

INITIAL STUDY  
AND PROPOSED  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

BANTA-CARBONA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
**SGMA Phase 2 Conjunctive Use Project**



Banta-Carbona Irrigation District  
3514 W. Lehman Road  
Tracy, California 95304-9336

August 19, 2024

**BANTA-CARBONA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (BCID) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the **SGMA PHASE 2 CONJUNCTIVE USE PROJECT**.

**Project Description:** The Project will provide an average annual volume of 2,400 acre-feet per year of surface water to replace groundwater pumping, eliminate a projected average annual 800 acre-feet deficit, and provide a factor of safety for modeling inaccuracies and climate change uncertainties. The pump station expansion required to deliver the surface water will consist of an addition of two (2) new concrete pump bays. Two (2) pumps will be installed and connected to an existing thirty-six (36) inch diameter pipeline. There will be one (1) thirty-five (35) cubic feet per second (cfs) pump with a 350 horse power (hp) motor, and one (1) fifteen (15) cfs pump with a 150 hp motor. Associated electrical equipment will be required to operate the two (2) small pumps and motors. One small security building will be constructed to protect the electrical equipment from theft and weather. Electricity is currently available at the site for the pump station.

The Project will consist of permitting, acquisition of easements, design, construction, and continued monitoring of surface water deliveries to quantify the effect on reduced groundwater pumping. The Project will consist of construction of a minimum of twelve thousand (12,000) linear feet of 18- to 36-inch diameter pipelines, and expansion of an existing pump station. The pipeline will be constructed through irrigated farmland that has been continuously disturbed for the past several decades.

**Project Location:** The Project is in the Tracy Subbasin, immediately adjacent to and to the east of BCID in San Joaquin County.

**Determination:** BCID has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that the Project, as identified 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 30 days, from August 20, 2024 through September 20, 2024. **Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 12:00 noon on September 20, 2024 to:**

Banta-Carbona Irrigation District  
3514 W. Lehman Road  
Tracy, California 95304-9336  
Email: [dweisenberger@banta-carbona.org](mailto:dweisenberger@banta-carbona.org)

Comments will be reviewed by BCID, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by BCID, which is scheduled for October 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

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 Banta-Carbona Irrigation District office, 3514 W. Lehman Road, Tracy, California 95304-9336.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Weisenberger

PROPOSED  
**BANTA-CARBONA IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
**NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) and a determination has been made that it will not have a significant effect upon the environment.
2. PROJECT NAME: SGMA Phase 2 Conjunctive Use Project
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: The Project will provide an average annual volume of 2,400 acre-feet per year of surface water to replace groundwater pumping, eliminate a Projected average annual 800 acre-feet deficit, and provide a factor of safety for modeling inaccuracies and climate change uncertainties.

The pump station expansion required to deliver the surface water will consist of an addition of two (2) new concrete pump bays. Two (2) pumps will be installed and connected to an existing thirty-six (36) inch diameter pipeline. There will be one (1) thirty-five (35) cubic feet per second (cfs) pump with a 350 horse power (hp) motor, and one (1) fifteen (15) cfs pump with a 150 hp motor. Associated electrical equipment will be required to operate the two (2) small pumps and motors. One small security building will be constructed to protect the electrical equipment from theft and weather. Electricity is currently available at the site for the pump station.

The Project will consist of permitting, acquisition of easements, design, construction, and continued monitoring of surface water deliveries to quantify the effect on reduced groundwater pumping. The Project will consist of construction of a minimum of twelve thousand (12,000) linear feet of 18- to 36-inch diameter pipelines, and expansion of an existing pump station. The pipeline will be constructed through irrigated farmland that has been continuously disturbed for the past several decades.

4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The Project is in the Tracy Subbasin, immediately adjacent to and to the east of BCID in San Joaquin County.
5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, 3514 W. Lehman Road, Tracy, California 95304-9336, (209) 835-4670.
6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None
7. A copy of the Initial Study regarding the environmental effect of this Project is on file at the office of Banta-Carbona Irrigation District set forth above. This study was:

Adopted as presented.

Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.

8. Banta Carbona Irrigation District considered this Negative Declaration at a public meeting of its Board of Directors on October 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
9. DETERMINATION: *(To be completed by the Lead Agency)*

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

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Signature

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Date

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. SUMMARY.....	1
2. INTRODUCTION.....	2
3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	12
4. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST.....	23
5. CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES.....	62
6. DETERMINATION.....	62

# 1. SUMMARY

**Project Title:** SGMA PHASE 2 CONJUNCTIVE USE PROJECT

**Project Location:** San Joaquin County

**Lead Agency:** Banta-Carbona Irrigation District

**Agency Carrying Out Project:** Banta-Carbona Irrigation District

**Contact Person:** David Weisenberger  
General Manager  
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District  
3514 W. Lehman Road  
Tracy, California 95304-9336  
(209) 835-4670 Phone  
(209) 835-2009 Fax

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources               | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                           |  |

# 2. INTRODUCTION

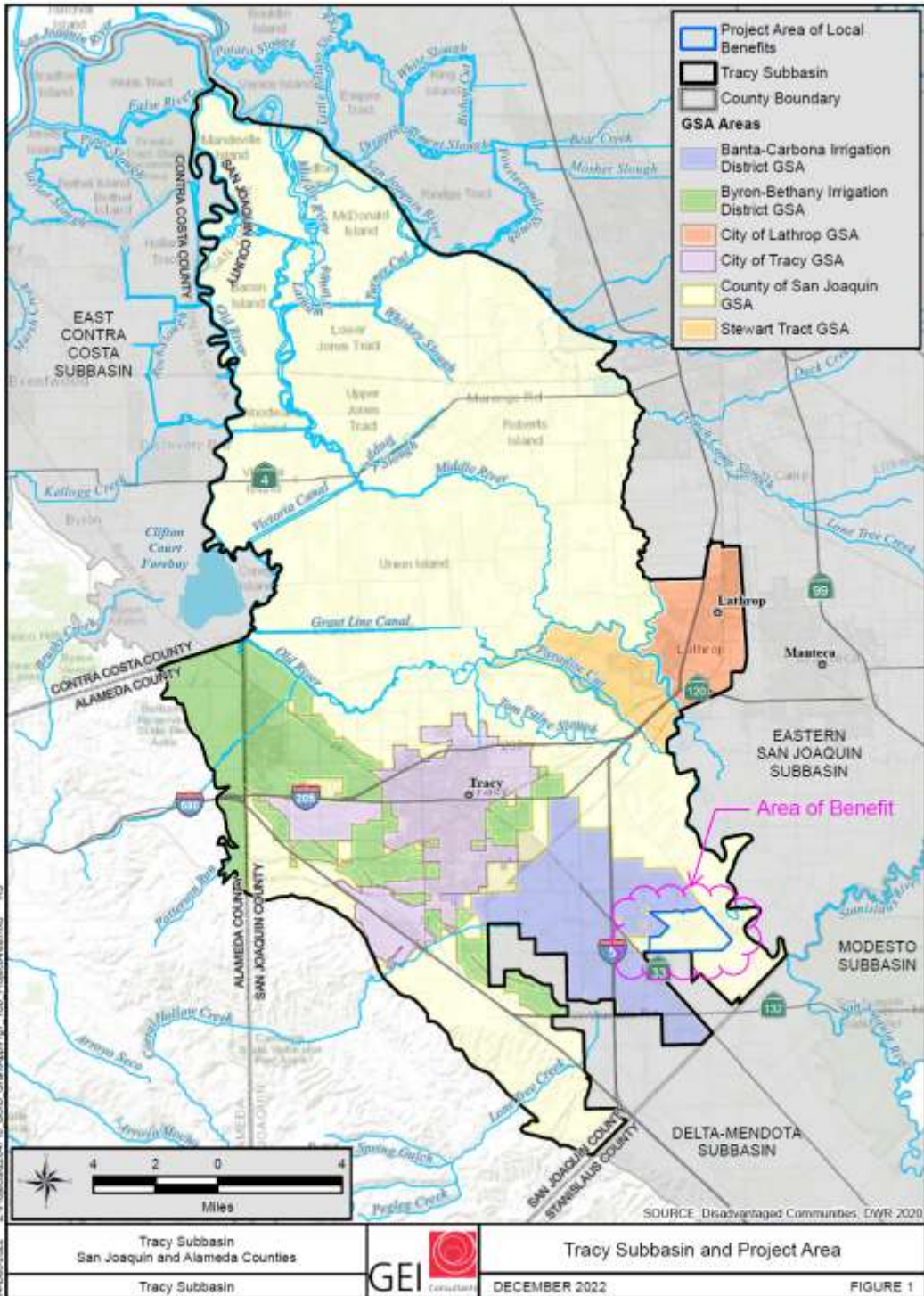
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (“**BCID**”) was established for the purpose of providing water for area farmers to grow crops in the San Joaquin Valley. The District serves an area that is unincorporated and agricultural, located west of the San Joaquin River, extending from the City of Tracy to the San Joaquin County-Stanislaus County line near the town of Vernalis. **Figure 1**. The District provides its customers with irrigation water for agricultural purposes. This water is provided via several sources, including surface water from the San Joaquin River, groundwater, and imported water from the Central Valley Project (“**CVP**”).

The district’s primary supply of water is its pre-1914 water rights on the San Joaquin River. Historically, the district uses all its pre-1914 water rights to irrigate lands within the district. BCID also obtains surface water pursuant to its water supply contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation through an agreement entitled “Contract between the United States and Banta-Carbona Irrigation District Providing for Project Water Service” dated October 22, 2020, Contract No. 14-06-200-4305A-LTR1-P. CVP water is used as a supplemental supply to the district’s pre-1914 water supply for agricultural purposes.

The distribution system in BCID consists of 2.5 miles of unlined canal, 33.2 miles of concrete-lined canal, and 46 miles of underground pipeline (“**Existing Distribution System**”). CVP water from the Delta Mendota Canal (“**DMC**”) is gravity-fed through two turnouts and is then distributed through a pipeline connected to the BCID Main Lift Canal. All the district’s facilities are either pump or gravity delivery canals. Currently, all gates within the district are manually operated and all the turnouts are measured daily.

BCID takes gravity flows from the DMC on the west and pumps from the San Joaquin River through a state-of-the-art fish screen facility on the east – allowing the district to blend water supply. Operational spills are returned to the BCID Main Lift Canal.

Figure 1



BCID is also a groundwater sustainability agency in the Tracy Subbasin (“**Subbasin**”), as also shown in **Figure 1**. A single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“**GSP**”) was developed for the Subbasin which covers 370 square-miles in San Joaquin County and a portion of Alameda County. Six GSAs (Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District, City of Tracy, City of Lathrop, San Joaquin County and Stewart Tract) cooperatively manage the Subbasin using a Memorandum of Understanding. The 2022 GSP identified a modest groundwater overdraft in the Subbasin of approximately 800 acre-feet per year (“**AFY**”) in the Upper Aquifer when climate change is considered in the 50-year planning horizon, which could result in lowering of groundwater levels and a reduction of groundwater in storage if not rectified. To avoid future potential undesirable results related to lowering of groundwater levels and depletion of groundwater storage, the Project was proposed to help to avoid these undesirable results. The BCID Board of Directors has found and determined that BCID would benefit from improvements and expansions to its distribution system to allow the increased use of surface water in the Tracy Subbasin.

In 2022, BCID sought to improve groundwater levels by construction of Phase 1 of the Conjunctive Use Project, which included about 6,800 linear feet of 36-inch pipeline to serve 340 acres of farmland with surface water. The Phase I conjunctive use Project will reduce groundwater pumping by an average annual volume of about 600 AFY, meeting a portion of the forecasted overdraft deficit.

This Phase 2 Conjunctive Use Project (“**Project**”) will provide an average annual volume of a minimum of 2,400 acre-feet per year of surface water to replace groundwater pumping, eliminate a projected average annual 800 acre-feet deficit, and provide a factor of safety for modeling inaccuracies and climate change uncertainties. Conjunctive use is a water management strategy that balances the use of surface water and groundwater to service communities and farmland. This approach gives groundwater supplies time to recharge. In wet years, when surface water from the San Joaquin River is abundant, the proposed pipeline will deliver water to farmland that currently relies on pumping groundwater. Wet years are projected to occur about 7 years out of every 10 years. In dry years, when surface water is scarce, farmers will use groundwater supplies. The Project components and current conditions are shown in **Figure 2**.

The expected benefit from this Project is estimated as 4,000 AFY based on evapotranspiration (water year 2022, estimated by the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) METRIC) for



about 1,600 irrigated acres that will receive surface water. This Project will conjunctively use surface water when available, primarily during above normal to wet types of water years, and during drought periods groundwater would be used (conjunctive use). Above normal to wet years are projected to occur about 7 years out of every 10 years with a normalized average over a 10-year period would be about 2,400 AFY. Reducing groundwater pumping will benefit domestic and agricultural well owners by stabilizing or raising groundwater levels and groundwater storage, reduce surface water depletion, and improve groundwater quality. The goal and objectives of this component is to address chronic lowering of groundwater levels in the Subbasin by reducing groundwater pumping by 2,400 AFY (normalized average) for at least the next 50 years or the life of the equipment, meeting and exceeding the projected overdraft deficit, and allowing for a factor of safety in modeling and climate Projections. The Project is needed to balance a potential overdraft in the Upper Aquifer. The Project will meet these goals, objectives and needs by reducing groundwater pumping (from about 10 existing wells, constructed in both the Upper and Lower aquifers) by about 2,400 AFY for the next 50 years. This Project will serve surface water to about 1,600 acres of agricultural land. **Figure 3** shows the current land use and the local area benefiting from this conjunctive use Project (“**Project Area**”). Additional local benefits would be to domestic well owners located to the west of the Project Area (Ahern Road and Durham Ferry Road), and a small community water system located immediately east of the facility (San Joaquin River Club) that supplies a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC), as shown in **Figures 4** and **5**. The Project will also provide regional benefits to the entire Subbasin to maintain the sustainability of the Subbasin. The Project would help to avoid minimum thresholds and measurable objectives exceedances for chronic lowering of groundwater levels and groundwater storage depletion will benefit from the Project by reducing groundwater pumping, stabilizing or raising groundwater levels. The plan implementation timeline for this component, from the initial planning and surveying, testing and investigations, through design and permit preparation, will be about two-years.

The Project benefits were estimated based on the evapotranspiration (water year 2022) for about 1,600 acres that will receive surface water delivered by this Project. The ITRC-METRIC process computed actual crop evapotranspiration (ET) based on a surface energy balance. For the 1,600 acres in the Project Area, the total evapotranspiration was about 4.000 acre-feet in water year 2022. This Project will conjunctively use surface water during below normal to wet

Figure 3

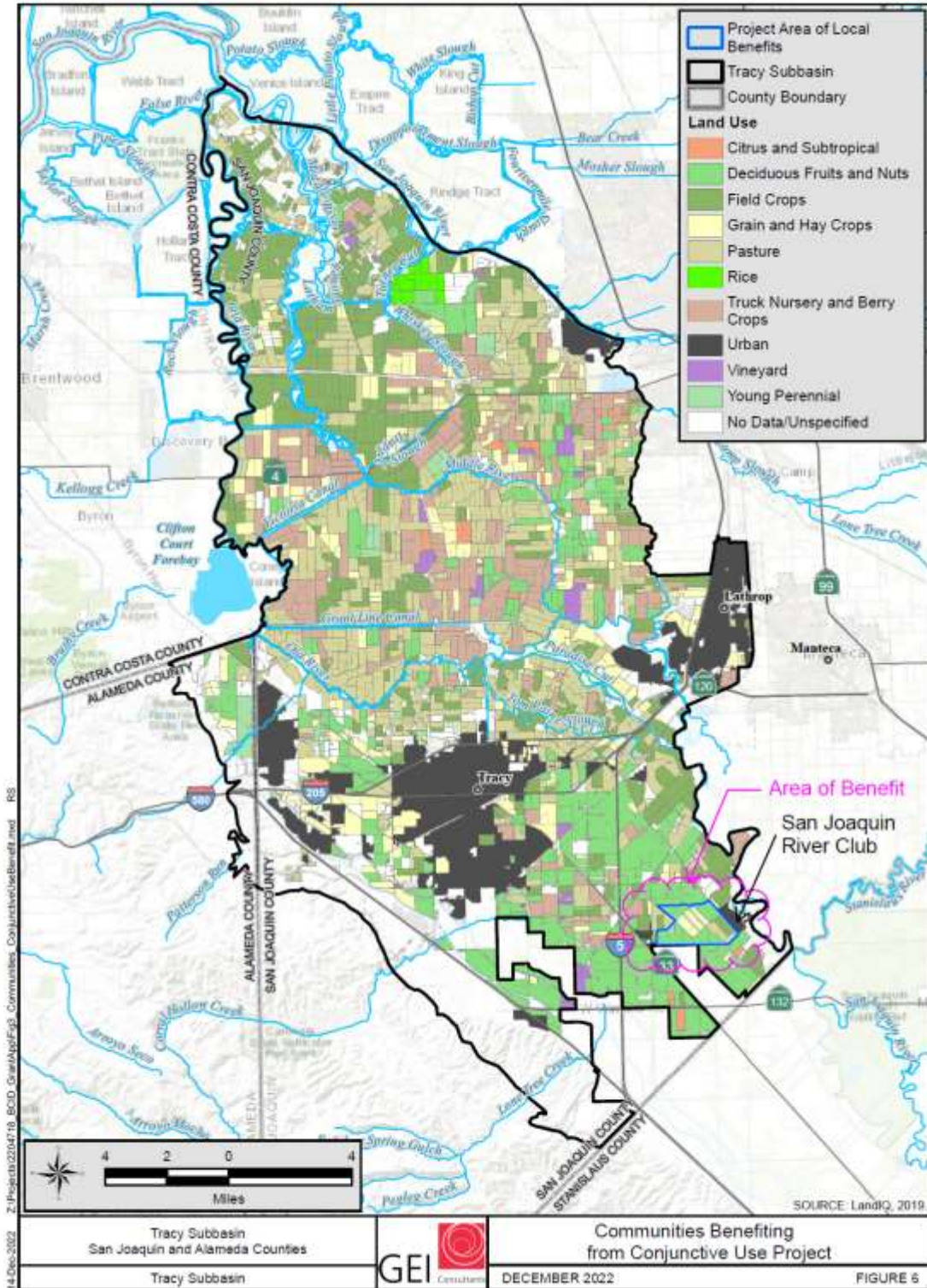


Figure 4

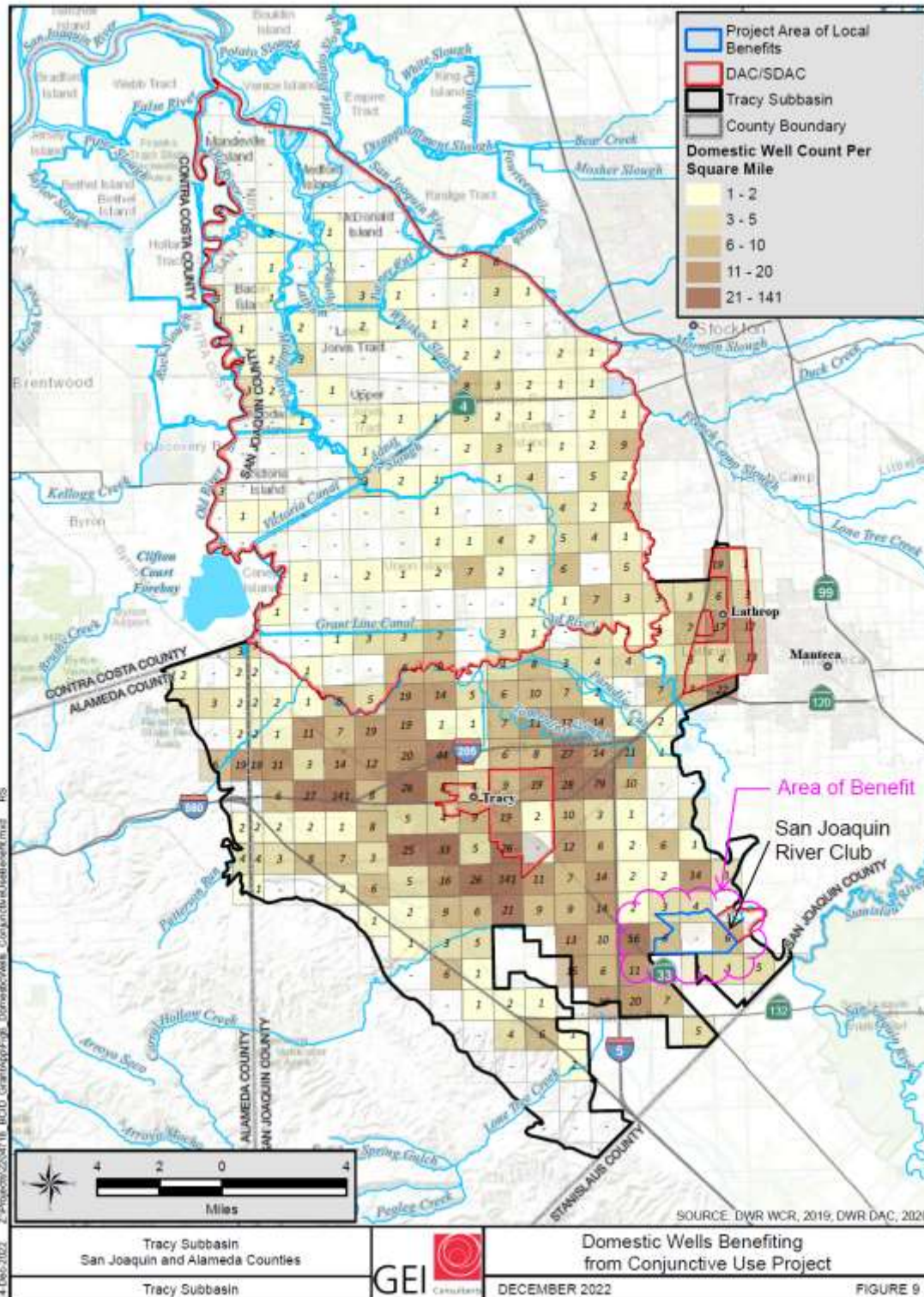
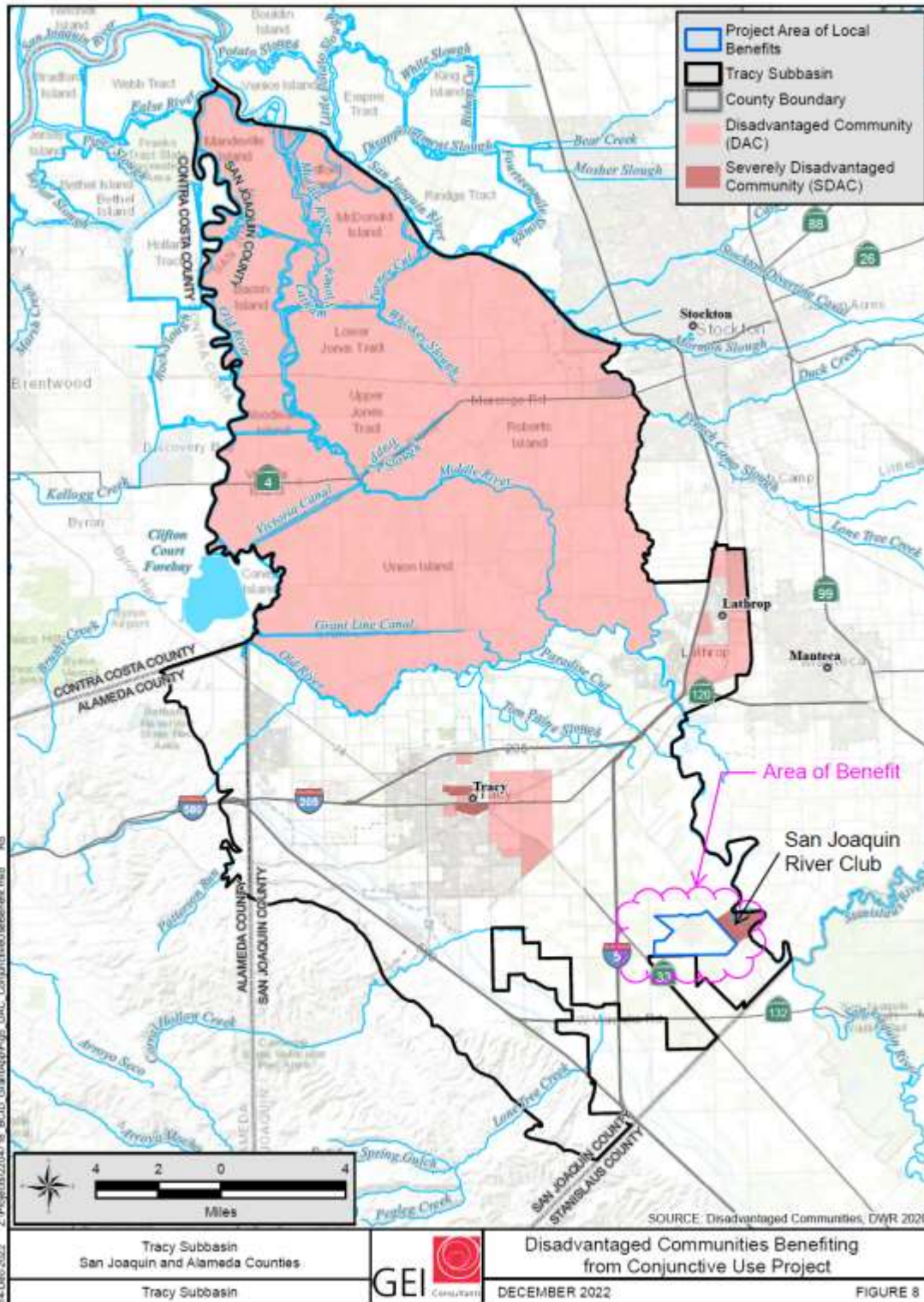


Figure 5



types of water years and during drought periods (dry and critically dry years) groundwater would be used. Assuming that 80 percent of the long-term average precipitation (10.83 inches) is effective ET of applied water is about 3,700 AFY. Based on the last 10 years, surface water deliveries to BCID were curtailed twice in 2015 and 2022. A normalized average over a 10-year period, assuming water available for delivery in seven out of ten years would be about 2,400 AFY.

These water supplies have historically been sufficient for the BCID area. Irrigated area in BCID has decreased slightly due to lot splitting for home sites and some urban growth in recent years. In addition, the District has promoted the increased use of water conservation technologies that has reduced overall demand in the district. With the reliability of the BCID supplies, recent decreases in irrigated area, and water conservation technologies being implemented within the BCID service area, this presents an opportunity for BCID to assist the Tracy subbasin become sustainable by extending these reliable surface water supplies to nearby growers that are entirely dependent on groundwater in wetter years without increasing river diversions.

**Surrounding land uses and setting – briefly describe the Project's surroundings:** The proposed Project is located in an area used predominantly for irrigated agriculture. The Project footprint is located on private property, with every attempt made to utilize nonproductive portion of agricultural parcels to construct Project improvements. A construction period of approximately eleven months is planned, beginning in January, 2025, and will include only daytime work.

## **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.

**Chapter 2 – Introduction.** Provides background information about the proposed Project. This section also described 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 G 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, BCID is proposing that a Negative Declaration be adopted for the proposed Project.

### **3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **Project Objectives**

The Project objective is to decrease the use of surface water in the Tracy Subbasin by expanding BCID's distribution system to reach additional agricultural land currently irrigated with groundwater. The Project will provide an average annual volume of a minimum of 2,400 acre-feet per year of surface water to replace groundwater pumping, eliminate a projected average annual 800 acre-feet deficit, and provide a factor of safety for modeling inaccuracies and climate change uncertainties.

The Project will serve surface water to about 1,600 acres of agricultural land. **Figure 3** shows the current land use and the local area benefiting from this conjunctive use Project. Additional local benefits would be to domestic well owners located to the west of the Project area (Ahern Road and Durham Ferry Road), and a small community water system located immediately east of the facility (San Joaquin River Club) that supplies a SDAC (**Figures 4 and 5**). The Project will also provide regional benefits to the entire Subbasin to maintain the sustainability of the Subbasin. The Project would help to avoid minimum thresholds and measurable objectives exceedances for chronic lowering of groundwater levels and groundwater storage depletion will benefit from the Project by reducing groundwater pumping, stabilizing or raising groundwater levels. **Figure 6** shows a hydrograph for a nearby representative monitoring well located north of the Project area, and **Figure 7** shows a hydrograph for a domestic well just west of the Project area.

#### **Project Area**

The Project is to be constructed within the Tracy Subbasin, immediately adjacent to and east of BCID boundaries in San Joaquin County. The Project Area is shown on **Figures 1 and 2**. The proposed Project is located in an area used predominantly for irrigated agriculture. The Project footprint is located on private property, with every attempt made to utilize nonproductive portion of agricultural parcels to construct Project improvements. A construction period of approximately eleven months is planned, beginning in January, 2025, and will include only daytime work.

Figure 6

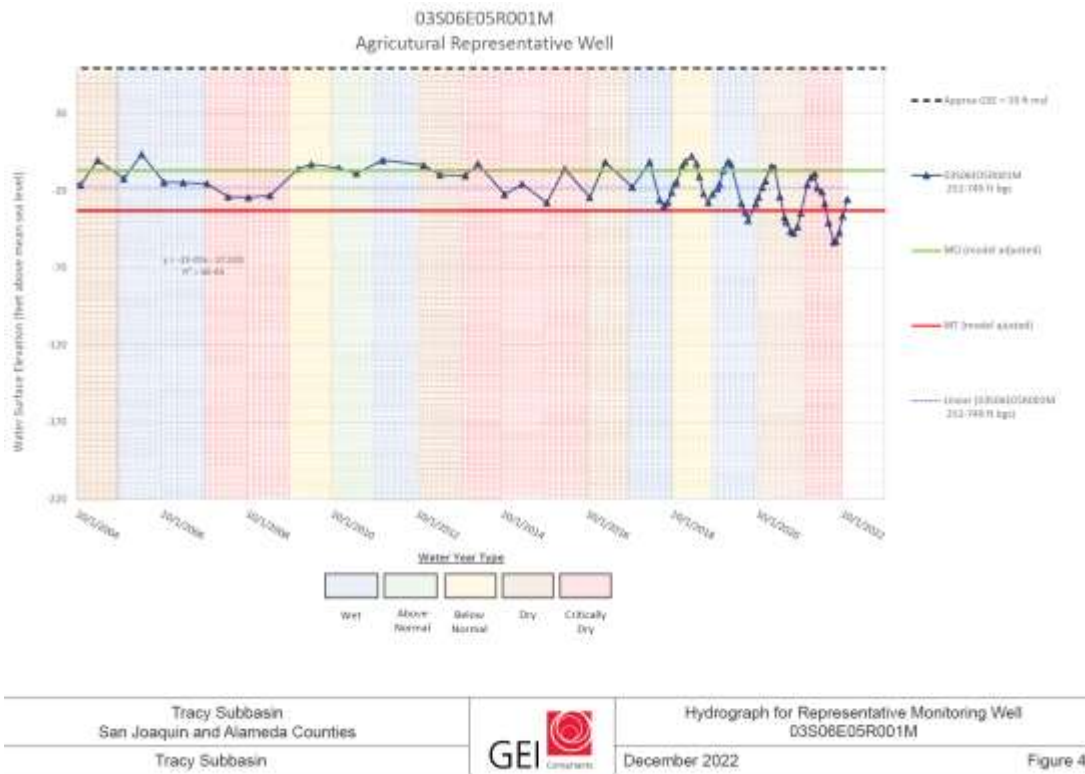
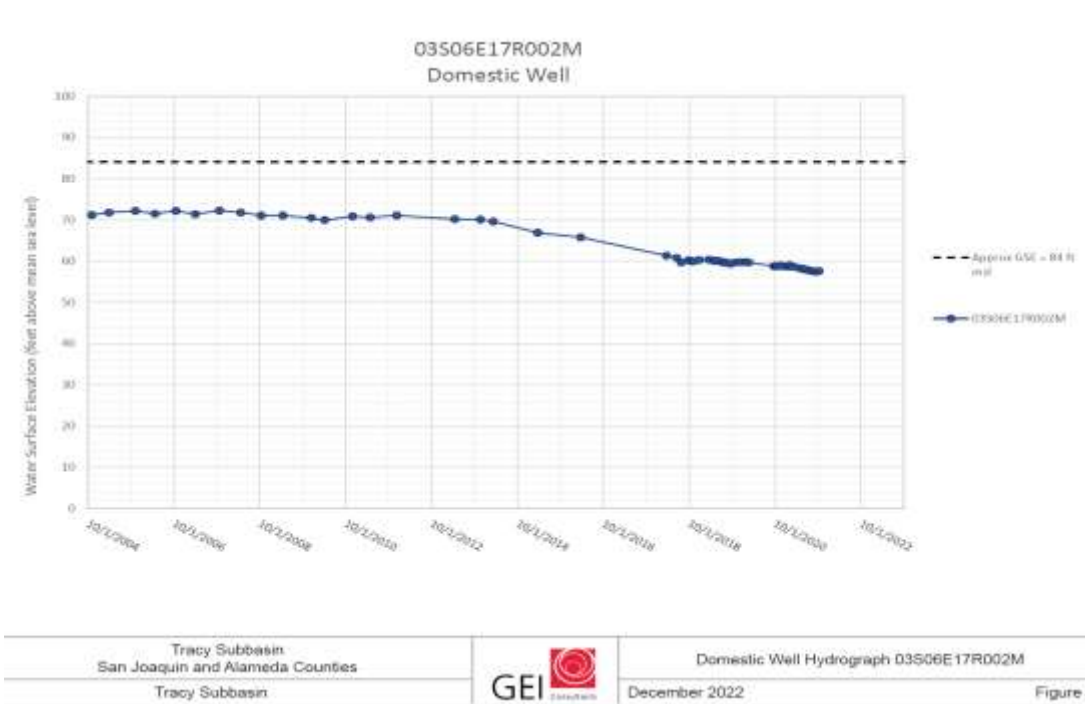


Figure 7



## Existing Conditions

### Description of BCID Pre-1914 Water Supply

#### *Volume/Uses of Water Supply*

BCID holds pre-1914 rights to divert 200 cfs of surface water from the San Joaquin River from January 1 to December 31 of each year. This water is currently delivered for agricultural purposes to BCID's 14,600 irrigable acre service area as well as to adjacent lands outside of the district that BCID serves by contract.

BCID delivers water to customers to produce food and fiber within and adjacent to the water service boundary of the district. The major crops are primarily cannery tomatoes, dry beans, alfalfa, almonds and cherries, and walnuts, with smaller amounts of apricots, olives, and vineyards; some areas have been planted with grapes over the last few years. Crops comprising five (5) percent or more of the total BCID service area consist of those listed in **Table 1**. Crops within the area to be served by the Project are expected to be similar to those in-district.

**Table 1. Cropping Patterns and Irrigated Area in BCID and surrounding area**

	<b>Inside 2021</b>	<b>Kasson 2021</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
Alfalfa	992	551	1543
Almonds	6058	1188	7246
Beans	500	0	500
Sweet Corn	925	175	1100
Cacti	0	30	30
Tomatoes	952	0	952
Apricots	118	0	118
Cherries	882	0	882
Grapes	413	0	413
Olives	136	0	136
Pasture	0	135	135
Silage Corn	0	751	751
Pistachios	34	0	34
Walnuts	3105	0	3105
Wheat	0	59	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>14115</b>	<b>2889</b>	<b>17004</b>

#### *Conservation Efforts*

BCID has engaged in an active water conservation effort to reduce water losses through evaporation in open ditches and water losses through seepage in unlined ditches and canals. BCID has lined 7.5 miles of canal with concrete and replaced 39 miles of open ditch with concrete pipe. BCID has estimated that these improvements have cut water losses through conveyance facilities from about 23% to 5%, resulting in approximately 8,250 acre-feet of conserved water annually. Of the 8,250 acre feet saved from seepage and evaporation, 3,250 acre feet is used at peak delivery times to deliver water to crops that otherwise would not have been able to receive deliveries due to limited pumping capacity. The remaining 5000 acre feet is water conserved at times other than at peak irrigation demand and hence is available for district use.

In addition, all water diverted from the San Joaquin River under the District's water rights for use within the District remains in the District; no surface water is spilled or drained back into the river. This is because farmers in the district have installed on farm return water systems or drain back into the District's canal system to be re-used by the District. This is an additional 5,000 af of conserved water per year because of water re-use. This conserved water also results in no degraded water - either in temperature or quality - being returned to the river system.

All of the proposed pipeline would be located within private rights of way adjacent to predominantly agricultural land on existing agricultural property. Project details such as adjacent land uses and cropping patterns could change over the course of evaluation, and from those existing at the time of this Initial Study. These changes, however, would consist of agricultural and ancillary uses consistent with the San Joaquin County General Plan and Zoning Code, and would not affect the analysis contained in this Initial Study.

#### Description of Project – Project Elements

BCID proposes to utilize its Existing Conveyance System as well as newly constructed improvements to convey San Joaquin River surface water for irrigation to additional lands in the Tracy Subbasin located out of the boundaries of BCID, as shown in **Figure 2**. The volume of water to be conveyed on any day would be determined by pumping capacity, water availability, and conveyance capacity within the District's internal distribution system.

All water conveyed by the Project will be delivered to lands historically irrigated, so no new lands will be put into agricultural production with District supplies. BCID is situated entirely within

San Joaquin County on the west side of the San Joaquin River. In general, it supplies water to most of the land to the south and east of Tracy, California, as far as Vernalis. Larger cities in the vicinity are Stockton, 25 miles to the north, Modesto, 25 miles to the east and San Francisco, 60 miles to the west.

This Project will consist of construction of Phase 2 Conjunctive Use Project facilities, as shown on **Figure 2**, which will include:

#### Easements

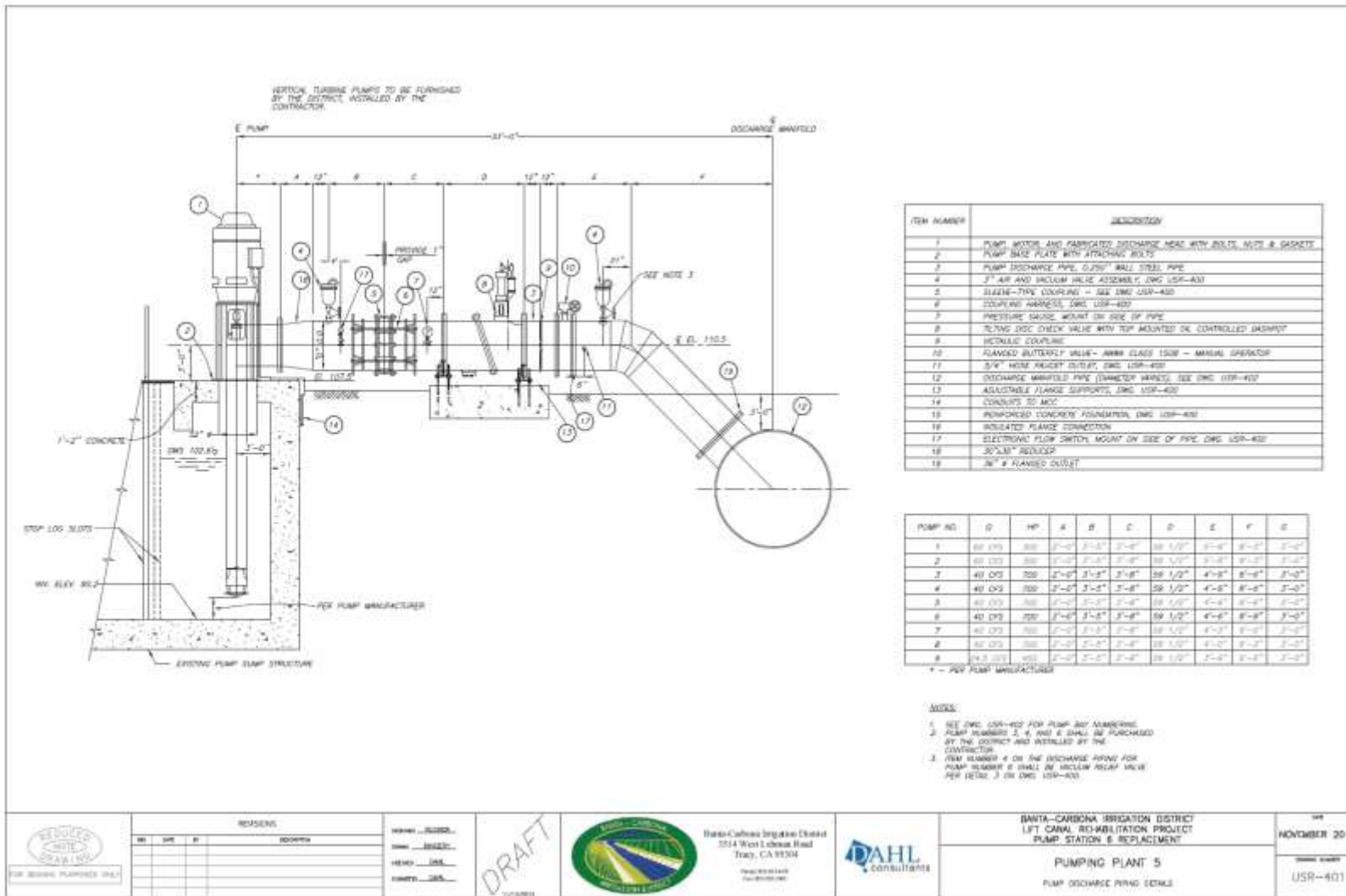
BCID will obtain land easements from private property owners under existing roadways and unused portions of irrigation land for construction of all improvements.

#### Pump Stations

Expansion of an existing pump station will be constructed on BCID's existing main lift canal on existing district property as detailed on **Figure 2**, and detailed on **Figure 8**. Improvements will include a small concrete wetwell structure, one 350 horse power and one 150 horse power motors and pumps, two pipe connections from the new pumps to the District's existing pipeline, motor controls including variable frequency drives, new transformers and other required electrical upgrades, and a small security building to house electrical equipment (**Figures 9 and 10**).

Figure 8 Expanded Pump Facility on District Property







### Pipeline and Turnouts

Trenching and installation of 12,000 – 18,000 linear feet of 18 to 36-inch diameter pipeline (red lines shown on **Figure 3**), as follows:

6400 feet of 36 inch PVC pipe

5720 feet of 30 inch PVC pipe

1200 feet of 24 inch PVC pipe

900 feet of 20 inch PVC pipe, and

5000 feet of 18 inch PVC pipe.

Pipeline will be installed in an open trench, and backfilled with native material removed from the trench. Open-trench construction would consist of trenching and excavation, followed by pipe installation. Backfill would be deposited into the trench and compacted. This process would proceed along the entire length of the pipeline alignment, with excavation, pipe installation, and backfill progressing along the alignment, and would continue until the pipeline is completely installed. The Project will include the installation of vacuum/pressure relief equipment in below ground manholes, above ground metering stations (“turnouts”) at each property, and installation of twelve flow meters.

### Site Preparation

The temporary construction zone for the proposed Project would be located entirely on privately owned land. Construction stormwater best management practices (BMPs) would be used on site to prevent erosion of soil and to control the transport of sediment. As part of the Project Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required for the Construction General Permit, if rain is expected, additional protection would be installed before the storm. The exact methods would be determined by the contractor, but some examples might be sandbag barriers, silt fence lined with fiber rolls at the base, or a temporary drainage swale. This additional protection would reduce the potential for runoff from the site to affect adjacent residences.

All ground breaking, as well as all temporary disturbance that would result from the movement of construction equipment and personnel, would be confined to the easements, or within temporary construction zones on private property on agricultural staging areas. The location of any staging areas would avoid areas used for agricultural cultivation, and any existing trees or

shrubs would be avoided to the extent possible. Should tree or vegetation removal be deemed necessary, all removal would comply with local ordinances and policies.

All work will be conducted during daylight hours, and no lighting will be used at the Project site. Potable water for workers' health and personal needs would be brought to the Project site by the contractor. Limited amounts of water would be required for dust suppression on roads and at spoils and staging areas; however, these requirements for water would be short-term and temporary during construction. To reduce the generation of fugitive dust throughout Project implementation, the construction contractor will be required to prepare and implement dust control measures at the construction and staging areas.

### **Projected Electricity Use**

The proposed Project will use energy from existing sources located on District property at the main lift canal. Estimated annual energy consumption is 285,000 kWh's.

### ***Hours of Operation and Employees***

The pipeline would be operational during the irrigation season in above normal to wet years when surplus water is available. During use, monitoring would be performed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week remotely via SCADA, one employee would make 5-10 site visits per week for inspections and maintenance of the pipeline. Additional operation technicians or Project managers may visit periodically for support.

### ***Hazardous Materials***

The construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in or require the use of any unusually hazardous materials.

### ***Stormwater Runoff***

There would be no change in drainage patterns as a result of the proposed Project.

**Schedule**

Construction of the proposed Project is scheduled to begin in January 2025. Construction is anticipated to take approximately eleven (11) months to complete. During construction, there would be a maximum of eleven (11) employees of the contractor working day shifts.

**Required Approvals*****San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)***

SJVAPCD Rules and Regulations – The proposed Project is subject to SJVAPCD Rules and Regulations.

***State Water Resources Control Board***

General Construction Activity – The State Water Resources Control Board has adopted a General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit for storm water discharges associated with any construction activity, including clearing, grading, excavation, reconstruction, and dredge and fill activities, that results in the disturbance of at least one acre of total land area.

**D. MITIGATION**

Based on the attached Initial Environmental Study, the proposed Project poses no significant effect on the environment. Therefore, there is no need to require mitigation measures as a result of this Project.

**LIST OF PREPARERS**

The persons who have participated in the preparation of this initial environmental study are as follows:

Jeanne Zolezzi, Herum Crabtree Suntag

David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District

Sam Schaefer, PE, GEI

## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following checklist is the form presented in appendix G 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. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as Project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. For this checklist the following designations are used:

**Potentially Significant Impact:** "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated:** "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact."

**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 Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. <u>AESTHETICS</u> -- Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

The primary scenic resource within San Joaquin County is the rural and agricultural landscape of nonurbanized areas of the county. Due to the relatively flat topography, short- and mid-range views are limited to agricultural uses, including pasture, row crops, and orchards. Long-range views feature the Coastal ranges and the Sierra Nevada foothills. The areas surrounding the Project alignment are characterized by agricultural uses, and their associated accessory buildings and residences. Because of the flatness of most of the County’s terrain and often poor air quality, most scenic views are limited to near and medium-range as provided by viewpoints such as public recreation areas and roadways. Viewers along the proposed pipeline alignment are limited to motorists on perimeter roadways and residents of surrounding agricultural facilities and operations. (Google Earth 2021)

Neither the Project alignment nor the views to or from the alignment have been designated as an important scenic resource by San Joaquin County or any other public agency. No state or

locally designated scenic highway has been identified in the vicinity of the Project area (Caltrans 2021). Interstate 5 and State Routes (SR) 4 and 99 are all County-designated scenic roadways. Interstates 5 and 580 are designated as State scenic highways, but they are situated at a distance from the Project alignment.

a) **No Impact.** Given the lack of distinctive topographical features in the Project vicinity, the Project alignment is not located in an area with scenic vistas. The agricultural related facilities and associated residences in the vicinity are existing uses, and are considered common to the area. No designated scenic vista is visible from the Project alignment, nor is the Project alignment visible from any nearby scenic vista. The pipelines would be buried underground and any area disturbed by trenching during pipeline installation would be restored to its prior condition. Because the proposed Project would not be unique to the surrounding visual setting, pipeline construction impacts would be temporary, and overall Project implementation would not affect a scenic vista. No impact would result with implementation of the Project, and no mitigation would be required.

b) **No Impact.** No state- or locally-designated scenic highway is visible from the pipeline alignment, nor are the areas of the pipeline alignment visible from any nearby designated scenic highway. The nearest designated State Scenic Highway, Interstate 5, is located well to the west of the Project alignment. In addition, no scenic highways are designated within the Project area in the San Joaquin County General Plan. Because the Project alignment is not located within the view shed of a designated scenic highway, there would be no damage to scenic resources within a scenic highway. No impact would result with implementation of the proposed Project, and no mitigation would be required.

c) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** Developed agricultural facilities are the predominant scenic features in the rural area of the proposed Project. Construction of the pipeline Project would result in a temporary change in the scenic character of area roadways, while equipment and supplies are used and stored in the vicinity of the trenching and other construction activities. Once completed, the pipeline would be underground, with only small turnout structure located above ground, and the visual and scenic character of the Project vicinity roadways would be similar to existing conditions.

Because the proposed Project is consistent with the existing and planned agricultural uses of the area, and the pipeline would be underground upon Project completion, implementation of the Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. This would be a less-than-significant impact, and no mitigation would be required.

d) **Less-than-significant Impact.** Existing sources of night lighting in the Project vicinity include security lighting from rural residential uses. County standards require that all new lighting be directed away from or be properly shaded to eliminate light trespass or glare within a Project or onto surrounding properties. The proposed transmission pipeline would be placed underground and would not result in additional light or glare. The newly constructed security building will be located adjacent to existing District improvements, and will be consistent with already existing facilities. Therefore, the Project would not result in new lighting with adverse light and glare effects, and no mitigation would be required.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. *Would the Project*:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

Pipeline construction would occur on private lands and within the public right of way. Areas within San Joaquin County where pipeline construction would be conducted are designated Agricultural by the San Joaquin County General Plan. Within San Joaquin County, parcels within and adjacent to pipeline routes are designated by the General Plan as Agricultural Exclusive and Agricultural.

a) **No Impact.** Project pipelines would be located within existing privately owned agricultural property or within or across the public right-of-way, and would not affect adjacent farmlands. Because the pipeline would be constructed outside of active farmlands, construction of the

proposed facilities would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use, and a less-than-significant impact would result. No mitigation would be required.

b) **No Impact.** The San Joaquin county General Plan and Zoning Ordinance designate the Project area predominantly for agricultural uses. The proposed Project includes the construction of water delivery pipeline and associated improvements, an agricultural support use. Adjacent properties are also in agricultural uses, primarily field crops. No feature of the Project would preclude or limit the agricultural use of adjoining parcels. Thus, the proposed Project would permit the continuation of existing agricultural uses consistent with County policies, and would not conflict with adjacent agricultural and/or non-agricultural uses. No impact would result.

c, d, e) **No Impact.** The proposed pipeline areas are not zoned for forest lands or timberland production by San Joaquin County, and no such lands exist along the alignment or in the vicinity. Thus, there would be no loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The proposed pipeline would not result in any change to the existing environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Because the proposed Project would not conflict with any existing forest land or timberland production zoning, and no changes associated with the Project are proposed that would result in the conversion of existing farmland, forest land, or timber lands, no impact would occur.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determination. *Would the Project*

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (e.g., by having potential emissions of regulated criterion pollutants the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Districts (SJVAPCD) adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
thresholds for these pollutants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

Air quality influences public health and welfare, the economy, and quality of life. Air pollutants have the potential to adversely impact public health, the production and quality of agricultural crops, visibility, native vegetation, and buildings and structures.

Ambient air quality is described in terms of compliance with state and national standards, and the levels of air pollutant concentrations considered safe to protect the public health and welfare. These standards are designed to protect people most sensitive to respiratory distress, such as asthmatics, the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise. The U.S. EPA, the federal agency that administers the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970, as amended, has established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for seven air pollution constituents. As permitted by the CAA, California has adopted more stringent state ambient air quality standards (SAAQS), and expanded the number of air constituents regulated.

San Joaquin County is located in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). Under both the federal and state CAAs, the SJVAPCD regulates air quality. As required by the California Clean Air Act (CCAA), the SJVAPCD has published various air quality planning documents, including Rules and Regulations, to comply with the federal and state AAQS. Air Quality Attainment Plans (AQAP), prepared by the SJVAPCD, are incorporated into the State Implementation Plan (SIP), which is subsequently submitted to the EPA. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is required to designate areas of the state as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for any state standard. An “attainment” designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations do not violate the standard for that pollutant in that area. A “nonattainment” designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once.

The San Joaquin Valley is currently designated as nonattainment with respect to Federal air quality standards for ozone and PM 2.5; and has a maintenance plan for PM-10.

### **SJVAPCD Rules and Regulations**

All Projects are subject to SJVAPCD rules in effect at the time of construction. A complete listing of current rules is available at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). The SJVAPCD’s *Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts* (GAMAQI) (SJVAPCD 2015) has established thresholds for certain criteria pollutants for determining whether a Project would have a significant air quality impact. Construction and operational emissions are calculated separately.

a) **Less-than-significant Impact.** The policies and provisions of the SJVAPCD and the San Joaquin County General Plan control air quality impacts from the proposed Project. The proposed Project would result in the installation of underground pipelines, and would not conflict with the Agricultural land use designation of Agricultural Exclusive. Thus, the Project would be consistent with the land use assumptions used by the SJVAPCD in drafting the air quality attainment plans. The proposed Project would be subject to SJVAPCD Rules and Regulations, and all construction will be in compliance with those rules and regulations; as a result, any impacts to air quality will be reduced to less than significant.

b) **Less-than-significant Impact.** Construction impacts on ozone and inhalable particulates would be short-term and temporary. Because the construction activities associated with the proposed Project would not disturb more than 1 acre per day, the proposed Project would not require a Dust Control Plan or Construction Notification form from SJVAPCD. The Project contractor will comply with SJVAPCD Regulation VIII, the purpose of which is to reduce ambient concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) by requiring actions to prevent, reduce or mitigate anthropogenic fugitive dust emissions. Reg. VIII requires property owners, contractors, developers, equipment operators, farmers and public agencies to control fugitive dust emissions from specified outdoor fugitive dust sources. Therefore, the impact of the proposed Project to the pollutants classified as nonattainment would be less-than-significant.

c) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The proposed Project area is located in a predominantly agricultural area, however, there are homes located on South Koster Road adjacent to a portion of the pipeline construction area. No hospitals are located within one quarter mile of the proposed Project area. Delta Charter Elementary School and Delta Charter High School are located within one quarter mile of the proposed Project. Construction could increase the amount of dust in the air; however, BMPs, such as watering for dust control, would be implemented in order to reduce these pollutants to the extent practicable. Therefore, the impacts associated with increased pollutants to sensitive receptors would be less than significant.

d) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** See the response to c) above. Construction of the proposed Project could result in a temporary emission of odors (e.g., diesel exhaust) from construction equipment and vehicles. These odors would be short-term, limited in extent at any given time, and distributed throughout the Project area during the duration of construction, and therefore, would not affect a substantial number of individuals. Residences are limited to a few adjacent to small pipeline segments as shown on **Figure 2**; therefore, a substantial number of people would not be impacted during construction. Therefore, impacts as a result of other emissions would be less than significant.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- <i>Would the Project.</i>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?



X

**Discussion**

a – f) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility on existing district property, installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement, and ancillary facilities, and no other construction or land alterations. All pumping from the San Joaquin River would be within the water rights held by the District, and within historical pumping variations.

The proposed Project involves the conveyance of water from the San Joaquin River to lands immediately adjacent to the District through existing facilities and newly constructed pipeline and pump station. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. While the District will divert water from the San Joaquin River, no change is contemplated to the diversion facilities by the Project, and no change is contemplated from the historical overall quantity of diversion. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on biological resources.

In addition, most of the habitat types required by species protected by the Endangered Species Act do not occur in the Project area. The Project would not involve the conversion of any land fallowed and untilled for three or more years. Such actions would require subsequent environmental review. The Project also would not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do not have some value to listed species. No critical habitat occurs within the area affected by the Project, and so none of the primary constituent elements of any critical habitat would be affected. Any encountered biological resources are likely to be those associated with actively cultivated land. Because no increased natural stream course or additional surface water pumping would occur there would be no effects on listed fish species.

There will be no impact or effects to fisheries. There will be no impact on wetlands. The Project will have no impact on requirements imposed upon third parties to meet specific minimum flow requirements and operational constraints for listed fish and other considerations, or existing programs to enhance and protect biological resources. The Project will have no applicable impact or any effect on any listed or proposed threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed Project would not conflict with any local, regional, or state policy, ordinance or conservation plan in effect for the area. Hence no impact to adopted habitat conservation plans would occur with Project implementation.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> -- <i>Would the Project.</i>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-b) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of an expanded pump facility on district property, installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement and within a new construction easement, and ancillary facilities, and no other construction or land alterations. The Project would have no impact on cultural resources. The Project would require minimal surface disturbing activities for installation of the new pipeline, which are for a short duration. Farming operations such as plowing, planting, and harvesting would continue to take place on land where surface disturbing activities have continuously occurred for many years. Therefore, there would be no substantial adverse changes in the significance of historical or archeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines in §15064.5. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this Project.

c) **No Impact.** In the event human remains are discovered at any point of the project, California state law requires that there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site, or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county has determined the manner and cause of death. Recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains shall have been made to the person responsible for the

excavation (California Health and Safety Code - Section 7050.5). At the time development, if Human burials are found to be of Native American origin, the developer shall follow the procedures pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.5(e) of the California State Code of Regulations. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this Project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. ENERGY – <i>Would the Project.</i>				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-b) **No Impact.** The California Energy Code (also titled The Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Non-residential Buildings) was created by the California Building Standards Commission in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. The code's purpose is to advance the state's energy policy, develop renewable energy sources and prepare for energy emergencies. These standards are updated periodically by the California Energy Commission. The code includes energy conservation standards applicable to most buildings throughout California.

There is no proposal for any development. The District is actively involved in developing renewable energy, and the Project's energy use will be less than significant and will not conflict with state or local plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u> – <i>Would the Project.</i>				
a) Directly or Indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

**a) No Impact.**

i) No historical faults (i.e., faults that have been active within the last 150 years) are located within the vicinity of the proposed Project area. Therefore, there would be no impact from faults or earthquakes on humans as a result of the proposed Project.

ii) The proposed Project would not create any new structures or facilities for human use. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the potential for loss, injury, or death as a result of strong seismic ground shaking.

iii) The proposed Project would not create any new structures or facilities for human use. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the potential for loss, injury, or death as a result of ground fracture or liquefaction.

iv) The proposed Project area is an area of flat ground therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the potential for loss, injury, or death as a result of landslides.

**b) Less-than-Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would disturb soil during construction. BMPs to reduce sedimentation and erosion on site would be defined in the construction SWPPP and implemented by the contractor to the extent practicable. Therefore, impacts from soil erosion would be less than significant.

**c) No Impact.** The proposed Project area does not contain cliffs or unstable soils; therefore, the proposed Project would have no potential to impact unstable soils.

d) **No Impact.** Expansive soils are not identified in the San Joaquin County General Plan as a potential concern. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no potential to impact expansive soils.

e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not use any septic tanks. Any wastewater would be managed by the contractor and transported off site. Therefore, the proposed Project would not be required to support septic tanks and would have no impact.

f) **No Impact.** The Project area has not been determined to contain significant historic or prehistoric archeological artifacts that could be disturbed by potential site development. The Project site also does not contain any known unique geologic features. Therefore, damage to unique paleontological resources, sites or geologic features is expected to be less than significant. Still, unique paleontological or geologic features could be discovered during subsurface work; if paleontological resources are encountered during earth-moving activities, the construction crew would immediately stop work, and a qualified paleontologist would evaluate the resource and prepare a proposed mitigation plan based on the situation.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS --  
*Would the Project:*

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-b) **No Impacts.** Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the cumulative global emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change can be attributed to every nation, region, and city, and virtually every individual on earth. An individual project's GHG emissions are at a micro-scale level relative to global emissions and effects to global climate change; however, an individual project could result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to a significant cumulative macro-scale impact. As such, impacts related to emissions of GHG are inherently considered cumulative impacts.

Implementation of the Project would cumulatively contribute to increases of GHG emissions. Estimated GHG emissions attributable to future development would be primarily associated with increases of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and, to a lesser extent, other GHG pollutants, such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) associated with area sources, mobile sources or vehicles, utilities (electricity and natural gas), water usage, wastewater generation, and the generation of solid waste. The primary source of GHG emissions for the project would be mobile source emissions. The common unit of measurement for GHG is expressed in terms of annual metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr).

As noted previously, the project will be subject to the rules and regulations of the SJVAPCD. The SJVAPCD has adopted the *Guidance for Valley Land- use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA* and the *District Policy - Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency*.<sup>1</sup> The guidance and policy rely on the use of performance-based standards, otherwise known as Best Performance Standards (BPS) to assess significance of project specific greenhouse gas emissions on global climate change during the environmental review process, as required by CEQA. To be determined to have a less-than-significant individual and

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<sup>1</sup> San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. *Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA*. December 17, 2009. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. *District Policy Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency*. December 17, 2009.

cumulative impact with regard to GHG emissions, projects must include BPS sufficient to reduce GHG emissions by 29 percent when compared to Business As Usual (BAU) GHG emissions. Per the SJVAPCD, BAU is defined as projected emissions for the 2002-2004 baseline period. Projects which do not achieve a 29 percent reduction from BAU levels with BPS alone are required to quantify additional project-specific reductions demonstrating a combined reduction of 29 percent. Potential mitigation measures may include, but not limited to: on-site renewable energy (e.g. solar photovoltaic systems), electric vehicle charging stations, the use of alternative-fueled vehicles, exceeding Title 24 energy efficiency standards, the installation of energy-efficient lighting and control systems, the installation of energy-efficient mechanical systems, the installation of drought-tolerant landscaping, efficient irrigation systems, and the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures.

It should be noted that neither the SJVAPCD nor the County provide project-level thresholds for construction-related GHG emissions. Construction GHG emissions are a one-time release and are, therefore, not typically expected to generate a significant contribution to global climate change.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</u> -- <i>Would the Project:</i>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a) **Less Than Significant.** All Project-related transportation, use, and disposal of hazardous materials would be limited to common substances used to maintain and operate construction equipment. Storage, handling, and transport of all potentially hazardous materials used during construction would occur in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations implemented to minimize risk of hazardous materials release. Hazardous materials used during

construction would be stored in the temporary construction areas, away from any environmentally sensitive areas, in quantities that would not pose significant hazard to the public in the event of a release. Implementation of a SWPPP in compliance with the Construction General Permit (2009-009-DWQ) and standard construction best management practices (BMPs) would prevent the use of these materials from causing a significant hazard to the public or environment. Operation of the proposed Project would not substantially change from the existing maintenance activities performed by District staff. With the implementation of a SWPPP and standard construction BMPs, any impacts related to the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would not have a substantial adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant.** Implementation of a SWPPP and standard construction BMPs would minimize the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Operation of the proposed Project would involve routine maintenance, which would require the use of potentially hazardous materials. During both construction and operation, the Project would proceed in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations implemented for the minimization of hazardous materials risk. Therefore, impacts related to the accidental release of hazardous materials would be less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant.** Delta Charter Elementary and Delta Charter High School are located within the Project area at 31400 South Koster Road, Tracy, California. The schools would be adjacent to pipeline construction. As mentioned above, all Project-related transportation, use, and disposal of hazardous materials would be limited to common substances used to maintain and operate construction equipment. Storage, handling, and transport of all potentially hazardous materials used during construction would occur in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations implemented to minimize risk of hazardous materials release. Consequently, the potential to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school would be less than significant.

d) **No Impact.** The project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database map, compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5 and as noted above, does not include the use or storage of

hazardous materials on-site. Therefore, the project is anticipated to have no impact on creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

e) **No Impact.** The Project area is located within two miles of the New Jerusalem Airport, a public airstrip. Project construction would be temporary and would occur in a lower topographical area compared to the immediate surrounding higher-elevation hillsides. Furthermore, the Project would not introduce any new residential uses or employment centers that could expose people to a safety hazard from excessive aircraft noise. There would be no impacts.

f) **No Impact.** Construction of the Project would take place on private property and would not interfere with public roadways or traffic. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

g) **No Impact.** The Project location is just east of the City of Tracy and is not identified as a Community at Risk from Wildfire by Cal Fire's "Fire Risk Assessment Program". Communities at Risk from Wildfire are those places within 1.5 miles of areas of High or Very High wildfire threat as determined from CDF-FRAP fuels and hazard data. Therefore, the Project would have no potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY --  
*Would the Project.*

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially decrease groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impeded sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-b) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of an expanded pump facility on existing district property, installation of a new pipeline partially within a new district easement and within a new construction easement, and ancillary facilities, and no other construction or land alterations. No change in land use is contemplated by the Project that would affect hydrology or water quality in any way. Therefore, the Project would have no water resource impacts related to land use change.

The Project involves the conveyance of water from the San Joaquin River to the Project area through existing and new facilities as described. There will be no increase in irrigated land, as water conveyed through use of the Project is intended to replace groundwater pumping, not to increase historic water use. The Project will enable the district to ensure the Tracy Subbasin will reach sustainability by making better use of its underlying groundwater and San Joaquin River water supplies. Water supplies will be maintained within existing District conveyance and storage systems. No substantial erosion, siltation or flooding on- or off-site would occur. The construction activities associated with the proposed Project are minor; therefore, no impacts relating to water drainage patterns would occur with Project implementation.

The Project will not create or contribute runoff water thereby exceeding the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems. Therefore, no impacts relating to storm water drainage systems would occur with Project implementation.

The Project will not involve the construction of housing. The Project will use existing District facilities, and newly constructed pipeline and ancillary facilities. All District facilities are built to recognized construction standards to limit the potential for exposure of people or property to water-related hazards, such as flooding. The Project would not expose people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding by impeding or redirecting flood flows.

c.i–c.iv) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, including through altering the course of a river or stream or adding new impervious surfaces. New development would be limited to underground pipes and an underground connection with an expanded pump station and ancillary facilities. The easement area would be returned to its preconstruction condition; therefore, the proposed Project would have no potential to impact erosion or siltation, increase the rate of surface runoff that could result in

flooding or exceed the capacity of existing stormwater drainage systems, provide additional sources of polluted runoff, or impede or redirect flood flows as a result of altering the existing drainage pattern of the site.

d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project site is not located in tsunami or seiche zone. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodmaps, the proposed Project area is not located within a flood zone. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no potential for impact on the risk of a pollutant release if inundated in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone.

e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project is being implemented to advance the goals of the GSP; therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact on a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING  
*Would the Project.*

a) <i>Physically divide an established community?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) <i>Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a) **No Impact.** The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a linear feature (such as a major highway or railroad tracks) or removal of a means of access (such as a local road or bridge) that would impair mobility within an existing community or between a community and an outlying area. The objective of the proposed Project is to install underground water infrastructure, which would not result in the division of an established community. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would entail replacing and improving existing infrastructure. New permanent easements on private property which would be created as part of the Project. These easements would include new pipeline infrastructure. The purpose of these easements is to allow continued maintenance access to District infrastructure that traverses private property. These new easements would not result in a change to land use. The proposed easements on a given parcel would not affect its continued use. The Project itself is intended to allow existing agricultural uses to continue in use. Therefore, the proposed Project would not be in conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No impact would occur.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES -- *Would the Project:*

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a, b) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing district right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement and within a new construction easement, and ancillary facilities. The proposed project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of a resource recovery site because the site does not contain minerals of significance or known mineral resources. San Joaquin County applies a mineral resource zone (MRZ) designation to land that meets the significant mineral deposits definition by the State Division of Mines and Geology. The project site is not in the MRZ-1 zone, and no mining is proposed. Additionally, there currently is no mining activity in the area, and the surrounding area is developed with agricultural uses with scattered residences. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than a significant impact on the availability of mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites within San Joaquin County.

There are no mining activities that would be affected by the Project. The Project would not interfere with a mineral resource recovery site or any future mineral activities. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this Project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. <u>NOISE</u> – <i>Would the Project result in:</i>				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) For a Project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-b) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing district right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline in a new district easement and within a new construction easement, and ancillary facilities. Construction activities will be confined to normal working hours and all equipment shall be required to comply with noise suppression regulations to keep the noise generated by the construction activities within applicable standards.

The pump station will be constructed below the natural ground level and the pumps will be powered by electric motors so the noise generation will be below ambient levels. Impacts from noise generation from both the construction activities and the Project's operation will be less than significant.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project area is located within the vicinity of a public airport, however, the New Jerusalem Airport has one runway, and aircraft operations average 77 per week for the 12-month period ending 13 February 2020 <https://www.airnav.com/airport/1q4>. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels resulting from aircraft noise, and there would be no impact.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING --

*Would the Project.*

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Discussion

a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not create any new homes or businesses, or expand existing roads or other infrastructure that could induce unplanned population growth. The proposed Project would provide surface water for agriculture irrigation; however, this would not increase the amount of water available for use as it is intended to replace groundwater use. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact, either directly or indirectly, to unplanned population growth in the area.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not displace existing residents or require the relocation of existing housing. Therefore, there would be no impact as a result of people or housing displacement.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

The Project involves construction of an expanded pump facility on district property; installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement and within a temporary construction

easement; ancillary facilities including two pumps and motors, wet well and security building; and no other construction or land alterations. The Project represents a minor alteration in the District's overall water distribution facilities which currently require only occasional police response to facility vandalism. There are no other public services impacted by the Project, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project; therefore, the Project would have no impact on public services.

a) **No Impact.**

i) No new buildings or facilities would be created as a result of the proposed Project. Additionally, the number of workers on site during construction would not exceed 15 workers. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact on service ratios or response times for fire protection in the area.

ii) No new buildings or facilities would be created as a result of the proposed Project. Additionally, the number of workers on site during construction would not exceed 15. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact on service ratios or response times for police protection in the area.

iii) It is not anticipated that the proposed Project would generate population growth during construction, since the local construction industry can likely accommodate the Project without bringing in people from outside. Further, operation of the facility would not increase the capacity of the system or trigger growth. Therefore, no new schools would be required as a result of the proposed Project, and the proposed Project would have no impact on service ratios for schools in the area.

iv) There are no parks in the proposed Project area, and no parks in adjacent communities would be impacted by the proposed Project. Further, the proposed Project would not create any new housing or public facilities that would draw visitors to the area. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact on service ratios for parks in the area.

v) The purpose of the proposed Project is to deliver surface water to lands currently irrigated exclusively with groundwater. This would be a positive impact of the proposed Project.

No other public facilities would be impacted by the proposed Project. Therefore, there would be no negative impacts on other public facilities as a result of the proposed Project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVI. RECREATION --

a) Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Does the Project include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a, b) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of an expanded pump facility on existing district property; installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement and within a temporary construction easement; the addition of pumps and motors and a wet well to existing district infrastructure, and no other construction or land alterations. The Project provides no recreational opportunities and the Project will have no effect on the recreational opportunities of the San Joaquin River.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. <u>TRANSPORTATION</u> -- <i>Would the Project.</i>				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (i.e., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-b) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing district right-of-way; installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement and within a temporary construction easement; ancillary facilities including two pumps and motors, wet well and security building; and no other construction or land alterations. There will be a small number of construction trips during the eleven (11) month construction period on nearby rural roads. The Project would have no impact on transportation or traffic.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not change geometric design features or require incompatible uses. The temporary construction would last for eleven (11) months. Therefore, the proposed Project would not substantially increase public hazards due to a change in a geometric design feature or incompatible use and would have no impact related to traffic hazards.

d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project and temporary construction would not result in inadequate emergency access. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES -- *Would the Project*

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC section 5020.1(k), or,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC section 5.24.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a) **No Impact.** No sites that are listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or local register for historical resources, which could potentially be considered as a tribal cultural resource, have been identified in the proposed Project area. As described above in the Cultural Resources section, the inadvertent discovery of cultural materials or human remains during Project-related ground-disturbing activities would be addressed immediately in accordance with law, therefore, there would be no impact on historical tribal resources.

b) **No Impact.** Similar to the analysis above, to date, no sites of tribal importance have been identified in the proposed Project area. Tribal cultural resources, if encountered, would be considered an inadvertent discovery and subject to the same provisions and protections as those noted above. There would be no impacts.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS --  
*Would the Project.*

a) <i>Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) <i>have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) <i>Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) <i>Generate solid waste in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) <i>Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-g) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of an expanded pump facility on existing district property; installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement and within a temporary construction easement; ancillary facilities; and no other construction or land alterations; therefore, the Project would have no impact on utilities or service systems.

The Project will not provide additional water supplies that could act as an incentive for conversion of native habitat for increased acreage of agricultural production, municipal and industrial development, or other activities. Use of the water provided by the District pursuant to this Project will be limited to agricultural/irrigation use on lands historically dedicated to agricultural use. The amount and types of crops planted will vary according to the annual water allocation and farming practices.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**XX. WILDFIRE -- *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:***

a) <i>Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evaluation plan?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) <i>Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose Project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) <i>Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) <i>Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-d) **No Impact.** The Project location is just east of the City of Tracy and is not identified as a Community at Risk from Wildfire by Cal Fire's "Fire Risk Assessment Program". Communities at Risk from Wildfire are those places within 1.5 miles of areas of High or Very High wildfire threat as determined from CDF-FRAP fuels and hazard data. Therefore, the Project would have no potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --				
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 or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the 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"/>	X
b) 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"/>	X
c) Does the Project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Discussion**

a-b) **No Impact.** The Project involves construction of an expanded pump facility on existing district property; installation of a new pipeline within a new district easement and within a temporary construction easement; ancillary facilities including two pumps and motors, wet

well and security building; and no other construction or land alterations. The Project will not change the current land use of any land to be annexed. Therefore, there are no mandatory findings of significance.

Review of this project has not indicated any features which might significantly impact the environmental quality of the site and/or surrounding area. Mitigation measures have been identified in areas where a potentially significant impact has been identified and these measures, included as conditions of approval, will reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

Given the limited footprint of disturbance, impacts from the proposed Project are not expected to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. As a result, this impact would be less than significant.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would install expanded pumping facilities and a pipeline to provide surface water sources for irrigation in the area. This would be a positive impact on people in the Project area. No activities would either directly or indirectly cause an adverse impact on human beings. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

## **5. CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AGENCY**

There are no other responsible agencies for the Project as defined by Public Resources Code §21069 California Code of Regulations §15381.

## **6. DETERMINATION**

Based upon the information contained in the Initial Study, it is determined that the Negative Declaration should be adopted.