, sample and record data, and complete repairs as needed.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Following is the environmental checklist form presented in Appendix I of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist form is used to describe the impacts of the proposed Project. A discussion follows each environmental issue identified in the checklist.

For this checklist, the following designations are used:

Potentially Significant Impact: An impact that could be significant, and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR would be prepared.

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated: An impact that requires mitigation to reduce the impact to a less-than significant level. If any mitigation measures are recommended for incorporation into the Project Description, a Mitigated Negative Declaration would be prepared.

Less-Than-Significant Impact: Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to existing standards. If no significant impacts are identified, a Negative Declaration would be prepared.

No Impact: The Project would not have an impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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1. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

Would the proposal:

a. Conflict with general plan designation or zoning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g., impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-c, e) Impact to Existing Surrounding Land Uses.

Any impact is considered positive to the area of concern. Therefore, the project would result in *no impact*.

d) Impact to Existing Agricultural Uses.

Agricultural land uses in the area would not be impacted because the 230-acre of land taken out of production for the SEWD North (groundwater recharge) Site is seen as a benefit to agriculture, and only excess irrigation water would be withdrawn from SEWD’s conveyance systems. Therefore, impacts are *less than significant*.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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2. POPULATION AND HOUSING.

Would the proposal:

a. Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population Projections?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through Projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-c) The general vicinity of the SEWD North Site area is dominated by agricultural land. No impacts to population and housing are anticipated during operation of the proposed project, and only positive storm water impacts are provided to the urban area; therefore, there are ***no impacts***.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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3. GEOLOGY.

Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:

a. Fault rupture?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Seismic ground failure including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Landslides or mudflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Subsidence of the land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Expansive soils?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Unique geological or physical features?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-e) The Stockton area is subject to seismic shaking from fault features located east and west of the city; however, there are no active faults in the Project vicinity (Jennings 1975). An inactive Stockton Fault is thought to extend in an east-west direction through Stockton (Jennings 1994). For the Proposed Action, any damage from a seismic event to a well, piping or existing infrastructure could be repaired immediately. There are ***no impacts***.

f-i) Earthwork and recharge activities would not affect topography, and soils would not be imported from other locations. There are ***no impacts***.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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4. WATER.

Would the proposal result in:

a. Change in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c. | Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. | Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. | Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f. | Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g. | Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h. | Impacts to groundwater quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i. | Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion

a,c,f-i) The Proposed Action would not be expected to substantially degrade water quality, contaminate a public water supply, degrade or deplete groundwater resources, interfere with groundwater recharge or flood control measures, or cause any substantial flooding, erosion, or silting. The Proposed Action would increase groundwater recharge potential and is expected to positively impact groundwater quality at the project site. However, source water and groundwater samples would be collected during the operations phase of the recharge project and analyzed for constituents of concern to assess effects to groundwater quality. The project would implement measures in accordance with the SWPPP; therefore, no impacts from storm water runoff would be expected. There are ***no impacts***.

d, e) The Proposed Action (site grading, equipment installation, monitoring, and system operation and maintenance) would result in the flooding of the recharge cells at the SEWD North Site with stormwater conveyed through the SEWD's conveyance systems. There are ***no impacts***

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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5. AIR QUALITY

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. | Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or Projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. | Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. | Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. | Create objectionable odors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion

a-d) Temporary construction impacts from the Project would cause an increase in PM10 emissions. Most of the emissions would be fugitive dust resulting from ground disturbance. Standard dust control BMPs will be implemented to minimize effects. Emission sources would include vehicles and construction equipment traveling over dirt surfaces, site clearing, grading, cut-and-fill operations, and windblown dust. Exhaust from diesel- and gasoline-powered vehicles contains CO, reactive organic gases, nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide, and PM10. Vehicle emissions from onsite construction equipment would temporarily contribute to the criteria pollutants in the project area. **Less than significant impacts** to air quality are anticipated during operation of the Project.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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6. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION.

Would the proposal result in:

a. Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-g) Most project activities would occur within the confines of the existing SEWD property; therefore, the normal flow of traffic in the surrounding area would not be interrupted. For initial project construction, there would be a one-time delivery and pick-up of construction equipment (i.e. Excavators, dozers, levelers, and graders). A maintenance vehicle would be used intermittently to access the monitoring and production wells and Project site during recharge. The project site is located about 1,600 feet north of SEWD's parking area and would not affect parking. Therefore, no significant effects to traffic would result from Project implementation. Alternative transportation programs would not be affected by this Project. There are **no impacts**.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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7. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

Would the proposal result in impacts to:

a. Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including, but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals and birds)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b. Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion

a-c, SEWD would comply with the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Spaces Plan (SJMSCP). The Project site is located within the area covered by the SJMSCP. The SJMSCP is a comprehensive program for assessing and mitigating the biological effects of land development. Compliance with the SJMSCP would provide for impact avoidance measures and mitigation for loss of habitat for all species that may be affected by this impact. Participation is generally optional; that is, projects may use the SJMSCP to reach compliance with the various statues and regulations that apply to biological resource protection or it may comply with those requirements independently.

The SJMSCP is to be locally implemented by the San Joaquin County Council of Governments. The Compliance process outlined in the SJMSCP has been adopted by Federal and state agencies with jurisdiction of trusteeship over biological resources. In addition, the SJMSCP has been adopted locally by San Joaquin County, the Council of Governments, the City of Stockton, and incorporated cities and entities in San Joaquin County.

Grading would remove weedy vegetation and small rodent dwellings such as ground squirrel burrows. Maintenance of the Project site would prevent ground squirrels from becoming established and would discourage burrowing owls or giant garter snake from occupying the area.

Burrowing owl. Burrowing owls have been observed at the existing SEWD property in the past. If pre-construction surveys determine that burrowing owls are present, they would not be disturbed from February 1 through August 31 during their breeding season. A buffer zone of 250 feet would be maintained to avoid disturbances of the occupied nesting area. In addition, there may be temporary impacts to the burrowing owl due to the loss of foraging habitat resulting from grading. The adjacent and surrounding area provides adequate nesting and foraging habitat. BMPs that require avoidance buffer zones are preferred to passive relocation. Maintenance of the Project site would prevent burrowing animals from creating potential habitat for special-status species.

Swainson’s hawks. No Swainson’s hawks have been observed at the Project site and no nests or potential nesting sites have been identified.

Giant garter snake. Giant garter snakes have not been observed at the Project site visits; however, the SDC and surrounding areas may provide suitable habitat. Maintenance of the Project site will be necessary to prevent burrowing animals from creating potential habitat for special-status species.

Migratory Birds. It is anticipated that migratory birds may nest and forage near the Project site.

Special-status plants. No special-status plants have been observed at the Project site visit or recorded in the project area. If special-status plants are present, direct effects may occur from grading, and site maintenance. If pre-construction surveys determine that special-status plants are present the appropriate agency (CDFG or USFWS) would be consulted to avoid impacts to special-status plants.

Fish. No in-stream work is required for the proposed Project; therefore no impact to fisheries is expected.

Implementing BMPs during construction would result in less-than-significant effects to the burrowing owl, Swainson’s hawk, giant garter snake, and other special-status species. All impacts therefore would be *less than significant*.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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8. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES.

Would the proposal:

- a. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?
- b. Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?

- c. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?

Discussion

a-c) Pipe used for the water conveyance system in the Project area will all be gravity fed. Therefore the project would have *no impact* on adopted energy plans.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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9. HAZARDS.

Would the proposal involve:

- a. A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)?
- b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- c. The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?
- d. Exposure to people to existing sources of potential health hazards?
- e. Increase fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass or trees?

Discussion

a-e) Construction activities associated with the Project would require the use of certain hazardous materials such as gasoline, diesel fuel, and oil. It is anticipated that the quantity of products containing hazardous materials used during construction would be minimal and their use would be of short duration. The quantity of hazardous wastes generated from system construction and operation and maintenance would be negligible.

Project construction could result in inadvertent spills of hazardous materials during standard construction practices that require transport and use of materials such as gasoline, diesel, and industrial materials. To avoid or minimize impacts related to potential hazardous materials spills, a hazardous materials management and spill prevention plan would be developed and implemented. At a minimum, the spill prevention plan would contain the following BMPs:

- Waters contaminated with construction material would be disposed of in a suitable location to prevent discharge to surface waters.
- Soils contaminated with fuels or chemicals would be disposed of in a suitable location to prevent discharge to surface waters.
- Temporary cofferdams would be used to separate construction areas from any flowing water.
- Vehicles would be inspected and maintained to reduce the potential for leaks or spills of oils, grease, or hydraulic fluids.
- Onsite fuels and toxic materials would be stored or contained in an area protected from direct runoff. Minimum distances from water bodies or wetlands for fuel and toxic material storage would be established as required by CV Water Board standards or BMPs.
- Minimum distances from water bodies or wetlands for refueling stations would be established as required by CV Water Board standards or BMPs.

Implementation of the spill prevention plan would reduce potential hazardous material impacts to a *less than significant* level.

Spills could contaminate soils, leach into groundwater, or be carried by surface water runoff. Implementation of BMPs would result in *less-than-significant* effects from hazardous material releases to human health and the environment.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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10. NOISE

Would the proposal result in:

- a. Increases in existing noise levels:

Short-term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?

Short-term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Long-term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-b) Initial construction activities would generate noise at the Project site; however, construction noise would be minor and temporary. SEWD maintenance workers and nearby residents could be exposed to noise levels above levels existing without the project. Noise effects would not be expected to exceed San Joaquin County's noise ordinance. Implementation of BMPs would result in less-than-significant noise effects to sensitive receptors located southwest of the Project site. All impacts are *less than significant*.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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11. PUBLIC SERVICES.

Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas?

a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- c. Schools?
- d. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?
- f. Other governmental services?

Discussion

a-e) The Project would not create a public or worker health hazard or interfere with adopted emergency response plans. The Project will have **no impact** on public services.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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12. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- a. Power or natural gas?
- b. Communications systems?
- c. Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities?
- d. Sewer or septic tanks?
- e. Storm water drainage?
- f. Solid waste disposal?
- g. Local or regional water supplies?

Discussion

a-g) The Project would not generate any wastewater, cause additional storm water runoff, or require water entitlements. Solid waste will not be generated in amounts that would affect local landfills in the area and all solid waste would be disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes. There are **no impacts**.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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13. AESTHETICS.

Would the proposal:

- a. Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?
- b. Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?

- c. Create light or glare?

Discussion

a-c) The Proposed Action would take place adjacent to the existing SEWD property with no substantial change to existing features. The nearest residence is more than 600 feet from the project site on the other side of the SDC and reconstructed levee and would have no view of the project site. There are *no impacts*.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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14. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Would the proposal:

- a. Disturb paleontological resources?
- b. Disturb archaeological resources?
- c. Affect historical resources?
- d. Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?
- e. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?

Discussion

a-e) There are no known prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources at the Project site location. This is agricultural land and has on-going farming associated with the site. In the event that any prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work shall be halted and a qualified archeologist (or paleontologist) will be consulted to assess the significance of the find. If any find is determined to be significant by the archeologist, SEWD and the archeologist shall determine the appropriate course of action. If the discovery includes human remains of Native American origin, SEWD would coordinate activities with the Native American Heritage Commission. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curator, and a report prepared by the archeologist, according to current professional standards. With these actions, there will be a *less than significant* impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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15. RECREATION.

Would the proposal:

- a. Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?
- b. Affect existing recreational opportunities?

Discussion

- a, b) The Proposed Action would take place adjacent to the existing SEWD property. The Proposed Action would not disturb any recreational activities that could take place near the Stockton Diverting Canal. There are *no impacts*.

Issues	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less-Than Significant	No Impacts
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16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Does the Project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant animal community, reduce the number or restrict range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Does the Project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Does the Project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a Project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past Projects, the effects of other current Projects, and the effects of probable future Projects.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? Disturb paleontological resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |