



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: April 8, 2020

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT: Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project

LEAD AGENCY: Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties about the initiation of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project ("proposed Project") that Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale) and Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) will jointly carry out through the Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority (Authority). Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15051(d), Rosedale will serve as the Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) until the Authority is formed. Rosedale and IRWD have agreed that Rosedale will perform the lead agency role until the Authority is formed, and the Authority will assume the role thereafter. In addition, the EIR will be prepared in accordance with the CEQA-Plus requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to fulfill the requirement of potential federal funding partners to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed Project would allow Rosedale and IRWD to more effectively manage sources of water supply by using available underground storage in the local San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. To do that, Rosedale and IRWD would develop a water bank and associated water conveyance facilities in the Kern Fan area of Kern County, California (**Figure 1**). The proposed Project would recharge, store, recover, and deliver State Water Project (SWP) water, including Article 21 water, and water from other sources when available. The stored water would be used to provide ecosystem benefits downstream from the SWP's Lake Oroville and provide supply reliability for agricultural, municipal and industrial uses. The proposed Project would include construction and operation of water conveyance water recharge and recovery facilities.

PROJECT LOCATION: Rosedale and IRWD would partner to implement the proposed Project through the agreements set forth by the Authority. Up to 1,300 acres of land would be acquired for the proposed Project within or near Rosedale's service area in western Kern County for the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The proposed Project would also involve the acquisition of easements for construction, operation and maintenance of the new Kern Fan Conveyance Facilities that would deliver water to and from the California Aqueduct.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS: Rosedale is soliciting comments from responsible and trustee agencies as well as interested parties as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the proposed Project description provided in this NOP (see Attachment A) and to provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of each responsible or trustee agency. The EIR may be used by Rosedale, IRWD and the Authority when considering approval of the proposed Project as well as any related discretionary approvals.

COMMENT PERIOD: In accordance with the time limits mandated by CEQA, comments on the NOP must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this notice. Please send your comments to the contact person shown below, by 4:00 p.m. on May 8, 2020. Please include a return address and contact name with your comments.

Contact: Eric Averett
General Manager
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
P.O. Box 20820
Bakersfield, CA 93390-0820
Telephone: (661) 589-6045
Email: eaverett@rrbwsd.com

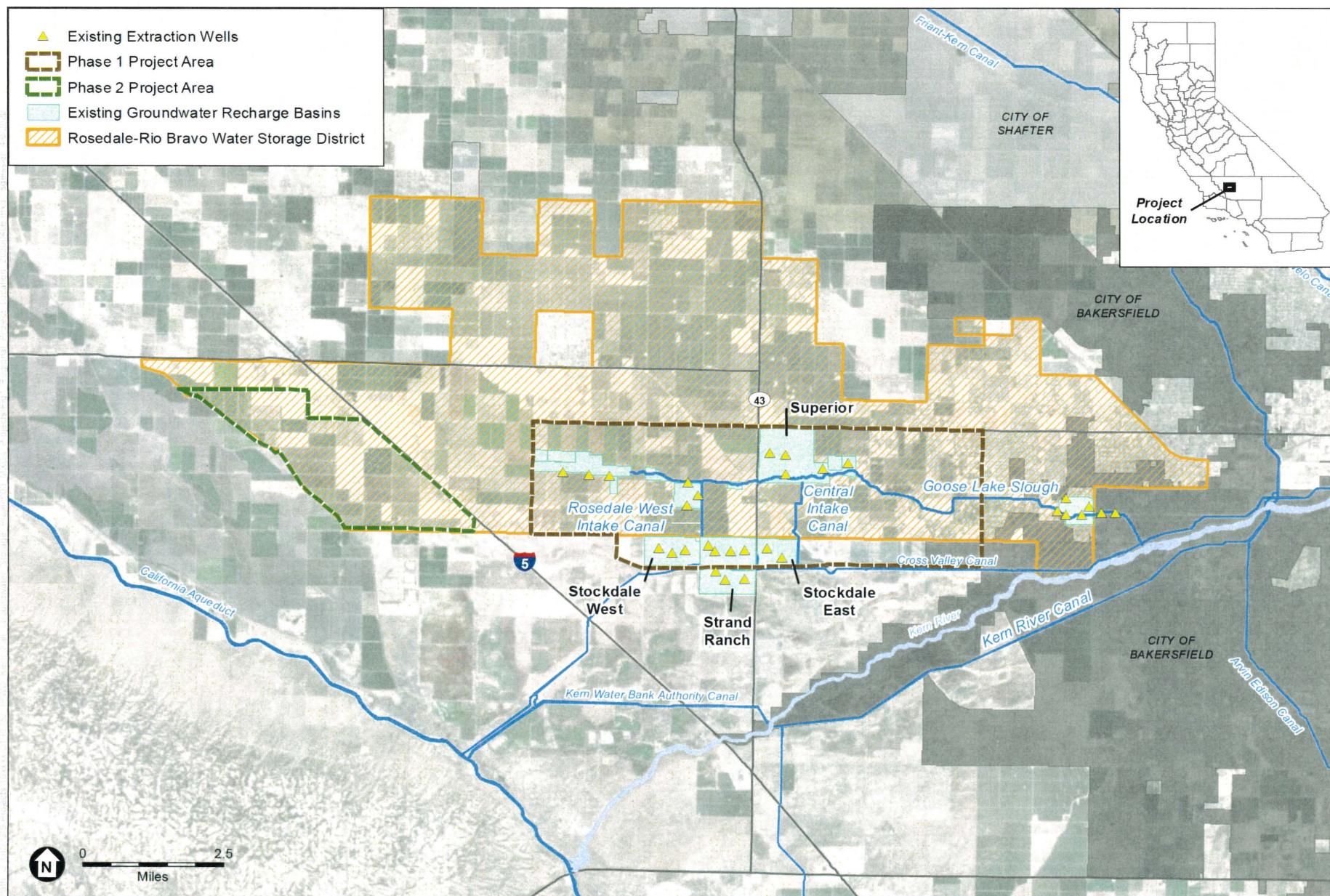
DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The NOP may be downloaded from the Rosedale and IRWD Websites at the following locations:

- <https://www.rrbwsd.com/newsletter-notices>
- <https://www.irwd.com/doing-business/environmental-documents>

SCOPING MEETINGS: One public meeting will be conducted virtually utilizing Zoom and telephonically to receive comments and suggestions concerning the issues to be included in the EIR. The scoping meeting will include a brief presentation, providing an overview of the proposed Project. After the presentation, public comments will be accepted orally. Written comments also may be submitted anytime during the 30-day NOP review period ending at 4:00 p.m. on May 8, 2020. The scoping meeting will be held as follows:

Virtual Scoping Meeting Details

Date:	April 29, 2020
Time:	9:00 AM
Zoom:	https://zoom.us/join
Telephone Dial-in:	(669) 900-6833
Meeting ID:	646 423 721
Meeting Password:	447 319
Submit Written Comments to:	Eric Averett General Manager Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District P.O. Box 20820, Bakersfield, CA 93390-0820 eaverett@rrbwsd.com



SOURCE: ESRI; Kern County

Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project

Figure 1

Regional Project Location

ATTACHMENT A

Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project

1. Introduction

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) initiates California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project ("proposed Project") that Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale) and Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) propose to jointly carry out through the Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority (Authority). Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15051(d), until the Authority is formed, Rosedale will serve as the Lead Agency under CEQA for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Rosedale and IRWD have agreed that Rosedale will perform the lead agency role until the Authority is formed, and the Authority will assume the role thereafter. In addition, the EIR will be prepared in accordance with the CEQA-Plus requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to fulfill the requirement of potential federal funding partners to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed Project would allow Rosedale and IRWD to more effectively manage sources of water supply by using available underground storage in the local San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. To do that, Rosedale and IRWD would develop water recharge and recovery facilities in the Kern Fan area of Kern County, California (Figure 1). The proposed Project would recharge, store, recover and deliver State Water Project (SWP) water, including Article 21 water, and water from other sources when available. The stored water would be used to provide ecosystem benefits downstream from the SWP's Lake Oroville and supply reliability benefits for agricultural, and municipal and industrial (M&I) uses. The proposed Project would involve the construction and operation of water conveyance, recharge and recovery facilities.

2. Project Background

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Rosedale is located west of Bakersfield and encompasses approximately 44,150 acres in Kern County, with 27,500 acres developed as irrigated agriculture and approximately 7,500 acres developed for urban uses. Rosedale's service area overlies the Kern County Sub-basin ("sub-basin") of the larger San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin, and was established in 1959 to develop a groundwater recharge program to offset overdraft conditions in the underlying sub-basin. Rosedale currently manages more than 500,000 acre-feet (AF) of stored water in the underlying sub-basin, which has an estimated total storage capacity in excess of 1.7 million AF. Water supplies for Rosedale's programs, including its Conjunctive Use Program, are provided by participating water agencies and include high-flow Kern River water and supplies from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP. Currently, the infrastructure for Rosedale's programs

includes over 1,000 acres of recharge basins and several recovery wells (Figure 1). The Conjunctive Use Program and other Rosedale programs provide a maximum annual recharge of more than 250,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), maximum annual recovery of more than 60,000 AFY, and underground storage of more than 1,000,000 AF.

Irvine Ranch Water District

IRWD was established in 1961 as a California Water District pursuant to the California Water District Law (California Water Code, Division 13). IRWD provides drinking water, sewage collection and treatment, recycled water and urban runoff treatment to approximately 422,000 residents encompassing 181 square miles in central Orange County. IRWD has a diverse water supply that includes local groundwater, recycled water, imported water, local surface water, and water banking facilities. Approximately 54 percent of the IRWD water supply comes from 26 local groundwater wells; 18 percent is imported from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; and 26 percent from recycled water.

IRWD currently participates in Rosedale's Conjunctive Use Program through IRWD's Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project and Stockdale Integrated Banking Project (Stockdale Project) (Figure 1).

State Water Project

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) delivers water to 29 SWP contractors through the California Aqueduct, including 21 contractors located south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The SWP Water Supply Contract for each contractor includes a "Table A" amount specifying the maximum amount of SWP water that can be requested for delivery each year. DWR's initial Table A water allocation in early winter typically is adjusted through spring to reflect the evolving variable conditions affecting water availability. Rosedale currently receives SWP Table A water through a water supply contract with Kern County Water Agency, an SWP contractor. IRWD is a landowner in the Dudley Ridge Water District, which is also an SWP contractor.

In addition to allocating Table A water, DWR periodically makes water supplies available under Article 21 of the SWP contracts. "Article 21" states that DWR will offer to sell and deliver water during a year in which a surplus is available. The proposed Project would increase Kern County's ability to capture, store and reregulate Article 21 water for beneficial use. In certain circumstances, when the amount of Article 21 water is greater than existing SWP contractor demands ("unallocated"), the proposed Project would increase the overall water within the SWP system, reduce the loss of water to the ocean, and provide ecosystem benefits in accordance with the proposed Project's funding conditions.

Previous CEQA Documentation

An EIR was prepared, certified, and approved by Rosedale and IRWD in December 2015 for the Stockdale Project. The EIR evaluated the Stockdale East and Stockdale West recharge and recovery sites (Figure 1), and a potential third project site (collectively Stockdale Properties) that would be located within the vicinity of both east and west properties. Because the location of the

third project site had not been identified, a program level analysis of impacts was provided in the EIR. All or a portion of the third project site analyzed at a program level in the Stockdale Project's EIR may be designated as Phase 1 under the proposed Project. Phase 2 of the proposed Project would involve construction and operation of additional recharge and recovery facilities within or near the Rosedale service area.

3. Project Objectives

The objectives of the proposed Project are as follows:

- Capture, recharge and store water from the SWP, and other available water supplies for later use.
- Provide ecosystem public benefits, emergency water supply public benefits during extended droughts or a Delta levee failure, and water supply benefits for agricultural and M&I uses.
- Provide operating flexibility for Rosedale's existing and future conjunctive use programs.
- Assist in achieving groundwater sustainability within the Kern County Sub-basin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin through implementation of projects consistent with California Executive Order N-10-19 directing state agencies to develop a "water resilience portfolio."
- Provide Rosedale and IRWD customers and partners with increased water supply reliability during periods when other supply sources may be reduced or interrupted.

4. Purpose and Need for the Project

California has a Mediterranean climate with a highly variable precipitation and hydrology regime; typically, each year includes a winter wet season when water demand is lowest and a summer dry season when water demand is highest. The result of a highly-variable hydrologic regime is the periodic availability of surface water supplies that exceed demands but cannot be utilized due to insufficient storage capacity. Additionally, during dry years and extreme drought conditions, there are insufficient water supplies to meet demands. To improve availability and reliability of water supplies, additional capture and storage is needed for sustainable water supply management in California. The purpose of the proposed Project is to increase the reliability of water supplies during dry years by capturing and storing surplus surface water that would otherwise be lost.

The proposed Project has received a conditional award of funding through the California Water Commission's Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). The WSIP is funded by the Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014. The purpose of the WSIP is to fund water storage projects that provide public benefits, improve operation of the state water system, and provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions. The proposed Project was analyzed in the Storage Integration Study (2017) prepared by the Association of California Water Agencies. This study defined and quantified the benefits of integrating the operation of new storage projects with existing SWP and CVP operations to help fulfill statewide water supply needs and priorities. Eight projects were described in this study that could provide

such benefits, including the proposed Project.

There is approximately 1.7 million AF of storage within the aquifer underlying the Rosedale service area. The purpose of the proposed Project is to augment the recharge, storage, and extraction capabilities of existing programs and provide greater operational flexibility to Rosedale. By storing additional surface water underground in Kern County, the proposed Project would benefit groundwater levels in the Kern County Sub-basin and help support groundwater sustainability efforts required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. In addition, the proposed Project would enhance water supply reliability for IRWD and its partners by augmenting supplies for periods when other sources may be limited or unavailable.

The proposed Project is consistent with water management goals of California. In its Water Resiliency Portfolio (2020), the State renewed its commitment to integrated water management as a means to provide reliable, sustainable and secure water resources and management systems, which includes improving water supply reliability, reducing groundwater overdraft and land subsidence, and protecting water quality and environmental conditions.

5. Project Location

The proposed Project would be located in western Kern County, west of the City of Bakersfield. The proposed recharge and recovery facilities would be constructed in two phases on approximately 1,300 acres of agricultural or vacant land within or near the Rosedale service area (Figure 1).

6. Project Description

The proposed Project would consist of construction of up to 1,300 acres of recharge basin facilities and approximately 12 recovery wells. The Kern Fan Conveyance Facilities would consist of pipelines, pump stations and a new turnout at the California Aqueduct to convey water between the project facilities and the California Aqueduct. Water stored by the proposed Project would be recovered when needed to provide ecosystem and water supply benefits.

The proposed Project would be operated such that surplus surface water from the SWP and other available water sources would be recharged and stored for subsequent recovery. It is estimated that the Project would be able to recharge and store approximately 100,000 AFY. Project capacities are to be allocated as follows:

Up to 25 percent, or up to 25,000 AF, of the “unallocated” Article 21 water would be stored for DWR in an “Ecosystem Account.” Through the implementation of 1-for-1 exchanges, the water stored in the Ecosystem Account would be used by the State of California to alleviate stress on endangered and threatened species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta during critically dry years.

The remaining 75,000 AF of storage capacity would be divided equally, with 37,500 AF of storage capacity allocated to Rosedale and 37,500 AF of storage capacity allocated to IRWD. Rosedale and IRWD would use the water recharged in their respective accounts for agriculture and M&I uses, improving water supply reliability during droughts and emergencies.

The proposed Project would be implemented in two phases; each phase would construct up to approximately 640 acres of recharge and recovery facilities within the project area (Figure 1). Water could be conveyed to and from the Phase 1 and 2 properties through existing facilities and a new turnout and conveyance system (Kern Fan Conveyance Facilities) connecting to the California Aqueduct. Project operations would be coordinated with Rosedale's Conjunctive Use Program. The following sections describe the proposed facilities.

Recharge Facilities

The proposed Project would include the construction of recharge basins of varying shape, size and depth within approximately 1,300 acres. Basins would be formed by excavating and contouring existing soils to form earthen berms. Typical basin berms would be approximately 3 to 6 feet above ground.

Dirt roads approximately 14 to 20 feet wide would run along the perimeter of and in between all basins to provide access to facilities during operation and maintenance activities. Surface water would be delivered to the basins for recharge through the new Kern Fan Conveyance Facilities, and the basins would be connected by check structures to allow recharge water to flow by gravity among basins. The basins would be managed to allow agricultural land uses (e.g., annual farming or grazing) to continue when the basins are empty.

Recharge Water Supplies

The proposed Project would receive, recharge and store SWP Article 21 water, which is a surplus supply managed by DWR, as described above. Other water supplies also may be secured and acquired by Rosedale and IRWD from various sources, that may include federal, state, and local supplies through transfers, balanced and unbalanced water exchange agreements, water purchases or temporary transfers, or other available means. Sources may also include supplies from the CVP, and high-flow Kern River water depending on annual hydrologic availability, water rights and regulatory considerations.

Recovery Facilities

The proposed Project would construct up to 12 extraction wells, with an anticipated annual recovery capacity of up to 50,000 AF. Each well would be designed to pump groundwater at a recovery rate of approximately 5 to 6 cubic feet per second (cfs). Actual recovery rates for each well may be slightly more or less based on aquifer conditions at each well site. If higher production is achieved for the first few wells installed, fewer wells may be needed. Additionally, if any agricultural wells exist on the recharge basin sites, these could potentially be used as production wells or monitoring wells. The proposed recovery facilities would be designed and located to minimize potential effects on wells pumping on adjacent properties, similar to the wells constructed for the Stockdale Project.

Conveyance Facilities

The proposed Project includes a new turnout, additional canals and pipelines, and pump stations (collectively the "Kern Fan Conveyance Facilities") to convey water to and from the California Aqueduct and proposed recharge and recovery facilities. The exact locations of the new

conveyance facilities have not yet been determined but would have up to 500 cfs of conveyance capacity. Subject to necessary approvals, water could be conveyed through the SWP, Friant-Kern Canal or the Kern River by exchange through the Goose Lake Channel, or from the Cross Valley Canal (CVC) through the Rosedale Intake Canal.

Groundwater recovered from the Project extraction wells would be conveyed through new pipelines that would be below ground, running along the dirt roads between the recharge basins or buried in the basin bottoms, with exact locations subject to final well placement, similar to existing facilities constructed by Rosedale and IRWD for the Stockdale Project. The recovery pipelines would connect to the new Kern Fan Conveyance Facilities or could connect to the CVC via existing conveyance facilities.

7. Discussion of Environmental Effects

In accordance with Section 15126 of the CEQA Guidelines, the EIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that will likely result from construction and operation of the proposed Project, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects and growth-inducing effects. The EIR will assess the significance of any adverse physical effects from facilities and activities associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15161). Recovery operations for the Project will be analyzed at a programmatic level (CEQA Guidelines Section 15168); other Project elements will be analyzed at a project level (CEQA Guidelines Section 15161). The EIR will identify any feasible mitigation measures if necessary to avoid or reduce any significant adverse effects of the proposed Project. The EIR also will assess a no-project alternative and will evaluate a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the proposed Project, if such alternatives were needed to avoid or reduce any significant adverse effects of the proposed Project. Potential adverse physical effects of the proposed Project are summarized below.

Aesthetics

The existing aesthetic quality of the proposed Project area is dominated by rural agriculture. The proposed Project would alter the visual character of the project sites and their surroundings by converting agricultural land uses to recharge basins and conveyance facilities. The recharge basins would be managed to allow agricultural land uses to continue, such as annual farming or grazing. The EIR will evaluate the potential for the proposed Project to adversely affect aesthetic resources, including visual character and quality, scenic vistas, and new sources of light and glare.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The proposed Project would increase the amount and reliability of groundwater supplies available for irrigated agriculture in the region and contribute beneficially to agricultural production. When not being used for groundwater recharge, the proposed recharge facilities could be managed to allow agricultural land uses to continue, such as annual farming or grazing. The EIR will assess whether the proposed Project would adversely affect agriculture and forestry resources, including determining whether the proposed Project would be located on lands designated by the state's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as Prime, Unique, or Important Farmland and if the

Project sites would be located within Kern County agricultural preserves or under Williamson Act contracts. The proposed Project is not located in a forest and would not affect forestry resources.

Air Quality

Construction of the proposed Project would generate emissions from construction equipment exhaust, earth movement, construction workers' commute, and material hauling. The EIR will estimate construction-related emissions as well as long-term operational emissions of the proposed Project. The EIR will also evaluate the proposed Project's consistency with the regional air quality attainment plans. The EIR will develop mitigation measures, if necessary, to reduce impacts associated with the Project.

Biological Resources

The proposed Project would be located on and surrounded by agricultural lands. The EIR will evaluate the potential for the proposed Project to affect biological resources, such as sensitive species and critical habitats, and will evaluate the project's consistency with the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Kern Water Bank HCP, local ordinances, and state and federal regulations governing biological resources. The EIR will also describe how proposed Project operations could provide benefits to threatened and endangered fish species in the Delta, as well as benefits to wetland habitat and wildlife in the Kern Fan area.

Cultural Resources

Although the proposed Project would be located in disturbed areas primarily developed or used for agricultural production, excavation below the top soil for recharge, recovery, or conveyance facilities could uncover previously unknown archaeological resources. Historic resources also exist in the area and may be affected by the proposed Project. The EIR will assess the potential effects of the proposed Project on cultural resources.

Energy

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would result in the consumption of energy resources. The EIR will identify potential effects to local and regional energy supplies and capacity due to construction involving fuels and operation of recovery wells, pumps, and other related infrastructure, which would require energy.

Geology and Soils

The proposed Project is located in a seismically active region. New facilities could be subject to potential seismic hazards including ground shaking. In addition, ground-disturbing construction activities could expose soils to storm water erosion and could uncover previously unknown paleontological resources. The EIR will evaluate geologic hazards and identify known paleontological resources in the region.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Construction activities would require operation of equipment and vehicles that emit greenhouse gases (GHGs). The proposed Project facilities would use electric power and potentially other sources of energy, the generation or use of which produces GHGs. The EIR will quantify GHG emissions associated with proposed Project construction and operation in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions and compare Project emissions to regional thresholds of significance. The analysis will consider the collective size of proposed Project facilities with respect to levels of CO₂e emissions and the energy efficiency parameters of the proposed Project.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Construction of proposed Project facilities would require excavation of the existing ground surface, which could uncover contaminated soils or hazardous substances that pose a substantial hazard to human health or the environment. The EIR will assess the potential for encountering hazardous materials and conditions. The EIR also will assess the potential for the public or the environment to be affected by accidental release of hazardous materials due to proposed Project construction and operation. Groundwater recharge and recovery operations could mobilize existing soil contamination known to exist within the region. The EIR will assess the potential for proposed Project operations to affect the location of contamination plumes and groundwater quality.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The EIR will identify surface water and groundwater resources in the vicinity of the proposed Project and will evaluate potential adverse effects from construction and operation of the proposed facilities. The EIR will describe the recharge and storage capacities of the proposed Project and summarize the potential impacts of proposed groundwater recharge operations on groundwater levels and water quality. A calibrated groundwater model will be used to evaluate impacts associated with recharge operations.

The EIR will include a program-level analysis of the effects associated with operation of the proposed recovery facilities. The EIR will describe the site-specific analysis that will be required once the locations for recovery facilities are ultimately determined, as well as the calibrated groundwater model that will be used to perform and evaluate the project-level impacts associated with the recovery operations.

Cumulative effects of operating the proposed Project will include an assessment of incremental effects to groundwater due to coordinated operation of the proposed Project with Rosedale's existing programs and any other neighboring groundwater recharge or recovery facilities. In addition, the EIR also will describe potential effects associated with storm water runoff and will assess whether construction and operation of the proposed Project will meet regulatory requirements affecting storm water and avoid significant adverse effects to receiving waters.

Land Use

The proposed Project would be located in a rural area of Kern County. The EIR will identify the designated land uses and will evaluate consistency of the proposed Project with existing land uses within the Project area.

Mineral Resources

Petroleum resources and oil production facilities are present in the western portion of Kern County. The EIR will assess effects on mineral resources from implementation of the proposed Project.

Noise

Implementation of the proposed Project would include temporary construction work and ongoing Project operations that generate noise and vibration that could affect nearby residents and other sensitive receptors. The EIR will describe the local noise policies and ordinances. The EIR will assess the significance of noise effects, including quantifying potential noise and vibration levels associated with equipment used to construct and operate the proposed Project in comparison to standards and thresholds established in local noise policies and ordinances.

Population and Housing/Growth

The proposed Project does not include the construction of new housing. As such, the proposed Project would not directly induce population growth. Nevertheless, the EIR will analyze the Project's potential to induce indirect population growth due to the recharge, storage and extraction of surface water stored underground.

Public Services

The proposed Project would construct new water facilities for water recharge, storage, recovery and conveyance and is unlikely to affect demand for other public services or to require other new or expanded public facilities. The EIR will assess the potential for the proposed Project to affect police and fire protection services, schools and parks.

Recreation

The EIR will identify existing recreational areas within the Project area and will analyze potential effects to existing local recreational resources.

Transportation

Construction of the proposed Project would temporarily add additional vehicle trips to local transportation corridors, including material haul trips and construction worker commutes. The EIR will evaluate the effect of the proposed Project on traffic and circulation in the vicinity of the Project site and local and regional roadways.

Tribal Cultural Resources

Both Rosedale and IRWD regularly conduct Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation with local area tribes, and tribes will be solicited for information about tribal cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed Project. There is a potential for the proposed Project to affect tribal cultural resources during ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the proposed Project. The EIR will evaluate potential effects to tribal cultural resources and incorporate the results of any AB 52 consultations into the analysis.

Utilities and Service Systems

The EIR will evaluate whether construction and operation of the proposed Project could result in effects to existing public utilities, such as water or sewage treatment, storm water drainage, and solid waste disposal. Construction and operation of the proposed Project could interfere with electricity systems and other linear utilities, which will be analyzed in the EIR. The EIR also will describe any potential effects on storm water drainage systems and solid waste facilities, including regional landfill capacities and availability to accept construction debris.

Wildfire

The EIR will identify that the proposed Project is located within an agricultural area west of Bakersfield, and is not located within a State Responsibility Area that manages fire hazard severity zones.