

County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

September 19, 2019

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Attn: Sheila Brown
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Brown:

Subject:

State Clearinghouse Review of Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for

Initial Study Application No. 7585 (Dorabelle Mutual Water Company)

Enclosed Please find the following documents:

- 1. Notice of Completion/Reviewing Agencies Checklist
- 2. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
- 3. Fifteen (15) hard copies of Draft Initial Study, Initial Study Checklist, Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), and Draft Notice of Determination (NOD)
- 4. One (1) electronic copy of the Draft Initial Study, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

We request that you distribute the documents to appropriate state agencies for review as provided for in Section 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines, and that the review be completed within the normal 30-day review period. Please transmit any document to my attention at the below listed address or to eahmad@co.fresno.ca.us

Sincerely,

Chrissy Monfette, Planner

Development Services and Capital Projects Division

CMM:

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Enclosures



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County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Notice is hereby given that the County of Fresno has prepared Initial Study Application (IS) No. 7585 pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for the following proposed project:

INITIAL STUDY APPLICATION NO. 7585 and DIRECTOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL APPLICATION NO. 4576 filed by DANNY CLEMMENSEN obo DORABELLE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY, proposing to allow installation of a new 15,000-gallon water storage tank next to the existing 15,000-gallon water storage tank; abandon the existing water main transmission lines in place; install new 4-inch water main transmission lines alongside the abandoned mains; abandon four existing fire hydrants and install four new hydrants; and install new utility and communication conduits within the same trenches in the unincorporated community of Dorabelle. The tank site is located on the northwestern corner of the intersection of Finch Lane and Aspen Lane. The water mains run along the rear of properties within the community of Dorabelle, generally parallel to N. Elderberry Lane, in the unincorporated community of Shaver Lake. (Tank Site APN: 120-211-01) (SUP. DIST. 5). Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study Application No. 7585, and take action on Director Review and Approval No. 4576 with Findings and Conditions. (Hereafter, the "Proposed Project")

The County of Fresno has determined that it is appropriate to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project. The purpose of this Notice is to provide notice of the availability of IS Application No. 7585 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, and request written comments thereon.

Public Comment Period

The County of Fresno will receive written comments on the Proposed Project and Mitigated Negative Declaration from September 23, 2019 through October 23, 2019.

Email written comments to CMonfette@co.fresno.ca.us, or mail comments to:

Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning Development Services and Capital Projects Division Attn: Chrissy Monfette 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A Fresno, CA 93721

IS Application No. 7585 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration may be viewed at the above address Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (except holidays), or at www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies. An electronic copy of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project may be obtained from Chrissy Monfette at the addresses above.

For questions please call Chrissy Monfette (559) 600-4245.

Published: September 23, 2019



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

APPLICANT: Danny Clemmensen obo Dorabelle Mutual Water Company

APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study Application No. 7585 and Director Review and

Approval Application No. 4576

DESCRIPTION: Allow installation of a new 15,000-gallon water storage tank

next to the existing 15,000-gallon water storage tank;

abandon the existing water main transmission lines in place; install new 4-inch water main transmission lines alongside the abandoned mains; abandon four existing fire hydrants and install four new hydrants; and install new utility and communication conduits within the same trenches in the unincorporated community of Dorabelle (also known as Dora

Belle).

LOCATION: The tank site is located on the northwestern corner of the

intersection of Finch Lane and Aspen Lane. The water mains run along the rear of properties within the community of Dorabelle, generally parallel to N. Elderberry Lane, in the unincorporated community of Shaver Lake. (Tank Site APN:

120-211-01) (SUP. DIST. 5)

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or
- B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; or
- C. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

This project consists of two parts: installation of a new water tank and utility installation. The existing water mains will be abandoned in place with new water mains, communication conduits, and other utilities to be installed alongside. Following construction, these underground utilities will not be visible and therefore will have no impact on the scenic quality of the area.

The proposed water tank is 20 feet high and will be installed adjacent to the existing water tank, in the northwestern corner of the community. While the existing brush and trees will not serve to completely hide the new tank, there are no relevant views in this area to obstruct. Further, the proposed tank will be installed adjacent to the existing water tank for the District, further reducing potential adverse impacts on the existing visual character of the site by concentrating the impact of the tanks on the edge of the community.

Dinkey Creek Road is recognized by the General Plan as a Scenic Drive; however, the proposed tank, which will be the only visible portion of the project following construction, will be set back more than one half-mile north and will not be visible to passing motorists.

D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will be constructed during daylight hours when additional lighting is not necessary. Following construction, the project site will be unmanned and therefore no operational lighting will be required. As a result no lighting is proposed with this application.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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 in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use; or
- B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract; or

- C. Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or
- D. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or
- E. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is located in Dorabelle, a small community located within the Sierra Nevada Forest. The project site and the other residential parcels to be served by the replacement water mains are zoned R-1-C: Single Family Residential, and they are designated by the Shaver Lake Community Plan for Mountain Residential uses. There is no active farming on any of the parcels involved with this application. Therefore there is no potential for the conversion of Prime, Unique, or Important farmland.

While the project is located within the Sierra Nevada forest, the parcels associated with this application are mountain residential and are not dedicated to forest use. As a result, there is no impact to the conversion of Forestland.

Based on the limited scope of this application and the lack of farmland and forestland, this project will not result in changes which would result in the conversion of farmland or forestland to other uses.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- A. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- B. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard; or
- C. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under a Federal or State ambient air quality standard?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Air Quality impacts from this project are generally limited to emissions generated during the construction phase, which includes the installation of a new water tank, trenching to replace the existing water mains, and grading activities to support the tank location. It is noted that new utility and communication conduits will be installed adjacent to the water main in order to take advantage of the trenching activity and remove the need to dig new trenches in the future. This presents a minor benefit by removing the need for future impacts due to installation of these utilities.

After construction, this project will contribute minimal amounts of criteria pollutants due to traffic generated by routine maintenance. The Air District did not identify any concerns that this project would violate any existing thresholds of significance.

- D. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- E. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

This project will not release emissions in concentrations which would be detrimental to sensitive receptors, or release other emissions that would affect a substantial number of people.

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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

Installation of the water mains will occur in areas which were previously disturbed by the installation of the original mains, approximately 40 years previously. The mains occur within the roadway (private road) and between the rear property lines of some residences. Where the mains follow the roadway, no habitat is present due to the use of the road and existing pavement/dirt shoulders. Where the mains run between properties, there is some potential of habitat; however the yards are usually swept and kept neat, reducing the attractiveness of the site to special-status species.

The California Natural Diversity Database has records of sightings of ten different species within a two-mile radius of the project site. Of these sightings, the following species are considered to have special status: bald eagle (state endangered), great gray owl (state endangered), Sierra Nevada red fox (Federal candidate, state threatened) and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Federally endangered, state threatened). The date of the observations range from July 1953 to July 2014 and the CNNDB presumes that these creatures may still be extant within the area, with the exception of the red fox, which is "possibly extirpated." The date of the red fox siting was in the month of September, 1999.

Impacts to avian species, such as the bald eagle and great gray owl can occur if construction occurs during the breeding season, or if nesting trees or habitat is removed. As previously discussed, the project site does not providing meaningful habitat or foraging opportunities; the bald eagle forages on fish, voles, and other small mammals and the great gray owl requires tall grasses and meadows for foraging of rodents. Bald Eagles typically do not nest where human activity occurs, such as the project site which is a rural residential development. Great gray owls typically nest within 1,000 feet of a wet meadow. Therefore, based on the existing development within the project site, the lack of suitable foraging habitat, and the failure of the project to propose the removal of any existing trees, there will be a less than significant impact on bald eagles and great gray owls.

If the Sierra Nevada red fox is present at the project site, it is not likely to have a den location within the project area and the continuous human activity makes the area an unlikely location for foraging; however the fox (and other species in the area) may traverse the project site during evenings and night when human activity is reduced. The primary impact on these species would be due to their interactions with the project site. Therefore, the developer will be required to adhere to a series of best management practices which ensure that the project site will not become a significant risk to such species (see below).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service describes the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is an amphibious creature which is not typically found more than 3 feet from the edge of water. As there are no such water formations within the project site, there will be no impacts to the yellow-legged frog.

* <u>Mitigation Measure</u>

1. General Measures for the Avoidance and Protection of Biological Resources:

During construction, the operator and/or contractor shall implement the following general avoidance and protective measures to protect special-status wildlife species:

- The operator shall limit the areas of disturbance. Parking areas, new roads, staging, storage, excavation, and disposal site locations shall be confined to the smallest areas possible. All proposed impact areas, staging areas, access routes, and disposal or temporary placement of spoils, shall be delineated with stakes and/or flagging prior to construction to avoid special-status species where possible. Construction-related activities, vehicles, and equipment outside of the impact zone shall be avoided.
- Spoils shall be stockpiled in disturbed areas that lack native vegetation. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be employed to prevent erosion.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches with a 2-foot or greater

depth shall be covered with plywood or similar materials at the close of each working day, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If trapped animals are observed, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow escape. If a listed species is trapped, USFWS and/or CDFW shall be contacted immediately.

- All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a 4-inch or greater diameter that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods shall be thoroughly inspected for special-status wildlife or nesting birds before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If an animal is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe shall not be moved until a qualified biologist has been consulted and the animal has either moved from the structure on its own accord or until the animal has been captured and relocated by the biologist.
- Vehicles and equipment parked on the sites shall have the ground beneath the vehicle or equipment inspected for the presence of wildlife prior to moving.
- A speed limit of 20 miles per hour shall be enforced within all construction areas.
- Workers shall be prohibited from bringing pets and firearms to the project site and from feeding wildlife in the vicinity.
- Intentional killing or collection of any wildlife species shall be prohibited.
- B. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- C. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means; or
- D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory does not show any wetlands within the project site. This mountain residential development does not contain any other habitat or sensitive natural communities which require protection. There are no rivers or lakes, precluding impacts to fish species.

- E. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not subject to a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan. The entirety of the project will occur within the residential community of Dorabelle, where parcels are landscaped and partially developed with residences, precluding the establishment of habitat attractive to special-status species.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- B. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- C. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Due to the pattern of historical resources being present within the area of Shaver Lake, a Cultural Resource Inventory was prepared for the project site: Cultural Resource Inventory for the Dora Belle Mutual Water Company Water Line and Storage Tank Installation Project in Shaver Lake, Fresno County, California, dated July 2019 (CRI). The CRI reviewed records provided by the San Joaquin Valley Information Center and the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File search result and performed a pedestrian survey on June 17, 2019. No resources were identified.

Installation of the tank will occur on land which has not been previously disturbed; however ground disturbance will be minimal. The majority of the water mains will be installed adjacent to the existing mains, within the ground that was previously disturbed by their installation. A small amount of new ground may be disturbed for the installation of new water mains which will loop the system.

Based on the limited amount of new ground disturbance, lack of historical records in the vicinity, failure of the CRI to identify any extant resources, and lack of response from Native American Tribal Governments in the area, no impacts to cultural resources were identified.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

- A. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation; or
- B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

This project will not result in an environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. The majority of energy expended on this project will occur during the construction phase, which proposes to allow the installation of communication facilities at the same time as this project while the trenches are open. This reduces overall energy consumption by public facilities for Dorabelle by preventing the need for these trenches to be reopened in the future for such installation.

This project will not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- A. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - 1. 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?
 - 2. Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
 - 4. Landslides?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to General Plan Background Report Figure 9-5, the project site is located in an area which is estimated to have a 10% (or less) chance that Peak Horizontal Ground Acceleration will exceed 20% of the acceleration of gravity. This is the lowest risk category. Figure 9-6 indicates that the project site is in an area of low risk of landslide hazard and not in an area subject to deep or shallow subsidence.

- B. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil; or
- 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; or
- D. Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to Figure 7-1 (FCGPBR), the project site is not located in an area with soils which exhibit moderately high to high expansion potential. A review of the Department of Conservation's Web Soil Survey indicates that the project site contains primarily Shaver Family soil, with a small percentage considered to be "rock outcrop." The Shaver family of soils are well-drained and consist of two-thirds sand elements, approximately one-fifth to one-quarter silt and the remainder clay. The low clay percentage precludes a site specific risk of substantial hazards due to expansive soils. Shaver Family soils are considered to have a low linear extensibility (up to 2.9%). Further, there is limited construction to occur as part of this project.

- E. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water; or
- F. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no septic systems or other sanitary facilities associated with this application because there is no development which will be occupied following construction. During the construction period, the project site will be served by portable chemical facilities.

No unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features were identified during the pedestrian survey and therefore are unlikely to be present at the site. Therefore, the project has no potential to destroy a unique paleontological resource, site, or unique geologic feature.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- A. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- B. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The majority of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from this project will occur during the construction period, when a number of work vehicles and employee automobiles may be present on the site. The tank and pumps will be powered through the existing power system in Dorabelle, contributing a small portion to overall greenhouse gases released during the preparation of the project site. Therefore, the project will have a less than significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- 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; or
- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

In regard to hazards from hazardous materials, this project will present a minor beneficial impact because the existing water mains in Dorabelle are made of asbestos concrete pipe. Removal of the pipes could expose workers and residents to airborne asbestos particles and the use of new pipes with approved materials ensures that deterioration of the system will not result in new risk to residents.

During and after construction, the project will not require the transportation or use of hazardous materials.

D. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No part of the project site is identified on any of the following lists: Brownfields Inventory (Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange System), The Radiation Information Database, The Toxic Substances Control Act, The National Priorities List, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information.

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

result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within two miles of an airport.

- F. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- G. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The entirety of the project site is located in an area with moderate risk of wildland fire. During construction, the project has the potential to make access to existing residences within Dorabelle more difficult for property owners due to road closures necessary to complete the water system. With adherence to the Mitigation Measure which requires the applicant to follow the approved traffic management plan, access to each residence will be retained at all times. While some vehicles may be denied their preferred route, the detours will occur within Dorabelle and will add less than one quarter-mile onto any given one-way trip.

By retaining access by road to all residences, the project site will not directly or indirectly contribute to the risk of injury or death involving wildland fires.

* Mitigation Measure

1. Development shall implement the Traffic Management Plan approved by the Fresno County Road Maintenance and Operations Division.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality; or
- B. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

This project presents an improvement to water quality standards by improving the existing water system in Dorabelle. There is no anticipated change in the water used regularly by the project; however additional water usage may be necessary during

construction. The amount of water needed for construction will not impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.

- C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?
 - 1. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
 - 2. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?
 - Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
 - 4. Impede or redirect flood flows?
- D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in an area which is at risk of inundation due to dam failure. The inundation maps maintained by the Division of Safety of Dams does not show any mapped inundation in the vicinity of the project; however, the Shaver Lake Dam, located on the north side of Shaver Lake has a high downstream hazard and no mapped inundation areas. This dam is at a lower elevation than the project site by more than 200 feet and is unlikely to adversely impact the project site in the case of dam failure. The site is not located near a coastline or large lake, precluding impacts from tsunami and seiche respectively. According to FEMA Flood Panel No. 06019C0725H (effective 2/18/2009), the project site is located in Area X, which indicates minimal flood hazard risk.

E. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Community of Dorabelle is served by the Dorabelle Mutual Water Company, a sponsor of this project to update the existing water distribution system in this community. They will retain control over the existing water service and it is anticipated that completion of this project will improve that system by extending the lifetime of the installed pipes, adding new hydrants where necessary to obtain coverage, and adding a new water storage tank to improve storage and pressure. Water usage by residences is not likely to be affected by the application.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

A. Physically divide an established community?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

Dorabelle is a rural community with 23 separate lots, 18 of which have been developed with single-family residences and are served by the Dorabelle Mutual Water Company for water and the Fresno County Water Works District #41 for sewer service. The circulation in this community is limited to three north/south roads: Aspen Lane, Elderberry Road, and Evergreen Road and Finch Lane to the north. Aspen, Elderberry, and Evergreen connect to Dorabelle road to the south and Finch Lane to the north. All roads in this area are privately owned and are not maintained by the County; however, they provide access to each residence and to the project site, which is located in the northwestern corner of Dorabelle, on the northwest corner of the intersection of Aspen and Finch Lanes.

Because of the limited access available in this area and the scope of this application, the potential exists for the community to be temporarily divided as a result of construction within the roadway; based on the area of the proposed crossings, trench digging could prevent residents from accessing their homes. Therefore, as a mitigation measure, the applicant will be required to adhere to the Traffic Management Plan approved by the Fresno County Road Maintenance and Operations Divisions, which requires that work within the roadway is staggered so that access is maintained.

* <u>Mitigation Measure</u>

- 1. See Section IX.
- B. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

This project was proposed because the existing water service in Dorabelle is deficient in four of its five components. Upgrading this system to meet current standards does not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation in the General Plan. Further, the project site is not located in an area of special sensitivity and no cultural resources were identified at the project site. Therefore, the project will have no impact due to conflict with plans, policies, or regulations adopted by the General Plan.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

- A. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state; or
- B. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan or other land use plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to Figure 7-7 (FCGPBR), the project site is not located in an area of locally important mineral resource recovery. Further, the scope of the project (installation of water tank and new water mains) would not result in the loss of availability to a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the state.

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- A. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; or
- B. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Construction activities have the potential to temporarily exceed noise standards as described by the Fresno County General Plan and implemented by the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance. However; the Ordinance does provide an exemption to noise standards for construction which occurs between six a.m. and nine p.m. on any day except Saturday or Sunday, or between seven a.m. and five p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Equipment used may also be equipped with mufflers and will be maintained according to manufacturer specifications to reduce excessive noise during operation. All construction will occur within these windows where construction noise is exempt.

After the construction period is complete, the project will not result in temporary or permanent increase in the ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project. The replacement water mains will be underground and the water tank also will not generate excessive noise.

C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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; or

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in the vicinity of a public or private airport.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

A. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

This project proposes improvements to the existing water system within the community of Dorabelle. The houses in this area are already provided water through this district and therefore, the improved system is not likely to attract a substantial number of new residents. Further, the community of Dorabelle consists of only 23 separate lots, 18 of which are developed and connected to water service. This project does not propose to extend the water service connections to those parcels where residences have not been developed, further reducing the potential for new residents to be attracted to this area.

B. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

This project does propose to install underground water mains throughout the area, which includes several locations where the construction must cross the road, privately owned in this area. If construction were to occur such that multiple road crossings were dug out simultaneously, access to certain residences could be cut off. For many homes in this area, there is only one access road available, which leaves residents susceptible to road closures. This project is subject to a mitigation measure which requires that the developer stagger the work which occurs within the roadways such that residential access will be continuously maintained. With adherence to that traffic management plan, residents will not be displaced.

* <u>Mitigation Measure</u>

1. See Section IX.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

- A. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the 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?
 - 1. Fire protection;

- 2. Police protection;
- 3. Schools;
- 4. Parks; or
- 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

This project represents rehabilitation and replacement activities of the existing water system in the community of Dorabelle. Approximately 18 residences are served by this system, with a handful of empty lots where water service would be provided in the event of residential development. Dorabelle is attractive both for permanent residences and for vacation homes. Because this project only improves existing conditions and does not propose new facilities, there is no meaningful increase in attractiveness of this property to substantial numbers of the population who would require improved public services. This project will provide a minor beneficial impact on the need for new fire facilities because the proposed improvements will include the installation of new fire hydrants, providing superior coverage than what is existing, and the additional water storage tank is necessary to meet storage and pressure requirements necessary for firefighting activities.

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

- A. 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; or
- B. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are a number of recreational facilities in the vicinity of the project site; however this application will not contribute to an accelerated level of deterioration because there is no increase in residential density proposed as part of this application and no increase in attractiveness of the site which could cause an unanticipated influx of new residents or tourists. Further, there are no project-specific features which would otherwise lead to an increase in the use of local recreational facilities.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; or
- B. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

A limited number of traffic trips will be generated by construction of this project, and approximately two trips each month will be required for maintenance activities, which is consistent with the baseline number of trips required for maintenance of the existing tank. Therefore, due to the limited amount of traffic increase, there will be no adverse impacts on the circulation system.

- C. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?; or
- D. Result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

As previously discussed, this project has the potential result in the temporary loss of access to existing residences. Therefore, a mitigation measure has been placed on this project which requires adherence to a Traffic Management Plan. That plan establishes a schedule of construction which requires the developer to maintain access to all residences at all times. Therefore, potential adverse impacts can be reduced to less than significant.

* Mitigation Measure

1. See Section IX.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
 - 1. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
 - 2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision

(c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The County of Fresno provided notice to the Dumna Wo Wah Tribal Government and the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians on March 19, 2019, after the application was deemed to be complete. The project site was outside the range of interest for two other Native American Tribal Governments who had requested such notice be provided. There was no response to the request for consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notices, as determined by certified mail tracking numbers. Therefore, the Tribal Governments were assumed to have no comments and no concerns regarding this application and no consultation pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 was required.

As discussed in Section V. Cultural Resources, the Cultural Resources Inventory performed at the project site did not identify any existing Tribal or Cultural Resources and the majority of ground-disturbance will occur in areas which were previously excavated during the installation of the original water mains.

However, while the potential to uncover Tribal Resources is low, Shaver Lake contains a number of historic resources, which could be adversely impacted if previously-unknown resources were uncovered during construction. Therefore, the following mitigation measure is proposed which will require the applicant to stop work and follow specific instructions to protect the resource in case one is uncovered.

* Mitigation Measure

1. In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, all work shall be halted in the area of the find. An Archeologist shall be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation recommendations. If human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, no further disturbance is to occur until the Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition. All normal evidence procedures shall be followed by photos, reports, video, etc. If such remains are determined to be Native American, the Sheriff-Coroner must notify the Native American Commission within 24 hours.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

A. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

This project involves the replacement of existing water mains (to be abandoned in place) and this environmental review is being prepared to ensure that no significant environmental impacts will occur. There is a minor benefit from this project in that telecommunications conduit will be installed while the trenches are open, preventing the need to excavate for installation in the future.

With adherence to the mitigation measures discussed throughout this document, the project will have no significant environmental impacts due to the proposed improvements to the water service system.

* Mitigation Measures

- 1. See Section IV.
- 2. See Section IX.
- 3. See Section XVIII.
- B. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years; or
- C. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There is no expansion proposed to the number of residences served by the water system, which will be improved to meet current standards for pressure and storage.

- D. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity
 of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals;
 or
- E. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There will be no generation of solid waste during normal operations of this project. Construction may generate a small amount of waste, but the existing pipelines will be abandoned in place, significantly reducing the final amount of solid waste which will be generated by this project.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- A. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- B. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire; or
- C. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; or
- D. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The project site is located in an area which is classified as a State Responsibility Area with a moderate risk of wildland fire. Due to the fact that the water mains must cross the existing private roads in more than one location, the potential exists for residences to be cut off due to necessary road closure. The mitigation measure, previously identified in Section IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials, requires that development occur in accordance with the approved traffic management plan. That plan establishes phasing of construction within the roadways to ensure that access is maintained to all residences at all times, ensuring that no undue risk occurs to residents as a result of losing access to/from their home.

* Mitigation Measure

1. See Section IX.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- A. Have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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; or
- B. 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); or

C. Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

While the project area is near Shaver Lake where many different animal species exist and where the possibility of uncovering tribal and/or cultural artifacts is high, the scope of this project is generally limited to excavation of ground which has been previously disturbed by installation of the original water mains and existing residential development. Mitigation Measures were proposed to address the possibility of impacts to occurrences of special-status animals and previously-unknown cultural resources; however it is not anticipated that such species or artifacts will be present on the site in numbers great enough to create a cumulative impact.

Emissions from the project (solid, water, and air) will be limited to the construction period and scattered traffic trips for maintenance purposes. This does not present a cumulatively considerable impact.

Completion of the project will bring the existing water system up to existing standards, which will provide a beneficial impact to the members of the community.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Director Review and Approval Application No. 4576, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Mineral Resources, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems

Potential impacts related to Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Noise have been determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts relating to Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire have determined to be less than significant with compliance with the identified Mitigation Measures..

A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the Director of the Department of Public Works and Planning. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, street level, located on the southwest corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

CMM

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County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project title:

Director Review and Approval No. 4576 Dorabelle Water System Improvements

2. Lead agency name and address:

County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721

3. Contact person and phone number:

Chrissy Monfette (559) 600-4245

4. Project location:

The tank site is located on the northwestern corner of the intersection of Finch Lane and Aspen Lane. The water mains run along the rear of properties within the community of Dorabelle, generally parallel to N. Elderberry Lane, in the unincorporated community of Shaver Lake. (Tank Site APN: 120-211-01) (SUP. DIST. 5)

5. Project sponsor's name and address:

Danny Clemmensen 440 W. Indio Lane Clovis, CA 93619

6. General Plan designation:

Mountain Residential

7. Zoning:

R-1-C (M): Single Family Residential (9,000-square-foot minimum parcel size), Mountain Overlay

8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including, but not limited to, later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Allow installation of a new 15,000-gallon water storage tank next to the existing 15,000-gallon water storage tank; abandon the existing water main transmission lines in place; install new 4-inch water main transmission lines alongside the abandoned mains; abandon four existing fire hydrants and install four new hydrants; and install new utility and communication conduits within the same trenches in the unincorporated community of Dorabelle (also known as Dora Belle).

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:

The project site is located within a mountain residential community known as Dorabelle. Most of the parcels in Dorabelle have been developed with single-family residences, a trend which continues to the south. The remaining land adjacent to this community is natural forest with some development to support a campground to the northeast.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

Dorabelle Mutual Water Company

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Notice was provided to two Native American Tribal Governments whose areas of historic association overlapped the project site. Two Tribal Governments were outside the range of notification. Neither notified Tribal Government provided a response.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.				
Aesthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources			
Air Quality	Biological Resources			
Cultural Resources	Energy			
Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology/Water Quality			
Land Use/Planning	Mineral Resources			
Noise	Population/Housing			
Public Services	Recreation			
Transportation	Tribal Cultural Resources			
Utilities/Service Systems	Wildfire			
Mandatory Findings of Significance				
DETERMINATION OF REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:				
On the basis of this initial evaluation:				
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment. 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 the Mitigation Measures described on the attached sheet have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.				
I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required				
I find that as a result of the proposed project, no new effects could occur, or new Mitigation Measures would be required that have not been addressed within the scope of a previous Environmental Impact Report.				
PERFORMED BY:	REVIEWED BY:			
Chrissy Monfette, Planner	Marianne Mollring, Senior Planner			
Date: Sentember 18, 2019	Date: 9-18-19			

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INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

(Initial Study Application No. 7585 and Director Review and Approval Application No. 4576)

The following checklist is used to determine if the proposed project could potentially have a significant effect on the environment. Explanations and information regarding each question follow the checklist.

- 1 = No Impact
- 2 = Less Than Significant Impact
- 3 = Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
- 4 = Potentially Significant Impact

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- 2 a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- 2 b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- _2 c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?
- ____ d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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 in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?
- 1 c) Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production?
- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- 2 a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan?
- _2 b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?
- _2 c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- _1_ b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- ______ c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- ______d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- _1 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?

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064,5?
- ______b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- ____ c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

VI. ENERGY

- a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?
- b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

GEOLOGY AND SOILS HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY VII. Would the project: Would the project: a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? 1_ Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alguist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project on other substantial evidence of a known fault? may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? Strong seismic ground shaking? c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? 1_ area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream iv) Landslides? 1 or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation b) Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil? 1 on or off site? c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that 1_ Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; d) Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the 1 the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage or indirect risks to life or property? systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems iv) Impede or redirect flood flows? where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of d) water? pollutants due to project inundation? f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological 1_ e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality resource or site or unique geologic feature? control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS LAND USE AND PLANNING XI. Would the project: Would the project: a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or a) Physically divide an established community? 3_ indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? 1 b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? XII. MINERAL RESOURCES HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project: Would the project: a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment state? through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral materials? resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment Specific Plan or other land use plan? through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into XIII. NOISE the environment? Would the project result in: 2 c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely 2 a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess mile of an existing or proposed school? of standards established in the local general plan or noise 1 d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant b) Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or groundborne noise levels? hazard to the public or the environment? 1 e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where _1__c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public 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 or public use airport, would the project result in a safety airport, would the project expose people residing or working hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in in the project area to excessive noise levels? the project area? Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an <u>3</u> f)

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and

Would the project:

adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation

significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a

plan?

3

businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

_3 b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the 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:

1 i) Fire protection?

1 ii) Police protection?

1 iii) Schools?

1 iv) Parks?

1 v) Other public facilities?

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

a) 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?

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

_3 c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

3 d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

 i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

3 ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

 a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which 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?

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

_3 a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

_3 c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

_3 d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

a) Have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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) 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)

2 c) Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Documents Referenced:

This Initial Study is referenced by the documents listed below. These documents are available for public review at the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Fresno, California (corner of M & Tulare Streets).

Fresno County General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Policy Document, and Final EIR Fresno County Zoning Ordinance

Important Farmland 2014 Map, State Department of Conservation

- Dam Breach Inundation Map Web Publisher, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Safety of Dams: https://fmds.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=dam_prototype_v2, accessed August 23, 2019
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database: http://bios.dfg.ca.gov, accessed August 24, 2019
- California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) System, originally published in: Zeiner, D.C., W.F.Laudenslayer, Jr., K.E. Mayer, and M. White, eds. 1988-1990. Accessed via https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Birds August 23, 2019.
- NEPAssist Enviromapper, United Stated Environmental Protection Agency, Accessed August 22, 2019. Sources include: Brownfields Inventory (Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange System), Radiation Information Database, Toxic Substances Control Act, National Priorities List, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home, Accessed August 29, 2019
- Cultural Resource Inventory for the Dora Bell [sic] Mutual Water Company Water Line and Storage Tank Installation Project in Shaver Lake, Fresno County, California, prepared by Randy L. Ottenhoff and Diana T. Dyste. Applied Earthworks, Inc. Dated July 2019

CMM

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File original and one cop	y with:	S	pace Below For C	ounty	Clerk Only.			
Fresno County Clerk								
2221 Kern Stree								
Fresno, Califori	nia 93721							
			LK-2046.00 E04-73	P00-00				
Agency File No:			AGENCY	K00-00	County Clerk File No:			
IS 7585			MITIGATED	_	E-			
Responsible Agency (Na	me).	NEGATIVE D	ECLARATION et and P.O. Box):		City: Zip Code:			
Fresno County	,	20 Tulare St. Sixth	*		Fresno			
Agency Contact Person			Area Co	ode:	Telephone Number:			
Chrissy Monfette, Planner			559		600-4245 N/		4	
Project Applicant/Sponso	or (Name):		Project	Title:	:			
Danny Clemmensei	n obo Dorabel	le Mutual Water Co	DRA 4	1576:	Dorabelle Water System	n Improvem	ents	
Project Description:			I					
Allow installation	of a new 1	5.000-gallon wa	ater storage	tank	next to the existing	15.000-ga	allon water	
			_		lines in place; insta			
					pandon four existing			
				nmui	nication conduits wit	hin the sa	me trenches	
in the unincorpo	rated comm	nunity of Dorabe	lle					
Justification for Negative	Declaration:							
	··· 1 O 1		. 5		1.0 11 (1.01)	4570 (***	
Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Director Review and Approval Application No. 4576, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that								
there would be no impacts to Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Mineral Resources, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems								
Potential impacts related to Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Noise have been determined to be less than significant.								
Potential impacts relating to Biological Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning,								
Population and Housing, Transportation, and Wildfire have determined to be less than significant with								
compliance with the identified Mitigation Measures.								
FINDING:								
The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.								
Newspaper and Date of Publication:			Review Date Deadline:					
Fresno Business Journal – September 23, 2019								
Date:	Type or Print Sign	nature:			Submitted by (Signature):			
	Marianne N	Nollring, Senior Pl	lanner		Chrissy Monfette, Pla	anner		

State 15083, 15085

County Clerk File No.:_____

LOCAL AGENCY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

То:	☐ Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814 ☐ County Clerk, County of Fresno 2221 Kern Street Fresno, CA 93721				
From:	Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects 2220 Tulare Street (corner of Tulare and "M") Suite "A", Fresno, CA 93721				
Subject:	Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21152 of the Public Resource Code				
Project:	Initial Study Application No. 7585, and Director Review and Approval No. 4576				
Location:	The tank site is located on the northwestern corner of the intersection of Finch Lane and Aspen Lane. The water mains run generally along the rear of properties within the community of Dorabelle, generally parallel to N. Elderberry Lane.				
Sponsor:	Dorabelle Mutual Water Company				
Description	Description: Allow installation of a new 15,000-gallon water storage tank next to the existing 15,000-gallon water storage tank; abandon the existing water main transmission lines in place; install new 4-inch water main transmission lines alongside the abandoned mains; abandon four existing fire hydrants and install four new hydrants; and install new utility and communication conduits within the same trenches in the unincorporated community of Dorabelle.				
	advise that the County of Fresno (Lead Agency Responsible Agency) by Lead Agency Responsible Agency) and the above described project on DATE, and has made the following stion:				
1. The p	The project \square will \boxtimes will not have a significant effect on the environment.				
pursu	\boxtimes An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) <u>was not</u> prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. $/ \boxtimes$ A Mitigated Negative Declaration <u>was</u> prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.				

3. proj	3. Mitigation Measures \boxtimes were \square were not made a condition of approval for the project.						
4. A statement of Overriding Consideration \square was \boxtimes was not adopted for this project.							
This is to certify that the Initial Study with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Corner of Tulare and "M" Streets, Fresno, California.							
	issy Monfette, Planner 9) 600-4245 / CMonfette@co.fresno.us	Date					
`	60Devs&Pln\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\DRA\4500-4599\4576\IS-CEQA\DRA 4576 No	DD - draft.docx					

Operational Statement

Dora Belle is an unincorporated community located in Fresno County just north of Shaver Lake. This rural community is comprised of 23 separate lots, and 18 of those lots are occupied by a dwelling unit that is serviced by the water system owned and operated by Dora Belle Mutual Water Company. Dora Belle's existing water system has deficiencies in four of its five components, and as a result, the water system does not satisfy various standards of drinking water systems and does not comply with current Cal Fire regulations. Deficiencies begin with the water pumps because they are reaching the limit of their designed life span. The water pumps no longer provide a sufficient fill-up rate to the water storage tank to comply with local standards. From there, the next deficiency is with the degradation of the water main pipeline. The water system's main transmission lines are 40 years old and have a designed life span of 50 years. They existing transmission lines are made up of asbestos concrete pipe, which is not an approved material standard for water mains per Title 22 Division 4 Chapter 16 Article 4 Section 64570 of the California Code of Regulations. Additionally, there are issues with the fire hydrants due to their improper size and type as required by California Fire Code Title 24 Part 9 Chapter 5 Section 507.5. As a result, they are not providing enough pressure to assist in firefighting efforts. Lastly, another deficiency rests with the existing water storage capacity. Dora Belle's existing single 15,500-gal storage tank does not meet the correct volume of storage and design in accordance with California Fire Code Title 24 Part 9 Chapter 5 Section 507.2.2, NFPA 1142, and NFPA 22.

The existing water system's degraded water main pipeline can be remedied by installing new water main transmission lines. The existing water main will be abandoned in place and the proposed 4" water main will be installed adjacent to the existing water main. Along with installing new water mains, the existing water service connection will also be replaced with up-to-date water service boxes. The problem with the existing fire hydrants is recommended to be remedied by installing new fire hydrants, which would involve installing 4 new fire hydrants in strategic locations throughout the community providing accurate coverage throughout the service area. The existing fire hydrants will be abandoned in place. The current insufficient amount of water storage capacity can be remedied by installing a second 15,500-gal water storage tank alongside the existing water storage tank.

As part of an ongoing collaboration between Dora Belle Mutual Water Company and Ponderosa Telephone Company, new utility and communication conduits will be installed adjacent to the new 4" water main. Given that the scope of the water system reconstruction involves digging trenches, both companies have agreed to utilize this opportunity to install both of these lines in order to prevent having to reopen trenches at a later date.

The projected life span of the proposed water system is estimated at 60 years. The estimated start date of construction is set for Monday July 1, 2019. Completion of construction shall be within 60 calendar days from receiving the "Notice to Proceed" and all construction shall be completed in accordance to the plans and specifications. Preconstruction activities are estimated to be carried out within the first 15 days. Construction activities are estimated to be carried out within 35 days. Postconstruction and close-out activities are estimated to be carried out within the last 10 days. All construction work will be performed in eight-hour workdays, five days per week, during the hours of 8AM to 5PM, and all operational activities will occur

outdoors. The proposed tank and pump system will be running throughout the day all hours of the day as needed to fill up the proposed and existing tanks, depending on usage.

The number of customers or visitors anticipated to be entering and exiting the jobsite area on average is one per day, with a maximum of three per day, typically between the hours of 10AM and 4PM. The customers in this case are the residents of the community serviced by Dora Belle Mutual Water Company. No employees from the Dora Belle Mutual Water Company are anticipated to be entering and exiting the jobsite area because the existing water system is automated and a schedule of operational hours is not applicable. The type of service/delivery vehicles expected to visit the jobsite area will be propane delivery vehicles. These vehicles are anticipated to visit the jobsite area approximately three times per week and only during the weekdays. Access to the jobsite will be via a paved public road. Parking for contractor's employees and service/delivery vehicles will be on the driveway leading up to the existing water storage tank. Materials and equipment necessary for each stage of the project will be temporarily stored in parcel number 13 of block 214 of Book 120 of the Assessor's Map, which is where the two existing wells are located (on the property of Dorra Belle Mutual Water Company). There will be no goods being sold on-site.

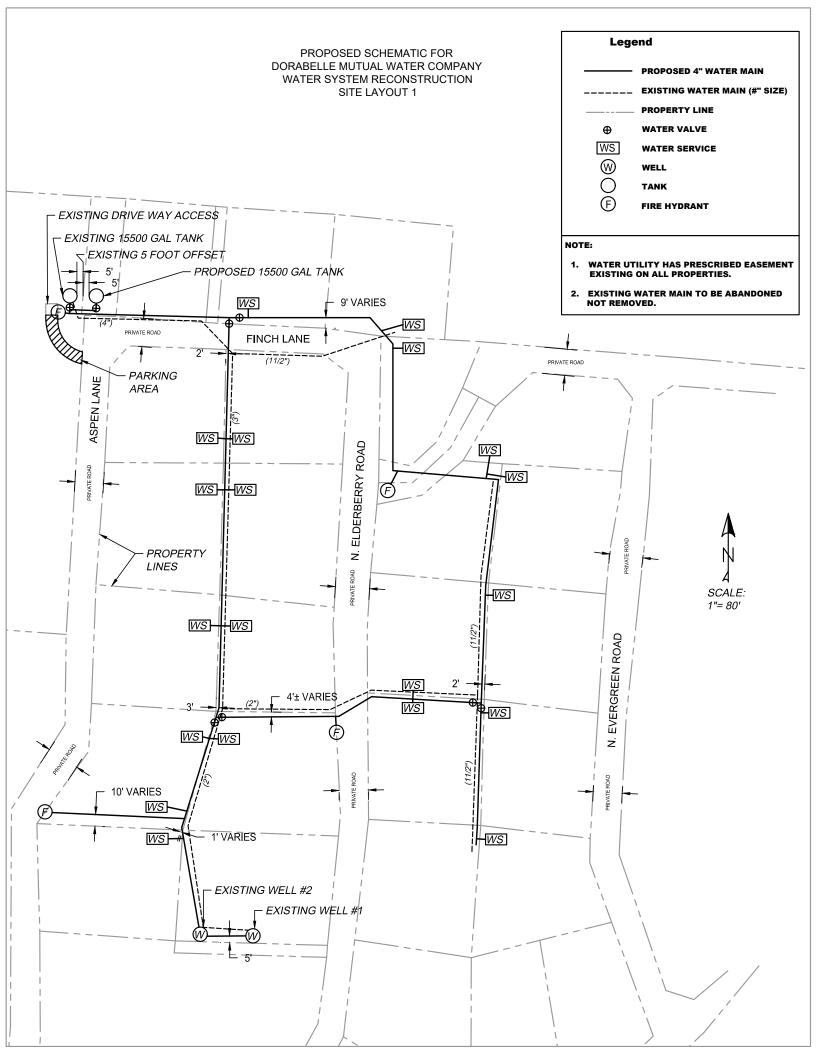
Equipment expected to be used at the jobsite is the following: excavator, shovels, digging and mixing machinery. Supplies which will be brought onto the jobsite are the following: PVC pipe, Ductile Iron Pipe, HDPE, asphalt and concrete. These supplies and materials will be stored in accordance with best practices identified through the Water Pollution Control Program. An estimated 200 gallons of water per day is estimated to be required for this project, which will be withdrawn locally from the existing pump. Advertising will not be installed anywhere around the jobsite.

Noise and dust disturbances will be caused by the use of the equipment and supplies listed above. These disturbances will be reduced by means of best management practices established by the Water Pollution Control Program. This project is not anticipated to produce liquid or solid waste that will need to be stored or hauled away. Since all work will be performed during daylight hours, no outdoor lighting or outdoor sound amplification system will be used for this project. Landscaping or fencing is not proposed for this project. New buildings will not be required because existing pump well housing will be rehabilitated.

This Project along with the entire water main distribution system is owned by the Dora Belle Mutual Water Company. The existing tank is in within the property of Southern California Edison, due to the age of this tank (over 10 years) the board has no documentation on the existing easement with Edison, but it was covered after 7 years as a prescribed easement. This tank will be moved to the Mutual's property as soon as it needs to be replaced. The new tank is being built within the Mutual's property, and the proposed 4-inch water main will cross property owners private property for distribution. The Water Company has a blanket easement everywhere the water main routes, and every property owner is a part owner of the water company through shares.

The Board Members of Dora Belle Mutual Water Company are the following: Danny Clemmensen serves as the President, Secretary, and Treasurer; Allyn Wightman serves as the Vice President; and Rob Chepernich serves as Director. The majority of the improvements to the water system will occur through private property, and Dora Belle Mutual Water Company has encroachment permits which allow it to perform the work outlined in the plans and

specifications of this project. The improvements will cross the county's right-of-way at two locations. On the northern part of the jobsite, the new 4" water main will cross Finch Lane alongside where the existing water main is currently located. Similarly, in the central part of the jobsite, the 4" water main will cross Elderberry Road parallel to the existing water main.





SOLITUDE

Prepared by: County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning

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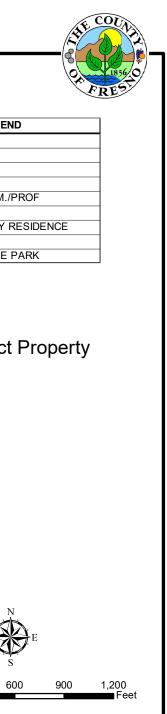
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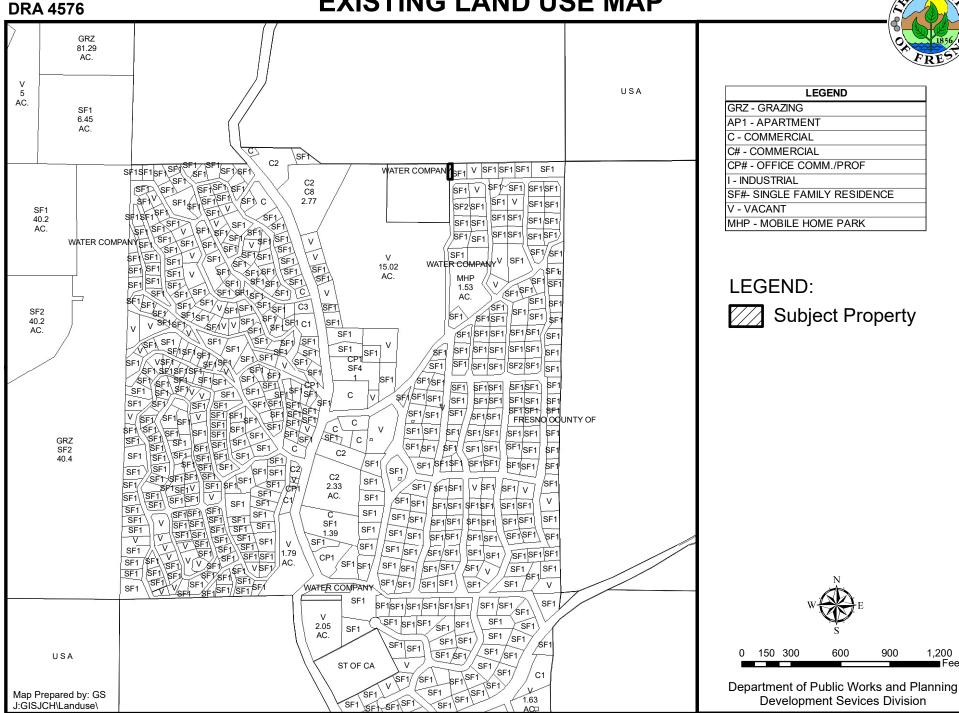
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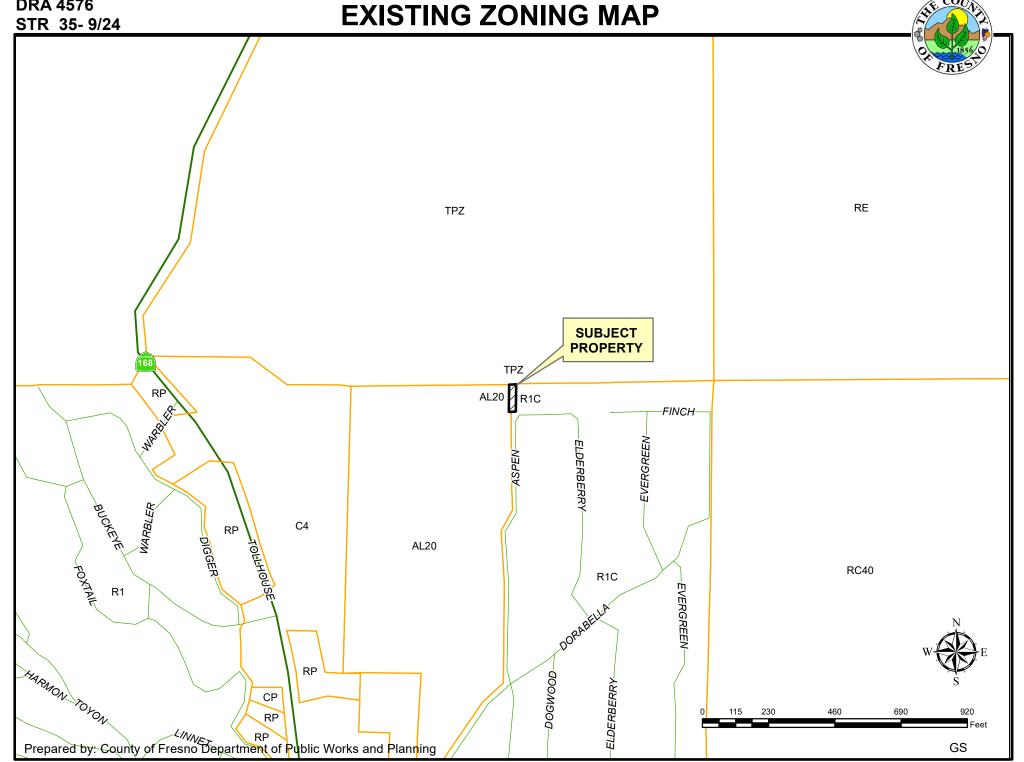
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DRA 4576

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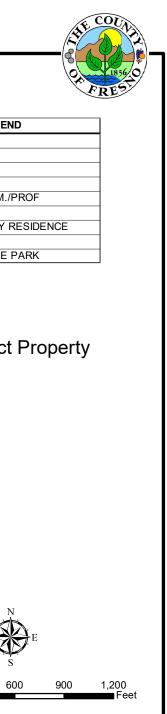


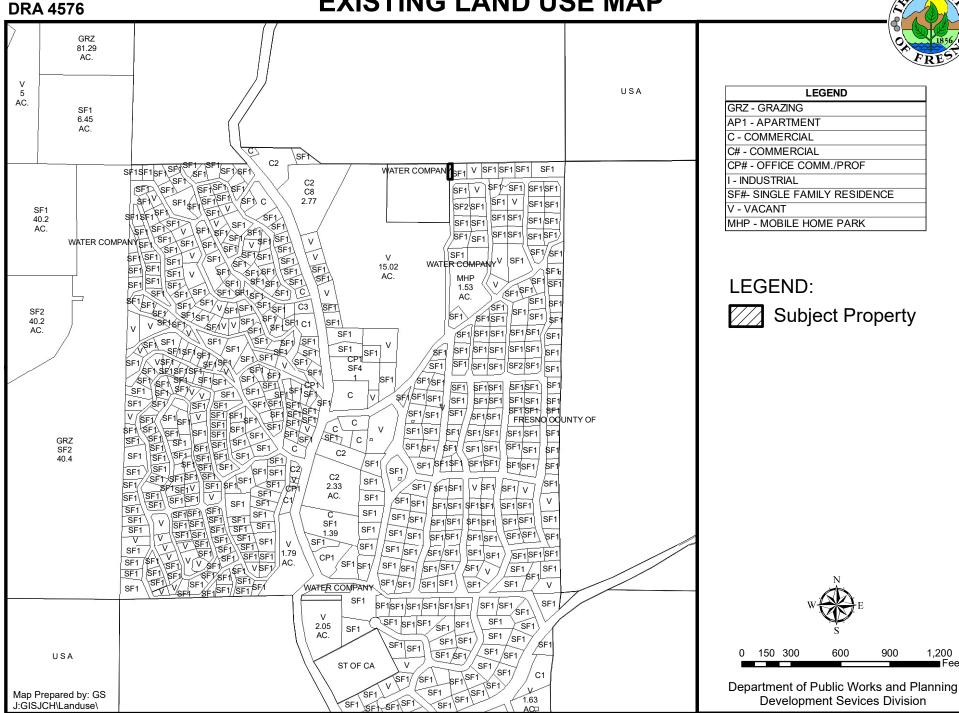


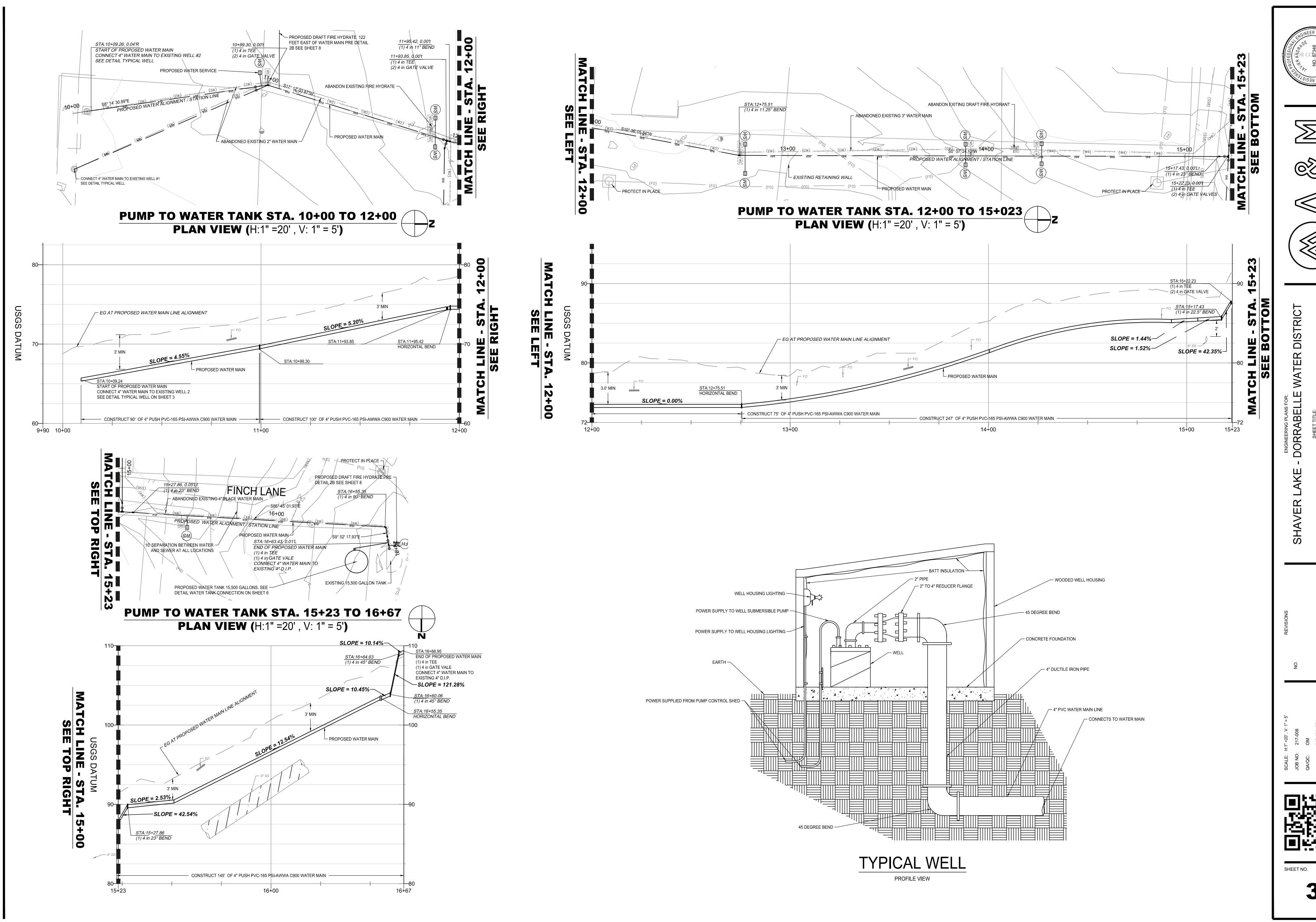


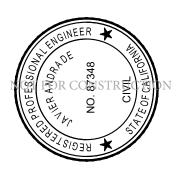
DRA 4576

EXISTING LAND USE MAP

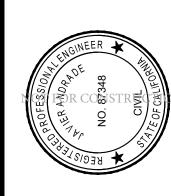














DISTRICT WATER .DERBERRY ORRABELLE

SHAVER



SHEET NO.



SHEET NO.

