

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal**Form F**

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: MLRP Basin ProjectLead Agency: East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability AgencyContact Name: Michael HagmanEmail: mhagman@lindmoreid.comPhone Number: (559) 303-4150Project Location: Ivanhoe
*City*Tulare
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

See attached Project Description

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

See attached Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program Plan

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No known areas of controversy

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Not applicable

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project, located on an approximately 60-acre site north of the community of Ivanhoe adjacent to Cottonwood Creek, includes construction of a multi cell recharge basin facility. The Project would assist the EKGSA in expanding its groundwater recharge efforts ultimately supporting the goals of SGMA. The Project would include two turnouts and pump structures with capacity of approximately 30 cubic feet per second each. The proposed turnout facilities would allow the EKGSA to divert surface water from Cottonwood Creek into the proposed basin area to increase groundwater storage. Diverted water would consist of Central Valley Project water diverted into Cottonwood Creek upstream of the Project site. The proposed facilities would consist of cast-in-place concrete turnout structures, control gates, trash racks, and related appurtenances. One turnout facility would be located at the northeast edge of the proposed basin cells along the west bank of Cottonwood Creek and the other would be located at the southeast edge of the proposed basins cells along the west bank of Cotton Creek. The turnout structures would connect to a pump box structure through approximately 250 linear feet (LF) each of reinforced concrete piping (likely 36-inch diameter), equipped with a metered connection, lift pump(s) and would discharge into a distribution channel. The turnout and pump structures' excavation depth would be up to 15 feet below ground surface. Approximately six (6) interbasin connection structures would also be constructed to connect the distribution channel to the proposed basin cells. Each connection would be equipped with two structures (in both delivery channel and basin cell), rip rap, and 90 LF of piping. The Project would also include a conservation space area that would be pedestrian accessible. Conservation space would be in the form of terraced grading within the basin cells with flatter side slopes (i.e. 6:1 or flatter) to facilitate plantings for native habitats and provide varying water depths such as areas with 3 feet of water depth, areas with 1.5 feet, and areas with 6-9 inches of water depth. There would also be graded dirt walking paths around and between the basin cells. In addition, a graded dirt parking area would be constructed to accommodate vehicles traveling to the site. The dirt parking area is expected to be, at maximum, 90,000 square feet. The proposed facilities would be owned and operated by the EKGSA.

Construction would include equipment mobilization, excavation of earthwork for the recharge basin cells and structures, construction of basin perimeter berms, and grading on the outer portion of the berms for the purpose of providing pedestrian-accessible conservation space and parking. The Project site would contain temporary staging areas for construction equipment lay-down. Basin components would include constructing ponds/cells within the basin, as well as performance testing and demobilization. Excavated material would be used on site for berm construction along the basin perimeter and between each proposed cell. Any excess material would be exported off site. New berm construction would not exceed six (6) feet in height, measured from the exterior toe to the top of new berm. The maximum depth of ground disturbance for the basin would be as much as eight (8) feet.

The proposed multi-cell recharge basin is anticipated to recharge approximately 1,000 acre-feet (AF) in years when water is available, assuming a recharge rate of 0.75 AF per acre across approximately 45 acres of wetted area, and 30 days of surplus surface water availability.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Construction of the Project is anticipated to be completed over approximately six months beginning in July of 2025 and ending in December of 2025. Generally, construction would occur between the hours of 7am and 7pm, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The operation and maintenance would be consistent with similar basin facilities in the area. The EKGSA would monitor groundwater conditions to minimize negative impacts on the surrounding areas (such as nearby wells, crops, and septic systems). The proposed facilities would be owned and operated by the EKGSA.

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OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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CHAPTER 5 MITIGATION, MONITORING, AND REPORTING PROGRAM

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been formulated based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency MLRP Basin Project in Tulare County. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program presents the mitigation measures identified for the Project. Each mitigation measure is numbered with a symbol indicating the topical section to which it pertains, a hyphen, and the impact number. For example, AIR-2 would be the second mitigation measure identified in the Air Quality analysis of the IS/MND.

The first column of **Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting** Program identifies the mitigation measure. The second column, entitled “When Monitoring is to Occur,” identifies the time the mitigation measure should be initiated. The third column, “Frequency of Monitoring,” identifies the frequency of the monitoring of the mitigation measure. The fourth column, “Agency Responsible for Monitoring,” names the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented. The last columns will be used by the Lead and Responsible Agencies to ensure that individual mitigation measures have been complied with and monitored

Table 5-1: Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Biological Resources						
Project-Related Mortality and/or Nest Abandonment or Migratory Birds, Raptors, and Special Status Birds						
BIO-1	(Avoidance): The Project’s construction activities will occur, if feasible, between September 1 and January 31 (outside of the nesting bird season) to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	September 1 to January 31	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	EKGSA with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant		
BIO-2	(Pre-construction Surveys): If activities must occur within the nesting bird season (February 1 to August 30), a “qualified biologist” (someone who is familiar with identifying birds and has performed nesting bird surveys) will conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests within five (5) calendar days prior to the start of construction. It will be completed within the Project site, and up to 100 feet outside of the Project site for nesting migratory birds and up to 500 feet outside of the Project site for nesting raptors. Raptor nests are considered “active” upon the nest-building stage. If no active nests are observed, no further mitigation is required. A “qualified biologist” will conduct pre-construction surveys for tricolored blackbird nests and breeding colonies within seven (7) days prior to the start of construction. The “qualified biologist” will survey for tricolored blackbird nests onsite and within a 300-foot radius. This one-time take avoidance survey will be conducted in accordance with the Staff Guidance Regarding Avoidance of Impacts to Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Colonies on Agricultural Fields (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2015), or current guidance.	Prior to construction activities	Once, as determined by qualified biologist prior to construction activities	EKGSA with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant		
BIO-3	(Avoidance Buffers): On discovery of any active nests or breeding colonies near work areas, a “qualified biologist” will determine appropriate avoidance buffer distances based on applicable	Prior to construction activities	Once, Prior to ground disturbing activities and the	EKGSA with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant		

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
	CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines, the biology of the species, conditions of the nest(s), and the level of Project disturbance. If necessary, avoidance buffers will be identified with flagging, fencing, or other easily visible means, and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the nestlings have fledged.		start of construction			
Project-Related Mortality and/or Disturbance to Burrowing Owl						
BIO-4	(Pre-construction Take Avoidance Survey): A “qualified biologist” (someone who is familiar with identifying the species, is familiar with the species' year-round habitat use, and can identify the species) will conduct a pre-construction take avoidance survey for BUOW and suitable burrows, in accordance with CDFW’s Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012), within seven (7) days prior to the start of construction activities. The survey shall include the proposed work area and surrounding lands up to 500 feet. If construction is halted for more than seven (7) consecutive days, another preconstruction survey shall be completed prior to the reinitiation of construction activities.	7 days prior to construction	Once, as determined by qualified biologist prior to construction activities	EKGSA with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant		
BIO-5	(Avoidance): If an active BUOW burrow is detected, the occurrence will be reported to the CNDDDB, and avoidance buffers shall be implemented. A “qualified biologist” will determine appropriate avoidance buffer distances based on applicable CDFW and/or USFWS guidelines, the biology of the species, conditions of the burrow(s), and the level of project disturbance. If necessary, avoidance buffers will be identified with flagging, fencing, or other easily visible means, and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the nestlings have fledged and all BUOW have left the Project area.	Upon discovery of BUOW burrow	Once, as determined by qualified biologist during construction activities	EKGSA with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant		
BIO-6	(Formal Consultation): If BUOW is detected during surveys and cannot be avoided, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the	September 1 to January 31 or	Once, as determined by qualified biologist	EKGSA with assistance of a		

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
	Project and avoid take. If take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an ITP pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA.	February 1 to August 31	during construction activities	qualified biological subconsultant		
Project-Related Impacts to Wildlife Movement Corridors						
BIO-7	(Operational Hours): Construction activities should be limited to a half hour after sunrise through a half hour before sunset to reduce potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors.	During construction activities	Daily, during construction activities	EKGSA		
BIO-8	(Wildlife Access): Access should not be blocked outside of construction hours or during overnight hours or weekends. If construction must block both sides of a wildlife access route, an alternative route through the construction area should be identified by a “qualified biologist” and maintained throughout the construction schedule timeframe.	During construction activities	Daily, during construction activities	EKGSA		
BIO-9	(Cover Excavations): Pipeline/culvert/siphon excavations and vertical pipes should be covered each night to prevent wildlife from falling in and becoming trapped or injured during migratory or dispersal movements	During construction activities	Daily, during construction activities	EKGSA		
Cultural Resources						
CUL-1	(Monitor) An archaeological monitor shall be present on the Project site during ground disturbing activities within the APE. In the event of accidental discovery of unidentified archaeological remains during development or ground disturbing activities within any portion of the APE, all work shall be halted in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot radius) until a qualified archaeologist can identify the discovery and assess its significance.	During construction activities	Daily, during construction activities	EKGSA		
CUL-2	(Archaeological Remains) Should archeological remains or artifacts be unearthed during any stage of project activities, work in the area of the discovery shall cease until the area is evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If mitigation is warranted,	Upon discovery of archaeological remains	Daily, during construction activities	EKGSA		

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program						
Item	Mitigation Measure	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
	the project proponent shall abide by recommendations of the archaeologist					
CUL-3	(Human Remains) In the event that human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Tulare County Coroner must be notified of that discovery (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5) and all activities in the immediate area if the find or in any nearby area reasonably suspected of overlie adjacent human remains must cease until appropriate and lawful measures have been implemented. If the Coroner determines that the remains are not recent, but rather of Native American origin, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours to permit the NAHC to determine the most likely descendent of the deceased Native American.	Upon discovery of human remains	Daily, during construction activities	EKGSA		
Tribal Cultural Resources						
See CUL-1 , CUL-2 , and CUL-3 above						