

INITIAL STUDY  
AND PROPOSED  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT  
UPLAND PIPELINE PROJECT EAST OF  
TURLOCK, CA

Prepared for and by:

**Eastside Water District**  
731 East Yosemite Avenue, Suite B #147  
Merced, California 95340  
(209) 478-4940

October 9, 2020

**EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The Eastside Water District ("EWD") prepares, makes, declares and published this proposed Negative Declaration for the Eastside Water District Upland Pipeline Project East of Turlock, CA.

**Project Title:** Upland Pipeline Project East of Turlock, CA

**Project Location:** The project is located east of Montpelier Road upstream and south of the existing Mustang Creek Flood Control Project within Merced County, as shown on the map attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

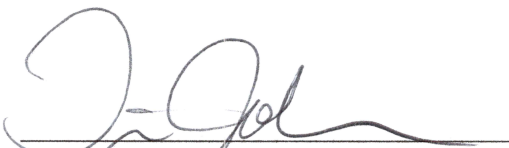
**Project Description:** This is a surface water conveyance project that takes surface water from the southern portion of the EWD and distributes it to the center of EWD. The Project Description is more fully set forth in the Initial Study for the project. Based on the Initial Study it has been found that the project will have no significant impact on the environment.

**Determination:** EWD has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the California Public Resources Code).

**Public Review:** The Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated for 21 days from October 21 through November 11, 2020. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration may be sent by to Eastside Water District, ATTN: Kevin Kauffman, 731 East Yosemite Avenue, Suite B #147, Merced, CA, 95340, or (209) 478-4940 by 12:00 noon on November 11, 2020. Comments will be reviewed by EWD, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revise, as appropriate, prior to the adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by EWD, which is scheduled for November 19, 2020.

This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is made pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6 of the California Administrative Code Section 15070.

A copy of the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration may be reviewed at:  
[www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com](http://www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com)



Mr. Tim Johnson, Board Chairman  
EWD Board of Directors

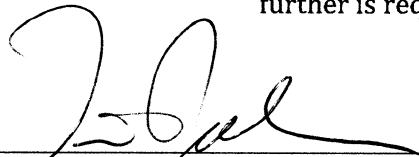
**EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) and a determination has been made that it will have no significant effect upon the environment.
2. PROJECT NAME: Upland Pipeline Project East of Turlock, CA
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: This is a surface water conveyance project that takes surface water from the southern portion of the EWD and delivers it to the center of EWD. The Project Description is more fully set forth in the Initial Study attached hereto and incorporated into this Negative Declaration by reference. Based on the Initial Study, it has been found that the project will have no significant effect on the environment.
4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The project is located east of Montpelier Road upstream and south of the existing Mustang Creek Flood Control Project within Merced County, as shown on the map attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.
5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: Eastside Water District, ATTN: Kevin Kauffman, 731 East Yosemite Avenue, Suite B #147, Merced, CA, 95340.
6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None.
7. A copy of the Initial Study regarding the environmental effect of this project is on file at [www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com](http://www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com). This study was:  
  
 Adopted as presented.  
  
 Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.
8. The Eastside Water District considered this Negative Declaration at a public meeting of its Board of Directors on March 19, 2020.
9. DETERMINATION: *(To be completed by the Lead Agency)*.

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

- I find that although the proposed could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, bust at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards; and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on the attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (1) have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to the applicable standards, and (c) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the project, nothing further is required.



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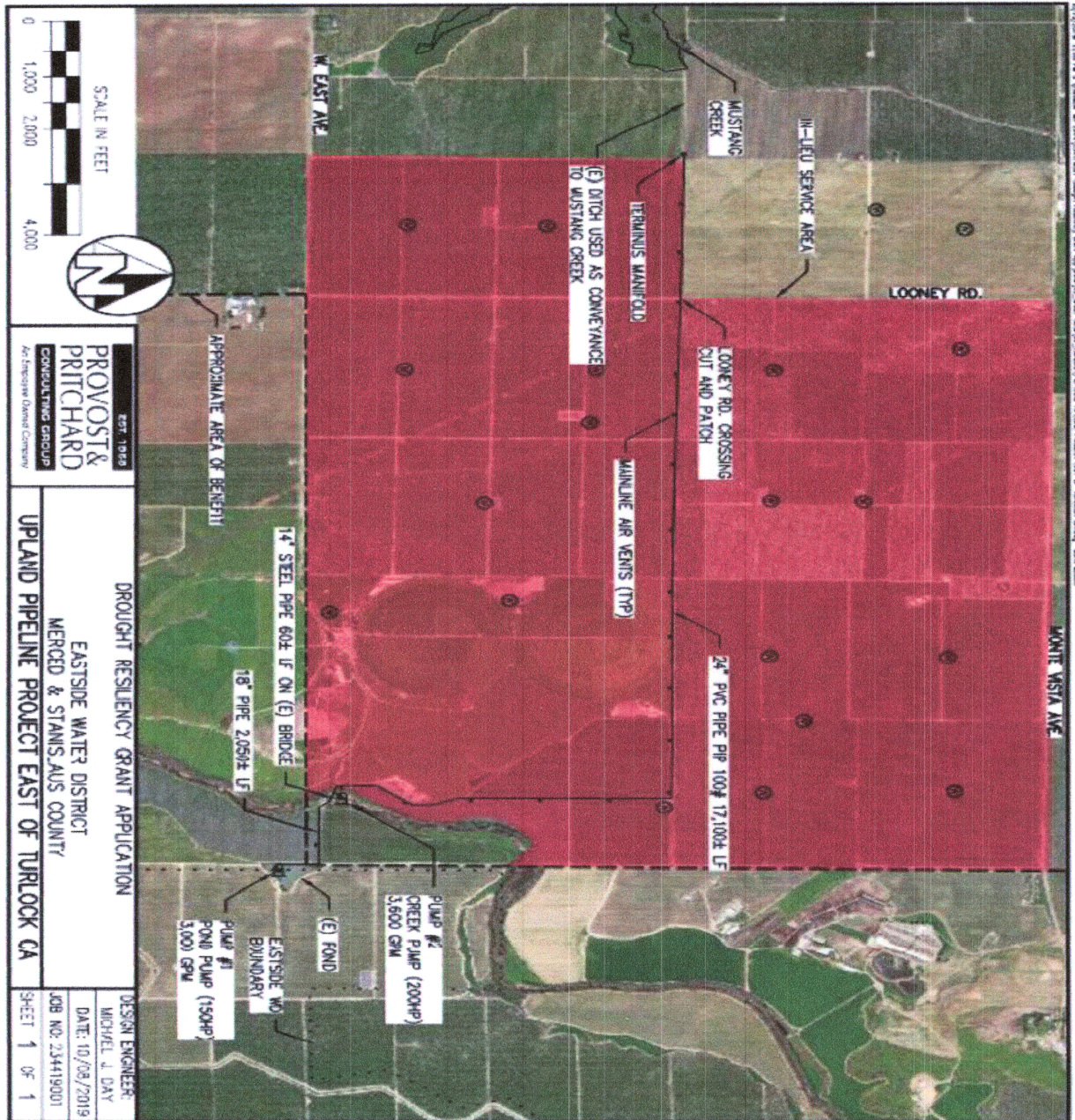
Tim Johnson, Board Chairman  
Eastside Water District

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DATE



**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**MAP OF THE UPLAND PIPELINE PROJECT EAST OF TURLOCK, CA**



**EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

1. **Project Title:** Upland Pipeline Project East of Turlock, CA
2. **Lead agency name and address:**  
  
 Eastside Water District  
 731 East Yosemite Avenue, Suite B #147  
 Merced, California 95340
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Kevin Kauffman, (209) 478-4940.
4. **Project location:** The project is located east of Montpelier Road upstream and south of the existing Mustang Creek Flood Control Project within Merced County, as shown on the map attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** The Eastside Water District, 731 East Yosemite Avenue, Suite B #147, Merced, California 95340
6. **General plan designation:** Agriculture, Foothill Pasture.
7. **Zoning:** General Agriculture.
8. **Description of project:** This is a surface water conveyance project that takes surface water from the southern portion of the EWD and delivers it to the center of EWD. It includes work to design, secure right-of-way, obtain any permits required, and construct pump stations and a pipeline conveyance system to convey surface water to agricultural customers and other groundwater recharge sites. The Project provides long-term drought resiliency by improving landowner well water levels and capacity to better withstand drought conditions and avoid emergency actions related to well failures.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** Agricultural (irrigated)
10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required:** Merced County

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

- |  |   |                                     |                             |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Air Quality                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources                | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Geology/Soils               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Hydrology/<br>Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Noise                       |



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services           | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only those effects that remain to be addressed by mitigation.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (1) have been analyzed adequately in the earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (2) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Kevin M. Kauffman, P.E.  
EWD Water Consultant

DATE: October 9, 2020

**ISSUES**

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**I. AESTHETICS:** *Would the Project:*

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>

**DISCUSSION:**

a - d) The proposed project installs pipeline under the ground surface and replaces an existing pump station. During less than a one-year construction period, aesthetics alterations are involved, but are eliminated following this period. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

**II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES:**<sup>1</sup>

*Would the Project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the Maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Res. Code section 12220(g)), timberland, (as defined by Public Res. Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Gov. Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of Forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

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<sup>1</sup> In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project, and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

**DISCUSSION:**

a-e) The proposed project provides water conveyance for agricultural lands and local water supply. No change in land use will occur. There is no forest land or timberland in the project area, as all lands are already agricultural in use. The project is likely to allow the acreage to continue in agricultural use. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**III. AIR QUALITY:**<sup>2</sup>

*Would the Project:*

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of an criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**DISCUSSION:**

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<sup>2</sup> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determination.



b & d) The proposed project includes pipeline installation construction that will require excavation. Dust particulate will be controlled with standard construction BMPs, but air quality standards may be exceeded only in the project work area for short periods of time. Following construction, no impact to air quality is expected. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impact to air quality.

a, c, e) The proposed project has no impact on these air quality issues.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
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b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
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c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
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d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
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e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protection biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved Local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

**DISCUSSION:**

a-f) The proposed project installs pipeline in the ground and over an existing creek crossing, avoiding any disturbance in such creek. It will also modify an existing pump station located in said ephemeral creek with habitat friendly upgrades should such creek ever becomes habitat in the future. The footprint and dimensions of the existing pump station will not change, and modifications will only occur during dry periods. EWD and the ETSGSA JPA are not subject to any Habitat Conservation or Natural Community Plan or other local, regional, state habitat conservation plan. The project will cause any impact to biological resources; therefore, the project is deemed to have no impact.

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resources as defined in section 15064.5?

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to section 15064.5?

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

**DISCUSSION:**

a-c) The proposed project will involve pipeline construction and land excavation. No special archeological area has been identified near the project area. Therefore, the project would have no impact on these cultural resource issues.

d) As the proposed project will excavate for a pipeline excavation, there is a potential that human remains could be found. Per standard construction BMPs, if such incident were to occur, construction will be halted to investigate such a find and seek the assistance of an archeologist type expert to advise. The likelihood of such an occurrence is deemed slight as this area has been ripped and cultivated previously for farming activities and no such finds have been reported. Therefore, this project will have less than a significant impact on cultural resources.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault

Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

iv) Landslides?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risk to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**DISCUSSION:**

a-e) The proposed project will excavate the ground of existing dirt roadways to install a pipeline. Once installed, the dirt roadways will be graded like new. Therefore, the project will have no impact on geology and soils.

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
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b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

**DISCUSSION:**

a) The proposed project will use excavating equipment to install a pipeline. Pickup trucks and standard construction equipment will also be used during the construction period, generating engine exhaust. Once the project is complete, such exhaust emissions will be eliminated. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

b) The proposed project is a pipeline construction project that could increase greenhouse gas emissions in the short term. No plan, policy or regulation would be violated during the completion of the proposed project. Therefore, the project would have no impact on such plan, policy, or regulation.

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Create a significant hazard to the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.2 and, as a result, would it

create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan?

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

**DISCUSSION:**

a-h) The proposed project will install a pipeline in the ground and upgrade two pumping facilities. No hazardous materials are needed for the proposed project other than fuel. The contract specifications will assure that the contractor follow standard construction BMPs to assure fuel is properly managed for this project. Therefore, the project would have no impact on hazards and hazardous material issues.

**Potentially Significant Impact**      **Less than Significant with Mitigation**      **Less Than Significant Impact**      **No Impact**

**IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Violate any water quality



standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

**DISCUSSION:**

a-j) The proposed project will install a pipeline in the ground and over a creek crossing, and upgrade two pumping stations. Construction will occur in the dry season and be completed prior to any chance of runoff being affected by the construction. Once complete the proposed project would not affect hydrology or water quality in any way. Therefore, the project would have no impact on hydrology or water quality.

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**X. LAND USE AND PLANNING:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Physically divide an established community?

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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**DISCUSSION:**

a-c) The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. No change in land use is contemplated by the project; therefore, the project would have no impact on land use and planning.

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**XI. MINERAL RESOURCES:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Result in the loss or availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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b) Result in the loss or availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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**DISCUSSION:**

a & b) The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. No mineral resources are sought from this proposed project; therefore, the project would have no impact on mineral resources.

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**XII. NOISE:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Result in the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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standards of other agencies?

b) Result in the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?    X

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above noise levels existing without the project?    X

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?    X

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?    X

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would people in the area be expose to excessive noise levels?    X

**DISCUSSION:**

a-f) The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. The proposed project is in an agricultural area that has no or few residents near the project. Therefore, the project would have no impact on noise.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>

**DISCUSSION:**

a-c) The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. Therefore, the project would have no impact on population or housing.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service

ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**DISCUSSION:**

The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. Therefore, the project would have no impact on public services.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**XV. RECREATION:**

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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b) Does the project include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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**DISCUSSION:**

a & b) The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. Therefore, the project would have no impact on recreation.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**XVI. TRANSPORTATION/ TRAFFIC:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation systems, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highway?

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

f) Conflict with adopted policies,

plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**DISCUSSION:**

a-f) The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. Therefore, the project would have no impact on transportation or traffic.

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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**XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS:**

*Would the Project:*

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider

that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

**DISCUSSION:**

a-g) The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district. Therefore, the project would have no impact on utilities or service systems. Most of the agricultural land within EWD and the ETSGSA JPA is irrigated with groundwater. The only other source of supply is a limited amount of surface water from purchases in wet years from the Turlock and Merced Irrigation District's canals lying adjacent to District and from riparian water rights along the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers. From 1997 to 2016 the District constructed and operated pilot recharge basin. The District is contemplating expanding its studies by constructing additional recharge facilities. It is anticipated that additional surface water supplies will be provided for the benefit to all EWD and ETSGSA lands from groundwater recharge.

**Potentially Significant Impact**      **Less than Significant with Mitigation**      **Less Than Significant Impact**      **No Impact**

**XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

("Cumulatively considerable"

means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

**DISCUSSION:**

The proposed project will install a pipeline in an existing agricultural area of the district, and no changes in District operations are contemplated. Therefore, there are no mandatory findings of significance.

**DETERMINATION**

Based upon the information contained in the Initial Study, it is determined that the Negative Declaration should be adopted.