

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: Groundwater Service Area ProjectLead Agency: Arvin-Edison Water Storage DistrictContact Name: Jeevan MuharEmail: jmuhar@aewsd.orgPhone Number: (661) 854-5573Project Location: Kern County*City**County*

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

Please see attached Project Description.

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

Please see the attached MMRP.

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

No known areas of controversy have been raised by the public or agencies. Potential impacts have been addressed to a less than significant level through the implementation of mitigation measures. Please see the attached MMRP.

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

None

ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
EXPANSION OF DISTRICT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PIPELINES INTO GROUNDWATER
SERVICE AREA LANDS PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project is for the construction of up to 44 miles of pipelines, manholes, turnouts, and associated appurtenances within AEWSA's jurisdictional boundaries. Assuming a maximum of 50' width for possible ground disturbance along the proposed pipeline construction, the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is approximately 267-acres. The Project goal is to deliver wet-period surface water to landowners who would otherwise pump groundwater in the remaining portions of the Groundwater Service Area (GWSA) that cannot access the current distribution system. The proposed pipelines will be operated when excess surface water is available (approximately every three years) and/or during water transfers. The proposed pipelines will be mainly low-head gravity distribution pipelines ranging from 12" to 72" in diameter. The largest pipe sizes would be proportionally short distances near the heads of the branching gravity pipeline networks serving the various private agricultural fields in the APE. The proposed pipeline sizes and capacities will vary depending upon the number of acres served. Pipeline sizing will follow the conservative value of approximately eight gallons per minute per acre (8 gpm/acre) and/or the AEWSA Lateral Demand Sizing Criteria. The proposed pipelines will commence from various existing AEWSA facilities, such as the Forrest Frick Pipeline, North Canal, South Canal, or other smaller lateral pipelines. A 0.75 mile open canal is also proposed from the existing Tejon Spreading Works project.

All proposed pipelines will deliver surface water to various proposed private farmland turnouts for irrigation and/or recharge purposes. Specifically, for the "DiGiorgio Unit", the project may include a recovery component whereby the existing private landowner wells can pump groundwater back into the proposed AEWSA distribution pipelines and discharge into the North Canal. The recovery option allows AEWSA to deliver water to other agricultural lands in the SWSA's when surface water supplies are in short supply, such as drought. The "DiGiorgio Unit" proposed pipeline will also connect to AEWSA's Sunset Groundwater Recharge Facility project (approved under SCH # 2020060233), so surface water can be conveyed from the North Canal to the District's Sunset Groundwater Recharge Facility.

The vast majority of proposed pipeline alignments will be installed on private agricultural property parallel to existing public county road right of way or along existing private dirt farm roads between fields/orchards using the traditional cut-and-cover construction method. Short segments of the proposed pipelines will cross public county road right of way and require an encroachment permit from Kern County. If Kern County requires through traffic during pipeline construction, some of these short pipeline segments may be constructed using the jack and bore construction method. All proposed pipeline alignments will avoid existing structures, utilities, permanent crops, and sensitive habitats whenever possible. There will be new turnouts in the canals. The canals are concrete lined. All of the pipeline laterals are buried. Within the "Tejon Unit", the new lateral pipelines will extend from a proposed earthen canal extending $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from AEWSA's Tejon Spreading Works across approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of AEWSA property and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of private farmland.

Chapter 4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been formulated based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Expansion of District Distribution System Pipelines into Groundwater Service Area Lands Project (Project) in Kern County. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

Table 4-1 presents the mitigation measures identified for the proposed Project. Each mitigation measure is numbered with a symbol indicating the topical section to which it pertains, a hyphen, and the impact number. For example, AIR-2 would be the second mitigation measure identified in the Air Quality analysis of the IS/MND.

The first column of **Table 4-1** identifies the mitigation measure. The second column, entitled “When Monitoring is to Occur,” identifies the time the mitigation measure should be initiated. The third column, “Frequency of Monitoring,” identifies the frequency of the monitoring of the mitigation measure. The fourth column, “Agency Responsible for Monitoring,” names the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented. The last columns would be used by AEWS to ensure that individual mitigation measures have been complied with and monitored.

Chapter 4: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
Expansion of District Distribution System Pipelines into Groundwater Service Area Lands Project

Table 4-1. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program					
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	When Monitoring is to Occur	Frequency of Monitoring	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Method to Verify Compliance	Verification of Compliance
Biological Resources					
BIO-1(a) Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP):					
Prior to initiation of construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction shall attend WEAP training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to aid workers in recognizing special-status resources that may occur in the construction area. The specifics of this program shall include identification of the sensitive species, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of sensitive resources, and review of the limits of construction and mitigation measures required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employers, and other personnel involved with construction. All employees shall sign a form provided by the trainer indicating they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them.	Prior to construction	During nesting season	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified biological consultant	By subconsultant report to AEWSD	
BIO-1(b) General Wildlife Pre-construction Surveys:					
Pre-construction clearance surveys for all special-status wildlife species shall be conducted within 30 days prior to the start of construction (including staging and mobilization) in areas of suitable habitat. The surveys shall cover the entire disturbance footprint plus a minimum 100-foot buffer within suitable habitat, where permissible, and should identify all special-status animal species that may occur on-site. Any non-listed special-status animals observed within the project area during the survey should be relocated by a qualified biologist to a safe location within suitable habitat as near to the project area as possible. If listed species that utilize burrows, such as blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, and Nelson's antelope squirrel are detected during the preconstruction survey, all suitable burrows will be flagged for avoidance by a minimum distance of 50 feet, as described in BIO-1(c) below. If listed avian species, such as Swainson's hawk are detected during the preconstruction survey, active nests shall be protected with a disturbance-free buffer as described in BIO-1(f) below. If San Joaquin kit fox individuals or known or potential dens are detected during the preconstruction survey, dens will be monitored and protected with a disturbance-free buffer, as described in BIO-1(e) below. If complete avoidance of listed species and their nests, dens, or burrows is infeasible, the project proponent shall immediately contact CDFW and USFWS regarding incidental take permits.	Within 30 days prior to the start of construction (including staging and mobilization) in areas of suitable habitat	During ground disturbing activities	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified biological consultant	By subconsultant report to AEWSD	

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BIO-1(c) Focused Burrow Survey:					
Concurrent with the general wildlife pre-construction survey described above, a qualified biologist shall conduct a focused burrow survey within 30 days prior to the initiation of ground disturbance. All burrows within the proposed project pipeline alignments will be inspected for the potential presence of special-status animal species that utilize burrows, including American badger, Nelson's antelope squirrel, Tipton kangaroo rat, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, San Joaquin coachwhip, and coast horned lizard. If no special-status species are suspected to occupy any burrows within the project alignment, no further actions are required. If any special-status species, or their sign, are detected within burrows during the pre-construction burrow survey, then those burrows should be mapped and flagged for avoidance by minimum distance of 50 feet. If complete avoidance of burrows potentially occupied by a listed species is infeasible, the project proponent shall immediately contact CDFW and USFWS regarding incidental take permits.	Within 30 days prior to the initiation of ground disturbance	During ground disturbing activities	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to AEWSD	
BIO-1(d) Mitigation Measures for Burrowing Owl:					
A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys prior to ground disturbance activities to confirm the presence/absence of burrowing owls. Pre-construction surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate time of day to maximize detectability within 30 days prior to construction and ground disturbance activities. If no burrowing owls are observed, no further actions are required. If burrowing owls are detected during the pre-construction clearance surveys, the following measures shall apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoidance buffers during the breeding and non-breeding season should be implemented in accordance with the CDFW (2012) and Burrowing Owl Consortium (1993) minimization mitigation measures. If avoidance of burrowing owls is not feasible, then additional measures such as passive relocation during the nonbreeding season should be implemented, in consultation with CDFW. In addition, a Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan and Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be developed by a qualified biologist in accordance with the CDFW (2012) and Burrowing Owl Consortium (1993). 	Prior to ground disturbance activities	During ground disturbing activities	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to AEWSD	
BIO-1(e) Mitigation Measures for San Joaquin Kit Fox					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pre-construction clearance survey for San Joaquin kit fox shall also be conducted not less than 14 days and not more than 30 days prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities. The survey areas shall include the entire study area and all accessible undeveloped habitat within 200 feet, in accordance with the USFWS 2011 Standardized 	Not less than 14 days and not more than 30 days prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities	During ground disturbing activities	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to AEWSD	

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<p><i>Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance. If any known or potential dens are detected, the den(s) shall be monitored for a minimum of three consecutive nights with remote-sensing cameras or tracking medium to evaluate current use. If San Joaquin kit fox use is observed, the den should be avoided by the recommended buffers outlined in the USFWS 2011 Standardized Recommendations, and the project proponent shall immediately notify USFWS and CDFW regarding incidental take permits.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Construction activities shall adhere to the avoidance and minimization measures outlined in the USFWS 2011 Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance, outlined below:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Project-related vehicles should observe a 20-mph speed limit in all study areas, except on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. To the extent possible, night-time construction should be minimized. Off-road traffic outside of designated study areas should be prohibited.</i> ○ <i>To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the USFWS should be notified within three days of the discovery.</i> ○ <i>All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.</i> ○ <i>No firearms or pets should be allowed on the project site.</i> ○ <i>Use of rodenticides and herbicides in study areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S.</i> 					

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<i>Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the Service. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of proven lower risk to kit fox.</i>					
BIO-1(f) Mitigation Measures for Swainson’s Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, and Nesting Birds:					
Ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities shall be restricted to the non-breeding season (September 16 to January 31) when feasible. For ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities occurring during the bird nesting season (February 1 to September 15), general pre-construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist (including for, but not limited to, Cooper’s hawk and Swainson’s hawk), within 30 days prior to the initiation of construction activities. Surveys shall include the disturbance area plus a 200-foot buffer for passerine species, a 500-foot buffer for raptors, and a 0.5-mile buffer for Swainson’s hawk. If active nests are located, an appropriate avoidance buffer shall be established within which no work activity will be allowed which would impact these nests. The avoidance buffer would be established by the qualified biologist on a case-by-case basis based on the species and site conditions. In no cases should the buffer be smaller than 50 feet for non-raptor bird species or 200 feet for raptor species. Larger buffers may be required depending upon the status of the nest and the construction activities occurring in the vicinity of the nest. If State-listed threatened Swainson’s hawks are documented nesting within 500 feet of construction activities, CDFW should be consulted on appropriate avoidance and minimization methods. The buffer area(s) should be closed to all construction personnel and equipment until juveniles have fledged and/or the nest is inactive. A qualified biologist should confirm that breeding/nesting is complete, and the nest is no longer active prior to removal of the buffer. If work within a buffer area cannot be avoided, then a qualified biologist will be present to monitor all project activities that occur within the buffer. The biological monitor will evaluate the nesting avian species for signs of disturbance and will have the ability to stop work.	Ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities shall be restricted to the non-breeding season (September 16 to January 31) when feasible. For ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities occurring during the bird nesting season (February 1 to September 15), general pre-construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist (including for, but not limited to, Cooper’s hawk and Swainson’s hawk), within 30 days prior to the initiation of construction activities	Prior to ground disturbing activities and the start of construction	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to AEWSD	
BIO-2 Jurisdictional Delineation:					
The project shall be designed to avoid potentially jurisdictional aquatic features where feasible. If impacts to potentially jurisdictional features are unavoidable, the project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a jurisdictional delineation to determine the extent of CDFW, USACE, and/or RWQCB jurisdiction. The delineation will be conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth by each agency. If the delineation determines that the project will result in impacts to	If impacts to potentially jurisdictional features are unavoidable	Prior to ground disturbing activities and the start of construction	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified biological subconsultant	By subconsultant report to AEWSD	

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a water of the State, then the project proponent shall submit an application to RWQCB for a Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permit and/or Section 401 Water Quality Certification (depending upon whether or not the feature also falls under federal jurisdiction). If the delineation determines that the project will result in impacts to features considered within CDFW's jurisdiction, then the project proponent will submit a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. of the CFGC. If the delineation determines that the project will result in impacts to a water of the U.S., the project proponent shall submit a permit application to USACE, pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. The project proponent shall abide by all permit conditions, and compensatory mitigation for all impacts to waters of the U.S., waters of the State and features subject to CDFW jurisdiction shall be completed at the ratio required in the applicable permits.					
Cultural Resources					
CUL-1: Archaeological Resources					
In the event that archaeological resources are encountered at any time during development or ground-moving activities within the entire project area, all work in the vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery. The District shall implement all recommendations of the archaeologist necessary to avoid or reduce to a less than significant level potential impacts to cultural resource. Appropriate actions could include a Data Recovery Plan or preservation in place.	During ground disturbing activities and in the event potential archaeological artifacts or resources are uncovered	Daily during ground disturbing activities	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified cultural subconsultant	By subconsultant /contractor reports to AEWSD	
CUL-2: Human Remains					
If human remains are uncovered, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the Kern County Coroner is to be notified to arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified—on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits—as those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resource Code 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC would then identify the Most Likely Descendent who would determine the manner in which the remains are treated.	During ground disturbing activities and in the event human remains are uncovered	Daily during ground disturbing activities	AEWSD with assistance of a qualified cultural subconsultant	By subconsultant /contractor reports to AEWSD, Kern County Coroner notification and report, and notification to NAHC, if applicable	