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TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
AND SCOPING MEETING(S) NOTICE**

FROM: Tulare Irrigation District
6826 Avenue 240
Tulare, CA 93274

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 05 2020

after Rpn

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

DATE: October 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

The Tulare Irrigation District (TID), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will be coordinating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed McKay Point Reservoir Project. The Proposed Project is located on approximately 500 acres adjacent to the Lower Kaweah River and St. Johns River. TID is requesting identification of environmental issues and information that you or your organization believes should be considered in the EIR.

Project Title: McKay Point Reservoir Project

Project Applicant: Project joint owners – Tulare Irrigation District (TID), the Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company (CPDC), and the Visalia and Kaweah Water Company (VKWC).

Assessor's Parcel Number(s): The Project site is comprised of portions of the following Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN's): 113-070-016-000, 113-080-005-000, 113-080-008-000, 113-090-001-000, 113-100-002-000.

Project Location: Located in Tulare County, California, the Project site lies between and to the south of both Lake Kaweah (2.5 miles northeast of the site) and Bravo Lake (1.5 miles northwest of the site); 1.0 miles northwest of the community of Lemon Cove; and 2.5 miles southeast of the community of Woodlake. The Project site is located approximately 1.0 mile west-southwest of the intersection of State Highways 216 and 198, in Sections 3 and 4, Township 18 South, Range 27 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

The surrounding land uses in the Project area are mining, agricultural, and residential. The adjacent lands to the north, northeast, southwest and west are currently being used for aggregate

mining operations, and the areas south and east of the Project site are used intensively for agricultural and, to a limited extent, for rural residential purposes.

Project Background: TID is a public agency organized and existing pursuant to Division 11 of the California Water Code. CPDC and VKWC are mutual water companies organized and existing pursuant to Division 3 of the California Corporations Code. The Project Owners are all members of the Kaweah and St. Johns Waters Association (Association), which oversees the surface water rights and diversion operations on the Kaweah River. VKWC is also a mutual water company formed under Section 200 of the California Corporations Code. Together they are the Owners of the Project.

Project Summary: The Owners propose to develop approximately 200 acres within the 500-acre McKay Point property into a surface water storage and re-regulation reservoir (the Proposed Project). The reservoir would be located on the north side of the divergence of the Lower Kaweah River and St. Johns River.

The Project would consist of the following phases: excavation of the site for the reservoir; construction of the reservoir; and operation of the reservoir. The Owners would contract with West Coast Sand and Gravel (WCSG) to excavate the site to allow for the construction of the reservoir. After the excavation and construction of the reservoir, the McKay Point Reservoir would be used as a surface water storage / re-regulation reservoir. The reservoir would also be used to optimize groundwater recharge within the Owners service areas.

Discretionary approvals would be required for the Project; therefore, the Project is subject to CEQA. TID is the Project Applicant on behalf of the Owners and is the CEQA Lead Agency.

The Owners' objectives in proposing the Project include the following:

- Capturing and re-regulating water made available to the Owners during flood releases from Lake Kaweah.
- Capturing and re-regulating water entitlements belonging to the Owners released from Lake Kaweah.
- Capturing and re-regulating water released for the Owners during peak power enhancement flows from the Terminus Hydropower Plant (Lake Kaweah).
- Capturing and re-regulating any other water sources on the Kaweah River that may be made available to the Owners.
- Allowing other entities with water rights on the Kaweah River to capture and/or re-regulate flows when designated by the Owners.
- Allowing other entities to capture and/or re-regulate flows of the Lower Kaweah River and St. Johns River for purposes of storm water runoff and flood prevention with permission of the Owners and Kaweah/St. Johns water rights interests.
- Constructing the reservoir in such a way that revenue can be obtained to offset the construction and development costs.

- Locating the reservoir adjacent to the Kaweah River to allow for off-stream access to surface water storage, thus minimizing the need for pipelines.

To accomplish these objectives, the Owners propose to construct and operate the Project to:

- Divert and receive water immediately upstream of the divergence of the Lower Kaweah River and St. Johns River, commonly referred to as McKay Point.
- Provide a water storage capacity of approximately 4,600 acre-feet.
- Deliver water back to either the Lower Kaweah River or the St. Johns River, as needed.
- Provide additional storage capacity for storm water layoff and flood prevention.
- Coordinate all such diversions and deliveries to and from the reservoir with the Kaweah Delta Conservation District and the Kaweah and St. Johns River Association.
- Contract with WCSG to excavate the site for the reservoir and process the excavated material into a marketable product (primarily construction grade aggregate). TID would receive revenue from the sale of the excavated material that could be used to offset the construction and development costs.

Potential Environmental Effects: An EIR will be prepared to evaluate the Proposed Project's environmental impacts and analyze Project alternatives. The topic areas anticipated to be analyzed in detail in the EIR include Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Health Risks, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soil, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.

Public Review Period: October 2, 2020 and ends on November 2, 2020.

Responses and Comments: Please send your responses and comments by November 2, 2020 to the following address or email:

Maya Rohr
Project Manager
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
3990 Old Town Avenue, Suite A203
San Diego, CA 92110
Phone: (805) 275-1515
Email: mrohr@sespe.com

Scoping Meeting: TID will hold two scoping meetings for the Proposed Project to receive comments on the scope and content of the EIR. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency, including social distancing directives as a result of the COVID-19 virus, these Scoping Meetings will be held remotely. There will not be a physical location for these meetings. Members of the public may participate in the Scoping Meetings remotely via the scheduled dates, times, and following options. The scoping meeting is scheduled as follows:

Scoping Meeting 1

Date: October 15, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Place: Online (WebEx)
WebEx Link: <https://bit.ly/343WV9a>
Meeting Number: 126 477 3382
Meeting Password: McKay (62529 for phone systems)
Video Link: 1264773382@webex.com
Video Number: 173.243.2.68 (enter meeting number)
Phone Number: +1-415-655-0001 (enter meeting number)
Access Code: 126 477 3382

Scoping Meeting 2

Date: October 16, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Place: Online (WebEx)
WebEx Link: <https://bit.ly/3kUUUmr>
Meeting Number: 126 662 8580
Meeting Password: McKay (62529 for phone systems)
Video Link: 1266628580@webex.com
Video Number: 173.243.2.68 (enter meeting number)
Phone Number: +1-415-655-0001 (enter meeting number)
Access Code: 126 662 8580

Agencies: In accordance with California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082 (b), the TID requests your agency's view on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by the TID when considering any permits that your agency must issue, or other approvals for the Proposed Project.

If you have additional information please contact Maya Rohr, Project Manager, at (805) 275-1515 or via email at mrohr@sespe.com.

Document Availability: This Notice of Preparation and a detailed Project Description can be viewed on the TID website at: <https://tulareid.org/engineering-capital-projects>. The notice is also posted in the outside noticing box located in front of the Tulare Irrigation District office at the following address: 6826 Avenue 240 – Tulare, CA 93274.

If you have additional information please contact Maya Rohr, Project Manager, at (805) 275-1515 or via email at mrohr@sespe.com.