

# Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

## City of Dinuba Water Well Project

Prepared for:



City of Dinuba  
405 East El Monte Way  
Dinuba, CA 93618  
(559) 591-5900  
Contact: Ismael Hernandez, Public Works Director

Prepared by:



Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc.  
113 N. Church Street, Suite 302  
Visalia, CA 93291  
(559) 840-4414  
Contact: Travis Crawford, AICP

September 2020

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PROJECT INFORMATION ..... 4**

    Project Title ..... 4

    Lead agency name and address ..... 4

    Contact person and phone number ..... 4

    Project location ..... 4

    Project sponsor’s name/address ..... 7

    General plan designation..... 7

    Zoning ..... 7

    Project Description ..... 7

    Surrounding Land Uses/Existing Conditions ..... 8

    Other Public Agencies Involved ..... 8

    Tribal Consultation ..... 8

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED..... 9**

**DETERMINATION..... 9**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST ..... 11**

    I. AESTHETICS..... 11

    II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES ..... 15

    III. AIR QUALITY ..... 17

    IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES..... 23

    V. CULTURAL RESOURCES ..... 28

    VI. ENERGY..... 31

    VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS ..... 35

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ..... 40

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS..... 42

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES..... 53

XIII. NOISE ..... 54

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING..... 57

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES ..... 59

XVI. RECREATION..... 61

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/ ..... 62

TRAFFIC ..... 62

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES..... 64

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS ..... 66

XX. WILDFIRE..... 69

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE ..... 71

**LIST OF PREPARERS..... 73**

Persons and Agencies Consulted ..... 73

## PROJECT INFORMATION

This document is the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for the potential environmental effects of the City of Dinuba's (City) new Water Well Project (Project). The City of Dinuba will act as the Lead Agency for this Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. Copies of all materials referenced in this report are available for review in the Project file during regular business hours at 405 East El Monte Way, Dinuba, CA 93618.

### Project Title

City of Dinuba Water Well Project

### Lead agency name and address

City of Dinuba  
405 East El Monte Way  
Dinuba, CA 93618

### Contact person and phone number

Ismael Hernandez, Public Works Director: 559.591.5900  
Jason Watts, PE (City engineering consultant): 559.244-3123

### Project location

The City of Dinuba lies in the Southern San Joaquin Valley region, in the northwestern portion of Tulare County. The City is approximately eight miles northeast of State Route 99 (SR 99) and 5.5 miles west of SR 63. The proposed well site will be located just outside the western boundary of the City, east of the Alta Irrigation Ditch. The site is north of El Monte Way/Avenue 416 and east of Road 64. The proposed water well will be located within an existing fenced area utilized for a City-operated storm drain outfall structure and storm drain pump station. Refer to Figures 1 – 2 for Project location.

### Figure 1 – Regional Location Map

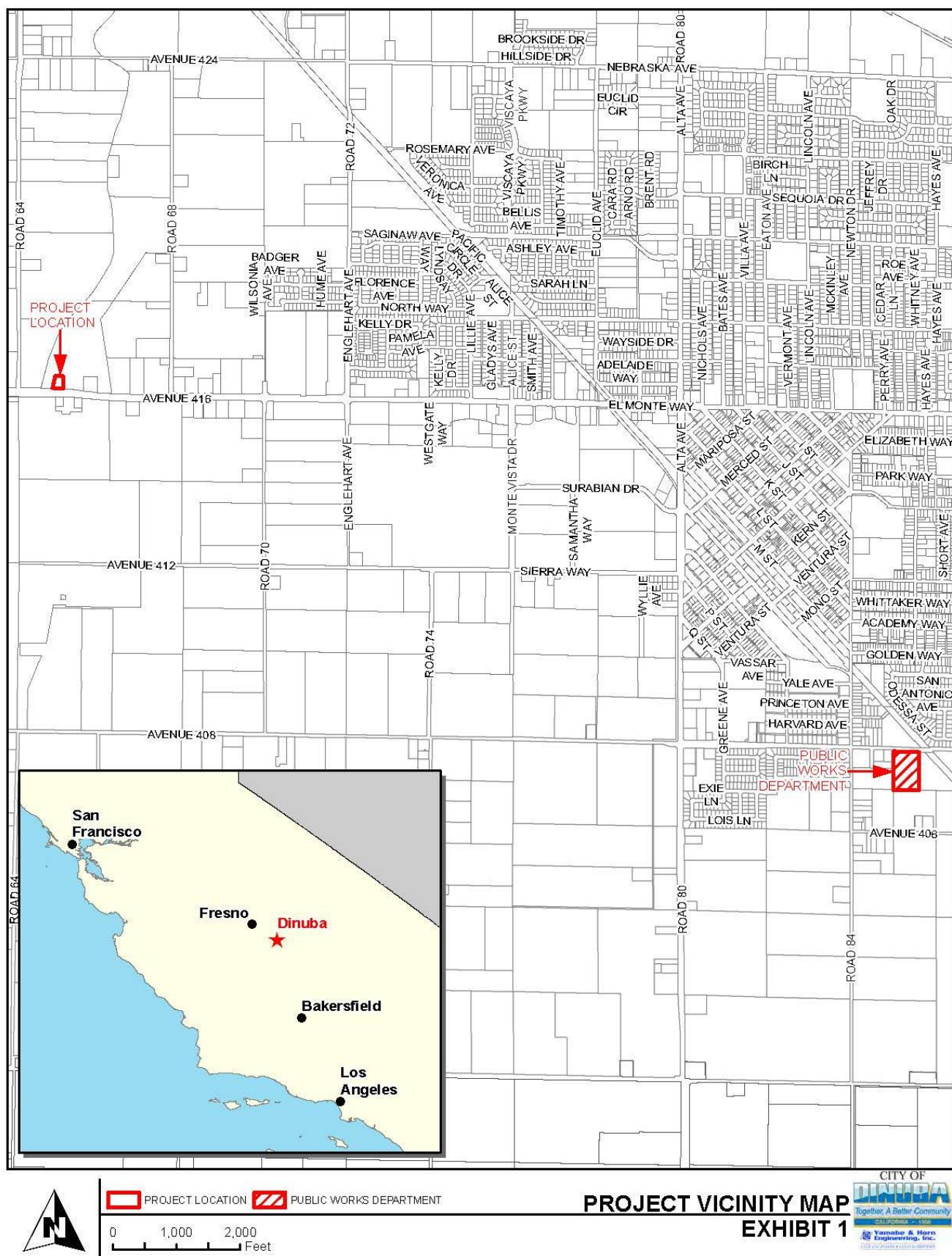




Figure 2 – Project Vicinity Map



## Project sponsor's name/address

City of Dinuba  
405 East El Monte Way  
Dinuba, CA 93618

## General plan designation

Valley Agriculture (VA) by the Tulare County.

## Zoning

AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural Zone – 20 Acre Minimum) by Tulare County.

## Project Description

The proposed Project consists of installation of a test well to determine water production potential and running a series of samples for analysis of water quality that is suitable for Dinuba's water supply. If the test well proves feasible, a new permanent water well will be installed. The Project consists of the following:

1. **Test Well** – A test well will be installed to enable collection of information on subsurface geology, the water production potential, and vertical variations in water levels and groundwater quality at the site to a depth of 700 feet. Water samples will be collected from approximately ten depths. The test well will be abandoned in accordance with applicable provisions of Bulletin No. 74 of the State of California, Department of Water Resources, entitled "Water Well Standards, State of California", dated December 1981 and Bulletin 74-90 dated January 1990, and the City of Dinuba Water Well Ordinance.
2. **New Water Well** – If the test well results show that the Project site is a viable location, the City will proceed with the design and installation of a new water well. The final design of the well (depth, production capacity) will be dependent on the test results.
3. **Abandonment/Backfill of Existing Stormwater Basin** – the proposed Project would be located at an existing stormwater basin. The basin is proposed to be abandoned and backfilled to accommodate the proposed water well. Under existing conditions, stormwater is collected in the basin and then routed into the adjacent Alta Irrigation District canal. Under the proposed Project, stormwater would be routed directly to the canal.

## Surrounding Land Uses/Existing Conditions

The proposed Project site is mostly vacant, with a portion of the existing fenced area being utilized for a storm drain outfall structure and storm drain pump station.

Lands directly surrounding the proposed Project are described as follows:

- North: Undeveloped land.
- South: El Monte Way/Avenue 416, agricultural land and rural residences.
- East: Undeveloped land, a private driveway and a single rural residence.
- West: Alta Irrigation Ditch and agricultural land.

## Other Public Agencies Involved

- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Occupation Safety & Health Administration

## Tribal Consultation

See Section XVIII – Tribal Cultural Resources.



## 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.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources<br>and Forest Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils                | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas<br>Emissions                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards &<br>Hazardous<br>Materials   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water<br>Quality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural<br>Resources          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service<br>Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings<br>of Significance |

## DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

---

Date

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### I. AESTHETICS

#### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed Project site is located in the Southern San Joaquin Valley region, in the northwestern portion of Tulare County, just outside the western portion of the City of Dinuba, California. The site resides in an area primarily comprised of agricultural land uses, with fields and orchards dominating the visual landscape. The Project site is generally flat and bounded to the south by El Monte Way/Avenue 416. Orchards and rural residences lie beyond the roadway to the south. Agricultural land uses lie to the west, beyond the Alta Irrigation Ditch. Immediately east of the Project site is undeveloped land, a private driveway and a single rural residence. Undeveloped land also lies to the north. There are no adopted scenic resources or scenic vistas in the area. State Routes (SR) in the proposed Project vicinity include SR

201, SR 63 and SR 99.

The existing visual character of the site consists of mostly vacant land and minimal vegetation, with an existing storm drain outfall structure and storm drain pump station on site. Views of the proposed Project site area are possible from El Monte Way/Avenue 416.

## RESPONSES

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** A scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. The City of Dinuba does not identify any scenic vistas within the Project area. Tulare County identifies El Monte Way/Avenue 416 as part of a system of County scenic routes, according to Figure 7.1 of the Tulare County General Plan. However, the water well Project is expected to adhere to local design guidelines and standards which will minimize any visual impact. In addition, most of the water well features are underground.

The Project site is within an area largely comprised of agricultural uses. There are no other scenic vistas or other protected scenic resources on or near the site. Visual character of the site is addressed further in Response C. below.

There are no state designated scenic highways within the immediate proximity to the Project site. California Department of Transportation Scenic Highway Mapping System identifies SR 99, near Goshen and Sequoia National Park, as an Eligible State Scenic Highway. This is the only Eligible roadway in the Project area; Goshen is located approximately 14 miles south of the Project site. The Project site is both physically and visually separated from SR 99 by intervening land uses. The proposed Project would not damage any trees, rock outcroppings or historic buildings within a State scenic highway corridor.

Construction activities associated with the well will be visible from adjacent roadsides; however, the construction will be temporary in nature and will not affect a scenic vista. Therefore, the Project has less than significant impact on scenic vistas or designated scenic resources or highways.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

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 regulations governing scenic quality?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would result in minor alteration of the existing visual character of public views of the site with the addition of minimal structures. Due to nature of the Project, most of components are located underground. Above-ground structures will consist of the wellhead, pump, and related appurtenances. The Project will not result in a structure that is dissimilar to other public facility structures on site, nor will it be inconsistent with the existing visual setting of the area.

The improvements such as those proposed by the Project are typical of City public facility areas and are generally expected from residents of the City. These improvements would not substantially degrade the visual character of the area and would not diminish the visual quality of the area, as they would be consistent with the existing visual setting. The proposed Project itself is not visually imposing against the scale of the existing surrounding area.

Therefore, the Project would have less than significant impacts on the visual character of the area.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Nighttime lighting is necessary to provide and maintain safe, secure, and attractive environments; however, these lights have the potential to produce spillover light and glare and waste energy, and if designed incorrectly, could be considered unattractive. Light that falls beyond the intended area is referred to as “light trespass.” Types of light trespass include spillover light and glare. Minimizing all these forms of obtrusive light is an important environmental consideration. A less obtrusive and well-designed energy efficient fixture would face downward, emit the correct intensity of light for the use, and incorporate energy timers.

Spillover light is light emitted by a lighting installation that falls outside the boundaries of the property on which the installation is sited. Spillover light can adversely affect light-sensitive uses, such as residential neighborhoods at nighttime. Because light dissipates as it travels from the source, the intensity of a light fixture is often increased at the source to compensate for the dissipated light. This can further increase the amount of light that illuminates adjacent uses. Spillover light can be minimized by using



only the level of light necessary, and by using cutoff type fixtures or shielded light fixtures, or a combination of fixture types.

Glare results when a light source directly in the field of vision is brighter than the eye can comfortably accept. Squinting or turning away from a light source is an indication of glare. The presence of a bright light in an otherwise dark setting may be distracting or annoying, referred to as discomfort glare, or it may diminish the ability to see other objects in the darkened environment, referred to as disability glare. Glare can be reduced by design features that block direct line of sight to the light source and that direct light downward, with little or no light emitted at high (near horizontal) angles, since this light would travel long distances. Cutoff-type light fixtures minimize glare because they emit relatively low-intensity light at these angles.

Current sources of light in the Project area include street lights, vehicles traveling along El Monte Way/Avenue 416, and residential lighting at the rural residences to the south and east. The Project may implement minimal amounts of security lighting. Such lighting would be shielded so as not to spill onto adjacent properties and would be subject to City standards. Accordingly, potential impacts would be considered less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Dinuba is located in Tulare County in the San Joaquin Valley, California. The proposed Project site is located in an area just outside of the City and is considered *Farmland of Local Importance* by

the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). No *Prime Farmland*, *Unique Farmland* or land under the Williamson Act contracts occurs in the proposed Project area.

Agricultural land uses less than one-quarter of a mile to the north, south and west are the nearest agricultural areas.

## RESPONSES

- a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?
- 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?

**No Impact.** There are no agricultural resources or forest lands present on the Project site, which is specifically designated by the County as Valley Agricultural (VA). However, the site is currently being utilized by the City for housing an existing storm drain pump station and storm drain outfall structure. The proposed Project consists of installing a water well and the temporary activities associated with drilling and testing water. The proposed Project would not conflict with the City of Dinuba's land use designations upon approval. While the site location is considered *Farmland of Local Importance*, the proposed Project would not convert prime farmland, conflict with an existing agricultural use, or result in the conversion of existing farmland. Additionally, no Williamson Act contracted lands would be impacted due to the Project, and the Project site is not subject to a Williamson Act contract. As such, the land is currently utilized for a public utility (storm basin features). With the addition of the well, the land use will not change. The proposed Project does not conflict with any forest land or Timberland Production or result in any loss of forest land. The proposed Project does not include any changes which will affect the existing environment by conversion of farmland or forest land. Therefore, the Project has no impact on agricultural and forest resources.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

### III. AIR QUALITY

#### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or adversely affecting a substantial number of people)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The climate of the City of Dinuba and the San Joaquin Valley is characterized by long, hot summers and stagnant, foggy winters. Precipitation is low and temperature inversions are common. These characteristics are conducive to the formation and retention of air pollutants and are in part influenced by the surrounding mountains which intercept precipitation and act as a barrier to the passage of cold air and air pollutants.

The proposed Project lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which is managed by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD or Air District). National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) have been established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and lead (Pb). The CAAQS also set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility.

Air quality plans or attainment plans are used to bring the applicable air basin into attainment with all state and federal ambient air quality standards designed to protect the health and safety of residents

within that air basin. Areas are classified under the Federal Clean Air Act as either “attainment”, “non-attainment”, or “extreme non-attainment” areas for each criteria pollutant based on whether the NAAQS have been achieved or not. Attainment relative to the State standards is determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The San Joaquin Valley is designated as a State and Federal extreme non-attainment area for O<sub>3</sub>, a State and Federal non-attainment area for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, a State non-attainment area for PM<sub>10</sub>, and Federal and State attainment area for CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and Pb.

Standards and attainment status for listed pollutants in the Air District can be found in Table 1. Note that both state and federal standards are presented.

**Table 1 - Standards and Attainment Status for Listed Pollutants in the Air District**

	<b>Federal Standard</b>	<b>California Standard</b>
Ozone	0.075 ppm (8-hr avg)	0.07 ppm (8-hr avg) 0.09 ppm (1-hr avg)
Carbon Monoxide	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 35.0 ppm (1-hr avg)	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 20.0 ppm (1-hr avg)
Nitrogen Dioxide	0.053 ppm (annual avg)	0.30 ppm (annual avg) 0.18 ppm (1-hr avg)
Sulfur Dioxide	0.03 ppm (annual avg) 0.14 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.5 ppm (3-hr avg)	0.04 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.25 ppm (1-hr avg)
Lead	1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (calendar quarter) 0.15 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (rolling 3-month avg)	1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (30-day avg)
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (24-hr avg)	20 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (annual avg) 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (24-hr avg)
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	15 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (annual avg)	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (24-hr avg) 12 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (annual avg)

*µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter*

Additional State regulations include:

CARB Portable Equipment Registration Program – This program was designed to allow owners and operators of portable engines and other common construction or farming equipment to register their



equipment under a statewide program so they may operate it statewide without the need to obtain a permit from the local air district.

U.S. EPA/CARB Off-Road Mobile Sources Emission Reduction Program – The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) requires CARB to achieve a maximum degree of emissions reductions from off-road mobile sources to attain State Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS); off-road mobile sources include most construction equipment. Tier 1 standards for large compression-ignition engines used in off-road mobile sources went into effect in California in 1996. These standards, along with ongoing rulemaking, address emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOX) and toxic particulate matter from diesel engines. CARB is currently developing a control measure to reduce diesel PM and NOX emissions from existing off-road diesel equipment throughout the state.

California Global Warming Solutions Act – Established in 2006, Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) requires that California's GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This will be implemented through a statewide cap on GHG emissions, which was phased in beginning in 2012. AB 32 requires CARB to develop regulations and a mandatory reporting system to monitor global warming emissions levels.

## RESPONSES

- a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- 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?
- c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). At the Federal level, the SJVAB is designated as extreme nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, attainment for PM<sub>10</sub> and CO, and nonattainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. At the State level, the SJVAB is designated as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. Although the Federal 1-hour ozone standard was revoked in 2005, areas must still attain this standard, and the SJVAPCD recently requested an EPA finding that the SJVAB has attained the standard based on 2011-2013 data<sup>1</sup>. To meet Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements, the SJVAPCD has multiple air quality attainment plan (AQAP) documents, including:

---

<sup>1</sup> San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Guide to Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. March 19, 2015. Page 28. [http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI\\_3-19-15.pdf](http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI_3-19-15.pdf). Accessed August 2020.

- Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan (EOADP) for attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard (2004);
- 2007 Ozone Plan for attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard;
- 2007 PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan and Request for Redesignation; and
- 2008 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Plan.

Because of the region's non-attainment status for ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>, if the project-generated emissions of either of the ozone precursor pollutants (ROG or NO<sub>x</sub>), PM<sub>10</sub>, or PM<sub>2.5</sub> were to exceed the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds, then the project uses would be considered to conflict with the attainment plans. In addition, if the project uses were to result in a change in land use and corresponding increases in vehicle miles traveled, they may result in an increase in vehicle miles traveled that is unaccounted for in regional emissions inventories contained in regional air quality control plans.

The annual significance thresholds to be used for the Project for construction and operational emissions are as follows<sup>2</sup>:

- 10 tons per year ROG;
- 10 tons per year NO<sub>x</sub>;
- 15 tons per year PM<sub>10</sub>; and
- 15 tons per year PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

### *Project Emissions*

Site preparation and Project construction would involve installation of a conductor casing, cementing operations, constructing above ground mud pits and a basin area for drilling debris retention areas, and other various activities associated with drilling and pumping water. During construction, the Project could generate pollutants such as hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and suspended PM. A major source of PM would be windblown dust generated during construction activities. Sources of fugitive dust would include disturbed soils at the construction site and trucks carrying uncovered loads of soils. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 4,900 cubic yards of dirt to fill the existing stormbasin, which results in approximately 327 truckloads of dirt (at 15 cubic yards per truckload). Vehicles leaving the site could deposit dirt and mud on local streets, which could be an additional source of airborne dust after it dries. PM<sub>10</sub> emissions would vary from day to day, depending on the nature and magnitude of construction activity and local weather conditions. PM<sub>10</sub> emissions would depend on soil moisture, the silt content of soil, wind speed, and the amount of operating equipment. Larger dust particles would settle near the source, while fine particles would be dispersed over greater distances

---

<sup>2</sup> San Joaquin Valley Air Control District – Air Quality Threshold of Significance – Criteria Pollutants.  
<http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/0714-GAMAQI-Criteria-Pollutant-Thresholds-of-Significance.pdf>. Accessed August 2020.

from the construction site. These emissions would be temporary and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site.

The proposed well will not generate emissions once constructed. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has established thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emissions. Using project type and size, the District has pre-quantified emissions and determined a size below which it is reasonable to conclude that a project would not exceed applicable thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants. Long term air emissions are typically associated with vehicle trips associated with new development. For example, the District pre-determined that residential developments that would generate less than 1,453 vehicle trips per day would not exceed any established criteria pollutant emissions thresholds. As the proposed well Project will not result in vehicle trips (other than minor temporary trips associated with construction and then periodic maintenance once operational) it is determined that the Project could not exceed any air emission thresholds established by the District. However, during construction, the contractor will be required to adhere to the District's rules and regulations, including Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM<sub>10</sub> Prohibitions), Rule 4002, Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations).

As described above, construction/operational emissions would not exceed the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds for ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. As a result, the Project uses would not conflict with emissions inventories contained in regional air quality attainment plans and would not result in a significant contribution to the region's air quality non-attainment status<sup>3</sup>. Likewise, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant within the SJVAPCD jurisdiction. Finally, the Project would also not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. It will not cumulatively increase any criteria pollutant and will not result in substantial pollutant concentrations.

Any impacts to air resources would be considered less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

**Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project is located in a primarily agricultural portion of the City of Dinuba. During construction, the various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment in use on-site

---

<sup>3</sup> San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Guide to Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. March 19, 2015. Page 65. [http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI\\_3-19-15.pdf](http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI_3-19-15.pdf). Accessed August 2020.

could create localized odors. These odors would be temporary and are not likely to be noticeable for extended periods of time beyond the Project site. The potential for diesel odor impacts is therefore considered less than significant.

As such, the proposed Project is not expected to produce any offensive odors that would result in frequent odor complaints. Any impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Would the project:**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



- e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed Project site is located in a portion of the central San Joaquin Valley that has, for decades, experienced intensive agricultural and urban disturbances. Current agricultural endeavors in the region include dairies, groves, and row crops.

Like most of California, the San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate. Warm dry summers are followed by cool moist winters. Summer temperatures usually exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the relative humidity is generally very low. Winter temperatures rarely raise much above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, with daytime highs often below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Annual precipitation within the proposed Project site is about 10 inches, almost 85% of which falls between the months of October and March. Nearly all precipitation falls in the form of rain and storm-water readily infiltrates the soils of the surrounding the sites.

Native plant and animal species once abundant in the region have become locally extirpated or have experienced large reductions in their populations due to conversion of upland, riparian, and aquatic habitats to agricultural and urban uses. Remaining native habitats are particularly valuable to native wildlife species including special status species that still persist in the region.

The site is currently used as a storm basin for the City. The Project site's surrounding lands consist primarily of undeveloped land, agricultural uses and a handful of rural residences.

No aquatic or wetland features occur on the proposed Project site; therefore, jurisdictional waters are considered absent from the site. The Alta Irrigation Ditch lies directly west of the site.

## RESPONSES

- a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

**Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The site is currently used as a storm basin and is generally void of vegetation. The site is in an area that is highly disturbed and lacking in substantial vegetation, such as trees, brush or shrubs. This factor suggests that the Project site is extremely unlikely to serve as nesting habitat for bird species or any animal or plant species. No wetlands or waters of the U.S. or water of the State were found within the Project area. However, according to the City of Dinuba General Plan Update Background Report, Special Status Species Figure 9-5, there is potential for burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) to exist in the Project area. The burrowing owl is known to occur in areas of open, dry grassland and shrub habitats, similar to the Project site and areas north and east of the site. Burrowing owls are considered State Species of Special Concern. Thus, implementation of Mitigation Measure **BIO-1** would ensure that potential impacts remain less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** Protecting burrowing owls.

- BIO-1:**
- 1. Burrowing owl take avoidance.** A take avoidance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for burrowing owls within 30 days of the onset of construction. All suitable habitats of the site will be covered during this survey.
  - 2. Avoidance of active burrowing owl nests.** If take avoidance surveys are undertaken during the breeding season (February through August) and active nest burrows are located within or near construction zones, a construction-free buffer of 250 feet shall be established around all active owl nests. The buffer areas shall be enclosed with temporary fencing, and construction equipment and workers shall not enter the enclosed setback areas. Buffers shall remain in place for the duration of the breeding season. After the breeding season (i.e. once all young have left the nest), passive relocation of any remaining owls may take place as described below.
  - 3. Passive relocation of resident burrowing owls.** During the non-breeding season (September through January), resident owls occupying burrows in areas proposed for development may be relocated to alternative habitat. The relocation of resident owls must be conducted according to a relocation plan prepared by a qualified biologist. Passive relocation will be the preferred method of relocation.

- 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

**No Impact.** There are no natural waterways, sensitive natural communities, or protected wetlands on the subject site. As such, there is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- 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?

**Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** There are no natural waterways or natural vegetation on the subject site, and the site is not used for movement of wildlife species or for a migratory wildlife corridor, nor is the site used for native wildlife nursery sites. The site is currently utilized for storm water collection before routing to the adjacent canal. The site is highly disturbed; however, in the event that migratory and/or native avian species are nesting within or adjacent to the proposed Project area at the time of construction, construction activities could result in nest abandonment and/or direct mortality to individual birds. Project activities that injure or kill native birds or lead to nest abandonment would violate the California Fish and Game Code. The implementation of **BIO-2** would ensure that potential impacts remain *less than significant*.

**Mitigation Measures:** Protecting nesting migratory birds.

- BIO-2:**
1. To the extent practicable, construction shall be scheduled to avoid the nesting season, which extends from February through August.
  2. If it is not possible to schedule construction between September and January, preconstruction surveys for nesting birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to ensure that no active nests will be disturbed during Project implementation. A preconstruction survey shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities. During this survey, the qualified biologist shall inspect all potential nest substrates in and immediately adjacent to the impact area for nests. If an

active nest is found close enough to the construction area to be disturbed by these activities, the qualified biologist shall determine the extent of a construction-free buffer to be established around the nest. If work cannot proceed without disturbing the nesting birds, work may need to be halted or redirected to other areas until nesting and fledging are completed or the nest has otherwise failed for non-construction related reasons.

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

**No Impact.** The proposed Project is consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Dinuba General Plan, and will be consistent with the goals and policies of the Tulare County General Plan. The Project will not conflict with the General Plan's policies related to "no-net-loss" of wetlands and preservation of riparian habitats because wetlands and riparian habitats are absent from the Project site. The Project will not result in significant loss of habitat for special status animal species and will therefore be consistent with General Plan policies related to wildlife habitat. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

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?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project site is not within an area set aside for the conservation of habitat or sensitive plant or animal species pursuant to a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. As such, there is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A record search of site files and maps was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center (IC), California State University, Bakersfield (see Appendix A). A Sacred Lands File Request was also submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). These investigations determined that there have been no previous cultural resource studies conducted in the area. Also, there are no recorded historical or cultural resources that have been identified within the Project area.

## RESPONSES

- a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

**No Impact.** As discussed above, no historic resources were identified within or adjacent to the Project site. There is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

- c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?



**Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation.** The Project area is highly disturbed, consisting of an existing storm drain outfall and storm drain pump station. There are no known or visible cultural or archaeological resources, paleontological resources, or human remains that exist on the surface of the Project area. Therefore, it is determined that the Project has low potential to impact any sensitive resources and no further cultural resources work is required unless Project plans change to include work not currently identified in the Project description.

Although no cultural or archaeological resources, paleontological resources or human remains have been identified in the Project area, the possibility exists that such resources or remains may be discovered during Project site preparation, excavation and/or grading activities. Mitigation Measures CUL – 1 and CUL – 2 will be implemented to ensure that Project will result in less than significant impacts with mitigation.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

**CUL – 1** If a potentially significant historical, archaeological, or paleontological resource, such as structural features, unusual amounts of bone or shell, artifacts, human remains, or architectural remains or trash deposits are encountered during subsurface construction activities (i.e., trenching), all construction activities within a 100-foot radius of the identified potential resource shall cease until a qualified archaeologist evaluates the item for its significance and records the item on the appropriate State Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms. The archaeologist shall determine whether the item requires further study. If, after the qualified archaeologist conducts appropriate technical analyses, the item is determined to be significant under California Environmental Quality Act, the archaeologist shall recommend feasible mitigation measures, which may include avoidance, preservation in place or other appropriate measure.

**CUL – 2** In order to ensure that the proposed Project does not impact buried human remains during Project construction, the City shall be responsible for on-going monitoring of Project construction. If buried human remains are encountered during construction, further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall be halted until the Tulare County coroner is contacted and the coroner has made the determinations and notifications required pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the coroner determines that Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(c) require that he give notice to the Native American Heritage Commission, then such notice shall be given within 24 hours, as required by Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(c). In that event, the NAHC will conduct the notifications required by Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Until the consultations described

below have been completed, the landowner shall further ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices where Native American human remains are located, is not disturbed by further development activity until the landowner has discussed and conferred with the Most Likely Descendants on all reasonable options regarding the descendants' preferences and treatments, as prescribed by Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b). The NAHC will mediate any disputes regarding treatment of remains in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.94(k). The landowner shall be entitled to exercise rights established by Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(e) if any of the circumstances established by that provision become applicable.

## VI. ENERGY

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

California's total energy consumption is second-highest in the nation, but, in 2016, the state's per capita energy consumption ranked 48<sup>th</sup>, due in part to its mild climate and its energy efficiency programs. In 2017, California ranked second in the nation in conventional hydroelectric generation and first as a producer of electricity from solar, geothermal, and biomass resources while also in 2017, solar PV and solar thermal installations provided about 16% of California's net electricity generation.<sup>4</sup>

Energy usage is typically quantified using the British thermal unit (BTU). As a point of reference, the approximately amounts of energy contained in common energy sources are as follows:

Energy Source	BTUs <sup>5</sup>
Gasoline	120,429 per gallon
Natural Gas	1,037 per cubic foot
Electricity	3,412 per kilowatt-hour

California electrical consumption in 2016 was 7,830.8 trillion BTU<sup>6</sup>, as provided in Table 3.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. Independent Statistics and Analysis. California Profile Overview. <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-1>. Accessed August 2020.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. Energy Units and Calculators Explained. [https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.php?page=about\\_energy\\_units](https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.php?page=about_energy_units). Accessed August 2020.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. Independent Statistics and Analysis. California Profile Overview. <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-1>. Accessed August 2020.

**Table 3 – 2016 California Energy Consumption<sup>7</sup>**

<b>End User</b>	<b>BTU of energy consumed (in trillions)</b>	<b>Percentage of total consumption</b>
<b>Residential</b>	1,384.4	17.7
<b>Commercial</b>	1,477.2	18.9
<b>Industrial</b>	1,854.3	23.7
<b>Transportation</b>	3,114.9	39.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,830.8</b>	--

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reports that approximately 25.1 million automobiles, 5.7 million trucks, and 889,024 motorcycles were registered in the state in 2017, resulting in a total estimated 339.8 billion vehicles miles traveled (VMT).<sup>8</sup>

### Applicable Regulations

#### California Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6, Building Energy Efficiency Standards)

California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 6 comprises the California Energy Code, which was adopted to ensure that building construction, system design and installation achieve energy efficiency. The California Energy Code was first established in 1978 by the CEC in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption, and apply to energy consumed for heating, cooling, ventilation, water heating, and lighting in new residential and non-residential buildings. The standards are updated periodically to increase the baseline energy efficiency requirements. The 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards focus on several key areas to improve the energy efficiency of newly constructed buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings and include requirements to enable both demand reductions during critical peak periods and future solar electric and thermal system installations. Although it was not originally intended to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, electricity production by fossil fuels results in GHG emissions and energy efficient buildings require less electricity. Therefore, increased energy efficiency results in decreased GHG emissions.

#### California Green Building Standards Code (Title 24, Part II, CALGreen)

The California Building Standards Commission adopted the California Green Buildings Standards Code (CALGreen in Part 11 of the Title 24 Building Standards Code) for all new construction statewide on July 17, 2008. Originally a volunteer measure, the code became mandatory in 2010 and the most recent update

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. Independent Statistics and Analysis. California Profile Overview. <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-1>. Accessed August 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Caltrans. 2017. California Transportation Quick Facts. <http://www.dot.ca.gov/drsi/library/qf/qf2017.pdf>. Accessed August 2020.

(2019) will go into effect on January 1, 2020. CALGreen sets targets for energy efficiency, water consumption, dual plumbing systems for potable and recyclable water, diversion of construction waste from landfills, and use of environmentally sensitive materials in construction and design, including eco-friendly flooring, carpeting, paint, coatings, thermal insulation, and acoustical wall and ceiling panels. The 2019 CALGreen Code includes mandatory measures for non-residential development related to site development; water use; weather resistance and moisture management; construction waste reduction, disposal, and recycling; building maintenance and operation; pollutant control; indoor air quality; environmental comfort; and outdoor air quality. Mandatory measures for residential development pertain to green building; planning and design; energy efficiency; water efficiency and conservation; material conservation and resource efficiency; environmental quality; and installer and special inspector qualifications.

#### Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act (SB 350)

The Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act (SB 350) was passed by California Governor Brown on October 7, 2015, and establishes new clean energy, clean air, and greenhouse gas reduction goals for the year 2030 and beyond. SB 350 establishes a greenhouse gas reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels for the State of California, further enhancing the ability for the state to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

#### Renewable Portfolio Standard (SB 1078 and SB 107)

Established in 2002 under SB 1078, the state's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) was amended under SB 107 to require accelerated energy reduction goals by requiring that by the year 2010, 20 percent of electricity sales in the state be served by renewable energy resources. In years following its adoption, Executive Order S-14-08 was signed, requiring electricity retail sellers to provide 33 percent of their service loads with renewable energy by the year 2020. In 2011, SB X1-2 was signed, aligning the RPS target with the 33 percent requirement by the year 2020. This new RPS applied to all state electricity retailers, including publicly owned utilities, investor-owned utilities, electrical service providers, and community choice aggregators. All entities included under the RPS were required to adopt the RPS 20 percent by year 2020 reduction goal by the end of 2013, adopt a reduction goal of 25 percent by the end of 2016, and meet the 33 percent reduction goal by the end of 2020. In addition, the Air Resources Board, under Executive Order S-21-09, was required to adopt regulations consistent with these 33 percent renewable energy targets.

#### RESPONSES

- 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?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project includes construction of a water well and the associated operational activities. The Project will consume moderate amounts of energy in the short-term during Project construction; however, Project operations are temporary in nature and are expected to consume minimal amounts of energy.

During construction, the Project would consume energy in two general forms: (1) the fuel energy consumed by construction vehicles and equipment; and (2) bound energy in construction materials, such as asphalt, steel, concrete, pipes, and manufactured or processed materials such as lumber. Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards provide guidance on construction techniques to maximize energy conservation and it is expected that contractors and owners have a strong financial incentive to use recycled materials and products originating from nearby sources in order to reduce materials costs. As such, it is anticipated that materials used in construction and construction vehicle fuel energy would not involve the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy.

Operational Project energy consumption would occur for multiple purposes, including pumps and other vehicle and equipment use. The proposed Project would be required to comply with Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, which provide minimum efficiency standards related to various building features. Implementation of Title 24 standards significantly increases energy savings, and it is generally assumed that compliance with Title 24 ensures projects will not result in the inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy.

As discussed in Impact XVII – Transportation/Traffic, at build-out the Project will generate minimal daily trips (for maintenance and operations). The length of these trips and the individual vehicle fuel efficiencies are not known; therefore, the resulting energy consumption cannot be accurately calculated. Adopted federal vehicle fuel standards have continually improved since their original adoption in 1975 and assists in avoiding the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary use of energy by vehicles.

As discussed previously, the proposed Project would be required to implement and be consistent with existing energy design standards at the local and state level. The Project would be subject to energy conservation requirements in the California Energy Code and CALGreen. Adherence to state code requirements would ensure that the Project would not result in wasteful and inefficient use of non-renewable resources due to building operation.

Therefore, any impacts are less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the most recently adopted Uniform Building Code creating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

- |  |                          |                                     |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Dinuba is located near the eastern edge of the Central Valley, which is a nearly flat northwest-southeast trending basin approximately 450 miles long and approximately 75 miles wide. The City of Dinuba is located on soils characterized by a thick section of sedimentary rock overlying a granitic basement layer.<sup>9</sup> The hazards due to ground-shaking are considered low due to the relative distance of the City from seismic faults. The nearest faults are the Sierra Nevada Fault Zone (approximately 60 miles east), the San Joaquin Fault (approximately 75 miles northwest), and the San Andreas Fault (approximately 75 miles to the southwest). The City of Dinuba is located in a Seismic Zone II, as defined by the California Uniform Building Code.

## RESPONSES

- a-i. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.
- a-ii. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?
- a-iii. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

<sup>9</sup> City of Dinuba General Plan Update Background Report, October 2006. Page 10-1.

a-iv. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project site is not located in an earthquake fault zone as delineated by the 1972 Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Act. The nearest known potentially active fault is the Sierra Nevada Fault Zone, located approximately 60 miles east of the site. No active faults have been mapped within the Project boundaries, so there is no potential for fault rupture. It is anticipated that the proposed Project site could be subject to some ground acceleration and ground shaking associated with seismic activity during its design life. The Project would be engineered and constructed in strict accordance with the earthquake resistant design requirements contained in the latest edition of the California Building Code (CBC) for Seismic Zone II, as well as Title 24 of the California Administrative Code, and therefore would avoid potential seismically induced hazards on planned structures. The Project site has a generally flat topography, and is not at risk of landslide. The impact of seismic hazards on the Project would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** During construction, the proposed Project will construct above-ground mud pits and debris detention basin areas, install a conductor casing, and other activities associated with the water well. In addition, it is anticipated that it will take approximately 4,900 cubic yards of dirt to fill the existing stormbasin. The Project area has a generally flat topography and is in an established public facilities site. Construction activities associated with the Project involves soil-moving work. These activities could expose barren soils to sources of wind or water, resulting in the potential for erosion and sedimentation on and off the Project site. During construction, nuisance flow caused by minor rain could flow off-site. The City and/or contractor would be required to employ appropriate sediment and erosion control BMPs as part of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that would be required by the California National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). In addition, soil erosion and loss of topsoil would be minimized through implementation of the SVJAPCD fugitive dust control measures (See Section III). Once construction is complete, the Project would not result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Compliance with state regulations will ensure that impacts remain less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

- 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?
- d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the most recently adopted Uniform Building Code creating substantial risks to life or property?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** See Section VI a. above. The site is not at significant risk from ground shaking, liquefaction, or landslide and is otherwise considered geologically stable. The City of Dinuba sits on top of a mix of different loam classifications; however, the predominant soil near the proposed Project site is Delhi Loamy Sand, 110.<sup>10</sup> This soil type is characterized as moderately deep, with rapid permeability, and with low shrink/swell potential, which is generally not conducive to liquification. Additionally, liquefaction typically occurs when there is shallow groundwater, low-density non-plastic soils, and high-intensity ground motion.

The City of Dinuba is relatively flat which precludes the occurrence of landslides. Subsidence is typically related to over-extraction of groundwater from certain types of geologic formations where the water is partly responsible for supporting the ground surface. The City of Dinuba is not recognized by the U.S. Geological Service as being in an area of subsidence.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, ongoing potential impacts of groundwater depletion and subsidence are constantly being monitored by USGS through a system of extensometers positioned throughout the San Joaquin valley. Continuous measurements and aquifer-system response analysis enables appropriate governing of parameters set to mitigate subsidence impacts in the region. Impacts are considered less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

- 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?

**No Impact.** The Project does not include the construction, replacement, or disturbance of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The Project will not be tying into the existing sewer services and will instead utilize temporary portable toilets for staff during construction. Therefore, there is no impact.

---

<sup>10</sup> City of Dinuba General Plan Update Background Report, October 2006. Page Figure 9-1, Soils.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Geological Service. Areas of Land Subsidence in California. [https://ca.water.usgs.gov/land\\_subsidence/california-subsidence-areas.html](https://ca.water.usgs.gov/land_subsidence/california-subsidence-areas.html) Accessed August 2020.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

**Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** There are no unique geologic features in the Project vicinity. Although there are no known paleontological resources located in the Project area, site development does have the potential to directly or indirectly destroy an unknown paleontological resource. Mitigation measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 are included to reduce any impacts to a less than significant level.

**Mitigation Measures:** CUL-1 and CUL-2

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

**Would the project:**

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

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Various gases in the earth’s atmosphere play an important role in moderating the earth’s surface temperature. Solar radiation enters earth’s atmosphere from space and a portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth’s surface. The earth emits this radiation back toward space, but the properties of the radiation change from high-frequency solar radiation to lower-frequency infrared radiation. GHGs are transparent to solar radiation but are effective in absorbing infrared radiation. Consequently, radiation that would otherwise escape back into space is retained, resulting in a warming of the earth’s atmosphere. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect. Scientific research to date indicates that some of the observed climate change is a result of increased GHG emissions associated with human activity. Among the GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), ozone, Nitrous Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), and chlorofluorocarbons. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are considered responsible for enhancing the greenhouse effect. GHG emissions contributing to global climate change are attributable, in large part, to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. In California, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs, followed by electricity generation. Global climate change is, indeed, a global issue. GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria pollutants and TACs (which are pollutants of regional and/or local concern). Global climate change, if it occurs, could potentially affect water resources in California. Rising temperatures could be anticipated to result in sea-level rise (as polar ice caps melt) and possibly change the timing and amount of precipitation, which could alter water quality. According to some, climate change could result in more extreme weather patterns; both heavier precipitation that could lead to flooding, as well as more extended drought periods. There is uncertainty regarding the timing, magnitude, and nature of the potential changes to water resources as a result of climate change; however, several trends are evident.

Snowpack and snowmelt may also be affected by climate change. Much of California's precipitation falls as snow in the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades, and snowpack represents approximately 35 percent of the state's useable annual water supply. The snowmelt typically occurs from April through July; it provides natural water flow to streams and reservoirs after the annual rainy season has ended. As air temperatures increase due to climate change, the water stored in California's snowpack could be affected by increasing temperatures resulting in: (1) decreased snowfall, and (2) earlier snowmelt.

## RESPONSES

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Emissions from construction are temporary in nature. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has implemented a guidance policy for development projects within their jurisdiction. This policy, "Guidance for Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA," approved by the Board on December 17, 2009, does not address temporary GHG emissions from construction, nor does this policy establish numeric thresholds for ongoing GHG emissions. Therefore, construction-generated GHGs are less than significant. Once constructed, the Project does not include any significant long-term emissions (usually associated with vehicle trips). As such, the Project will not conflict with any applicable GHG plans/regulations and operational GHG emissions are considered less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

g. Expose people or structures either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed Project site is located just outside the westernmost portion of the City, immediately east of the Alta Irrigation Ditch. The nearest residence is less than one quarter mile south of the Project site, with one other residence located to the east. The proposed Project site is approximately 9 miles northwest of Sequoia Field Airport, while the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport is the closest regional airport, approximately 20 miles northwest.

RESPONSES

- a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

**Less than Significant Impact.** This impact is associated with hazards caused by the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Proposed Project construction activities may involve the use and transport of hazardous materials. These materials may include fuels, oils, mechanical fluids, and other chemicals used during construction. Transportation, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials during construction activities would be required to comply with applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Compliance would ensure that human health and the environment are not exposed to hazardous materials. In addition, the Project would be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program through the submission and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan during construction

activities to prevent contaminated runoff from leaving the Project site. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur during construction activities.

The Project would not create a significant hazard through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, nor would a significant hazard to the public or to the environment through the reasonably foreseeable upset and accidental conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment occur.

Therefore, the proposed Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and any impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Roosevelt Elementary School is the nearest school, approximately 1.7 miles to the northeast. As such, the impact is less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- 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?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project site is not located on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (Geotracker and DTSC Envirostor databases). The nearest active Geotracker listed site is Dinuba Cleaners<sup>12</sup> on 331 E Tulare, over two miles east of the proposed Project site. The nearest active Department of Toxic Substances Control listed site is Flex-Multilayer, Inc<sup>13</sup> on 301 North M Street, approximately two miles east of the proposed Project site. There are no

---

<sup>12</sup> California State Water Resources Control Board, Geotracker Database.  
<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=dinuba> Accessed August 2020.

<sup>13</sup> California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Envirostor Database.  
[https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global\\_id=80001776](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global_id=80001776)  
 Accessed August 2020.

hazardous materials sites that impact the Project. As such, no impacts would occur that would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- 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?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project site is not near any airports, public use or private, and is therefore not within a safety hazard zone or airport land use area. There is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

**No Impact.** The Project will not interfere with any adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. There is *no impact*.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

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

**No Impact.** There are no wildlands on or near the Project site. There is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off- site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Dinuba is located in the Tulare Lake hydrologic region, specifically within the Kings sub-basin of the San Joaquin Valley groundwater basin<sup>14</sup>. Groundwater levels in this area are considered plentiful and have shown an increase since droughts recorded in 1976-77 and 1987-92. California’s Groundwater Bulletin 118 estimates that the Kings sub-basin totals approximately 1,530 square miles and contains nearly 90 million acre-feet of groundwater. Dinuba has a groundwater depth of approximately 50 feet below the surface.

The City of Dinuba will provide water to the Project site for drilling purposes. No water service infrastructure is required, as the Project will utilize temporary portable toilets for staff usage during temporary operations. The Project itself will provide supplemental water to the City.

RESPONSES

- a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

**Less Than Significant Impact.**

*Construction*

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>14</sup> City of Dinuba, General Plan Update Draft Environmental Impact Report, December 2006. Page 3 – 74.

The proposed construction activities could temporarily increase runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. Construction activities also could result in soil compaction and wind erosion effects that could adversely affect soils and reduce the revegetation potential at construction sites and staging areas.

Three general sources of potential short-term construction-related stormwater pollution associated with the proposed Project are: 1) the handling, storage, and disposal of construction materials containing pollutants; 2) the maintenance and operation of construction equipment; and 3) earth moving activities which, when not controlled, may generate soil erosion and transportation, via storm runoff or mechanical equipment. Generally, routine safety precautions for handling and storing construction materials may effectively mitigate the potential pollution of stormwater by these materials. These same types of common sense, “good housekeeping” procedures can be extended to non-hazardous stormwater pollutants such as sawdust and other solid wastes.

Poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel, oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the construction site are also common sources of stormwater pollution and soil contamination. In addition, grading activities can greatly increase erosion processes. Two general strategies are recommended to prevent construction silt from entering local storm drains. First, erosion control procedures should be implemented for those areas that must be exposed. Secondly, the area should be secured to control offsite migration of pollutants. These Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be required in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be prepared prior to commencement of Project construction. When properly designed and implemented, these “good-housekeeping” practices are expected to reduce short-term construction-related impacts to less than significant.

In accordance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program, the Project will be required to comply with existing regulatory requirements to prepare a SWPPP designed to control erosion and the loss of topsoil to the extent practicable using BMPs that the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has deemed effective in controlling erosion, sedimentation, runoff during construction activities. The specific controls are subject to the review and approval by the RWQCB and are an existing regulatory requirement.

### *Operation*

Once constructed, the Project will provide supplemental water to the City. The water extracted by the well will be treated in compliance with the California State Regional Water Quality Control Board standards. There are no water discharge activities associated with the well, once constructed.

Therefore, any impacts are less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Dinuba's main water supply comes from seven active underground water wells located throughout the City, totaling a maximum production efficiency of approximately 11.0 million gallons per day (MGD).<sup>15</sup> This equates to approximately 7,600 gallons per minute (GPM). The maximum capacity of the groundwater supply system is approximately 11.0 MGD, the maximum daily demand is approximately 7.3 MGD and the daily average demand is 4.2 MGD. The supply system pumps transport groundwater to the surface, maintain system pressure with the help of the City's two water towers, and treats the water with chlorine at each well site. At some sites the water is filtered and checked for elevated levels of DBCP, a contaminant found in some areas. The water is then transported for use throughout the City via a distribution system with approximately 4,575 connections. The City's water supply system is reported to be operating at approximately 66% capacity. The implementation of the new water well will ensure that the City is able to maintain excess capacity in the future, as the City grows and demands for water supply increase. Any impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- 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:
- i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite;
  - ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;
  - iii. 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
  - iv. impede or redirect flood flows?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project includes minor changes to the existing stormwater

---

<sup>15</sup> City of Dinuba General Plan Update Background Report, October 2006. Page 7- 1.



drainage pattern of the area through the installation of impermeable (concrete/asphalt) surfaces and/or structures associated with the new well. The site will be graded to facilitate proper stormwater drainage, however, the introduction of a relatively small structure on vacant/bare ground in this area is not expected to have any measurable impact on stormwater drainage in the immediate area. Standard construction practices and compliance with state and federal regulations, City ordinances and regulations, the Uniform Building Code, and adherence to professional engineering design approved by the City of Dinuba will reduce or eliminate potential drainage impacts from the Project. Any impacts related to this analysis area are less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

- d. In flood hazard, tsunami or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?
- e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project site is not within any special flood hazard areas, or other areas of flood hazard (as identified by current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map). The Alta Irrigation Ditch runs along the western edge of the Project site; however, it is not anticipated that this body of water would create a potential risk of hazards from seiche, tsunami or mudflow. The Project will not conflict with any water quality control plans or sustainable groundwater management plan. There will be a less than significant impact associated with Project implementation.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project site is located just outside the westernmost part of the City of Dinuba, north of El Monte Way/Avenue 416 and east of Road 64. See Figure 2 – Site Map. The site is designated as VA (Valley Agriculture) by Tulare County and is currently being utilized for public facilities by the City.

### RESPONSES

#### a. Physically divide an established community?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The construction and operation of the Project would not cause any land use changes in the surrounding vicinity nor would it divide an established community. The proposed use is consistent with its existing use within a public facilities context, and is considered acceptable. Impacts are less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project includes construction of a water well and the associated drilling activities. The immediate vicinity of the proposed Project site is comprised of agricultural land uses and undeveloped land, with a few rural residences nearby to the south and one to

the east. The area is highly disturbed. The proposed Project has no characteristics that would physically divide the City of Dinuba. Access to the existing surrounding establishments will remain.

The proposed water well would not conflict with current zoning in and around the Project site and would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The Project is consistent with the City's General Plan Public Facilities and Services Chapter. Impacts are less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Tulare County commercially extracts important minerals such as sand, gravel, crushed rock and natural gas.<sup>16</sup> Other minerals have been mined in the county to a smaller extent, including tungsten, chromite, copper, gold, lead, manganese, silver, zinc, barite, feldspar, limestone and silica. Aggregate resources are considered the County’s most valuable extractive mineral. No mineral resource locations are within the vicinity of the City of Dinuba.<sup>17</sup>

RESPONSES

- 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?
- 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?

**No Impact.** There are no known mineral resources in the proposed Project area and the site is not included in a State classified mineral resource zones. Therefore, there is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

<sup>16</sup> Tulare County General Plan Background Report, February 2010. Page 10-17.  
<sup>17</sup> City of Dinuba General Plan Update Background Report, October 2006. Page 9-12.

## XIII. NOISE

**Would the project:**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Noise is most often described as unwanted sound. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. The City of Dinuba is impacted by a multitude of noise sources. Principal noise sources include traffic on roadways, agricultural noise and industrial noise. Mobile sources of noise, especially cars and trucks, are the most common and significant sources of noise in most communities, and they are predominant sources of noise in the City. The Project is located in an area with a mix of uses. The predominant noise sources in the Project area include traffic on local roadways and noise associated with rural residences and active agriculture. Sensitive receptors (rural residences) are located less than one-quarter mile to the south and east.

## RESPONSES

- 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?
- b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

**Less than Significant Impact.***Short-term (Construction) Noise Impacts*

Proposed Project construction related activities will involve temporary noise sources. Typical construction related equipment include trenchers, small tractors and excavators. During the proposed Project construction, noise from construction related activities will contribute to the noise environment in the immediate vicinity. Activities involved in construction will generate maximum noise levels, as indicated in Table 5, ranging from 79 to 91 dBA at a distance of 50 feet, without feasible noise control (e.g., mufflers) and ranging from 75 to 80 dBA at a distance of 50 feet, with feasible noise controls.

**Table 5**  
**Typical Construction Noise Levels**

Type of Equipment	dBA at 50 ft	
	Without Feasible Noise Control	With Feasible Noise Control
<b>Dozer or Tractor</b>	80	75
<b>Excavator</b>	88	80
<b>Scraper</b>	88	80
<b>Front End Loader</b>	79	75
<b>Backhoe</b>	85	75
<b>Grader</b>	85	75
<b>Truck</b>	91	75

The distinction between short-term construction noise impacts and long-term operational noise impacts is a typical one in both CEQA documents and local noise ordinances, which generally recognize the reality that short-term noise from construction is inevitable and cannot be mitigated beyond a certain level. Thus, local agencies frequently tolerate short-term noise at levels that they would not accept for permanent noise sources. A more severe approach would be impractical and might preclude the kind of construction activities that are to be expected from time to time in urban environments. Most residents of urban areas recognize this reality and expect to hear construction activities on occasion.

*Operational Noise Impacts*

Upon completion, the primary sources of noise from the proposed Project will be from pumps and associated motorized equipment. However, these mechanisms will be enclosed and the nearest noise receptors (residences) are located just under 400 feet south of the approximate proposed well site. The area is active with agriculture, and as such the proposed Project will not likely introduce a new significant source of noise that isn't already in the area. Thus, any impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

- 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?

**No Impact.** The Project is not located within an airport land use plan, nor is it within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, there is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.



#### XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

##### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Dinuba's primary industry is agriculture, but there is sufficient labor force in the area to support many other types of industries. Dinuba's population has exhibited major growth since 2000. The population in 2000 was 16,844<sup>18</sup>, while the current population is 25,994.<sup>19</sup> This represents an approximate increase of 54%. Estimates for 2020 shows the City has 6,876 housing units with an average of 3.84 people per household.

The current status of the Project site is a public facility. There is no new housing associated with the Project.

The Project site is located in an area dominated by agricultural uses. The nearest residences are less than one-quarter mile to the south and east.

#### RESPONSES

- a. Induce substantial 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)?

<sup>18</sup> City of Dinuba General Plan Update Background Report, October 2006. Page 4-1.

<sup>19</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State –2011- 2020 with 2010 Census Benchmark, May 2020. <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-5/> Accessed August 2020.

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

**No Impact.** There are no new homes associated with the proposed Project and there are no residential structures currently on-site. The proposed Project would be a public facility operation that would temporarily provide jobs in the Dinuba area, which could be readily filled by the existing employment base, given the City's existing unemployment rates. The proposed Project will not affect any regional population, housing, or employment projections anticipated by City policy documents. There is no impact.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------

a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The existing Project area is protected by the City of Dinuba Police Department, which is headquartered at 680 Alta Avenue. The City of Dinuba Fire Department provides primary fire protection to areas outside City Limits through a mutual aid agreement with the Tulare County Fire Department/California Division of Forestry. The Dinuba Fire Department is located at 496 East Tulare Street in downtown Dinuba. There are no public parks or schools in the vicinity of the proposed Project site.

RESPONSES

a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project would construct and install a water well site on land currently utilized by the City for public facilities purposes. The proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth and no impact would occur. There is no impact.

Police Protection?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project will continue to be served by the City of Dinuba Police Department. No additional police personnel or equipment is anticipated. There is no impact.

Schools?

**No Impact.** The direct increase in demand for schools is normally associated with new residential projects that bring new families with school-aged children to a region. The proposed Project does not contain any residential uses. The proposed Project, therefore, would not result in an influx of new students in the Project area and is not expected to result in an increased demand upon District resources and would not require the construction of new facilities. There is no impact.

Parks?

**No Impact.** The Project would not result in an increase in demand for parks and recreation facilities because it would not result in an increase in population. Accordingly, the proposed Project would have no impacts on parks.

Other public facilities?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project is within the land use and growth projections identified in the City's General Plan and other infrastructure studies. The Project, therefore, would not result in increased demand for, or impacts on, other public facilities such as library services. Accordingly, no impact would occur.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## XVI. RECREATION

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

There are twelve parks within the City of Dinuba; Alice Park, Felix Delgado Park, Gregory Park, K/C Vista Park, Rose Ann Vuich Park, Roosevelt Park, Entertainment Plaza, Luis Ruiz Park, Pamela Lane Ponding Basin, Peachwood Park and Ponding Basin and Rotary Park. These parks are managed by the City of Dinuba's Parks and Community Services Department. This department also supervises and coordinates a wide variety of community programs and activities.

## RESPONSES

- Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project does not include the construction of residential uses and would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Therefore, the proposed Project would not cause physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities from increased usage or result in the need for new or expanded recreational facilities. The Project would have no impact to existing parks.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## XVII. TRANSPORTATION/ TRAFFIC

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Dinuba is two miles north of SR 201, five miles west of SR 63 and eight miles northeast of the Golden State Highway/SR 99.

The Fresno-Yosemite International Airport is the closest regional airport, approximately 22 miles northwest. There are six main arterials that divide the City, including El Monte Way which borders the southern boundary of the proposed Project site.

## RESPONSES

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

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project applicant intends to construct and install a water well to supplement the City's water supplies. During construction, vehicles will travel to the site on a temporary basis. Any personnel assigned to the Project would be expected to generate minimal vehicle trips to and from the site. Once constructed, the Project is not anticipated to deteriorate the performance of the existing circulation system, as periodic/routine maintenance and operational activities won't generate substantial vehicle trips. The Project will not conflict with any circulation program, plan, ordinance or policy. Emergency access will not be impacted, nor will the site plan increase hazards to the local roadways. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Would the project:**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 the Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## RESPONSES

- 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
  - 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.

**Less than Significant Impact.** A Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR) is defined under Public Resources Code section 21074 as a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope, sacred place, and object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included and that is listed or eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Resources or in a local register of historical resources, or if the City of Dinuba, acting as the Lead Agency, supported by substantial evidence, chooses at its discretion to treat the resource as a TCR. As discussed herein, under Section V, Cultural Resources, criteria (b) and (d), no known archeological resources, ethnographic sites or Native American remains are located on the proposed Project site. As discussed under criterion (b) implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would reduce impacts to unknown archaeological deposits, including TCRs, to a less than significant level. As discussed under criterion (d), compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 would reduce the likelihood of disturbing or discovering human remains, including those of Native Americans.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has performed a Sacred Lands File search for sites located on or near the Project site, with negative results. Due to the nature of the Project and the results of the records search, the City has determined that the proposed Project does not meet the City's criteria to conduct additional Tribal consultation. Any impacts to TCR would be considered less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No additional measures are required.

## XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

### Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proponent for the proposed Project is the City of Dinuba, which has responsibility for providing water and wastewater services for the community. The proposed Project would not involve any construction or changes to stormwater drainage or solid waste management.

## RESPONSES

- 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?

### **Less than Significant Impact.**

#### *Wastewater, Utilities and Solid Waste*

The proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a new water well. The proposed Project would not require service for sewage disposal, but may potentially require solid waste disposal during construction. The City of Dinuba's utilities and service systems would not be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed well. Any impacts would be *less than significant*.

#### *Water Supply*

The City's main water supply comes from seven, active underground water wells distributed throughout the City. The water is treated and delivered to the community by the City of Dinuba water system. The City's maximum capacity is 11.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and the maximum daily demand is 7.3 MGD. While the City's water system is operating in an excess capacity, the proposed new water well is intended to ensure the City can meet the maximum daily demand while the area's population continues to grow. Any impacts would be *less than significant*.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## XX. WILDFIRE

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Dinuba's planning area is composed of urbanized portions of land and the surrounding agricultural fields. The Project site has ensured fire protection by the Dinuba Fire Department, located at 496 East Tulare Street and approximately 2.4 miles east of the site. Given the location of the nearest fire station, response time is expected to be extremely quick in the rare event of a fire event.

The proposed Project site's elevation is approximately 334 feet above sea level in an area of intense agricultural uses. The proposed well site will be located to the west of the City, north of El Monte Way/Avenue 416 and east of Road 64. The Project site is bounded to the west by the Alta Irrigation Ditch. Undeveloped land lies immediately to the north and east. Orchards and rural residences lie to the south and further east.

## RESPONSES

- 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?
- 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?
- 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?

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project is located in an area developed with primarily agricultural uses, which precludes the risk of wildfire. The area is flat in nature which would limit the risk of downslope flooding and landslides, and limit any wildfire spread.

To receive building permits, the proposed Project would be required to be in compliance with the adopted emergency response plan. As such, any wildfire risk to the Project structures or people would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** None are required.

## XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------

- a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?
- c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

## RESPONSES

- a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of

a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

**Less than Significant Impact With Mitigation.** The analyses of environmental issues contained in this Initial Study indicate that the proposed Project is not expected to have substantial impact on the environment or on any resources identified in the Initial Study. Mitigation measures have been incorporated in the Project to reduce all potentially significant impacts to *less than significant*.

b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

**Less than Significant Impact.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(i) states that a Lead Agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a project is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of a project must, therefore, be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects. Due to the nature of the Project and consistency with environmental policies, incremental contributions to impacts are considered less than cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project would not contribute substantially to adverse cumulative conditions, or create any substantial indirect impacts (i.e., increase in population could lead to an increase need for housing, increase in traffic, air pollutants, etc.). The impact is *less than significant*.

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

**Less than Significant Impact With Mitigation.** The analyses of environmental issues contained in this Initial Study indicate that the Project is not expected to have substantial impact on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Mitigation measures have been incorporated in the Project to reduce all potentially significant impacts to *less than significant*.



## LIST OF PREPARERS

### **Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc.**

- Emily Bowen, LEED AP, Principal Environmental Planner
- Travis Crawford, AICP, Principal Environmental Planner

### Persons and Agencies Consulted

- Jason Watts, PE (Yamabe & Horn Engineers)

# Appendices

---

# Appendix A

---

## Cultural Records Search



**To:** Emily Bowen  
Crawford Bowen Planning, Inc.  
113 N. Church Street, Suite 302  
Visalia, CA 93291

**Record Search 20-299**

**Date:** August 17, 2020

**Re:** City of Dinuba Well Project

**County:** Tulare

**Map(s):** Reedley 7.5'

### **CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH**

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resource files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area.

### **PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS**

According to the information in our files, there have been no previous cultural resource studies conducted within the project area. There has been one study conducted within the one-half mile radius, TU-00165.

## **KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS**

There are no recorded resources within the project area, and it is unknown if any exist there. There are ten recorded resources within the one-half mile radius, P-54-002171, 004900, 004905, 004906, 004909, 005017, 005018, 005019, 005020, and 005021. These resources consist of three historic era canals, an historic era bridge, and six historic era buildings.

There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks.

## **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

We understand this project consists of construction and operation of a new well located within an existing stormwater basin. Because this project area is already developed with an existing stormwater basin, no further cultural resource investigation is recommended at this time. However, if cultural resources are unearthed during ground disturbance activities, all work must halt in the area of the find and a qualified, professional consultant should be called out to assess the findings and make the appropriate mitigation recommendations. A list of qualified consultants can be found at [www.chrisinfo.org](http://www.chrisinfo.org).

We also recommend that you contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento. They will provide you with a current list of Native American individuals/organizations that can assist you with information regarding cultural resources that may not be included in the CHRIS Inventory and that may be of concern to the Native groups in the area. The Commission can consult their "Sacred Lands Inventory" file to determine what sacred resources, if any, exist within this project area and the way in which these resources might be managed. Finally, please consult with the lead agency on this project to determine if any other cultural resource investigation is required. If you need any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (661) 654-2289.

By:

Celeste M. Thomson, Coordinator

**Date:** August 17, 2020

Please note that invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.