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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FORM

DIVISION OF INTERGRATED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (DISE)
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

CLEARANCE #	ISSUED TO	CLEARANCE START	CLEARANCE END
N/A	Ky Dupuis (Hydrogeologist)	May 1st, 2026	December 31st, 2026

PROJECT NAME

Tracy Subbasin TSS MW-102 Well Installation

LOCATION OF PROJECT SITE

City: Tracy

County: San Joaquin

Coordinates: 37°40'32.5"N 121°17'33.8"W

PROJECT SUMMARY

The North Central Region Office's Geology and Groundwater Investigations' professional geologist or geologist-in-training will oversee the installation of a single-completion, groundwater monitoring well performed by a contractor. This well will contribute information through groundwater monitoring for the Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to meet the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The proposed project is expected to take a minimum of 3 days and up to 1 week.

This well will have an 8-inch diameter with one 2-inch diameter Sch 40 PVC well casing and a 4 ft by 4 ft completion footprint.

Work crews will mobilize at the project site with all the necessary equipment for construction. Utilizing a contractor, the well installation activities will include the following:

1. The monitoring well will be drilled with a hollow-stem auger rig (Drill Rig). The Professional Geologist will review the lithologic and geophysical logs (if surveyed) alongside each other and select the final well screen interval according to hydro-stratigraphic interpretation. The Drill Rig will be used for the following:
    a. Drill 8-inch diameter boring.
    b. Collect drill cutting samples every 5 ft.
    c. Install one 2-inch diameter, monitoring well casing in the boring.
    d. Drill cuttings will be stored in drums and hauled off site, or, with approval from DISE and the property owner, cuttings may be spread on site.
2. Based on the well screen depth interval selected, the following well construction activities will occur:
    a. Assemble and install flush-threaded 2-inch SCH 40 PVC well casing with mill-slotted screen at the selected interval (approx. 25 ft to 60 ft).
    b. Install annulus material (filter pack sand, transition sand, bentonite, etc.) using tremie pipe and pump, as necessary.
    c. Use tremie pipe to install a neat cement sanitary seal to a minimum depth of 20 ft below ground surface.
    d. Wells will be finished with an above ground steel pipe with a locking, hinged lid, a 4 ft x 4 ft concrete apron, and steel traffic bollards.
3. Well development will occur no sooner than 48 hours after the well surface seal has been completed and 24 hours after the surface completion is installed:

a. Well development will be accomplished by a combination of surging, bailing to remove sediment, and purging with a submersible or air lift pump.
b. Well development will be performed until there is good hydraulic connection between the formation and the well screen, or for a maximum of 4 hours if turbidity reduction is not easily achieved.
c. Water from pumping near waterways will be contained and hauled off site.

4. Work crews will efficiently demobilize all equipment used to construct the project improvements, clean up all work-related waste and unused materials, and return work areas to their original condition.

Equipment for the project includes a hollow stem auger drill rig, portable toilet, well development truck, air compressor, trailer with needed tools and water holding capabilities, two contractor staff vehicles, and one DWR staff truck.

PROJECT CHANGES

N/A

POTENTIAL CULTURAL RESOURCES		
STAFF MEMBER ASSESSING PROJECT Conner Hendricks (Cultural Resources Specialist)		
CHRIS RECORD SEARCH	**DATE** February 20th,2026	
CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY	**DATE** March 3rd, 2026	
CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT/MEMO	**DATE** March 11th, 2026	**ATTACHED?** Y ☒ N ☐
DETERMINATION The cultural investigation for this project did not identify any recorded cultural resources within the proposed project footprint. No further cultural resources studies are required for the project at this time.		

POTENTIAL SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES	
CNDDB SEARCH	**DATE** February 24th, 2026
FWS SPECIES LIST SEARCH	**DATE** February 24th, 2026
CNPS SEARCH	**DATE** February 24th, 2026

POTENTIAL SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

The databases listed above were queried using 9-quad search centered on the Vernalis USGS quadrangle. Based on this search and best professional judgment, it has been determined that the following special-status species and/or habitats have the potential to occur in the project area:

Birds
Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii)*
Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni)*

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White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

Mammals
Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
Western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*)
Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus)*
American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

SITE SURVEYS	
DATE March 3rd, 2026	**STAFF MEMBER(S) SURVEYING SITE** Alexander Tasoff (Environmental Scientist) Connor Hendricks (Cultural Resources Specialist)
HABITAT TYPE The project footprint is located within a previously disturbed area characterized by compacted soil and crushed gravel. A drainage ditch within 50 ft of the drilling site has steep sides and unstable soil, making it unsuitable for burrowing wildlife to occupy. An irrigation canal within 50 ft of the drilling site has regulated flows and does not feature perennial aquatic habitat or wetland vegetation. An orchard is 35 ft away from the drilling site, and blooming almond trees have the potential to attract native insects. There also are no man-made structures or historical structures within the project footprint that may serve as nesting or roosting habitats.	
ADJACENT LAND USE The project area is located within a previously altered landscape characterized by high levels of human disturbance. The surrounding land is predominantly used for agricultural activities, including orchard and row crop cultivation. A dilapidated airstrip located within 150 ft of the drilling site consists of barren soils and is currently used for storing agricultural vehicles and equipment. Periodic road grading further disturbs the compacted soils between agricultural fields. No vegetation taller than 30 ft occurs within 0.2 mi of the drilling site. Although bee boxes are present between orchards in the surrounding area, native bees are unlikely to utilize these structures. Human disturbances in the area potentially create migratory barriers for special-status species, and may deter wildlife from crossing through the project footprint.	
SPECIES-SPECIFIC SURVEYS A survey for general biological resources was conducted by Alexander Tasoff on March 3rd, 2026. No special-status species or high quality habitat were observed within the project footprint and surrounding area.	

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Based on the evaluation of the record searches and best professional judgment, the project is not expected to have significant adverse effects on special-status species and/or habitats. Justifications for this assessment are discussed below. For the purpose of this evaluation, the project footprint is defined as the space directly impacted by project activities, whereas the project area is defined as the areas surrounding or adjacent to the project footprint.

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Birds
Cooper's hawk, Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed kite have the potential to occur in the project area. Suitable forging habitat for all three species occurs within the project area, and Swainson's hawk was previously detected within 3 mi of the drilling site (1988 to 2003). However, no suitable nesting and foraging habitats occur within the project footprint. Human disturbances may also discourage these species from nesting on small trees within the area. If work takes place during nesting bird season (February 1st to September 15th) a nesting bird survey will take place within 72-hours of commencing project activities. If active nests are found during the survey, measures will be implemented to avoid the disturbance of nesting birds. If wildlife is found in work area during project activities, work will stop and wildlife will be allowed to move away on its own accord before work resumes Therefore, no impacts to Cooper's hawk, Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed kite are anticipated to occur due to project activities.

Mammals
Pallid bat, western red bat, hoary bat, and little brown bat have the potential to occur within the project area. Suitable foraging habitat for all four species occur within the project area. However, no suitable roosting habitat occurs inside the project footprint. Work will only occur during daylight hours, when bats are roosting and less likely to be active and foraging in the area. If wildlife is found in work area during project activities, work will stop and wildlife will be allowed to move away on its own accord before work resumes Therefore, no impacts to pallid bat, western red bat, hoary bat, or little brown bat are anticipated to occur due to project activities.

American badger have the potential to occur within project area. Suitable grassland habitat for this species occurs within the project area. However, no suitable burrowing habitat for American badger occurs inside and adjacent to the project footprint. Project activities will remain within the designated footprint consisting of crushed gravel, compacted soil, and/or eroding gradients. Work will only occur during daylight hours, when this species is less likely to be active and foraging in the area. If wildlife is found in work area during project activities, work will stop and wildlife will be allowed to move away on its own accord before work resumes. Therefore, no impacts to American badger are anticipated to occur due to project activities.

PROJECT RESTRICTIONS AND/OR REQUIREMENTS

*****Note: Any changes to the project scope after issuance of this environmental clearance must be reviewed by DISE staff and may require additional site visits, surveys, monitoring, and/or permitting.*****

Project Restrictions:

- If work takes place during nesting bird season (February 1st to September 15th) a nesting bird survey will take place within 72-hrs of commencing project activities. If active nests are found during the survey, measures will be implemented to avoid the disturbance of nesting birds.
- No work will be conducted during or within 24 hrs after a significant rain event (i.e., ½ inch of rain over a 24-hour period).
- Work is limited to daylight hours, 30-min after sunrise to 30-min before sunset.
- Ground disturbance, such as excavation or drilling, will be limited to what is necessary for completing the project's objective.

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Standard BMPs:

- Contact Bayan Ahmed at (916) 204-3065 or Bayan.Ahmed@water.ca.gov at least 2 weeks prior to start of construction, unless specified differently above.
- All crews at the project site must be aware of the restrictions on work contained within this clearance, and a copy of this clearance must be held by the supervisor on-site at all times.
- If any wildlife is observed within the work area, stop all work immediately and allow the wildlife to move out of the area on its own.
- Hazardous materials associated with project activities will be stored and used in accordance with practices that prevent them from polluting receiving waters. Containment systems will be used to prevent sediment runoff into receiving waters.
- Project equipment and vehicles will be kept in good working order. Any petroleum or lubricant spills will be cleaned up immediately and reported to DISE staff.
- All trash and debris from project must be removed from the work site after completing all project activities.
- If previously unidentified cultural materials are revealed during project-related activities, work shall be halted in the immediate vicinity until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. Additional archaeological survey may be required if the project limits expand beyond the area reviewed for cultural resources.
- If human remains are revealed during project-related activities, all work must stop immediately and the County coroner must be contacted pursuant to California Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5(b).

To the best of my knowledge the above information is accurate.

ISSUED BY	DATE	OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER
▶ Alexander Tasoff Alexander Tasoff *Environmental Scientist*	3/18/2026	(916) 882-2403