

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

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

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Dual Water System Improvement Project

Lead Agency: North of the River Municipal Water District

Contact Name: Ryan Nunneley

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Phone Number: 661-399-5516

Project Location: Shafter

City

Kern

County

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

See attached Project Description.

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

See attached list of mitigation measures for all potentially significant effects.

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

N/A

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

Oildale Mutual Water Company

Project Description

The proposed project involves constructing six new water supply wells, two 2.0 MG welded steel storage tanks, a booster pump station, and the associated water conveyance pipelines for the Oildale Mutual Water Company (OMWC) as part of their dual water system whereby these facilities will supply landscape water and water for exterior use only. This will serve to save treated water for interior uses and drinking water purposes while using raw water for exterior and landscape uses.

The two 2.0 MG AWWA D100 welded steel storage tanks and booster pump station are planned to be constructed at the existing OMWC property that is located south of Imperial Avenue and north of Flyover Court on APN 482-170-11 just west of Highway 65 in Section 33, T28S, R27E, M.D.B.&M. The two 2.0 MG storage tanks will be filled by a dedicated 36-inch transmission main that is connected to the five to six water supply wells. The water from the storage tank will then be conveyed to the existing developments to the west by gravity. In addition, the booster pump station will supply water to the area of the commercial and industrial development around Highway 65 and Imperial Avenue for exterior and landscape purposes. The tank dimensions are anticipated to be approximately 105-ft diameter by 32-ft tall and will be a welded steel storage tank that is epoxy coated on the interior and exterior and rests on a concrete ringwall foundation. The booster pump station will include above ground steel piping that is fusion bonded epoxy lined and coated, has booster pumps and motors, a 3,000-gallon hydropneumatic pressure tank, and electrical and controls.

Each of the five or six well sites will be located between the Lerdo-Beardsley Canal and a ½-mile west of Zerker Road in Sections 34, 35, & 36, T28S, R26E, and Section 31, T28S, R27E, M.D.B.&M. The wells are planned to be drilled to an approximate depth of 1,000-ft and will be equipped with a vertical turbine pump and vertical hollowshaft electric motor and variable speed drive. The site will be fenced with 6-ft tall chainlink fencing with vinyl slats or masonry block walls to match the surrounding residential developments. The well site will be surfaced with ¾" Class II aggregate base with the limits being the fencing or block wall. The well site will include an electrical meter main, motor control center, PLC, and SCADA and will be installed on a concrete foundation with a steel shade structure. The well facility will also include a pad-mount emergency back-up generator. The well discharge piping will be 12-inch steel piping with a 3,000 gallon hydropneumatic pressure vessel. A 10-ft x 10-ft metal building enclosure will be installed around the deep well pump and motor for noise attenuation. The well discharge piping will transition below ground and to 12-inch C900 PVC pipe prior to leaving the site. The 12-inch C900 PVC piping will connect to the existing dual water system distribution piping that is installed as part of the residential development.

~~One of the well sites is anticipated to be a potable water well. This well will be equipped in similar fashion to that described above but may also include a well head treatment system such as Granular Activated Carbon for the removal of 1,2,3-TCP. The~~

~~treatment system would be installed on a reinforced concrete foundation and connected to the well discharge piping.~~

In addition, a 36-inch C905 PVC transmission main will be installed from the tank and booster pump station site at APN 482-170-11 west along Imperial Avenue approximately 8,900-ft to the Highway 99. The transmission main will be installed with a minimum 36-inches of ground cover. The transmission main will then cross the Highway 99, the UPRR railroad tracks, and the North Kern Water Storage District Lerdo-Beardsley Canal with a 48-inch cased crossing approximately 715-ft in length via the tunnel boring method. In addition, OMWC will extend an existing 12-inch potable water main northwesterly along Saco Road approximately 985-ft and cross the Highway 99, the UPRR railroad tracks, and the North Kern Water Storage District Lerdo-Beardsley Canal with a 16-inch pipeline and a 30-inch cased crossing approximately 340-ft in length via the bore and jack method. The cased crossings will be permitted with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the UPRR Railroad, and the North Kern Water Storage District.

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VI. MITIGATION MEASURES:

AESTHETICS MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Lighting will be less than 20-ft tall and the light fixtures will be shielded and directed downward to comply with the Kern County “Dark Skies Ordinance”.
2. The sites will be painted a neutral color (tan), be screened with 8-ft tall masonry block walls to match the surrounding residential developments.

AIR QUALITY MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Water will be applied to the project site during grading, trenching, and backfilling operations to control dust and keep the project area clean.
2. The contract documents will require the Contractor to obtain and comply with a San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Dust Control Plan and to permit the new emergency backup diesel generator.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Laurendine Biological Consulting, LLC’s Biological Report and associated Avoidance Plans propose the biological recommendations to ensure the project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species during construction activities.
2. San Joaquin Kit Fox

Potential Project Effects from Modification to habitats for the San Joaquin Kit Fox.

The habitat present on the project site is suitable for San Joaquin kit fox, a California threatened and a federal endangered species, to utilize. However, while no individuals or their sign (e.g., dens, scat, tracks) were observed during the project’s field survey, they could be transient through the project site. In addition, several burrows present on the adjacent parcel of the tank site are large enough to be considered potential dens. If occupied, SJKF might be subjected to increased noise levels and activity that may modify their denning behavior that could be considered a significant impact.

Kit fox are known to occur in the area and given that kit fox are highly motile species, they could utilize the more urban areas as well as the natural habitats in the project area. Construction activities have the potential to temporarily disturb suitable habitat for special status species including SJKF, and directly impact individuals if present during construction activities.

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Effects on regional abundance and distribution of SJKF are not expected as the project occurs along the disturbed roadside edge of Imperial St. and Saco Rd., active agricultural lands, a disturbed residential development, and a small area of non-native grassland.

Mitigation. A pre-construction survey of the project area shall be conducted to ensure that SJKF have not moved into the area prior to beginning ground disturbance. In addition, potential den monitoring of the adjacent property should be completed, if possible. Should a SJKF establish an occupancy in the project construction area, the guidelines are provided in the 2011 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for the Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance (Appendix F).

If occupied known or natal dens cannot be avoided through the timing of construction or buffer zones, or should SJKF take up occupancy on the construction site, the applicant shall obtain permission or if required, take authorization, from the USFWS and CDFW to relocate kit fox from the dens or propose an alternative construction method to avoid dens. No occupied den or natal den will be disturbed until the CDFW and USFWS have provided guidance and issued appropriate "take" authorization.

Compliance with the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts to San Joaquin kit fox to a less than significant level and will not likely result in direct or indirect impacts to San Joaquin kit fox.

3. Swainson Hawk and Burrowing Owl

Potential Project Effects from Modification to habitats for the Swainson's Hawk and Burrowing Owl.

Potential Impacts. Direct affects to Swainson's hawk and burrowing owls could result from loss of suitable nesting or foraging habitat due to construction. Indirect impacts may result from construction noise or other construction activities that could modify nesting or other behaviors. While suitable habitat is abundant regionally for these species, conversion of the Valley grassland habitat would nonetheless constitute a significant impact to nesting and foraging habitat.

Mitigation. Swainson's hawk. None warranted. No Swainson's hawk nesting trees are located in the project area and sufficient foraging habitat is found regionally. Impacts to Swainson's hawk are not anticipated.

Mitigation. Avoidance and Minimization to Individual Owls. In order to avoid impacts to active burrowing owl nests, a qualified biologist should conduct pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls within the construction footprint and within 250 ft. of the footprint no more than 30 days prior to the onset of ground disturbance. These surveys should be conducted in a manner consistent with the CDFW's burrowing owl survey methods (CDFG 2012). If preconstruction surveys determine that burrowing owls occupy the site during the nonbreeding season (September 1 through January 31), then a passive relocation effort (e.g., blocking burrows with one-way doors and leaving them in place for a minimum of three days) may be necessary to ensure that the owls are not harmed or injured during construction.

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Once it has been determined that owls have vacated the site, the burrows can be collapsed, and ground disturbance can proceed. If burrowing owls are detected within the construction footprint or immediately adjacent lands (i.e., within 250 ft. of the footprint) during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a construction-free buffer of 250 ft. should be established around all active owl nests. The buffer area should be enclosed with temporary fencing, and construction equipment and workers should not enter the enclosed setback areas. Buffers should remain in place for the duration of the breeding season or until it has been confirmed by a qualified biologist that all chicks have fledged and are independent of their parents. After the breeding season, passive relocation of any remaining owls may take place as described above.

Compliance with the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts to burrowing owl to a less than significant level and will not likely result in direct or indirect impacts to burrowing owl.

4. American Badger

Impacts to American Badgers

Potential Impacts. Conversion of natural lands would result in a loss of habitat for the American badger; however, no badgers or their sign were detected during the field survey, but should they move onto the site prior to or during construction, individual badgers could be harmed or injured from construction activities and this would constitute a significant adverse impact.

Mitigation. Pre-construction surveys conducted for burrowing owls and SJKF should also be used to determine the presence or absence of badgers in the development footprint. If an active badger den is identified during pre-construction surveys within or immediately adjacent to the work zone, a construction-free buffer of up to 300 ft. should be established around the den. Because badgers are known to use multiple burrows in a breeding burrow complex, a biological monitor should be present onsite during construction activities to ensure the buffer is adequate to avoid direct impact to individuals. The monitor would be necessary onsite until it is determined that young are of an independent age and construction activities would not harm individual badgers. Once it has been determined that badgers have vacated the site, the burrows can be collapsed or excavated, and ground disturbance can proceed.

Compliance with the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts to American badger to a less than significant level and will not likely result in direct or indirect impacts to badgers.

5. Nesting Raptors

Disturbance to Nesting Raptors during Construction Activities

While no nesting habitat for raptors is present along the project area, construction activities occurring during the breeding season (February through August) could result in

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nest abandonment or direct mortality to these birds. This would constitute a significant impact and be in violation of state and federal laws.

Mitigation. A qualified biologist should conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting raptors (particularly burrowing owl) if construction activity is to occur during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31). This survey should be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of ground disturbing/construction activities during the early part of the breeding season (February through April) and no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of these activities during the late part of the breeding season (May through August). If nesting raptors are detected on the site during the survey, a suitable construction-free buffer should be established around all active nests. The precise dimension of the buffer (a minimum of 250 ft., up to a maximum of 500 ft. for active nests with eggs or chicks) would be determined at that time and may vary depending on location, species, and the type of work being completed. Buffers should remain in place for the duration of the breeding season or until it has been confirmed by a qualified biologist that all chicks have fledged and are independent of their parents. Pre-construction surveys during the non-breeding season are not necessary, as the birds are expected to abandon their roosts during construction activities.

Compliance with the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts to nesting raptors to a less than significant level and will not likely result in direct or indirect impacts to nesting raptors and other migratory birds.

6. Water Quality

Degradation of Water Quality in Seasonal Creeks, Reservoirs, and Downstream Waters

The proposed project is for the construction of water storage tanks, treatment facility, pipelines, and six new wells. The majority of the acreage identified for this project has already undergone previous disturbance. Existing commercial parcel, roadside edges, residential development, and agricultural fields all contribute to the degraded conditions of the project site.

Mitigation. Project impacts to water quality in seasonal creeks, reservoirs, and downstream waters are not expected to result from project development. Implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality during the construction of the project will occur as a condition of Stormwater Pollutions Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Compliance with the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts to seasonal creeks, reservoirs, and downstream waters to a less than significant level and will not likely result in direct or indirect impacts to these waters.

In addition to the mitigation measures discussed above, the following are BMPs that when implemented will further help to reduce possible impacts to kit fox and other species during construction activities.

- *A qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct a sensitive species education program (tailgate briefing) for all project personnel. Topics to be discussed during the briefing*

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shall include: occurrence and distribution of sensitive species in the project area, take avoidance measures being implemented during the project, reporting requirements if incidental take occurs, and applicable definitions and prohibitions under the Endangered Species Act.

- *A biological monitor(s) shall be present while ground-disturbing activities are occurring in sensitive habitat; however, no such habitat occurs in the project area. In addition to conducting pre-construction surveys for the project, the biological monitor(s) shall aid crews in satisfying take avoidance criteria and implementing project mitigation measures, will document all pertinent information concerning project effects on sensitive species, and shall assist in minimizing the adverse effects of project activities on sensitive species.*
- *Biological monitors are empowered to order cessation of activities if take avoidance and/or mitigation measures are violated and will notify an OMWC representative.*
- *All project vehicles shall be confined to existing roads or prominently staked and/or flagged access routes that are surveyed prior to use. Observed sensitive species and their habitat features such as dens, burrows, nests, etc. shall be flagged as necessary to alert project personnel to their presence. All project-related flagging shall be collected and removed after completion of the project.*
- *To prevent inadvertent entrapment of species, excavation will include only that amount that can be worked and backfilled within a single workday. If this is not possible, all open holes, steep-walled holes, or trenches more than 2 feet deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks (wooden planks should be more no less than 10 inches in width and should reach to bottom of trench). Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals.*
- *All spills of hazardous materials shall be cleaned up immediately.*
- *Pets are prohibited on the construction site.*
- *Firearms are prohibited on the construction site.*
- *All food-related trash, such as wrappers, cans, bottles, bags, and food scraps shall be disposed of daily in containers with secure covers and regularly removed from project sites.*
- *OMWC shall agree to and appoint a representative who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who inadvertently kills or injures a threatened or endangered species, who finds a dead, injured, or entrapped individual, or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped threatened or endangered animal species. The representative will be identified during the preconstruction educational briefing.*
- *All project-related vehicles shall observe a speed limit of 25 mph or less on all except as posted on State and County highway/roads or paved facility roads.*

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- *Appropriate measures shall be undertaken to prevent unauthorized vehicle entry to off-road survey routes in sensitive habitat areas. Signing will be the preferred method to discourage use.*
- *Work boundaries will be delineated with flagging, lathe stakes, temporary fencing, or other marking to minimize surface disturbance associated with project activities.*
- *The area of disturbance will be reduced to the smallest practical area, considering topography, placement of facilities, location of burrows, nesting sites or dens, public safety, and other limiting factors.*
- *Project vehicles shall be confined to existing primary or secondary roads or to specifically delineated project sites (i.e., areas that have been surveyed and described in existing documentation). Otherwise, off-road vehicle travel is not permitted.*
- *To the extent practicable, previously disturbed areas will be used to stockpile excavated materials, storage of equipment, digging of slurry or borrow pits, trailer placement, vehicle parking, and other surface disturbing actions.*
- *Project activities shall be minimized during evening hours when some listed species become active and vulnerable to vehicle strikes.*
- *Any contractor, employee(s), or other personnel who inadvertently kills or injures a threatened or endangered species shall immediately report the incident to their representative. The representative shall contact OMWC representative and, if feasible, a qualified biologist.*

OMWC will contact CDFW immediately in the case of a dead, injured, or entrapped listed species. The CDFW contact for immediate assistance is State Dispatch at (916) 445- 0045. State Dispatch will contact the local warden or biologist. The qualified biologist will also document all circumstances of death, injury, or entrapment of sensitive species. The biologist will 1) take all reasonable steps to enable the individual animal to escape should it be entrapped, 2) contact CDFW or other appropriate authorities to identify an approved rehabilitation center and appropriate capture and transport techniques should the animal be injured, and 3) document circumstances of death in writing and if possible photographing dead animal in situ prior to moving.

- *USFWS and CDFW shall be notified in writing within three (3) working days in the event of an accidental death or injury of a San Joaquin kit fox or other threatened or endangered species. Notification shall include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal, and any other pertinent information. The USFWS contact for this information is the Endangered Species, Program Field Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 414-6600. The CDFG contact information is 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and (916) 654-4262. Any dead or injured kit fox or other threatened or endangered species shall be turned over to the CDFW Environmental Services Division, Fresno Regional Headquarters at (559) 243-4017 at the agency's request. The dead, threatened, or endangered animal can be transported to California State University at Bakersfield or the Endangered Species Recovery Team in Bakersfield for storage and research, if CDFW approves.*

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CULTURAL RESOURCES MITIGATION MEASURES

1. In the event that prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 50-ft of the resources will be halted and OMWC will consult with a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, then OMWC and the archaeologist will meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. OMWC will make the final determination. All significant cultural materials recovered will be, as necessary and at the discretion of the consulting archaeologist, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and documentation according to current professional standards.
2. In the event that paleontological resources are discovered, OMWC will notify a qualified paleontologist. The paleontologist will document the discovery as needed, evaluate the potential resource, and assess the significance of the find under the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If fossil or fossil bearing deposits are discovered during construction, excavations within 50-feet of the find will be temporarily halted or diverted until the discovery is examined by a qualified paleontologist. The paleontologist will notify the appropriate agencies to determine procedures that would be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find. If OMWC determines that avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist will prepare an excavation plan for mitigating the effect of the project on the qualities that make the resource important. The plan will be submitted to the OMWC for review and approval prior to implementation.
3. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification.

GEOLOGY/SOILS MITIGATION MEASURES

1. In the event that paleontological resources are discovered, OMWC will notify a qualified paleontologist. The paleontologist will document the discovery as needed, evaluate the potential resource, and assess the significance of the find under the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If fossil or fossil bearing deposits are discovered during construction, excavations within 50-feet of the find will be temporarily halted or diverted until the discovery is examined by a qualified paleontologist. The paleontologist will notify the appropriate agencies to determine procedures that would be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the

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location of the find. If the OMWC determines that avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist will prepare an excavation plan for mitigating the effect of the project on the qualities that make the resource important. The plan will be submitted to the OMWC for review and approval prior to implementation.

NOISE IMPACT MITIGATION MEASURES

Noise levels will be increased on a temporary basis during construction activities for the installation of the test water well and drilling of the production wells. The temporary noise impacts attributed to general construction will be mitigated by limiting the hours of construction on-site to weekdays from 7 am to 5 pm.

For more information, please contact Dee Jaspar & Associates, Inc, District Engineer, 2730 Unicorn Road, Bldg A, Bakersfield, CA 93308 (661) 393-4796.