

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: Tulare
Address: 221 S. Mooney Blvd Visalia, CA 93291

From: Lead Agency and Applicant
Public Agency: Exeter Irrigation District
Address: 150 S. E Street Exeter, CA 93221
Contact: Gene Kilgore, General Manager
Phone: (559) 838-4258

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Exeter Irrigation District
Address: 150 S. E Street Exeter, CA 93221
Contact: Gene Kilgore, General Manager
Phone: (559) 838-4258

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025120957

Project Title: Paregien Basin

Project Applicant: Exeter Irrigation District, 150 S. E Street, Exeter, CA 93221, (559) 838-4258

Project Location (include county): Tulare County

Project Description: See attached Project Description

FILED
TULARE COUNTY

FEB 18 2026

ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER

This is to advise that the Exeter Irrigation District has approved the above (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on 02/12/2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Exeter Irrigation District, 150 S. E Street, Exeter, CA 93221

Signature (Public Agency): Gene Kilgore Title: General Manager

Date: 2/12/2026 Date Received for filing at OPR:

### *Project Description*

The District plans to develop an approximately 50-acre recharge facility known as the Paregien Basin located directly south of Highway 198, northeast of the City of Farmersville. The new groundwater recharge basin would include a new turnout connection from Deep Creek. The Project would also include approximately 350 feet of pipeline connecting the new turnout to the proposed basin. The pipeline connection from the proposed recharge basin to Deep Creek will be located on the south side of the existing West Pond, which is not a part of the Project. The area to the north and east of the existing pond will be avoided as it has been identified as a potentially sensitive habitat area. No Project activities will occur in this area.

The proposed turnout would be developed with a capacity for approximately 20 cubic feet per second (CFS). The proposed turnout facility would consist of cast-in-place concrete structure, control gate(s), trash rack, and related appurtenances from the west bank of Deep Creek to divert to the proposed basin. The turnout structure would connect to an inlet pipeline approximately 350 linear feet (LF) from Deep Creek into the proposed Paregien Basin. The turnout structure would have a maximum excavation depth of 15 feet below ground surface for establishing proper compaction under the structure and pipeline. All excavation material would be balanced on site.

Construction would include equipment mobilization, excavation of earthwork for the recharge basin and construction of basin perimeter berms. The Project site would contain temporary staging areas for construction equipment and material storage during the construction effort. Basin construction would include performance testing (i.e. compaction testing) and demobilization. Excavation material would be used on site for berm construction along the perimeter of the basin. New berm construction would not exceed six feet in height, measured from the exterior toe to the top of new berm. The maximum depth of ground disturbance for the basin would be as much as nine (9) feet.

Through the improvements of this proposed multi-cell recharge basin, it is anticipated to recharge approximately 1,260 acre-feet (AF) on an average annual basis. However, the site is capable of recharging more in wet years when surplus water is available for longer durations. The 1,260 AF estimate is derived based on an estimated recharge rate of 0.5 AF per acre across the approximately 50 acres of wetted area for an estimated duration of 50 days, which is an approximate average of historical water availability on the Kaweah system. Typical surplus surface water availability is generally between March and June. However, in very wet years, water could be diverted for recharge whenever excess supply is available, which could occur from January to September or October.