DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: 3RD LIFT CANAL LINING & MODERNIZATION PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: FIREBAUGH CANAL WATER DISTRICT

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over approval of the project. The Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD) is the CEQA lead agency and Project sponsor because it is responsible for implementation and operation of the Proposed Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION

Project Location

The Proposed Project is located in western Fresno County, approximately 7 miles west of the community of Firebaugh. The affected segment of the 3rd Lift Canal spans from Fairfax Avenue on the east to Brannon Avenue on the West, generally adjacent to and north of Nees Avenue. The approximate central coordinates for the project are 36.8516N and -120.58157W. The Proposed Project affects Fresno County APNs 006-160-021S and 006-160-022.

Description

The Proposed 3rd Lift Canal Lining and Modernization Project (Proposed Project) will include two improvement components:

- Replaced the unlined ditch with a concrete lined canal (approximately 2 miles).
- Construct a Mid-stream storage reservoir connected to the 3rd Lift and 2nd Lift Canals.

The new lined canal would be 6 feet deep with a 6 foot bottom width, reducing the existing canal cross section to an estimated width of 20.4 feet, freeing up approximately 13 feet of right of way width for other uses and conserve water through seepage reduction. Based on a 2006 seepage study of the 3rd Lift Canal, this project will recover approximately 430 acre-feet per year of seepage losses.

The Mid-stream Storage Reservoir would be constructed adjacent to the 3rd Lift approximately ¾ of a mile west of Fairfax Avenue. The reservoir would be construed with 6-foot-tall levees around a 13-acre field with an estimated storage capacity of approximately 50-60 acre-feet. The reservoir floor would be soil-conditioned to prevent seepage. An inlet/outlet facility would allow excess water from the 3rd Lift to spill into the reservoir and pump out of the reservoir to meet local demands. Additionally, this reach of the 3rd Lift is connected to the 2nd Lift Canal through a pipeline along Fairfax Avenue, which will allow the 2nd Lift access to this additional water supply flexibility from the reservoir. The Proposed Project will benefit approximately 2380 acres within the 3rd Lift Canal service area and approximately 1040 acres within the 2nd Lift Canal Service Area.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation measures are defined as specific feasible actions to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate, or compensate for any potentially adverse impacts from any part of the Proposed Action. Although not a mitigation measure under CEQA, monitoring of a resource or condition ensures that the conclusions regarding no impacts continue to be addressed over the Project life.

Based on biological and cultural surveys and analysis of construction and operational impacts, it was determined that there would be no significant impact to the environment and no mitigation measures are required.

Project Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

The Proposed Project has been evaluated in an Initial Study ("IS") with respect to each item in the environmental checklist set forth in Appendix "G" to the CEQA Guidelines. This completed IS reflects research and analysis conducted to examine the interrelationship between the Proposed Project and the physical environment. The information contained in the IS has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.

There were no determinations of "Potentially Significant Impact" in an IS indicates that a specific adverse environmental effect has been identified in a category which is of sufficient magnitude to be of concern. Such an effect may be inherent in the nature and magnitude of the project or may be related to the design and characteristics of the individual project. No effects rated in this manner were identified for the Proposed Project. The effects analyzed in the Proposed Project are not sufficient in themselves to require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and/or have been mitigated to less-than-significant impacts.

Within the Project Area and vicinity, all new development activity and many ongoing activities may contribute directly or indirectly toward a cumulative impact on the physical environment. The incremental effect contributed by this environmental restoration Project towards such a cumulative effect is not considered substantial in itself.

The Proposed Project is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects in terms of the factors considered on the environmental checklist, including any such factors for which insubstantial impacts have been identified. Cumulative effects of a significant nature are also not expected. The Proposed Project will not result in any adverse effects which fall within the "Mandatory Findings of Significance" contained in Section 15065 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, the overall conclusion is made that the Proposed Project would not have a potentially significant effect on the environment. As such, FCWD proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration (following public review).

FINDINGS

An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the Parsons Solar Project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that the Proposed Project would not have any significant effects on the environment. The conclusion is supported by the following findings:

1. The Project would have no impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources, cultural resources, energy resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.
2. The Project would have a less-than-significant impact on aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and paleontological resources, transportation.
3. Mitigation is required to reduce potentially significant impacts related to biological resources to less-than-significant levels.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the Firebaugh Canal Water District has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Project (prepared by Summers Engineering, Inc) and finds that the Initial Study and Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of FCWD.

I hereby approve the 3rd Lift Canal Lining & Modernization Project:

_____ _____

Jeff Bryant, General Manager
Firebaugh Canal Water District

Date

FIREBAUGH CANAL WATER DISTRICT

3rd Lift Canal Lining and Modernization Project

DRAFT

Initial Study and Environmental Checklist

July 2025

Prepared by:
Summers Engineering, Inc
Consulting Engineers
Hanford California

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1.	Project Title:	3rd Lift Canal Lining and Modernization Project: Fairfax to Brannon
2.	Lead Agency Name and Address:	Firebaugh Canal Water District, 2412 Dos Palos Rd, Mendota, CA 93640
3.	Contact Person and Phone Number:	Jeff Bryant; 559-655-4761
4.	Project Location:	Approximately 7 miles W of Firebaugh in western Fresno County; 36.85183º, -120.58591º, APN 006-160-21S; 36.85325º, -120.58727º, APN 006-220-10T
5.	Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	Firebaugh Canal Water District
6.	General Plan Designation:	Agriculture
7.	Zoning:	AE-20

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Proposed 3rd Lift Canal Lining and Modernization Project – Fairfax to Brannon (Proposed Project) will include two improvement components:

- Replaced the unlined ditch with a concrete lined canal (approximately 2 miles).
- Construct a Mid-stream storage reservoir connected to the 3rd Lift and 2nd Lift Canals.

The new lined canal would reduce the existing canal cross section to an estimated width of 20.4 feet, freeing up approximately 13 feet of right of way width for other uses and conserve water through seepage reduction. Based on a 2006 seepage study of the 3rd Lift Canal, this project will recover approximately 430 acre-feet per year of seepage losses and water conserved by the Proposed Project would be utilized with FCWD or marketed to neighboring districts for agricultural beneficial uses. As a result of the conserved water, the Proposed Project will conserve approximately 15,000 kwh per year in avoided pumping costs.

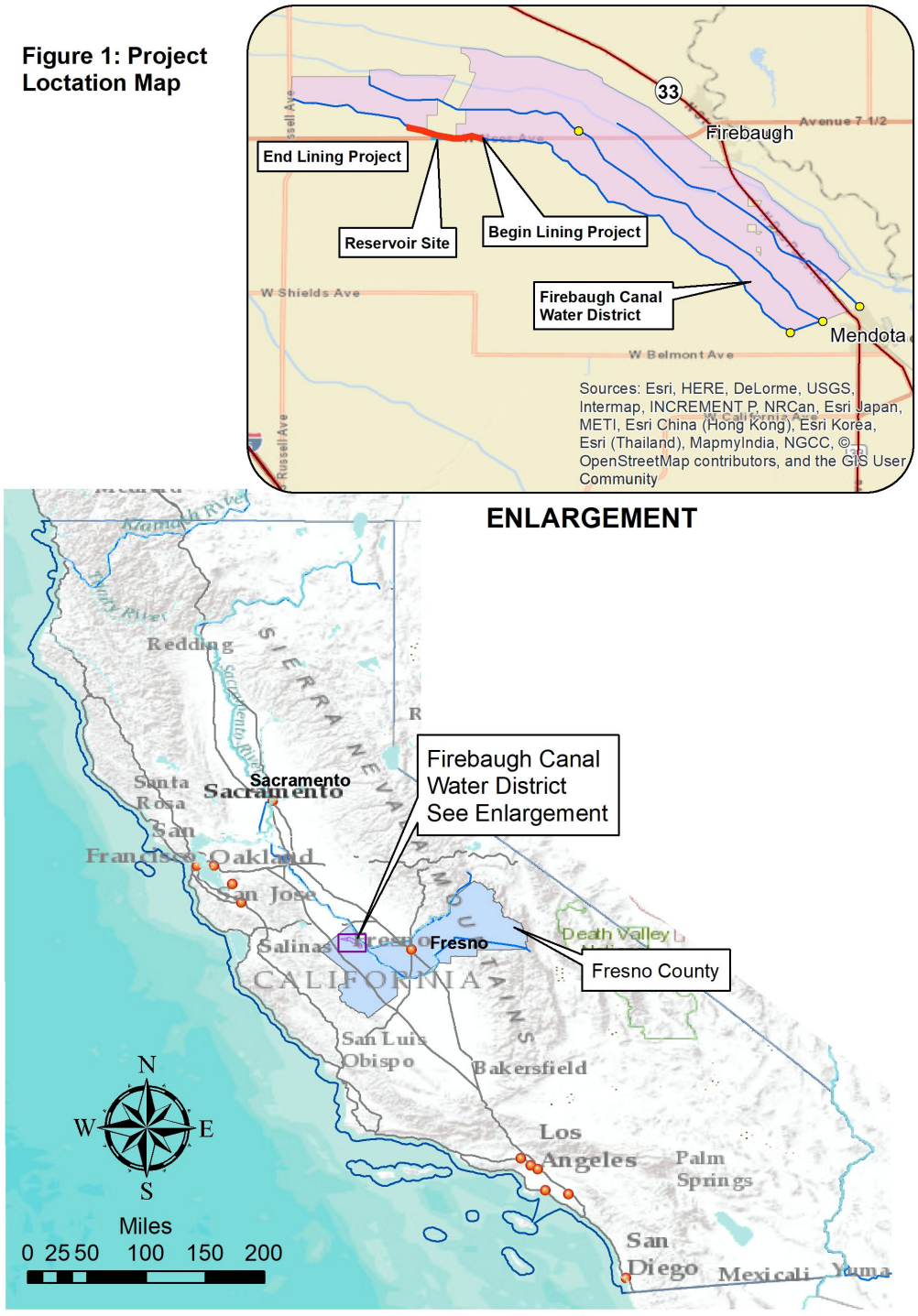
The Mid-stream Storage Reservoir would be constructed adjacent to the 3rd Lift approximately ¾ of a mile west of Fairfax Avenue. The reservoir would be construed with 6-foot-tall levees around a 13-acre field with an estimated storage capacity of approximately 50-60 acre-feet. The reservoir floor would be soil-conditioned to prevent seepage. An inlet/outlet facility would allow excess water from the 3rd Lift to spill into the reservoir and pump out of the reservoir to meet local demands. Additionally, this reach of the 3rd Lift is connected to the 2nd Lift Canal through a pipeline along Fairfax Avenue, which will allow the 2nd Lift access to this additional water supply flexibility from the reservoir. The Proposed Project will benefit approximately 2380 acres within the 3rd Lift Canal service area and approximately 1040 acres within the 2nd Lift Canal Service Area.

Project Location:

The Proposed Project is located approximately 7 miles west of Firebaugh, California. It is bordered by Nees Ave to the south, Fairfax Ave to the east, and Brannon Ave to the west. The project latitude is 36° 51' 6.587" N and longitude is 120° 35' 9.275" W.

Figure 1 – Proposed Project Location Map

Figure 1: Project Loctation Map



Firebaugh Canal Water District
Location Map - 3rd Lift Canal Lining & Modernization Project

Figure 2 – Proposed Project Site Plan

Firebaugh Canal Water District
3rd Lift Canal Lining & Modernization Project Project: Fairfax to Brannon

Project Surrounding Land Use

The Proposed Project site is completely surrounded by active agriculture or agricultural support facilities, including canals, road and railroads, and farm shops. The Proposed Project site is bounded by Nees Ave to the south, Fairfax Ave to the east, and Brannon Ave to the west. The Proposed Project parcel for the canal lining component is actively used as a section of FCWD's 3rd Lift Canal. The Proposed Project parcel for the reservoir component is not actively farmed, but has been routinely maintained to prevent weed growth.

Other Agency Approval

The Proposed Project does not require any approval from other agencies.

California Native American Interest

The Proposed Project site has no known tribal or cultural interests from any Native American tribe. Tribal consultation is not expected.

Construction Component Description

The Proposed Project combines two construction components: The canal lining component and the mid-stream storage reservoir. The construction elements described herein are divided between these two project components.

Canal Lining Component:

- Dewatering and clean out. The two-mile section of the 3rd Lift Canal will be dewatered. Two to three excavators will be used to remove the accumulated silt from the canal, which will be placed on the canal bank to dry. During this period, the five existing turnout structures and the two Pipeline inlet/outlet facilities will be removed.
- Soil conditioning and compacted embankment. Once dry, the stockpiled silt and portions of the north bank will be pushed into the canal prism and compacted. During this work, the soil may be lime-treated if necessary to improve its stability. Excavators, compactors, and dozers will be used to compact, grade and shape the canal prism to its design shape and grade.
- Concrete lining. Concrete lining will be spread along the canal alignment to an approximate thickness of 2.5 inches. This will be performed with a slip form towed by a dozer, with ready-mix cement truck driving the canal banks to provide the concrete.
- Reinforced concrete headwalls. New concrete headwall will be constructed at the downstream (west) side of Fairfax Avenue and the upstream (east) side of Brannon Avenue. This will include minor excavation of the site to set the footing grade, placement of formwork and steel reinforcement, pouring of concrete, stripping of forms, and final backfill.
- Turnout and pipeline inlets. Precast concrete turnout and pipe inlet structures will be placed after the lining has cured. This will include saw-cutting and removal of the lining at each location, excavation of the site, placement of the precast structure and

connection to the existing pipe system, backfill around the structure and replacement of the concrete lining.

Task	Equipment	Duration of Work
Dewatering & Cleanout	2-3 excavators; 1 grader	1-2 weeks
Soil Conditioning & Compacted Embankment	3-4 excavators; 1 grader; 1 dozer; 1-2 sheepsfoot compactor; soil conditioning mixer; water truck	4-6 weeks (weather dependent)
Concrete Lining	1 dozer; slip form; cement trucks	1-2 weeks (weather dependent)
Reinforced Concrete Headwalls	1 excavator; 1 cement truck	2 weeks
Turnout and pipeline inlets	1 excavator; 1 cement truck	2 weeks

Reservoir Component:

- Site cleanup and preparation. The reservoir site will be cleared of weeds and debris. This is a quick process that generally involves a scraper to remove the top 1-2" of soil (and weeds). This material will be stockpiled at the southeast corner of the reservoir site.
- Levee construction. Scrapers will be used to excavate from the interior of the reservoir site and place the excavated material along the perimeter to form the levees, which will be kept moist with a water truck and compacted with a roller. The top width of the levees will be a minimum of 14 feet with a maximum height of 6 feet.
- Inlet/outlet facility. Reinforced concrete inlet and outlet facilities will be constructed at a location along the north reservoir levee to connect the reservoir with the 3rd Lift Canal. The design and location of these facilities will be determined during the design phase but will likely consist of an actuated canal gate to allow water to flow into the reservoir and an electrically driven pump to pull water from the reservoir into the canal.
- Reservoir floor conditioning. The floor area of the reservoir will be lime-treated to prevent seepage losses from the reservoir. This work will consist of a soil-conditioning mixer to mix the lime material in with the soil; a grader to re-level the reservoir floor; and a compactor to compact the floor.

Task	Equipment	Duration of Work
Site Cleanup & Preparation	2 scrapers	1 week
Levee Construction	4-6 scraper; grader; sheepsfoot compactor; water truck	1-2 weeks (weather dependent)
Inlet/Outlet Facility	1 excavator; cement truck	2 weeks
Reservoir floor conditioning	Soil conditioning mixer; 2-3 sheepsfoot compactor	2 weeks

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Where checked below, the topic with a potentially significant impact will be addressed in an environmental impact report.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forest Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology / Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards / Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
	☒ None	☐ None with Mitigation Incorporated

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.

Signature Date

Printed Name Title

Agency

1.1 AESTHETICS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics.				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099 (where aesthetic impacts shall not be considered significant for qualifying residential, mixed-use residential, and employment centers), would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.1.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project site is entirely surrounded by active agriculture and agricultural support facilities, including roads, canals, and farm shops. Crops in the vicinity of the site are annual field crops like corn and cotton, as well as perennial crops such as alfalfa and nut orchards. The Proposed Project would replace 2 miles of an existing unlined ditch with a concrete-lined canal, as well as construct a reservoir on approximately 13 acres of the project site. There are multiple trees along the edges of the existing canal and proposed reservoir site which will not be affected by the proposed project.

1.1.2 Discussion

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Although the reservoir will be visible from the adjacent roads, it is not inconsistent with the existing vista and would not represent a significant aesthetic change. The Proposed Project would cause a less than significant impact to the scenic vista.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No scenic resources will be damaged, removed, or obscured as a result of the proposed project.

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

The Proposed Project would replace an existing unlined ditch with a concrete-lined canal, as well as construct a reservoir, each of which being visible from Nees, Fairfax, and Brannon Avenues by passing vehicles. Each component, however, is consistent with the views of other agricultural support facilities in the region and is a less than significant impact. The Proposed Project is not part of a public view or within the vicinity of a public vantage point.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

The Proposed Project will not include significant lighting and will have no impact on day or nighttime views in the area

1.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. Agriculture and Forest 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, as updated) prepared by the California Department 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.2.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed project is located in western Fresno County in a region dominated with active agriculture. Crops in the vicinity of the site are annual field crops like corn and cotton, as well as perennial crops such as alfalfa and nut orchards. FCWD provides irrigation water to farmers within the district, as well as other agricultural support services for agricultural production within its boundaries.

The proposed canal lining project will reduce the area occupied by the affected segment of the 3rd Lift Canal but will not otherwise affect agricultural resources. The proposed reservoir would occupy approximately 14 acres of abandoned pasture. This property has not been actively irrigated since 2014 and is managed only to control weed growth. The proposed

reservoir would support future agricultural operations and is consistent with the agricultural landscape.

1.2.2 Discussion

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?

Although the project site is surrounded by prime farmland, the project itself is not farmed and is not prime farmland. The proposed project will reduce seepage and provide water spill storage to support irrigation water supply. The proposed reservoir would be construed over an abandoned pasture livestock enclosure that has not been irrigated since 2014. All project components would directly support ongoing farming activities.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?

The proposed project will support agricultural operations with reduced water seepage and spill losses and is similar to other reservoir and canal lining projects in western Fresno County zoned AE-20. The Proposed Project is consistent with the AE-20 zoning. The project parcel is not enrolled in a Williamson Act contract.

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))?

The proposed project site is not forest or timberland.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The proposed project site is not forest land nor will it affect any forest land.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, 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?

The land on which the Proposed Project would be constructed is not an actively farmed parcel. The proposed project will support agricultural operations within FCWD by reducing seepage and providing water spill storage to support irrigation water supply.

1.3 AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. Air Quality.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.				
Are significance criteria established by the applicable air district available to rely on for significance determinations?		☒ Yes		☐ No
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.3.1 Environmental Setting

The Project footprint lies between Fairfax Ave and Brannon Ave along Nees Ave in western Fresno County. The surrounding area includes canals and ditches of varied sizes which are used to convey water for irrigation, farm offices, farm yards/shops, farm housing, and farmed fields. The Site is bounded on the south by Nees Ave, the west by Brannon Ave, and the east by Fairfax Ave, and is surrounded by actively farmed row crop and nut orchard fields in the near vicinity. The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). A 23,490 square-mile area, that consists of approximately 4 million residents, several major metropolitan areas, agricultural land, industrial sources, highways, and schools. The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) is generally characterized as having mild winters interrupted by periods of extremely hot summer weather. Air basins share a common “air shed”, the boundaries of which are defined by surrounding topography. Although mixing between adjacent air basins inevitably occurs, air quality conditions are relatively uniform within a given air basin. The Air Basin experiences episodes of atmospheric mixing caused by inversion layers formed when temperature increases with elevation above ground, or when a mass of warm, dry air settles over a mass of cooler air near the ground.

The SJVAB has been designated a non-attainment area for federal and state standards for federal PM2.5 and ozone standards, and is in attainment of the federal standards for lead (Pb), Nitrogen dioxide (NO2), Sulfur dioxide (SO2), and Carbon monoxide (CO). In addition, the

Valley is an attainment/maintenance area for PM10. The State of California and the Federal government have established ambient air quality standards, or criteria, for outdoor air pollutants to protect public health. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established national ambient air quality standards pursuant to adoption of federal Clean Air Act. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) establishes state air quality standards under the mandate of the Mulford-Carrell Act. California standards have been established for ozone (O3), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxide (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SOx), particulate matter, lead, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride and visibility reducing particles.

The primary air quality concerns for the Proposed project are excavation/trenching activity dust emissions (generated from excavating/trenching, backfilling and grading operations) and vehicle emissions (associated with operations of gasoline and diesel powered heavy-duty mobile construction equipment). SJVAPCD has one rule that addresses fugitive dust (Rule 403). Several elements of Rule 403, such as protocols for control of potential fugitive dust emissions, have been incorporated into this project. Excavation/trenching, loading, and transport of aggregate materials and soils will be in compliance with Rule 403 prevention, reduction, and Best Management Practices for fugitive dust emissions. However, notification of the SJVAPCD is required only for large operations (disturbing more than 100 acres). Therefore, no notification or filing of a Fugitive Dust Emission Control Plan is required due to the project size.

The Proposed Action would involve the operation of construction equipment to construction the Proposed Project as described above. The construction period would last approximately six months from November through April. The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was utilized to estimate the emissions from project construction, which are presented below, along with the SJVAPCD emission thresholds. Emissions were modeled with required Tier 4 construction equipment and dust control site watering.

3rd Lift Canal Lining & Modernization Project – Summary of Construction Emissions						
	CO	NOx	ROG	SOx	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Threshold (tons per year)	100	10	10	27	15	15
Canal Lining Construction (total tons)	1.2	0.2	0.02	0	0.1	0
Reservoir Construction (total tons)	0.3	0.2	0.02	0	0.15	0
Total Construction Emissions (tons)	1.5	0.4	0.04	0	0.25	0

As indicated in the table above, emissions from project construction would not exceed SJVAPCD emission thresholds and would not cause an adverse impact to air quality.

Post construction operations will not cause emissions impacting air quality compared to existing conditions. Vehicle trips along the canal will be substantially the same as the pre-lining operating conditions and the pumps at the proposed reservoir will be electrically driven.

1.3.2 Discussion

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The Proposed Project will not conflict or obstruct the implementation of any applicable air quality plan. Emissions related to the construction of the Proposed Project will be limited to the

construction period and are less than the thresholds established by the SJVAPCD. Operation of the proposed project will not result in any emissions.

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?

The Proposed Project will not result in an increase in emissions. Emissions caused by the construction of the Proposed Project will be limited to the construction phase and would not be greater than existing maintenance activities applied to the project site for weed control. Project operations will not result in emissions.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

There are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project nor any production of substantial pollutants.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

The Proposed Project site is not in the vicinity of significant housing, schools, or office buildings and will not generate any emissions associated with odors.

1.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. Biological Resources.				
Would the project:				
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 Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.4.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project site is entirely surrounded by active agriculture. The landscape immediately north and south of the canal alignment is dominated by almond orchards, pistachio orchards, and field crop (cotton, tomatoes, and alfalfa, depending on the year), or a farm processing and equipment yard. The canal is completely denuded of vegetation.

The proposed reservoir site is south of the canal segment to be lined, with an agricultural drain and a row of palm trees filling the 130 foot space between the FCWD 3rd Lift Canal and the proposed reservoir site. The site is currently enclosed pasture with an abandoned, concrete lined ditch that runs north-south through the site. There are two livestock buildings on the

reservoir site historically used to provide shade and water for livestock. The property has not been used for livestock since 2014 and has been left fallow since that time. The landscape west of the proposed reservoir site is occupied by a farm equipment yard and it is bounded on the east by an agricultural drain and fallowed field. The south boundary of the proposed reservoir site is Nees Avenue and row crop fields (most recently fallowed).

A biological survey was performed at the proposed project site to identify any critical habitat and signs of use by special status species. Additionally, the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website was queried to provide a list of endangered species and associated critical habitat that may occur in the Proposed Action Area.

The IPaC website provided a list of 14 special status species that could potentially be presented in the Proposed Action Area. However, based on the results of the biological survey, habitat requirements for each of the listed species are not present at the site.

1.4.2 Discussion

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 Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

There is no habitat on the project site that is utilized by special status species and a pre-activity survey did not identify the presence of any special status species. The construction phase of the Proposed Project has the potential to disrupt nesting of Swainson's Hawk and Burrowing Owls, as well as San Joaquin Kit Fox dens. Additional pre-activity surveys will be conducted prior to the start of construction to ensure there are no impacts.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

There are no riparian habitat or other sensitive habitats at the Proposed Project site.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

There are no wetlands at the Proposed Project site.

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?

The Proposed Project will not interfere with the movement of wildlife, however activities during the construction phase may cause wildlife to avoid the area. This would be limited to the construction phase of the Proposed Project.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

The Proposed Project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

The Proposed Project does not conflict with any conservation plan.

1.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. Cultural Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.5.1 Environmental Setting

A cultural resource is a broad term that includes prehistoric, historic, architectural, and traditional cultural properties. The area affected by the Proposed Project includes a portion of the 3rd Lift Canal (including turnout structures) , construction between 1923 and 1929, an unnamed agricultural drain, a concrete lined irrigation ditch, a livestock fence, and two livestock shade structures. All of these features would be demolished during the construction of the Proposed Project.

Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) conducted a pedestrian archaeological and built environment survey covering 34.4 of the 40.9-acre APE; 6.6 acres, or 16 percent of the APE, represent the water-filled portion of the Firebaugh 3rd Lift canal that could not be surveyed. No archaeological artifacts or features were identified during the pedestrian survey. The built environment survey confirmed the presence of three linear cultural resources, or segments thereof, within the APE: one segment of the Third Lift Canal within the FCWD Lift System (P-10-005797/CA-FRE-3516H), one segment of an unnamed earthen ditch, and one segment of an unnamed field channel ditch. These resources are more than 50 years old.

Since two of the three linear resources are predominantly outside the APE, Reclamation assumes they are eligible for listing in the NRHP (i.e., historic properties) for the purposes of this undertaking. Æ recorded each resource, or segment thereof, within the APE and evaluated whether the recorded portions are individually eligible and/or contribute to the assumed eligibility of the entire resource, respectively.

1.5.2 Discussion

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

There are no historical resources affected by the Proposed Project.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

There are no known archaeological resources within the proposed project site.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

There are no known or suspected human remains within the proposed project site.

1.6 ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.6.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located in a region dominated with active agriculture. Most electrical use in the area is associated with irrigation activities including pump stations and electrically powered wells, as wells as office and farms shop electrical use, all of which is provided through PG&E.

Currently, water delivered to the segment of the Proposed Project that is to be lined is pumped through four pump stations, consuming 34 kwh for every acre foot delivered. By lining the two miles of the 3rd Lift Canal from Fairfax to Brannon avenues, the Proposed Project will conserve approximately 430 acre feet per year through seepage reduction – saving almost 15,000 kwh per year in pumping electrical demand.

There will be electrical consumption associated with the Proposed Project due to the operation of the reservoir pump station. This energy consumption will vary year to year as the volume of water stored in the reservoir change, and is expected to range from 1,400 kwh per year to 2,400 kwh per year. However, this consumption is substantially less than the energy recovered through the seepage reduction and results in no net increase in electrical power useage.

1.6.2 Discussion

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

The Proposed Project would conserve approximately 13,000 kwh per year through seepage reduction (thus conserving the power required to pump that water).

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency

The Proposed Project is consistent with state and local renewable energy plans.

1.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. Geology and Soils.				
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
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 California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.7.1 Environmental Setting

The surface soils of the San Joaquin Valley are a heterogeneous assemblage of alluvium consisting of channel gravels, riverbank sand, silt, and clay, derived from granitic and sedimentary sources (University of California Davis 2008; U.S. Department of Agriculture 2019, cited in AECOM 2019). Most of these sediments were deposited in the Pleistocene and Holocene during times of increased precipitation by runoff from the surrounding Sierra Nevada, Tehachapi, and Coastal ranges. The bedrock beneath the alluvium consists of older marine sediments deposited during the mid-Mesozoic to Cenozoic eras. A series of turbidity currents,

likely caused by undersea earthquakes, landslides, or volcanic eruptions, moved large amounts of sediments downslope to a rapidly subsiding ocean basin. The variable and mixed marine sedimentary, volcanic, and metamorphic rock formations found in the San Joaquin Valley, such as mudstone, sandstone, shale, basalt, andesite, and serpentine, are the result of such erosions and depositions (DeCourten 2010, cited in AECOM 2019). A review of the Santa Cruz sheet geologic map (Jennings and Strand 1958, cited in AECOM 2019) indicates the project site is located in recent Quaternary Great Valley sedimentary fan and basin deposits which are less than 10,000 years in age.

Fresno County contains the San Joaquin Fault Zone and is located east of the Ortigalita Fault. http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/information/outreach/Documents/Simplified_Fault_Activity_Map.pdf

According to the Fresno County 2040 General Plan Background Report (Fresno County 2017), Chapter 8, Hazards and Safety (page 8-6):

> "The Ortigalita fault zone is approximately 50 miles long, originating near Crow Creek in western Stanislaus County and extending southeast to a few miles north of Panoche in western Fresno County. Most of the fault is considered active due to displacement during Holocene time and is designated an earthquake fault zone under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act of 1994. As illustrated in Figure 4.20, the southernmost extension of the fault lies in Fresno County."

The Proposed Project does not involve construction of any new buildings or structures that would place people at risk of loss, injury, or death.

1.7.2 Discussion

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: 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 California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.); ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv) Landslides?

The Proposed Project does not include any buildings or structures that would place people at risk of injury or death.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The Proposed Project will not substantially change the grade or flow of stormwater across the subject property and will not increase soil erosion.

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?

The existing soil conditions are capable of supporting the Proposed Project.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Although the project area does have regions of expansive soil, the Proposed Project support design will be able to address expansive soils and will not pose a risk to life or property

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

The Proposed Project does not make use of any waste disposal systems.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

There are no known paleontological or geologic resources within the Proposed Project site.

1.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.8.1 Environmental Setting

Naturally occurring GHGs include water vapor (H2O), carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (NO2), and ozone (O3). Several classes of halogenated substances that contain fluorine, chlorine, or bromine are also GHGs, but they are, for the most part, solely a product of industrial activities. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are halocarbons that contain chlorine, while halocarbons that contain bromine are referred to as bromofluorocarbons (i.e., halons). In the amended CEQA Guidelines Section 15364.5, greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) include, but are not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. In California, due to stringent air pollution control rules and regulations, natural gas is the only fossil fuel used to fire steam turbine, gas turbine, or combined cycle power plants. The primary concern here is for emissions that would be generated from equipment use (carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide through the burning of fossil fuels) rather than the emissions associated with ongoing agricultural practices (methane and nitrous oxide) and industrial activities (nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride).

The Proposed Project would involve limited use of construction equipment (excavator, backhoe, graders, scrapers, trencher, sheep's foot compactor, and water trucks) to construct the project. The construction period will be limited to approximately 180 days. All construction vehicles will be Tier 4 compliant. Operation of the Proposed Project would not cause any emissions. See Section 1.3

1.8.2 Discussion

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Emission impacts during construction, as a result of the operation of construction equipment, are limited to the 23-acre project site for a period of approximately 180 days, and are clearly de minimis. Operation of the Proposed Project will not cause any emissions.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Fresno County: A Climate Action Plan is a comprehensive and focused plan that includes strategies to guide efforts for reducing GHG emissions. While Fresno County does not have its own Climate Action Plan, described below is the principal regional plan relating to climate change that applies to Fresno County and are most relevant to the Proposed Project in western Fresno County (Fresno County 2017b).

> "San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Board Climate Change Action Plan. The SJVAPCD adopted the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) in August 2008, which required the District Air Pollution Control Officer to develop guidance for assessing and reducing project-specific GHG emissions. In December 2009, the SJVAPCD adopted the Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emissions Impacts for New Projects Under CEQA. The SJVAPCD also adopted a new district policy, Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency. Both the guidance and policy rely on Best Performance Standards (BPS), which assess the significance of project-specific GHG emissions. (page 9-4)"

According to the Valley Air District (SJVAPCD), GHG emission from development projects primarily occur through energy consumption and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). For development projects, BPS includes project design elements, land use decisions, and technologies that reduce GHG emissions. Project proponents can reduce GHG emissions from energy consumption through building designs that increase energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of energy efficient appliances. For development projects, BPS also includes project design elements, land use decisions, and technologies that reduce GHG emissions during project operation over time. Project proponents can reduce GHG emissions from energy consumption through building designs that increase energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of energy efficient appliances.

The Valley Air District's CEQA guidelines are for land use agencies and apply to stationary sources and development projects (SJVAPCD 2009). The Proposed Project herein will increase energy efficiency of the canal system by reducing water seepage and spill losses and is consistent with the Fresno County plan.

1.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.9.1 Environmental Setting

According to the California Health and Safety Code Section 25501(o), “hazardous material” means a material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material which a handler or the administering regulatory agency has a reasonable basis for believing would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released

into the workplace or environment. A number of properties may cause a substance to be considered hazardous including toxicity, ignitibility, corrosivity, or reactivity.

The Proposed Project will not make use of, nor expose existing hazardous materials, nor will it generate hazardous waste.

1.9.2 Discussion

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

The Proposed Project does not involve the use of hazardous materials, nor their transport.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

The Proposed Project does not involve the use of hazardous materials, nor their transport.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

The Proposed Project will not cause any emissions or require handling of any hazardous materials. There are no existing or proposed schools within ¼ mile of the Proposed Project site.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

The Proposed Project is not located on a known or suspected hazardous materials site.

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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

The Proposed Project is not located within an airport land use plan.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The Proposed Project will not interfere with any emergency response or evacuation plan, nor inhibit access to any site for emergency vehicles.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

The Proposed Project site would not expose people or structures to increased wildfire risk. The Project site will be maintained to prevent excessive weed growth that could contribute to wildfire risk.

1.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede 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:				
i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.10.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project consists of an existing 2-mile section of FCWD's 3rd Lift canal as well as a parcel directly south of this section in western Fresno County and is surrounded by developed agriculture. The reservoir site is generally flat, and is bounded by a canal on the north and east sides, which acts as a stormwater runoff barrier, preventing the movement of runoff onto or off of the property in those directions. Nees Ave to the south acts as a similar barrier. The reservoir component of the Proposed Project will have approximately 6-foot-tall banks which could prevent the movement of runoff onto the property from the west, however overall changes to runoff amounts or flow patterns would be de minimis. The canal lining

component of the Proposed Project will not alter site topography in a way that would contribute to flooding or substantially change runoff amounts or flow patterns.

Groundwater in the vicinity of the Proposed Project is fairly saline with EC levels ranging from 1,500 µs/cm to more than 2,500 µs/cm. Due to the high levels of groundwater salinity, growers will typically avoid its use except for during extended drought periods. Additionally, the first encountered groundwater is a perched saline sink at a depth of 36" to 72". This groundwater is extremely saline, with EC levels in excess of 5,000. This water is unusable for any beneficial use and often requires management to maintain farming operations.

1.10.2 Discussion

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

The Proposed Project will not discharge water, affect water quality or generate waste.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

The Proposed Project will not make use of groundwater. The canal lining will result in reduced discharges to the perched water table, which is a minor beneficial impact.

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: i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation; ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

The Proposed Project will not substantially alter the drainage pattern in any way. The reservoir component of the project will be constructed with approximately 6-foot-tall banks which could restrict runoff flow from the west onto the property; however, the relatively flat grade of the local area means this would not lead to a substantial change in drainage patterns.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

The Proposed Project is not within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone and there is not a risk of pollutant release as a result of project inundation.

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

The Proposed Project does not affect groundwater or groundwater management activities.

1.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning.				
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.11.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located on a small, undeveloped parcel and an existing section of canal in a rural area south of Dos Palos and west of Firebaugh. The site is entirely surrounded by active agriculture and there are no communities within four miles of the Proposed Project site.

1.11.2 Discussion

a) Physically divide an established community?

There are no communities within the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

b) 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?

The Proposed Project does not conflict with any land use plan or interfere with any mitigation measures.

1.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.12.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located in a region dominated with heavy clays and silty clay soil types and there are no known mineral resources. Additionally, the presence of FCWD's 3rd Lift Canal would preclude substantial mining operations at the Proposed Project site.

1.12.2 Discussion

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?

There are no known mineral resources at the Proposed Project Site.

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?

There are no known mineral resources at the Proposed Project Site.

1.13 NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII.Noise.				
Would the project result in:				
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 in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.13.1 Environmental Setting

The current land use in the vicinity of the site is highly developed agricultural area. The area in the vicinity of the Proposed Project is entirely surrounded by cultivated agriculture and agriculture-supporting infrastructure. Background noise levels are typical of agricultural practices, including vehicle traffic, farm equipment operations, and aviation operations (including airplane and helicopter crop dusting). There is no airport or airstrip in the vicinity of the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project site is not within an airport land use plan.

Construction of the Proposed Project would involve a limited amount of construction equipment, including graders, excavators, and backhoes, which will generate noise and vibrations at levels associated with the operation of such equipment. This noise and vibration generation would be limited to the construction period, during daylight hours and would not be substantially different than the operation of tractors and other farm equipment operating in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Post construction operation of the Proposed Project would only include the operation of the reservoir pumping station, which would be consistent with other agricultural operations in the area.

1.13.2 Discussion

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 in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?

The noise and vibration generation associated with the Proposed Project would be limited to the construction period and would not be substantially different than the operation of tractors

and other farm equipment operating in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Post construction operation of the Proposed Project would only include the operation of the reservoir pumping station, which would be consistent with other agricultural operations in the area.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

The noise and vibrations generated would be similar to that already generated through existing agricultural operations. This is a less than significant impact.

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?

The Proposed Project is not within the vicinity of an airstrip or airport land use plan area.

1.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.14.1 Environmental Setting

The area in the vicinity of the Proposed Project is highly disturbed and entirely surrounded by cultivated agriculture and agriculture-supporting infrastructure. The Proposed Project would be located in western Fresno County, approximately 7 miles west of the community of Firebaugh. A handful of rural residences, farmworker housing complexes, and farm offices are scattered throughout the landscape surrounding the Proposed Project area however there are no communities affected or created by the Proposed Project.

1.14.2 Discussion

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)?

The Proposed Project will not have an impact on population growth either directly or indirectly.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The Proposed Project would not cause any displacement.

1.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Public Services.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.15.1 Environmental Setting

The project Site is located in an area developed for agricultural operations. Access to public services such as fire and police services is readily available. Emergency response personnel have uninterrupted access to the project Site as necessary. Law enforcement for the Proposed Project area is provided through the Fresno County Sherriff Department and fire protection is provided through the Fresno County Fire Protection Department. There are no schools served by the proposed project nor located in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not alter or affect parks located in the vicinity of the Site. All proposed activities will be contained within the project Site boundary. Project implementation will not require any new or altered off-Site public utilities or infrastructure services above existing conditions.

1.15.2 Discussion

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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?

No additional or special fire protection services will be required as a result of the Proposed Project.

Police protection?

No additional or special police protection services will be required as a result of the Proposed Project.

Schools?

The Proposed Project will not have any effect on schools, school attendance or school transportation.

Parks?

The Proposed Project will not have any effect on parks.

Other public facilities?

There are no other public facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

1.16 RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Recreation.				
Would the project:				
a) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.16.1 Environmental Setting

Recreational opportunities do not currently exist at or adjacent to the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project site is zoned for agricultural use and consists of paved and unpaved roadways and irrigation conveyance facilities. The Proposed Project activities will not impact any existing parks or recreational facilities, and does not include construction or modification of recreational facilities. Proposed Project activities will not require public parks or recreation areas to be constructed or expanded. The Proposed Project does not provide recreational uses and would not substantially deteriorate current conditions at the Site.

1.16.2 Discussion

a) 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?

There are no neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The Proposed Project does not include any recreational facilities.

1.17 TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Transportation.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.17.1 Environmental Setting

Traffic corridors within the Proposed Project area include Nees Ave, Brannon Ave, and Fairfax Ave, which are adjacent to the Proposed Project. Traffic on these roads varies from light to moderate and fluctuates seasonally, mostly as a function of farming activities.

The Proposed Project would result in a small increase in traffic during the construction period as construction workers commute to the Project site and construction vehicles were operated. Construction workers would commute to the Project via county roads and state highways. Construction would be limited to the Proposed Project footprint and would not require any disruption in the flow of traffic or require a traffic control plan. This increase would be limited to the construction phase of the Proposed Project and would not be substantial in relation to the existing traffic load nor exceed the capacity of existing roads or highways. Measurable increases in transportation and/or vehicular circulation are not expected from the Project activities. Construction equipment and worker parking would be on-Site, and all construction staging activities would be contained within the project Site. All transportation activities will be performed in strict compliance with all regulations and ordinances. All Department of Transportation and California Highway Patrol safety regulations will be strictly followed. The proposed project would not alter the Site's current emergency access features.

1.17.2 Discussion

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

The Proposed Project would result in a short term and small increase in traffic during the construction of the project elements. This would be limited to the construction phase and is a

less than significant impact. Operation of the Proposed Project will not result in an increase in traffic compared to existing conditions.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b), which pertains to vehicle miles travelled?

The Proposed Project is a small canal lining and reservoir project located in within a rural, agricultural unincorporated area. It is not a land use or transportation project; therefore, this section is not applicable (i.e., no impact). Furthermore, the short-term, temporary construction aspect involving less than 10 workers onsite does not require a "vehicle miles travelled" (VMT) approach that identifies the amount and distance of automobile traffic attributable to the project. The VMT approach is most suitable for large projects that involve urban land uses and roadway capacity improvements.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The Proposed Project will not include any design features that will introduce or increase transportation hazards.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

The Proposed Project does not require any special emergency access and will not impact emergency access in the vicinity of the project.

1.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
Has a California Native American Tribe requested consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)?	☐ Yes			☒ No
Would the project 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 that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) 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 Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.18.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located within a developed agricultural region with no know tribal cultural resources. Substantial earth-moving facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project, including Nees Ave and FCWD's 3rd Lift Canal, are immediately adjacent to the Proposed Project and have not revealed any tribal cultural resources.

1.18.2 Discussion

Would the project 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 that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

The Proposed Project site does not include any features that are listed or eligible for listing as historical resources.

b) 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 Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

The Proposed Project site does not include any known resources of tribal significance.

1.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems.				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.19.1 Environmental Setting

A variety of public utilities and services are provided in the Proposed Project Region. Electrical power and natural gas are provided through PG&E. Irrigation water is provided by the Firebaugh Canal Water District. There are no public potable water or sewer systems, water treatment plants or wastewater treatment plants in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Energy sources required for implementing the project include gasoline and diesel fuels as well as electricity during both the construction phase and operation of the Proposed Project. The completed Proposed Project will consist of a pumping station to reintroduce spill water into FCWD's 3rd Lift canal requiring an estimated 1,460 kWh per year. Electrical service for project construction will be provided through an existing PG&E service pole or from a generator (which would be temporary). Operation of the pumping station component of the Proposed Project will require the addition of a new PG&E electrical service at the project site. The electrical requirements of this pump would be consistent with other agricultural operations in the area and are de minimis. Water for construction will be supplied for the project activities from the CCID Main Canal. Based on the relatively small scale of the project, the increased usage of energy or utilities will be insignificant.

1.19.2 Discussion

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The Proposed Project will not require any water, wastewater, stormwater, natural gas or telecommunication services. The pumping station of the reservoir component of the Proposed Project will make use of an electrical pump, requiring a new electrical service to be installed at the project site. Operation of this pump would require an estimated 1,460 kWh per year which is consistent with other agricultural operations in the area, and will be a less than significant impact.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

The Proposed Project will not have a substantial water demand nor cause future development.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?

The Proposed Project will not produce any wastewater.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

The Proposed Project will not generate any solid waste.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The Proposed Project will not generate any solid waste.

1.20 WILDFIRE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Wildfire.				
Is the project located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones?				
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:		☐ Yes		☒ No
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require the installation 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.20.1 Environmental Setting

The 2018 California Strategic Fire Plan "…reflects CAL FIRE's focus on (1) fire prevention and suppression activities to protect lives, property, and ecosystem services, and (2) natural resource management to maintain the state's forests as a resilient carbon sink to meet California's climate change goals and to serve as important habitat for adaptation and mitigation. A vision for a natural environment that is more fire resilient; buildings and infrastructure that are more fire resistant; and a society that is more aware of and responsive to the benefits and threats of wildland fire; all achieved through local, state, federal, tribal, and private partnerships."

CAL FIRE provides maps for the state of California showing zones of moderate, high and very high risk of fire severity.

In western Fresno, a moderate fire severity zone has been identified adjacent to and westerly of Interstate 5 (I-5), which transitions to a high fire severity zone further west into the Coastal Mountain range. The most westerly component of the Proposed Project is located more than 10 miles from I-5 and the zone identified as a moderate fire severity zone. None of the Project components are located within an identified fire hazard severity zone.

1.20.2 Discussion

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The Proposed Project is not located in or near a state responsibility area or high fire severity zone and will not impair any emergency response or evacuation plan.

b) Due to slop, 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?

The Proposed Project does not include any occupants. The Project site is in a low lying, relatively flat area, not on slopes with winds that exacerbate the risk of wildfires. During the construction period, onsite workers would carry fire suppression devices when operating construction equipment to ensure fire safety from equipment use.

c) Require the installation 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?

The Proposed Project includes an access road within the site for construction and maintenance of the improvements. The pumping station component will require a connection to PG&E, however no new installation of infrastructure will be required as there are existing power lines already near the site. Therefore, fire risk in the area would not be exacerbated.

d) 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?

The Project would not expose people or structures to significant risks. The Project is located in a relatively flat area and does not include changes to topography that would increase the risk of downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

1.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.21.1 Discussion

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

The Proposed Project would be constructed at a site that is developed and surrounded by active agriculture, and would allow FCWD to convey surface water to local agriculture operations in a more efficient manner. The Proposed Project does not have the potential to degrade environmental quality or threaten any special status species.

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.)

The Proposed Project would not have any cumulatively considerable impacts.

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

The Proposed Project would not have any adverse impacts on human beings.

Authority for the Environmental Checklist: Public Resources Code Sections 21083, 21083.5.

Reference: Government Code Sections 65088.4.
Public Resources Code Sections 21080, 21083.5, 21095; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.