

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: TUD Long-Term Water Service Contract

Lead Agency: Tuolumne Utilities District

Contact Name: Erik Johnson

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Phone Number: 209-532-5536

Project Location: Sonora, Tuolumne

City

County

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

TUD serves the agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of Tuolumne County including the Chicken Ranch Rancheria Tribe of Me-Wuk Indians (Tribe), a federally- recognized autonomous Native American Tribe of California. The proposed Project is the TUD Board of Directors' consideration and approval (a discretionary action) of a long-term water service contact (LTWSC) with United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for Central Valley Project (CVP) Water from New Melones Reservoir that would allow TUD to: (1) facilitate delivery of CVP water to TUD and portions of its service area including the Chicken Ranch Tribe and growth envisioned under the Tuolumne County General Plan; and (2) increase water supply reliability in TUD's existing service area. Under the proposed Project, TUD will be entitled to use LTWSC to divert up to 6,000 AFY of water for beneficial uses. TUD will divert and use 2,500 AFY within its existing service area, while the Tribe will have access to divert 3,500 AFY for consumptive purposes, primarily agricultural, residential, and commercial uses within its federally recognized trust boundaries. Refer to Appendix A of the IS/ND for a copy of the Draft Long-Term Water Service Contract.

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

The proposed Project is TUD's discretionary approval of a Long-Term Water Service Contract with Reclamation. A CEQA Negative Declaration (ND) satisfies the requirements of CEQA (PRC Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). There is no substantial evidence as documented in this Initial Study/Negative Declaration that the Project, as proposed, may have significant effects on the environment. Therefore, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, TUD's Board intends to adopt a Negative Declaration and file a Notice of Determination for the Project.

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

One public comment criticized the appropriateness of using a Negative Declaration for this project.

This initial study (IS) focuses on the environmental review of the proposed Project only, with the understanding that future phased capacity expansion may require subsequent or additional environmental review beyond what is described herein. Should TUD decide on future improvements to facilitate implementation of the water delivery anticipated in the long-term WSC, such activities may require separate or subsequent CEQA review.

Notably, adoption of the IS/ND does not approve the long-term WSC with Reclamation; that action rests with TUD's Board of Directors for its consideration, approval, and resolution. No ground-disturbing activities or associated development are proposed as part of the approval of this proposed Project. No change in existing land use would occur under the proposed Project.

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

Chicken Ranch Rancheria Tribe of Me-Wuk Indians