

2020059022

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Biggs-West Gridley Water District Infrastructure Modernization and Canal Operations Decision Support Project

Lead Agency: Biggs-West Gridley Water District Contact Person: Eugene Massa
Mailing Address: 1713 W. Biggs Gridley Road Phone: 530-846-3317
City: Gridley Zip: 95948 County: Butte

Project Location: County: Butte City/Nearest Community: Biggs and Gridley
Cross Streets: Colusa Highway Zip Code: 95948
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): Section: Twp.: Range: Base:
Assessor's Parcel No.: Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: State Route 99 Waterways: Cherokee Canal
Airports: N/A Railways: Union Pacific Schools: Sycamore, Biggs High

Document Type:
CEQA: [] NOP [] Draft EIR NEPA: [] NOI Other: [] Joint Document
[] Early Cons [] Supplement/Subsequent EIR [] EA [] Final Document
[] Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) [] Draft EIS [] Other:
[X] Mit Neg Dec Other: FONSI

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 15 2020

Local Action Type:
[] General Plan Update [] Specific Plan [] Rezone [] Annexation
[] General Plan Amendment [] Master Plan [] Prezone [] Redevelopment
[] General Plan Element [] Planned Unit Development [] Use Permit [] Coastal Permit
[] Community Plan [] Site Plan [] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) [X] Other: Development

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Development Type:
[] Residential: Units Acres
[] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[] Educational:
[] Recreational:
[] Water Facilities: Type MGD
[] Transportation: Type
[] Mining: Mineral
[] Power: Type MW
[] Waste Treatment: Type MGD
[] Hazardous Waste: Type
[X] Other: Water Conveyance Infrastructure Upgrades

Project Issues Discussed in Document:
[] Aesthetic/Visual [] Fiscal [] Recreation/Parks [] Vegetation
[] Agricultural Land [] Flood Plain/Flooding [] Schools/Universities [] Water Quality
[X] Air Quality [] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [] Septic Systems [] Water Supply/Groundwater
[X] Archeological/Historical [] Geologic/Seismic [] Sewer Capacity [] Wetland/Riparian
[X] Biological Resources [] Minerals [] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading [] Growth Inducement
[] Coastal Zone [] Noise [] Solid Waste [] Land Use
[] Drainage/Absorption [] Population/Housing Balance [] Toxic/Hazardous [] Cumulative Effects
[] Economic/Jobs [] Public Services/Facilities [] Traffic/Circulation [] Other:

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:
AG, VLDR, Rural Residential/AG-80, AG-40, AG-20, VLDR, RR
Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

See Attached Project Description

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

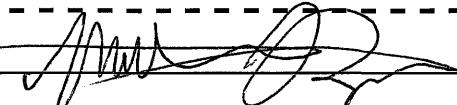
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 5/15/20 Ending Date 6/13/20

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>NorthStar</u>	Applicant: <u>Biggs-West Gridley Water District</u>
Address: <u>111 Mission Ranch Blvd Suite 100</u>	Address: <u>1713 W. Biggs Gridley Road</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Chico CA 95926</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Gridley CA 95948</u>
Contact: <u>Kamie Loeser</u>	Phone: <u>530-846-3317</u>
Phone: <u>530-893-1600 ext 213</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 5/14/20

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Project Description

The project includes the modification of facilities at 197 sites located throughout the District’s water conveyance system in Butte County, California. The Project involves mostly minor construction activities, including upgrades to measure deliveries at customer gravity deliveries and pumped deliveries. The District has received implementation funding through the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the proposed actions are expected to be completed by mid-2021.

Project activities will vary according to the needs of each specific improvement location. These activities typically will include upgrading existing customer delivery turnouts, upgrading canal headings to provide improved flow measurement, and installing real time monitoring equipment at primary operational spills. Structural improvements will consist of installing new turnout components including weir boxes with mounting plates, culverts and sluice gates, staff gages and stilling wells, and sharp-crested weirs at operational spills. At some locations construction activities will be limited to replacing existing above-ground equipment, but at other locations construction will result in ground disturbance during the removal and replacement of irrigation pipes, headwalls, and other structures.

Project activities were divided into 10 separate turnout improvement types, eight of which will result in ground disturbing activities ranging in average size from 144 square feet (sf) to 1,037 sf. These improvement types vary from minor modifications including the installation of magnetic flow meters with no required pipe modifications, to full replacement of turnouts with new headwalls, gates, pipes, and weir boxes. In addition, six operational spill sites are also being improved where ground disturbance will be approximately 150 sf at each site. Spill sites will be integrated into the District’s SCADA system to allow for remote monitoring of spillage. A list of improvement types, project footprint, ground disturbance area, and their corresponding numbers of project work sites is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Types of Improvements that will be Implemented as part of the Project.

Type No.	Improvement Type Description	Excavation Required?	Project Footprint (ft ²)	Av.g Impact Area (ft ²) / Site	Avg. Impact Area (acres/site)	# of Work Sites
Turnout Sites						
1	Add a weir box to the discharge of the existing turnout pipeline. Install a RT bracket to the backwall of the weir box and install wooden boards into the board slots of the box.	Yes	1,963.5	144	0.003	77
2	Add a weir box to the discharge of the existing turnout pipeline. Install a RT bracket to the backwall of the weir box and install wooden boards into the board slots of the box. Add water canal gate to existing concrete headwall at inlet of turnout.	Yes	2,454.4	244	0.006	2
3	Install a RT bracket to the backwall of the existing weir box and install wooden boards in the board slots of the existing weir box.	No	400	0.0	0.0	15

Type No.	Improvement Type Description	Excavation Required?	Project Footprint (ft ²)	Av.g Impact Area (ft ²) / Site	Avg. Impact Area (acres/site)	# of Work Sites
4	Install a new pipeline, headwall with flow control gate, and weir box with RT bracket and wooden boards placed in the board slots.	Yes	3,505.7	566.4	0.013	20
5	Modify the existing buried irrigation pipeline by installing a rectangular vault/manhole. Mount a RT bracket to the u/s wall and install boards in the board slots of the vault/manhole. Manhole extends to the ground surface and a cover will be installed	Yes	2,000	400	0.009	16
6	Mount short pipe section (~15in), canal gate, and stilling well to existing concrete headwall. No excavation required.	No	400	0.0	0.0	2
7	Install Sontek Device	Yes	4,250	1,037.5	0.024	2
8	Mount a custom steel box to the existing, concrete wall at pipe outlet. Install RT bracket to the backwall and install wooden boards into the board slots of the box.	Yes	2,000	144	0.003	8
9*	Install a flow meter in the existing pump discharge piping. Depending on the type of meter, pipe modifications (at meter location or at discharge) may be necessary. No access vault required.	Yes	800	150	0.003	23
10	Install a flow meter in the existing below grade pump discharge piping and install a meter access vault. Pipe modifications may also be necessary, including partial pipeline replacement. Excavation is required for this improvement type. Access vault required.	Yes	1,800	375	0.009	26
Spill	Spill site to be improved. Integrate spill in District's SCADA System. Install sensor on existing concrete structure and install RTU equipment (i.e. solar panel, enclosure, etc.)	Yes	1,000	150	0.003	6
Total			360,712	46,630	1.0	197

*Note: Only 5 of the 23 Type 9 sites will require excavation.

Activities that require structural modifications and ground disturbance will consist of excavation and removal of existing structures, new structure placement, and structure backfill. Depending on the project type, construction activities will be completed with a small excavator, backhoe, or skip loader, trencher, dump-trucks, flatbed trucks, and pickup trucks.

Typical excavation activities associated with the removal of structures, such as a weir box at the head of a turnout, will consist of removing earth material surrounding the weir and headwall and re-compacting the earth once the new precast concrete structure is installed. Small amounts of earth material may be temporarily stockpiled adjacent to the structure within the staging area. All work will be performed adjacent to the structure from the point of access. At locations where the activities result in the relocation

of the turnout facility, the structure will be located within the identified project area adjacent to the existing facility.

Improvement Types 3 and 6 are limited to above-ground alterations to the turnout structures and include the attachment of mounting brackets, weir boards, flow meters or staff gauges to existing structures with the use of hand tools. Construction equipment such as backhoes, excavators, skip loaders or trenchers will not be needed at these sites, and thus permanent ground disturbance impacts will not occur as a result of their use and movement. Likewise, no new hardscape features will be installed in previously vegetated or bare soil areas at these sites.

Sites requiring the full replacement of turnouts including new headwall, gate, pipeline and weir box (Type 4), will have the greatest extent of impacts from excavations. Improvement sites of Types 1 and 2 will include the installment of a new weir box and will require excavation ground disturbance. Type 5 improvement sites will also require ground excavation for the installment of a rectangular manhole at the existing buried pipe. A single Type 7 improvement site, Glada Weir (BLK-0191-E01), will be a lined section covering the bottom of the canal (sides of canal will not be lined), which will potentially impact GGS aquatic habitat as the bottom of the canal is typically submerged. Minor trenching and post holes will also be required for Type 7 improvement sites. Improvement site Type 8 will consist of mounting a custom steel box to the existing concrete wall at the pipe outlet and installation of remote tracking bracket and wooden boards into the board slots of the box, minor ground disturbance will be required. Improvement Types 9 and 10 will require the installation of a flow meter in the existing pump discharge pipe. Depending on the type of meter pipe modifications may be necessary. Type 9 improvements do not require a meter access vault while Type 10 includes the installation of an access vault. Improvement Types 9 and 10 will require excavation, it should be noted only 5 of the 23 Type 9 Improvement sites will require excavation.

Work areas vary depending on the improvement type. Work areas include the improvement project, construction staging, and soil stockpile areas, if applicable. If equipment and construction materials (i.e. piping, weir boxes) are stored outside of the work area they will be located within the District's maintenance yard and/or a construction easement would be obtained from adjacent landowners to use their existing agricultural operations yard. These yards are generally improved with gravel parking and outbuildings and are used for equipment storage, agricultural processing, vehicle maintenance, etc. Work areas will be clearly defined and marked to confine the areas of disturbance. In addition to the work areas, there are approximately 85.6 miles of access roads for ingress and egress to improvement sites.

Since the project is occurring at discrete locations along longer portions of canal, it is important to differentiate between work areas and disturbance area. As such, the project areas include all the activities at each improvement site (i.e. staging, stockpiling, equipment movement, etc.) while the disturbance area is the where temporary and permanent ground disturbing activities will occur. It should be noted; the disturbance area is contained within the greater project area.

Construction is anticipated to take place during both, the spring/summer and fall/winter months due to contracted water deliveries within the District. When feasible, work may be completed during the active season (May to October) for giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*). It may start during the active season and continue into the inactive season (October through April), or it may begin during the inactive season and continue throughout the inactive season. The construction schedule will depend on a number of

factors including the presence of water within the District's canals, type of work being performed, weather, etc.