# **Basin "DM" Expansion Project**

# Fresno County, California

**Initial Study** 

August 5, 2022

Prepared by: Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II Josephd@fresnofloodcontrol.org

Prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act



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# **Environmental Checklist Form**

# **Project Title**

Basin "DM" Expansion Project

## Lead Agency Name and Address

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 5469 East Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727 http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org

## **Contact Person and Phone Number**

Joseph Draper, Staff Analyst II josephd@fresnofloodcontrol.org (559) 456-3292

#### **Project Location**

The Basin "DM" Expansion Project (Project) is located on the southeast corner of Copper Avenue and Peach Avenue in Fresno County. The Project area consists of acquiring 3.2 acres of land directly south of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District's (FMFCD) existing Basin "DM" property. Exhibit No. 1 & 2 illustrate the project location.

## **General Plan Designation & Zoning**

The County of Fresno designates APN 580-050-10 as Exclusive Agricultural (AE-20). The project is within the City of Clovis Sphere of Influence. In the City of Clovis 2014 General Plan, the expansion area is designated as Medium Density Residential (4.1-7.0 DU/Ac).

# **Description of Project**

Basin "DM" is an existing 19.14-acre stormwater basin. FMFCD proposes to acquire 3.2 acres of the property on its south side to accommodate a revised basin design. The revised basin design accounts for updated "C-factors" used to determine urban runoff volume and includes public right-of-way dedications to the City of Clovis. The expansion of Basin "DM" will result in 56,800 cubic yards of additional excavation and is expected to occur over a 10 to 20-year period.

#### Land Uses and Setting

Fresno County is located approximately in the center of the San Joaquin Valley, stretching approximately 100 miles from the Coastal Range foothills to the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. A regional map listed as Exhibit No. 1 illustrates the project's location on a regional scale within the County of Fresno. A Vicinity Map listed as Exhibit No. 2 represents the project's location near the cities of Fresno and Clovis and the District's Boundary. Project diagrams on Exhibit No. 3 and No. 4 show the location of the proposed basin expansion property and the revised basin design.

The proposed basin expansion area is currently vacant agricultural land. Surrounding land uses are agricultural, rural residential, and commercial.

The District distributed a Request for Informal Consultation for the proposed basin expansion project to responsible, trustee, and other agencies that might have an interest in the project. The Request for Informal Consultation was also mailed to adjacent property owners. The Request for Informal Consultation allowed the agencies to comment on the project's potential environmental effects. These comments, where applicable, were incorporated into this Initial Study. A copy of the comments provided during the informal consultation period is provided in Appendix I: Informal Consultation Comment Letters.

# **Previous Analysis**

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) certified a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SCN 199911132) on December 13, 2017 for the 2016 District Services Plan Update (2017 SEIR). The 2017 SEIR updates the Final Master Environmental Impact Report of the 2004 District Services Plan, certified by the District in 2007 (2007 MEIR). Prior to the 2007 MEIR and 2017 SEIR, a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Drainage Area and Basin "DM" was adopted on August 25, 1992.

The 2017 SEIR and 2016 District Services Plan are available on the District's website: <a href="http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org/documents-and-reports/">http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org/documents-and-reports/</a>

The purposes of this Initial Study are to determine whether the proposed project, a 3.2-acre expansion of an existing stormwater basin, may have a significant effect on the environment. Many of the environmental impacts are anticipated to have been analyzed or are like those analyzed in the 2017 SEIR and 2007 MEIR. Discussion sections of environmental impacts may refer to the 2017 SEIR and 2007 MEIR as SEIR and MEIR, respectively.

# **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required**

None

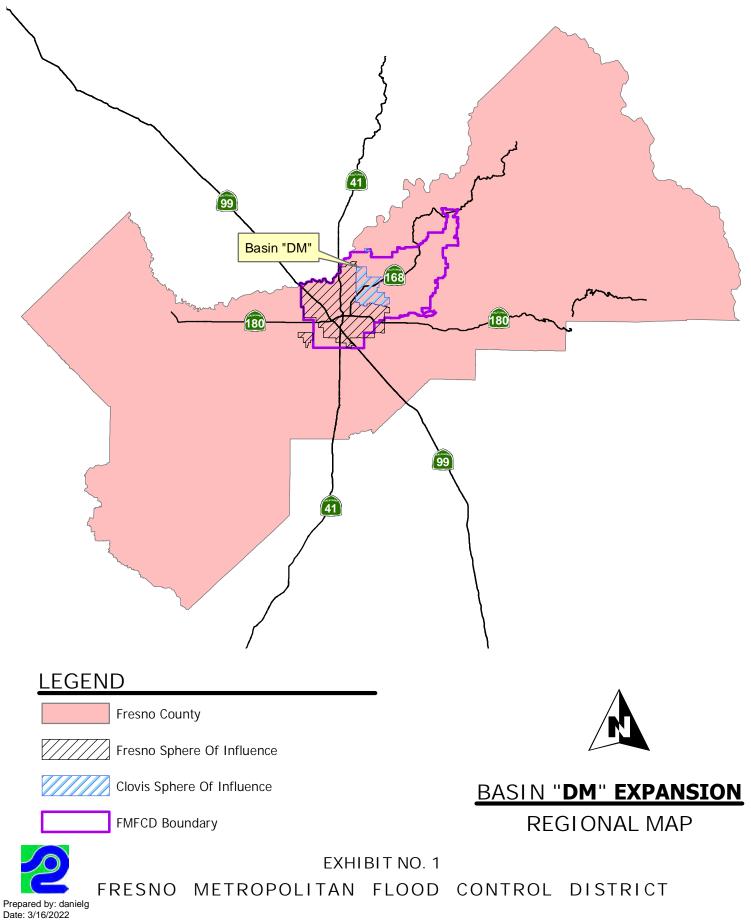
# Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation under Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1?

If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significant impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

The District contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a list of California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area. Using the list provided from NAHC, the District delivered through certified mail tribal consultation letters informing California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area of the proposed project and the opportunity to engage in tribal consultation with FMFCD. Two California Native American tribes requested consultation. However, the FMFCD and two California Native American tribes were unable to schedule meetings to discuss the project. A copy of the tribal consultation letters and a summary of tribal government outreach is provided on Appendix II.a: Summary of Tribal Government Outreach.

# Exhibit 1: Regional Map

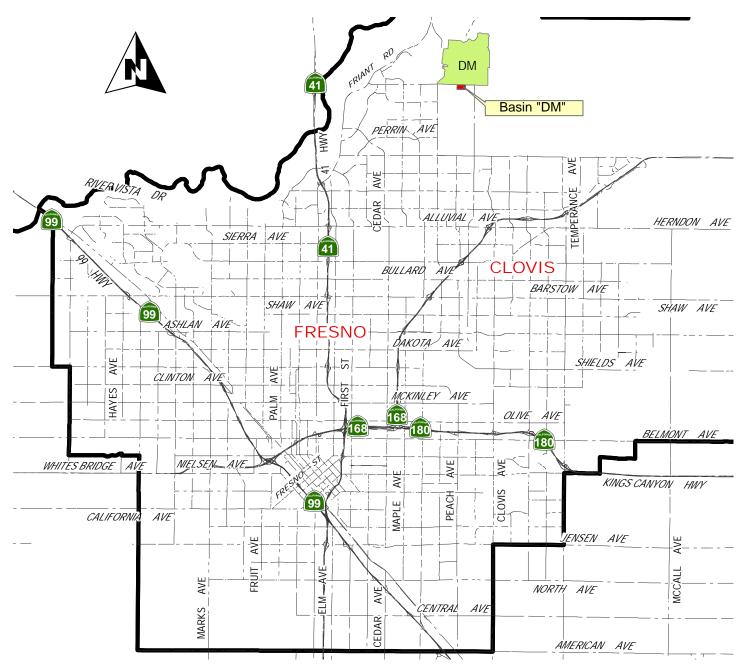
NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



Path: K:\Autocad\DWGS\0EXHIBIT\ENVIRON\DM Recharge Regional Map.mxd

# Exhibit 2: Vicinity Map

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



# <u>LEGEND</u>

Drainage Area "DM"

Basin "DM"

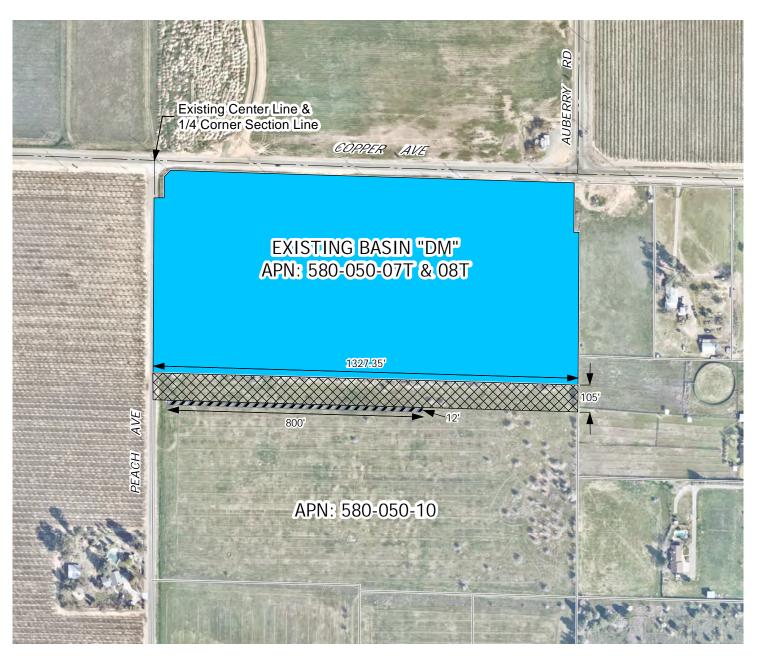
Vicinity Map



Path: K:\Autocad\DWGS\0EXHIBIT\LAND ACQUISITION\DM Figure 1.mxd

# Exhibit 3: Project Diagram

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



# LEGEND



Existing Basin "DM"



Proposed Basin "DM" Expansion Area Approximately 3.2± Ac.



Proposed Slope Easement Area Approximately 0.2± Ac.



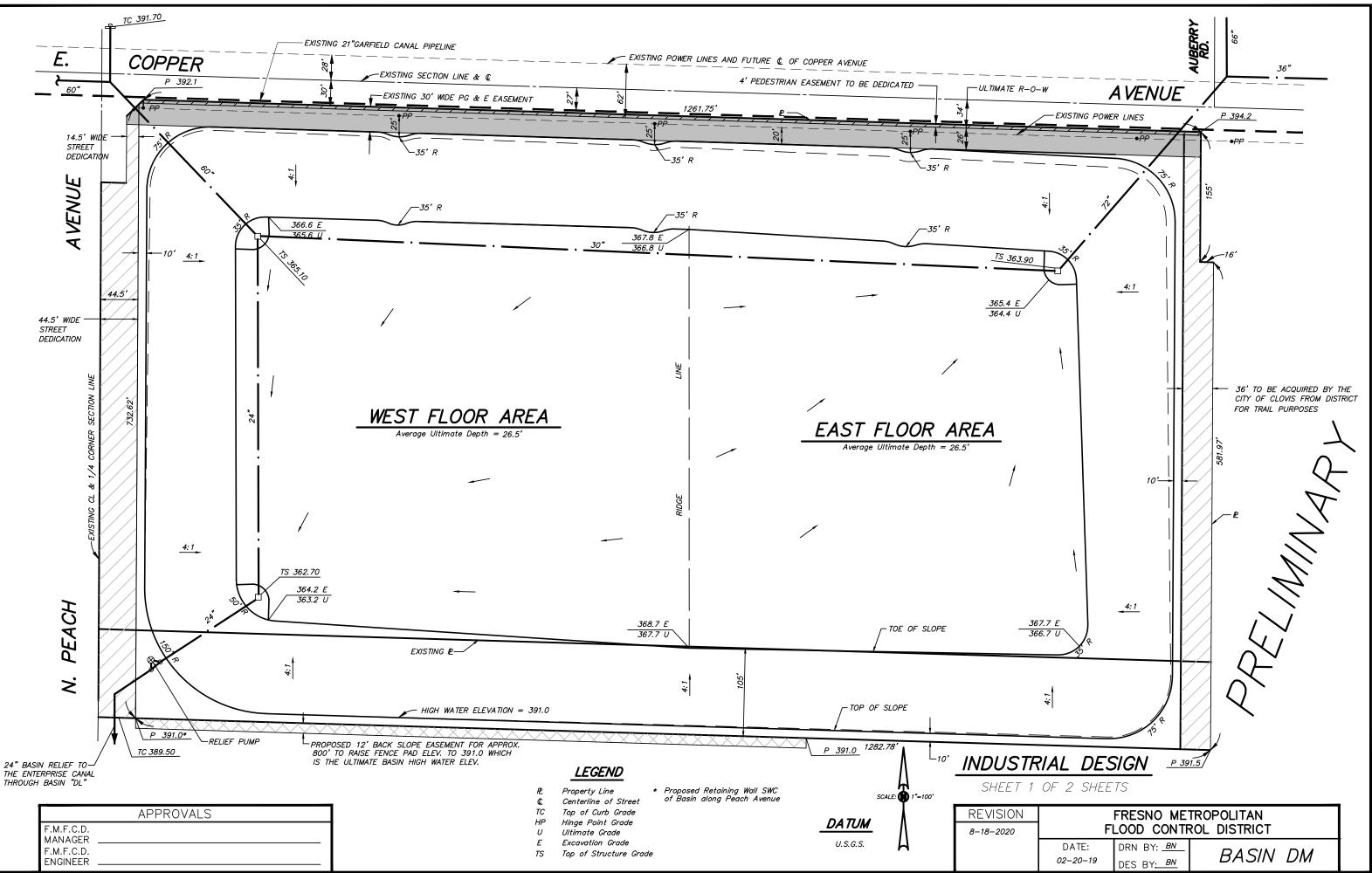
BASIN "DM" EXPANSION





EXHIBIT NO. 3 METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FRESNO

# Exhibit 4: Revised Basin Design



K: \Master Planning & Special Projects \Basin & H&H Studies \DM\Basin \DM-BAS-4\_Current \DM-BAS-4.dwg

	Solid Basin Provides 21.7 % Supplemental Capacity for Drainage Area DM.Basin Provides 21.7 % Supplemental Capacity for Drainage Area DM.Percolation Assumed to Equal Rainfall Amount on Basin Site.SITE AREA Area Within Property Lines = 20.9 Ac.HGL CONTROL 391.0 -0.28(25.3) = 383.91 Use previously established HGL of 387.20RelLIEF 24" Relief line to tie into the "DL" system in Peach Avenue approximately 600' south of Basin "DM". The "DL" relief line will be tied into the Enterprise Canal.
	NOUSTRIAL DESIGN SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS
APPROVALS F.M.F.C.D. F.M.F.C.D. ENGINEER	REVISIONFRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT8-18-2020DATE: 02-20-19DRN BY: BN DES BY: BNBASIN DM

<u>CA SUMMARY</u> JCT NO. <u>BASE CA</u> 26 45 324.9 216.1 541.0 STORAGE REQUIREMENTS BASE CA  $Vreq. = (541.0)(0.5)(1.15) = 311.0 \quad Ac-Ft$ 1.2  $BASE = (311.0)(1.2) = 373.2 \quad Ac-Ft$ <u>HIGH WATER LEVEL</u> High Water Elevation Equals top of basin at the SW corner. Elevation = 391.0 <u>FREEBOARD</u> Average Freeboard Equals 1.2' CAPACITY CALCULATIONS AREAS: AS: High Water (Elev. 391.0 ) Entire Basin @ Elev. 367.7 Lower Floor Area = 19.0 Ac. = 11.8 Ac. = 11.3 Ac. Average Lower Floor Elev. Average Pad Elev. = 365.7 = 392.2 Volume of Lower Floor Below Elev. 367.7  $Vol. = (11.8) + (11.3) + \sqrt{(11.8)(11.3)} (367.7 - 365.7) = 23.0 \text{ Ac-Ft}$ Volume of Entire Basin Above Elev. 367.7  $Vol. = \frac{(19.0) + (11.8) + \sqrt{(19.0)(11.8)}}{3} (391.0 - 367.7) = 355.5 \ Ac - Ft$ Total Volume = 23.0 + 355.5 = 378.5 Ac-Ft > 373.2 Ac-Ft O.K. <u>SUPPLEMENTAL CAPACITY</u> Basin Provides 21.7 % Supplemental Capacity for Drainage Area DM. <u>PERCOLATION</u> Percolation Assumed to Equal Rainfall Amount on Basin Site. <u>SITE AREA</u> Area Within Property Lines = 20.9 Ac. HGL CONTROL 391.0 -0.28(25.3) = 383.91 Use previously established HGL of 387.20 <u>RELIEF</u> 24" Relief line to tie into the "DL" system in Peach Avenue approximately 600' south of Basin "DM". The "DL" relief line will be tied into the Enterprise Canal.



: \Master Planning & Special Projects \Basin & H&H Studies \DM \Basin \DM—BAS—4\_Current \DM lwg

# **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" or is "less Than Significant with Mitigation", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	Aesthetics		Mineral Resources
	Agriculture and Forestry Resources		Noise
	Air Quality		Population/Housing
Х	Biological Resources		Public Services
х	Cultural Resources		Recreation
	Energy		Transportation
	Geology/Soils	x	Tribal Cultural Resources
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Utilities/Service Systems
	Hazards & Hazardous Materials		Wildfire
	Hydrology/Water Quality		Mandatory Findings of Significance
	Land Use/Planning		None

#### 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.

X 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.

August 8, 2022

Date

Signature Berta Mims Assistant General Manager – Administration Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

#### **Evaluation of Environmental Impacts**

The following information is presented for each environmental issue addressed in this section:

- A determination of whether the project would have a potentially significant impact, less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated, less than significant impact, or no impact;
- A brief explanation for each determination, including the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question;
- A description of any mitigation measures and how they would reduce an effect to a less significant level; and
- A list of all sources used in preparing the Initial Study is presented at the end of the document.

One of the following determinations is made for each environmental issue:

- 1. **No impact** determination is made if the project does not create an impact in that category. "No Impact" answers need to be adequately supported by information which shows that the impact simply does not apply to the projects like the one involved. A "No Impact" answer will be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards.
- 2. Less than significant impact determination is made if an effect is clearly less than significant, as documented in the explanation and referenced sources.
- Less than significant with mitigation incorporation determination is made where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from a potentially significant impact to a less than significant impact.
- 4. **Potentially significant impact** determination is made if an effect is significant or potentially significant, or if the Lead Agency lacks information to make a finding of insignificance. If there are one or more potentially significant impact entries, an EIR is required.

## 1. Aesthetics

Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?		х		
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?		х		
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?		Х		
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?		Х		

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

• As necessary and possible, hours of operation for light-generating construction equipment would be restricted to between the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

#### Discussion

The 2017 SEIR and 2007 MEIR evaluated the aesthetic impacts related to stormwater basins for the District service area. Stormwater basins are considered to have no impact to less than significant impact to aesthetic resources. Please see the referenced 2017 SEIR for more information.

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. The project area would be excavated and operated as a stormwater basin. There are no scenic vistas or scenic resources in the area that would be blocked by the project. Most of the facilities will be below ground level other than pump stations and chain link fencing.
- **b)** Less Than Significant Impact. The project area is surrounded by agriculture, rural residential or commercial land uses. Future uses identified in the City of Clovis General Plan adopted in 2014 designate the surrounding land uses as mixed us and medium residential. The project area would be excavated and operated as a stormwater basin. The proposed location of the basin expansion is currently vacant agricultural land. There are no state scenic highways in the vicinity of the project. The visual character of the site would remain as open space when the project is completed.
- c) Less Than Significant Impact. The project area is vacant agricultural land. The vacant property would be excavated and operated as stormwater basin. There are no scenic vistas or scenic resources in the area. The visual character of the site would remain as open space when the project is completed.

**d)** Less Than Significant Impact. To prevent a possible temporary effect of a new source of light or a glare from construction equipment, the performance standard listed above would be implemented during construction. After construction, there will be no lighting on the site.

## 2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information complied by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant 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?		Х		
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?		х		
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))?	Х			
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	Х			
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?		х		

#### Discussion

The 2017 SEIR studied Agricultural and Forestry Resources as a potentially significant effect. The proposed projects in the 2017 SEIR included obtaining land that was being farmed and had current Williamson Act contracts. However, the 2017 SEIR determined that impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resource would be less than significant. This project, however, does not include Williamson Act contracted land. Furthermore, surrounding land uses are unlikely to be affected by basin expansion projects since land use and planning decisions are the responsibility of the County of Fresno, City of Fresno and City of Clovis.

a) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project does not take place on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The location is designed as Farmland of Local Importance and that is not considered a significant effect. Furthermore, the District does not have land use authority on any surrounded areas.

- b) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project does not take place on Williamson Act-contracted land. The project will take place on land zoned as agricultural. However, the land has not been actively farmed since at least 2007. Additionally, the 2014 City of Clovis General Plan designates the land as medium density residential.
- c) No Impact. There is no forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production within the project area, and therefore no impact will occur.
- d) No Impact. There is no forest land within the project area, therefore no impact will occur.
- e) Less Than Significant Impact. The development of a stormwater basin will not cause surrounding land uses to change from farmland to other uses. Future surrounding land use changes must be approved by the County of Fresno, City of Fresno, or City of Clovis. Indirectly, planning of stormwater infrastructure for future development could ease development restrictions and facilitate future growth. Since construction of stormwater basin infrastructure could indirectly influence future development and surrounding land uses, this effect is less than significant.

# 3. Air Quality

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

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?		Х		
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?		Х		
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?		Х		
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?		х		

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

- District contractors and dirt removal permittees would be required to provide dust control and cleanup of loose soils both within and outside of construction sites in accordance with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Rule VIII for the control of fine particulate matter. Haul roads would be cleaned and swept as necessary during hauling operations.
- The District would require of its contractors or permittees to properly maintain internal combustion engines used during construction activities. The District would properly maintain all District owned and operated internal combustion engine machinery.
- Any maintenance activities that would cause or have the potential to cause fugitive emissions would be required to implement dust control measures in accordance with the District's comprehensive Dust Control Plan.
- If objectionable odors originate at a District facility, District staff would investigate the cause of the odor immediately. When the source of the odor is identified, it would be neutralized or removed and properly disposed of in accordance with local, State and federal requirements.

#### Discussion

The project area is under the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), which administers air quality regulations developed at the federal, state, and local levels. SJVAPCD regulates air pollutants in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). The predominant air pollutants in the SJVAB are ozone and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5). There are many federal, State, and local regulations that pertain to air quality. The District's draft SEIR on page 4-10 describes air quality and air quality related impacts in greater detail.

a) Less Than Significant Impact. As noted in the Air Quality Impact Analysis for the 2017 SEIR, regional construction, maintenance, and operation of the District's basins generate PM, oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and other criteria pollutants far below SJVAPCD significance thresholds. Air quality impacts related to a stormwater basin occur due to excavation activities. However, the proposed basin expansion project would not directly cause an increase in excavation activities since excavation is primarily demand driven.

Furthermore, the project would be subject to SJVAPCD Rule 9510 for Indirect Source Review, which reduces the project's PM and NOx generating activity. Based on past Indirect Source Review Air Impact Assessments (AIAs), limiting basin excavation to 180,000 cubic yards per year does not exceed PM and NOx thresholds requiring mitigation. The proposed project would add less than 180,000 cubic yards of additional soil for excavation. As a result, the proposed basin expansion project will not conflict with or obstruct any adopted air quality plan and this effect is less than significant.

- b) Less Than Significant Impact. As mentioned in response a) above, expanding a basin location does not directly result in an increase in excavation, which is the primary air pollutant generating activity. On a project level, the expansion project could not possibly exceed SJVAPCD significance threshold for PM and NOx. On a cumulative impact level, the expansion project wouldn't result in a net increase in excavation activities and therefore has a less than significant impact.
- c) Less Than Significant Impact. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District defines a sensitive receptor as follows: For CEQA purposes, a sensitive receptor is generically defined as a location where human populations, especially children, seniors, and sick persons are found, and there is reasonable expectation of continuous human exposure according to the averaging period for the ambient air quality standard (e.g., 24-hour, 8-hour, 1-hour). These typically include residences, hospitals, and schools. There are no sensitive receptors in the project area.

The District's SEIR on page 4-23 evaluated the project's impact on sensitive receptors and found that the impact would be less than significant. The SEIR identifies that the construction activities of stormwater basins would emit Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). The primary HAP of concern is diesel particulate matter produced by diesel-powered construction equipment. However, construction of stormwater basins are often short-term events over a period of 10 to 20 years. The magnitude of project-related emissions would not result in a significant health risk. Additionally, as mentioned above, the proposed project would not directly result in increased excavation at the existing Basin "DM". Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

d) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project will construct a stormwater basin, which will not cause objectionable odors, if objectionable odors occur in the project area for any reason, District staff shall investigate the cause of the odor immediately. When the should of the odor is identified, it shall be neutralized or removed and properly disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements.

#### 4. Biological Resources

Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact	
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species?			Х		
b. Have a substantially adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Wildlife Service?	Х				
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	х				
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Х				
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Х				
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?	х				

#### Discussion

The 2017 SEIR discusses biological impacts of the 2016 District Services Plan Update and included basin expansions and basin acquisitions. These effects were less than significant with mitigation. This determination was primarily based upon the fact that the proposed basin locations occur on sites previously disturbed with human activity. The 2017 SEIR also included a Biology Resources Report that focused on proposed basin locations. Although the proposed Basin "DM" expansion project was not studied, the report is useful in understanding the types of habitat present within the urban and rural areas within the District's Boundary. In the 2017 SEIR, biological mitigation measures were adopted based on comments and recommendations from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

a) Less Than Significant With Mitigation. The proposed project takes place on 3.2-acres of vacant agricultural land. Based on aerial imagery, the land was agricultural since at least the 1950s and was fallowed sometime in 2007 and has not been farmed since. The vacant agricultural land appears to be disked and mowed at least annually. The property is not near any wetlands or contains any water features. Consequently, it is unlikely the property supports any permanent or unique habitat for any federal and state listed species.

Also left over from farming activities are many trees. Since the property is in a rural area, the trees may support habitat for nesting birds, including the Swainson's hawk. A tree inventory and assessment were conducted by Colibri in February 2022 to quantify and determine each tree species within the 3.2-acre area. The tree assessment determined that there are 123 almond or peach trees, 28 Chinese pistache, 10 valley oak, and 1 Canary Island pine. The tree assessment determined that only the largest tree (a 30-foot-tall, 16-inch diameter at breast height (DBR) valley oak) that could support a Swainson's hawk nest. A copy of the tree inventory is provided as Appendix III.a.

The 2017 SEIR requires mitigation for trees that support or have supported nesting Swainson's hawk. To determine if the valley oak could support nesting Swainson hawk, a Swainson's hawk survey was completed following the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee's *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Surveys in California's Central Valley* (2000). The survey did not observe Swainson's hawk in the survey area and no evidence suggests Swainson's hawk has nested in the Basin "DM" Expansion area. A copy of the Swainson's hawk survey is provided as Appendix III.b.

The 2017 SEIR adopted biological mitigation measures to avoid impacts to any federal or state listed species during initial construction activities, the District will implement all the following biological mitigation measures:

BR-1: Conduct preconstruction survey for burrowing owl.

BR-2: Remove trees during nonbreeding season and conduct preconstruction survey for nesting birds. BR-3: Conduct preconstruction survey for special status species.

A full description of the mitigation measures can be found in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program on page 44.

- **b)** No Impact. Wetlands or other sensitive natural communities identified in local and regional plans, policies, regulations, or by state and federal agencies are not present on the proposed project area. Therefore, the project would have no effect on such communities.
- c) No Impact. Wetlands or other sensitive natural communities identified in local and regional plans, policies, regulations, or by state and federal agencies are not present on the proposed project areas.
- **d)** No Impact. The site is not situated within a "movement corridor" for native wildlife. The proposed project will have no effect on regional wildlife movements.
- e) No Impact. No County ordinances protect the types of biological resources found on the project site. Therefore, the project will not be in conflict with Fresno County general plan policies or natural resource protection ordinances.
- f) No Impact. Fresno County does not have any habitat conservation plans of any kind. Therefore, the project will not conflict with any such plan.

#### 5. Cultural Resources

Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?			Х	
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?			Х	
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			Х	

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

- Prior to the start of construction, all District contractors and subcontractors for the project would be informed in writing of the potential for discover of important cultural or paleontological resources below the ground surface on the project site and legal consequences for damaging or destroying such resources. If any cultural or paleontological resources were found, the District would stop work within the area in question and a qualified consultant would be retained by the District to evaluate the find and make recommendations for further action.
- If human remains are found during the project activities, the Fresno County Coroner would be notified immediately. The Coroner has two working days to examine the remains and 24 hours to recommend proper treatment or disposition of the remains, following the Native American Heritage Commission guidelines where appropriate.

#### **Discussion:**

#### Summary of environmental finding in the 2017 SEIR:

The District's 2017 SEIR studied impacts to cultural resources as potential significant. Pages 4-42 to 4-49 of the draft SEIR describe cultural resources and the regulatory setting in more detail. The 2017 determined that implementing mitigation measures will reduce project impacts to less than significant. Mitigation measures are described below.

#### Responses

A - B) The District requested a records search for the proposed project from the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) Regional Information Centers (ICs) to determine whether historical or archeological resources have been recorded in the project area. Two previous cultural resource studies have been conducted in the project area and seven cultural resources studies have been conducted within a half-mile radius. There are no recorded resources within the project area and one recorded resource within one-half mile radius of the project, which is the Enterprise Canal. A cultural resources survey was completed to determine the presence of any cultural resources on the project site. The cultural resources survey provided as Appendix II.b did find any cultural resources and determined the likelihood of any cultural resources present on the subject site to be low. However, the following mitigation measures will be implemented in the unlikely event any archaeological resources are identified during project activities:

#### CR-1: Inadvertent discovery of prehistoric (Native American) or historic-period archaeological resources.

C) A Sacred Lands File Search from the Native American Heritage Commission for the project area was negative. However, mitigation measures will be adopted to require stop work procedures in the inadvertent discovery of human remains.

#### CR-2: Inadvertent discovery of human remains.

A full description of the mitigation measures can be found in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program on page 44.

## 6. Energy

#### Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption or energy resources during project construction or operation?		Х		
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	Х			

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR: None

#### Discussion:

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is an expansion to an existing stormwater basin. Full construction of a stormwater basin occurs over a 10 20 year period. During construction the basin is excavated based on demand for clean fill material. Construction is intermittent and not energy extensive. Once fully constructed, the stormwater basin will have a pump and other water facilities used for irrigation. These facilities would be used to transport water for groundwater recharge, storage capacity to prevent flooding, and reuse of surface water for irrigation. These uses would not result in a significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project does not propose to construct buildings or lighting. This project does not conflict with or obstruct any known state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

#### 7. Geology and Soils

Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:	Х			
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.				
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?				
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv. Landslides?				
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		Х		
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?		Х		
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-a-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?		Х		
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	х			
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or site or unique geologic feature?		Х		

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

• The District would ensure that construction projects are controlled through standard specifications. In addition, all construction activities would also be subject to City and County grading ordinances, which would control erosion. A "Removal of Borrow Material Permit" would be issued by the District and signed by any one desiring to remove soil from a District facility. Applicable provisions of the contract and permit would ensure the contractor and permittee excavate per the approved design and quantities.

- Basin slopes would be graded and maintained to minimize erosion. Should soil erosion occur, the erosion material would be kept on-site, within the excavation area, and used to repair eroded areas.
- Once construction activities are complete, the slopes would be seeded and vegetation established.
- Erosion control measures (planting, seeding and mulching) would be established where channel restoration activities have disturbed soils which slope toward a channel, before the onset of the next rainy season. If suitable vegetation would not become reasonably established, non-erodible materials would be used.
- The District would repair existing controls (sloping, rocks and gabions) from the toe of slope in the channel to the top of the bank, to stabilize eroded areas.
- Except when flood flows may cause immediate damage, erosion control repairs would be limited to periods when there is no or low stream flow.
- The District would select and implement the most appropriate erosion control BMPs identified in the Construction Site Storm Water Quality Management Guidelines.

#### Discussion:

- a) The proposed project will not expose people to substantial adverse effects because:
  - i. **No Impact.** The project area are not located in the vicinity of a known earthquake fault, as shown on the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. There are a number of active and potentially-active faults within and adjacent to Fresno County. Although most of Fresno County is situated within an area of relatively low seismic activity by comparison to other areas of the state, the faults and fault systems that lie along the eastern and western boundaries of the county, as well as other regional faults, have the potential to produce high-magnitude earthquakes throughout the county. The principle earthquake hazard is ground shaking.
  - ii. **No Impact.** No impacts related to seismic ground shaking are anticipated because the project will not include structures.
  - iii. **No Impact.** The project is 3.2-acre expansion to an existing stormwater basin. Additionally, the Flood Control District has over 60 years of operating history in the Fresno Clovis area operating stormwater basins. In that time, there have been no liquefaction issues. Therefore, it is unlikely that liquefaction will occur.
  - iv. **No Impact.** There is no potential hazard due to landslides from the proposed project because the project area is flat. The stormwater management basin will be construction below ground level, so any potential erosion or movement of soil will be kept within the stormwater management basin.
- b) Less Than Significant Impact. During excavation of the basin sites topsoil will be removed under a "Removal of Borrow Material Permit" on an intermittent, as-needed basis by private contractors and interested citizens. This is considered less than significant because of the small size of the project areas.

Excavation of the basins will take place in native soils that have no or slight erosion hazard potential. Basin slopes will be exposed to wind and rainfall until turf or other vegetation is established. Because the basins will be excavated below natural grade, any erosion caused by rainfall would be contained on site. To ensure any potential impacts are less than significant, the performance standards listed above have been incorporated into the project.

c) Less Than Significant Impact. The District 2004 Master Environmental Impact Report determined that the District's service area is located on essentially flat land, thus, the potential for landslides is slight. It is

anticipated that attenuation of seismic energy from distant faults in the region would likely result in minimal seismic effects in the District service area, and would not cause the soil or strata of the storm water management facilities to become unstable and result in structural damage.

- d) Less Than Significant Impact. The District's SEIR found that geological hazards associated with landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, and expansive soils are primarily a concern when a project proposes structures or buildings doe human use and/or inhabitation. The proposed project would provide facilities for stormwater conveyance and storage only and would not provide housing or other structures or building for human use and/or inhabitation. This impact is less than significant.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project does not consist of features that would involve the disposal of wastewater to septic systems. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- f) Less Than Significant Impact. The project includes the excavation of a stormwater basin up to 26 feet below ground surface. It is possible that a unique paleontological or geological resource may be discovered during excavation. The District has included in the project performance standards that any contractor excavating a basin stop work and contact District staff should a possible unique paleontological or geologic feature be discovered.

#### 8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

#### Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?		Х		
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?		х		

#### **Discussion:**

The 2017 SEIR studied Greenhouse Gas Emissions as a potential significant effect. Page 4-49 of the Draft SEIR discusses the existing environmental and regulatory conditions related to greenhouse gas emissions. The 2017 SEIR evaluated the subsequent projects GHG emissions impacts with guidance and methodologies recommended by SJVAPCD's Guide for Addressing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. SJVAPCD developed thresholds of significance for GHG emissions. Based on the analysis it was determined that the proposed projects impacts would have less than significant effect on the environment. See the 2017 SEIR for more information, including the Appendix B for the Air Quality Technical Study.

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. As stated in the Air Quality section, approval of the project does not in itself result in increased excavation that would not otherwise occur. The District's 2017 SEIR studied the effects based on the District's entire Master Plan. As this is an expansion project, with only a marginal change in total possible excavation, the project would have a less than significant impact.
- b) Less Than Significant Impact. Construction of the stormwater basin would require fuel combustion, which would generate GHG emissions. The SJVAPCD's *Guidance for Valley Land Use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA* (SJVAPCD, 2009) provides that projects complying with an approved GHG emissions reduction plan or mitigation program are determined to have a less than significant effect. The development of a stormwater basin, as described in the SEIR on page 4-54 to 4-58, would be part of a GHG mitigation program that would avoid or substantially reduce GHG emissions that may otherwise occur from addressing flood-related damage.

### 9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?		Х		
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment?		Х		
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	Х			
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 create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	х			
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?	Х			
f. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?		Х		
g. Expose people or structures either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	Х			
h. Expose people to productive mosquito breeding habitat by improperly designing and managing large basins of water?		х		

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

- The District would conduct a Phase I Preliminary Site Assessment to determine the presence of any hazardous materials prior to land acquisition.
- The District contractors would be required to notify the District of certain specified conditions relating to hazardous waste, unexpected subsurface or latent conditions, or unknown physical conditions. The District would promptly investigate any such conditions reported to it and take appropriate action to protect public and contractor health and safety.
- The District would immediately begin the cleanup of spills or hazardous materials releases that may occur during construction. The District would notify all applicable responsible agencies as required by law.

- The District contractors would comply with the provisions of the Construction Safety Orders, Tunnel Safety Orders, confined and enclosed spaces and other dangerous atmospheres, and General Safety Orders adopted by the State Division of Industrial Safety, as set forth in Title 8 of the CCR, and applicable worker safety portions of the District or contractor standard specifications.
- Low-flow areas of basins would be designed to maintain ponded water depths that provide for mosquito fish predation on mosquito populations.
- The District would work cooperatively with the Consolidated and Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control Districts to maintain flood control facilities in a manner that discourages mosquito and midge habitat.
- The District would periodically inspect basin facilities to identify District features in need of repair (e.g., fences and pumping stations) and to ensure compliance with District ordinances prohibiting certain activities (e.g., swimming, fishing and golfing).
- The District would implement the Standard Operating Procedures for Monitoring, Maintenance and Disposal of Stormwater Basin Sediment.

#### Discussion:

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. During project operation and construction oil, diesel, fuel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, and other liquid hazardous materials may be used in the project areas. Maintenance of the proposed project could include the use of pumps, which would involve the use of diesel, oil, and grease. If spilled, these substances could pose a risk to the environment and to human health. To ensure any potential impacts are less than significant, the performance standards listed above have been incorporated into the project.
- b) Less Than Significant Impact. During project operation and construction oil, diesel, fuel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, and other liquid hazardous materials may be used in the project areas. Maintenance of the proposed project could include the use of pumps, which would involve the use of diesel, oil, and grease. If spilled, these substances could pose a risk to the environment and to human health. To ensure any potential impacts are less than significant, the performance standards listed above have been incorporated into the project.
- c) **No Impact.** The proposed project location is not being constructed within a quarter mile of an existing school and the City of Fresno 2035 General Plan and City of Clovis General Plan adopted in August 2014 does not plan a school within a quarter mile on the proposed project location. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.
- d) **No Impact.** There is not a known hazardous material site located within the proposed project area.
- e) **No Impact.** The Fresno-Yosemite International Airport, Sierra Sky Park, and the Fresno-Chandler Downtown Airport are all outside of the project areas. The project will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project areas.
- f) Less Than Significant Impact. The project does not involve the construction or placement of barrier or structures resulting in the permanent blockage of any road or emergency response. Construction activities could potentially result in temporary and localized restrictions in traffic; however, construction traffic obstructions will be minimized with the implementation of performance measures such as the provision of appropriate traffic control measures, placement of signage, designated construction routes, and flagged controls. This impact is less than significant.

- g) No Impact. The project site is not in a wildlands area. As part of the regular maintenance of the basins, any weeds and other vegetation that could potentially cause a fire hazard will be controlled. No impacts would result.
- h) Less Than Significant Impact. The District maintains stormwater basins to prevent mosquito breeding habitat by a routine maintenance program. If necessary, the District works with the local mosquito abatement districts to add mosquito fish to the basins. As a result, stormwater basins in the Fresno Clovis area are not considered a source of mosquito breeding habitat.

#### **10. Hydrology and Water Quality**

#### Would the project:

		Less Than		
		Less Than Significant	Significant With	Potentially Significant
	No Impact	Impact	Mitigation	Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?		Х		
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	х			
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:	х			
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				
<ul> <li>ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or offsite;</li> </ul>				
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?				
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	Х			
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	х			

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

- The District would file a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) State General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit, as required.
- The maximum depth of any urban stormwater retention basin would provide a minimum 10 feet of vertical separation between the lowest floor of the basin and highest anticipated level of groundwater.
- The District would periodically test and remove soils as generally described in the District Services Plan and specified in the District's Standard Operating Procedures for Monitoring, Maintenance and Disposal of Stormwater Basin Sediment. The District would remove soils from accumulation areas as necessary to maintain less than District Prescribed threshold concentrations of indicator contaminants and to ensure

contaminant levels do not exceed hazardous waste levels, as defined in CCR Title 22. The District would adjust the frequency of testing and cleaning as increased data provide improved knowledge of constituent accumulation concentrations and rates.

#### **Discussion:**

a) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project will increase the available capacity of the existing stormwater basin. The stormwater basin will accept urban runoff as the surrounding area becomes more urbanized. Discharges into the storm drain system are currently regulated by federal Clean Water Act, State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The District, in partnership with the City of Fresno, City of Clovis, County of Fresno, and California State University, Fresno implement an areawide Stormwater Quality Management Program. The Stormwater Quality Management Program would continue to be implemented in this area and ensure any discharges from the project do not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Stormwater basins are an alternative approach to traditional stormwater management that would direct untreated urban runoff to a sensitive water body. The centralized stormwater capture approach keeps water within its watershed, infiltrates stormwater into the groundwater aquifer, and reduces stormwater pollutants through settling time and biological processes.

- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project will increase groundwater supplies by creating a stormwater basin that will recharge the groundwater aquifer.
- c) No Impact. There are no known streams that traverse through the project site. The project would expand an existing stormwater basin with the purpose to alleviate future impacts due to urbanization. The site would remain pervious and be grading to retain water onsite, therefore the project would not contribute to flooding or impede or redirect flood flows.
- d) **No Impact.** The proposed project site is not within an area subject to inundation by a seiche, tsunami, or flood zone.
- e) **No Impact.** The stormwater basin site will capture the stormwater and be used for groundwater recharge. The project will have a positive impact on the area's groundwater sustainability plans.

Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact	
a. Physically divide an established community?	Х				
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?	Х				

- a) **No Impact.** The project includes expanding a stormwater basin to contain urban drainage and will not physically divide an established community. No Impacts will occur.
- b) **No Impact.** The purpose of the proposed project is to provide flood control facilities for developed areas and areas planned for development by the local land use agencies. Therefore, the plans of the District are a necessary component of future general plans and would not conflict with them. No impacts will occur.

#### **12.** Mineral Resources

### Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant 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?		Х		
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?		Х		

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is not located in proximity to any of the mineral resources locations within the District service area. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites. This impact would be less than significant.
- b) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is not located in proximity to any of the mineral resources locations within the District service area. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites. This impact would be less than significant.

## 13. Noise

#### Would the project result in:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant 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?		Х		
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?		Х		
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?	Х			

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

- As necessary, construction operations shall be limited to between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.
- All construction equipment would be properly maintained.
- All gas- or diesel-powered construction equipment would be equipped with required control technology.
- Routine maintenance and repair of construction equipment would not be allowed within 300 feet of a residence (except emergency repairs).
- Construction site access would be located away from residences to the extent consistent with traffic safety and efficient site circulation.

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project could cause intermittent and temporary increases in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. Noise produced by construction activities could impact surrounding uses. Construction vehicle traffic traveling to the project locations would also generate an increase in noise. Due to implementation of the construction and operation performance standards and the short-term nature of construction activities, construction noise impacts would be considered less than significant.
- b) Less Than Significant Impact. Groundborne noise is usually associated with construction activities such as extraordinary compaction and pile driving. The proposed project is not anticipated to include these types of construction. People will not be exposed to, and the project would not generate, excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise.
- c) **No Impact.** There are no private airstrips in the project areas. People will not be exposed to excessive noise levels within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

## 14. Population and Housing

#### Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth either in an area, directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?		х		
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Х			

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. Development in the areas will be governed by the County of Fresno, City of Fresno, and City of Clovis in conformance with their General Plans. This project will construct a stormwater basin to prevent possible flooding and to hold stormwater for recharge purposes. The project would not induce population growth because the basins are designed to hold current and planned flows. This is also not considered significant because drainage service alone will not support the development of land. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.
- b) **No Impact.** The project areas are located on agricultural land with no housing on the property, so it will not displace existing housing.

# 15. Public Services

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities or need for new or physically altered government 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:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Fire protection?	х			
b. Police protection?	Х			
c. Schools?	Х			
d. Parks?	Х			
e. Other public facilities?	Х			

- a) **No Impact.** Since the project does not include the development of residential, commercial or industrial facilities the proposed project will not result in an increased need for fire protection services.
- b) **No Impact.** Since the project does not include the development of residential, commercial or industrial facilities the proposed project will not result in an increased need for police protection services.
- c) **No Impact.** Since the project does not include the development of residential, commercial or industrial facilities the proposed project will not result in an increased need for schools.
- d) **No Impact.** Since the project does not include the development of residential, commercial or industrial facilities the proposed project will not result in an increased need for park facilities.
- e) **No Impact.** Since the project does not include the development of residential, commercial or industrial facilities the proposed project will not result in an increased need for public facilities.

## 16. Recreation

## Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Х			
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	х			

- a) **No Impact.** Since the project does not include the development of residential, commercial or industrial facilities the proposed project will not result in an increased use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities.
- b) **No Impact.** No recreation facilities are proposed as part of this project. No Impact would occur.

# 17. Transportation/Traffic

#### Would the project:

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

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

- Appropriate traffic control measures, including flagged controls, designated construction traffic routes, and signage would be utilized during construction activities to provide a safe and smooth flow of traffic. Traffic obstructions would be minimized, and free passage of traffic would be maintained whenever possible. Closure of any intersecting streets or roads would only occur with the approval of the traffic authority of the governmental unit having jurisdiction. District contractors would notify the appropriate police and fire departments of the location of the work in advance of any road closing.
- As necessary, construction-related truck movement would be limited to between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.
- Vehicle access would be provided and maintained in good condition for residences and businesses affected by construction activities. Pedestrian access to all properties along the line of work would be provided whenever possible and necessary, with construction fencing placed as necessary to provide pedestrian safety.
- The District would perform pre- and post-construction visual inspections along haul routes of major projects to determine road conditions.

- a) Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not result in an increase in traffic since the project expands an existing stormwater basin. The updated project design taking into account land dedications to the City of Clovis for trail dedication.
- b) No Impact. This project would not result in an increase in traffic. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- c) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not change transportation design features or create incompatible uses.
- d) No Impact. The project would have no impact on emergency access.

#### **18. Tribal Cultural Resources**

Resources Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California

Native American tribe.

Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
<ul> <li>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 whether 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:</li> <li>i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical</li> </ul>			Х	
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 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				

#### **Discussion:**

a) Less Than Significant with Mitigation. Tribal consultation letters, also called AB52 tribal consultation letters, were mailed to California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area according to a list provided from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Two tribal governments requested consultation and indicated that the project area was within their area of cultural interest. A summary of the District's outreach to tribal governments is provided in Appendix II.a. Based on the results from the District's outreach activities and a cultural resource report not identifying any cultural resources on the project site, the following mitigation measure will be adopted in the case of inadvertent discovery of prehistoric (Native American) cultural resources:

#### CR: 1: Inadvertent discovery of prehistoric (Native American) or historic period archaeological resources.

A full description of the mitigation measure can be found in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program on page 44.

# **19. Utilities and Service Systems**

#### Would the project:

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact
a. Require or result in 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?	Х			
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	Х			
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which services 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?	x			
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State of local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	Х			
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statues and regulations related to solid waste?	Х			

- a) **No Impact.** No known utilities are on the project site. The project would not result in any additional utilities than those already approved for the existing stormwater basin.
- b) No Impact. No new water supply or wastewater treatment facility will be needed for this project.
- c) No Impact. The project would not require wastewater services.
- d) No Impact. The project would not generate solid waste.
- e) **No Impact.** Any wastes collected from the site, received due to urban drainage, would be collected and disposed of properly. Stormwater basins themselves do not contain solid waste generating activities.

# 20. Wildfire

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

	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Potentially Significant Impact	
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Х				
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?	х				
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?	Х				
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?	х				

#### Performance Standards included in MEIR:

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not impair any emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. FMFCD is part of the Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and will coordinate efforts in the event of an emergency. The proposed project location is not near or in a state responsibility area or land classified as a very high fire hazard severity zone.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not have any building or structures for project occupants. The proposed project location is not near or in a state responsibility area or land classified as a very high fire hazard severity zone.
- c) **No Impact.** The proposed project location is not near or in a state responsibility area or land classified as a very high fire hazard severity zone.
- d) **No Impact.** The proposed project location is not near or in a state responsibility area or land classified as a very high fire hazard severity zone.

# **21.** Mandatory Findings of Significance

		Less Than	Less Than Significant	Potentially	
		Significant	With	Significant	
	No Impact	Impact	Mitigation	Impact	
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			Х		
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means 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)?		Х			
c. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		Х			

- a) Less Than Significant With Mitigation. Based on the information presented in this Initial Study, the project could have potentially significant effects on biological resources and cultural and tribal cultural resources. However, these effects would be less than significant with the incorporation of the mitigation measures provided.
- b) Less Than Significant Impact. Based on the information presented in this Initial Study, the proposed project will not result in any significant cumulative impacts.
- c) Less Than Significant Impact. Based on the information presented in this Initial Study, the proposed project will not result in substantial adverse environmental effects or effects on human beings.

# **Performance Standards**

FMFCD has developed various performance standards that are routinely implemented during the construction and operation of FMFCD projects, as applicable. Therefore, the standards are considered to be part of the project, rather than mitigation measures. The performance standards that are applicable to the project are as follows:

- As necessary and possible, hours of operation for light-generating construction equipment would be restricted to between the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- District contractors and dirt removal permittees would be required to provide dust control and cleanup of loose soils both within and outside of construction sites in accordance with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Rule VIII for the control of fine particulate matter. Haul roads would be cleaned and swept as necessary during hauling operations.
- The District would require of its contractors or permittees to properly maintain internal combustion engines used during construction activities. The District would properly maintain all District owned and operated internal combustion engine machinery.
- Any maintenance activities that would cause or have the potential to cause fugitive emissions would be required to implement dust control measures in accordance with the District's comprehensive Dust Control Plan.
- If objectionable odors originate at a District facility, District staff would investigate the cause of the odor immediately. When the source of the odor is identified, it would be neutralized or removed and properly disposed of in accordance with local, State and federal requirements.
- Prior to the start of construction, all District contractors and subcontractors for the project would be informed in writing of the potential for discover of important cultural or paleontological resources below the ground surface on the project site and legal consequences for damaging or destroying such resources. If any cultural or paleontological resources were found, the District would stop work within the area in questions and a qualified consultant would be retained by the District to evaluate the find and make recommendations for further action.
- If human remains are found during the project activities, the Fresno County Coroner would be notified immediately. The Coroner has two working days to examine the remains and 24 hours to recommend proper treatment or disposition of the remains, following the Native American Heritage Commission guidelines where appropriate.
- The District would ensure that construction projects are controlled through standard specifications. In addition, all construction activities would also be subject to City and County grading ordinances, which would control erosion. A "Removal of Borrow Material Permit" would be issued by the District and signed by any one desiring to remove soil from a District facility. Applicable provisions of the contract and permit would ensure the contractor and permittee excavate per the approved design and quantities.
- Basin slopes would be graded and maintained to minimize erosion. Should soil erosion occur, the erosion material would be kept on-site, within the excavation area, and used to repair eroded areas.
- Once construction activities are complete, the slopes would be seeded and vegetation established.
- Erosion control measures (planting, seeding and mulching) would be established where channel restoration activities have disturbed soils which slope toward a channel, before the onset of the next rainy season. If suitable vegetation would not become reasonably established, non-erodible materials would be used.
- The District would repair existing controls (sloping, rocks and gabions) from the toe of slope in the channel to the top of the bank, to stabilize eroded areas.
- Except when flood flows may cause immediate damage, erosion control repairs would be limited to periods when there is no or low steam flow.

- The District would select and implement the most appropriate erosion control BMPs identified in the Construction Site Storm Water Quality Management Guidelines.
- The District would conduct a Phase I Preliminary Site Assessment to determine the presence of any hazardous materials prior to land acquisition.
- The District contractors would be required to notify the District of certain specified conditions relating to hazardous waste, unexpected subsurface or latent conditions, or unknown physical conditions. The District would promptly investigate any such conditions reported to it and take appropriate action to protect public and contractor health and safety.
- The District would immediately begin the cleanup of spills or hazardous materials releases that may occur during construction. The District would notify all applicable responsible agencies as required by law.
- The District contractors would comply with the provisions of the Construction Safety Orders, Tunnel Safety Orders, confined and enclosed spaces and other dangerous atmospheres, and General Safety Orders adopted by the State Division of Industrial Safety, as set forth in Title 8 of the CCR, and applicable worker safety portions of the District or contractor standard specifications.
- Low-flow areas of basins would be designed to maintain ponded water depths that provide for mosquito fish predation on mosquito populations.
- The District would work cooperatively with the Consolidated and Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control Districts to maintain flood control facilities in a manner that discourages mosquito and midge habitat.
- The District would periodically inspect basin facilities to identify District features in need of repair (e.g., fences and pumping stations) and to ensure compliance with District ordinances prohibiting certain activities (e.g., swimming, fishing and golfing).
- The District would implement the Standard Operating Procedures for Monitoring, Maintenance and Disposal of Stormwater Basin Sediment.
- The District would file a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) State General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit, as required.
- District contractors would comply with the requirement of the NPDES State General Permit, including implementing a stormwater pollution prevention plan.
- Projects would incorporate applicable BMPs from the District Construction and Post-Construction Stormwater Quality Management Guidelines.
- The maximum depth of any urban stormwater retention basin would provide a minimum 10 feet of vertical separation between the lowest floor of the basin and highest anticipated level of groundwater.
- The District would periodically test and remove soils as generally described in the District Services Plan and specified in the District's Standard Operating Procedures for Monitoring, Maintenance and Disposal of Stormwater Basin Sediment. The District would remove soils from accumulation areas as necessary to maintain less than District Prescribed threshold concentrations of indicator contaminants and to ensure contaminant levels do not exceed hazardous waste levels, as defined in CCR Title 22. The District would adjust the frequency of testing and cleaning as increased data provide improved knowledge of constituent accumulation concentrations and rates.
- As necessary, construction operations shall be limited to between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.
- All construction equipment would be properly maintained.
- All gas- or diesel-powered construction equipment would be equipped with required control technology.
- Routine maintenance and repair of construction equipment would not be allowed within 300 feet of a residence (except emergency repairs).
- Construction site access would be located away from residences to the extent consistent with traffic safety and efficient site circulation.
- Appropriate traffic control measures, including flagged controls, designated construction traffic routes, and signage would be utilized during construction activities to provide a safe and smooth flow of traffic. Traffic obstructions would be minimized, and free passage of traffic would be maintained whenever possible.

Closure of any intersecting streets or roads would only occur with the approval of the traffic authority of the governmental unit having jurisdiction. District contractors would notify the appropriate police and fire departments of the location of the work in advance of any road closing.

- As necessary, construction-related truck movement would be limited to between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.
- Vehicle access would be provided and maintained in good condition for residences and businesses affected by construction activities. Pedestrian access to all properties along the line of work would be provided whenever possible and necessary, with construction fencing placed as necessary to provide pedestrian safety.
- The District would perform pre- and post-construction visual inspections along haul routes of major projects to determine road conditions.

# **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

In accordance with Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines, this Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program ("MMRP") is adopted by the FMFCD to ensure that the mitigation measures adopted for the project and the applicable performance standards are implemented.

# **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Coordinator**

The FMFCD Environmental Resources Manager or his/her designee shall act as the Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Coordinator ("Coordinator") for the project. The Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that the project mitigation measures and applicable performance standards are complied with during the project's development, operational, and maintenance phases.

# **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Procedures**

The Coordinator shall provide a copy of the mitigation measures, performance standards and MM&RP to the project engineer and contractor for incorporation in the project plans, construction specifications, permits, and contracts, as appropriate.

Prior to commencement of construction activities, the Coordinator shall ensure that all mitigation measures under the FMFCD's control and applicable performance standards have been incorporated into the project plans, construction specifications, and contracts, as appropriate.

The Coordinator shall inspect the project area no less often than monthly during the construction period to ensure the project complies with all mitigation measures and applicable performance standards.

If the Coordinator notes any mitigation measure or performance standard is not being followed, or if any responsible member of the public reports to the FMFCD that any measure or standard is not being followed, the General Manager-Secretary of the FMFCD shall be notified immediately. The General Manager-Secretary shall make a determination as to whether work shall cease and shall provide direction for compliance with the mitigation measure or performance standard.

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# Table 1. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measures	Enforcement Agency/Monitor	Monitoring Phase/Monitoring Frequency	Compliance Action
Biological Resources			•
<ul> <li>Mitigation Measure BR-1: Conduct preconstruction survey for burrowing owl. The District will conduct a burrowing owl pre-construction survey no more than 30 days before the beginning of ground disturbance over the entire project site and in areas within 150 meters (approximately 500 feet) of the project impact zones in accordance with the California Burrowing Owl Consortium's Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guides.</li> <li>If an occupied burrow is discovered during the preconstruction survey the District, occupied burrows shall be avoided and a buffer zone between site disturbance and the burrows shall be established by a biologist. In consultation with CDFW, a biologist may obtain approval from CDFW to preclude burrow occupation (i.e, passive relocation) if 1) the birds have not begun egg laying and incubation; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.</li> </ul>	The District or its designated agent.	Before earth disturbance/ once.	Preconstruction survey report.
<ul> <li>Mitigation Measure BR-2: Remove trees during the nonbreeding season and conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds.</li> <li>Trees scheduled to be removed during project implementation shall be removed during the nonbreeding season (March 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30th).</li> <li>Conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds no more than 15 days before grading, demolition, or site preparation activities. Activities taking place outside the breeding season (March 1st – September 30th) do not require a survey. If active raptor nests are present, construction activities will be avoided within 250 feet of the active nest.</li> <li>To avoid impacts on common and special-status migratory birds pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code, a nesting survey shall be conducted before construction activities if the work is schedule between March 1st and September 30th. If nesting birds are</li> </ul>	The District or its designated agent.	Before earth disturbance/ until trees are removed.	Preconstruction survey report.

n "DM" Expansion Project I Study	Page 46		
identified nesting within the construction zone, a 100-foot buffer around	i ago i o		
the nest shall be designated. No work shall occur within this buffer unless			
a qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged.			
Mitigation Measure BR-3: Conduct preconstruction survey for special status	The District or its	Before earth	Preconstruction
pecies. Concurrent with the burrowing owl preconstruction survey, a survey will	designated	disturbance/ once.	survey report.
e conducted for special status species identified in the CDFW California Natural	agent.		<i>,</i> .
iversity Database (CNDDB) Basin "AV" Quad location and for which the project	-		
cation hosts the required habitat. Should a special status species be identified			
uring the preconstruction survey, CDFW will be consulted.			
ultural Resources			
litigation Measure CR-1: Inadvertent discovery of prehistoric (Native American)	The District or its	During	Contact
historic-period archaeological resources.	designated	construction.	qualified
the event that archaeological resources are identified during project activities,	agent.		archeologist.
ork shall be halted immediately within 25 meters of the find until a qualified			
ofessional archaeologist is contacted to assess the nature and significance of the			
nd and determine if any additional study or treatment of the find is warranted.			
ne archaeologist shall develop proper mitigation measures required for the			
iscovery per California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Chapter 3, Section			
5064.5(f)). Additional studies could include, but would not be limited to, collection			
nd documentation of artifacts, documentation of the cultural resources on State			
f California Department of Parks and Recreation Series 523 forms, or subsurface			
sting. If determined appropriate by the qualified archaeologist, archaeological			
onitoring shall commence and continue until grading and excavation are			
mplete or until the monitoring archaeologist determines, based on field			
pservations and in consultation with the qualified archaeologist, that there is little			
elihood of encountering additional archaeological cultural resources.			
chaeological monitoring may be reduced from full-time to part-time or spot-			
ecking if determined appropriate by the qualified archaeologist based on			
onitoring results. Upon completion of any monitoring activities, the archaeologist			
all prepare a report to document the methods and results of monitoring			
tivities. The final version of this report shall be submitted to the SSJVIC.			
litigation Measure CR-2: Inadvertent discovery of human remains. In the	The District or its	During	Notification of
vent that human remains are encountered at any time during project work, State	designated	construction.	Fresno County
ealth and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall	agent.		Coroner.
ccur until the Fresno County Coroner has made a determination of origin and			
isposition pursuant to State PRC Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be			

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nitia Study	Tage 47
notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be N	lative
American, the County Coroner would notify the NAHC within 24hours,	which
would determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the	permission
of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may in	nspect the
site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection and make	
recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of bei	ng granted
access to the site. The MLD's recommendations may include scientific	removal
and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated w	ith Native
American burials, preservation of Native American human remains and	associated
items in place, relinquishment of Native American human remains and	associated
items to the descendants for treatment, or any other culturally approp	riate
treatment.	

# Names of Persons Who Prepared or Participated in the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist

# **FMFCD Staff**

FMFCD staff that participated in preparing and reviewing the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist included:

Joseph Draper, Staff Analyst II

Jared Shuman, Environmental Resources Manager

# References

- Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. 2017 Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the 2016 District Services Plan Update. Adopted by the District Board of Directors December 13, 2017. <u>http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2017/12/Final-Subsequent-EIR-12-20-17.pdf</u>
- 2. City of Clovis. 2014 General Plan. Adopted by City of Clovis Council on August 25, 2014. https://cityofclovis.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Clovis-General-Plan-2014.pdf
- County of Fresno Zoning GIS Map. Accessed March 24, 2022. <u>https://gisportal.co.fresno.ca.us/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b921843d34</u> <u>3d4df998b5b3c6a301756a</u>
- 4. Colibri Ecological Consulting, LLC. Basin "DM" Expansion Project Tree Inventory. February 26, 2022. Attached.
- 5. Colibri Ecological Consulting, LLC. Basin "DM" Expansion Project Swainson's Hawk Survey. June 30, 2022. Attached.
- 6. LSA, LLC. Phase I Cultural Study for the Basin "DM" Expansion Project in Fresno County. July 5, 2022. Attached.
- Office of The State Fire Marshal, Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps. Accessed March 24, 2022. <u>https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-</u> <u>mitigation/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/</u>

# **Appendix I. Informal Consultation Comment Letters**



2907 S. Maple Avenue Fresno, California 93725-2208 Telephone: (559) 233-7161 Fax: (559) 233-8227

CONVEYANCE. COMMITMENT. CUSTOMER SERVICE.

April 6, 2022

Joseph Draper Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 5469 East Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727

RE: Request for Environmental Consultation Basin DM Expansion Project S/W Copper and Auberry avenues

Dear Mr. Draper:

The Fresno Irrigation District (FID) has reviewed the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) Request for Environmental Consultation Basin DM Expansion Project proposing to acquire 3.2 acres to increase the basin size. FID has the following comments:

1. The subject property is not located within the boundaries of the Fresno Irrigation District as shown on the attached FID exhibit map.

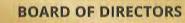
Thank you for submitting this for our review. We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the subject documents for the proposed project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeremy Landrith at (559) 233-7161 extension 7407 or jlandrith@fresnoirrigation.com.

Sincerely,

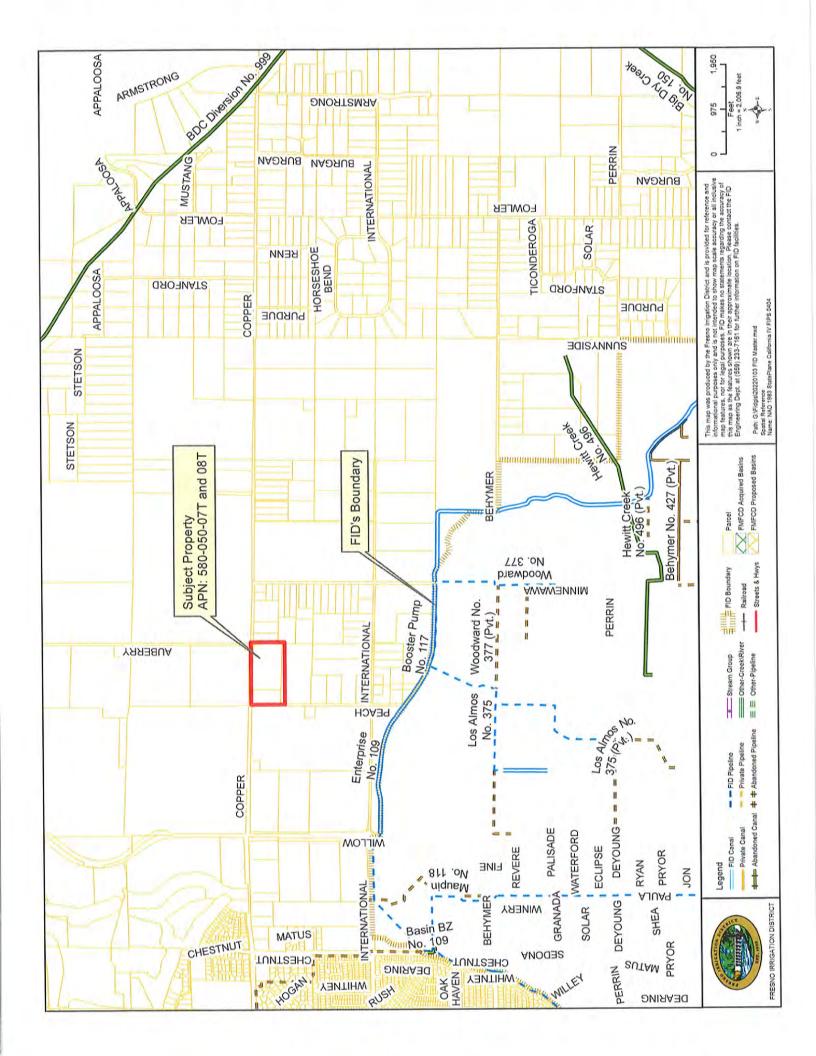
Laurence Kimura, P.E. Chief Engineer

Attachment

G:\Agencies\FMFCD\Basin DM\FMFCD Basin DM.doc



President RYAN JACOBSEN Vice-President JERRY PRIETO, JR. CHRISTOPHER WOOLF GEORGE PORTER GREGORY BEBERIAN General Manager BILL STRETCH





**Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District** 

Capturing Stormwater since 1956

File 560.20 "Basin DM Expansion"

# **Request for Environmental Consultation**

Date:	March 1, 2022
То:	Responsible, Trustee, and Interested Agencies; Interested Property Owners and Individuals
From:	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 5469 East Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727
Contact:	Joseph Draper, Staff Analyst Email: Josephd@fresnofloodcontrol.org Phone: (559) 456-3292

## **Basin "DM" Expansion Project**

The mission of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) is to control and manage the flood, storm, surface and groundwater resources of the area, to prevent damage, injury and inconvenience; to conserve such waters for local, domestic and agricultural use; and to maximize the public use and benefit of the FMFCD's programs and infrastructure.

The local storm water drainage system consists of interconnected surface conveyances, storm drains, retention basins, pump stations, and outfalls which discharge to groundwater, irrigation canals, creeks and the San Joaquin River. FMFCD's system is designed to retain and infiltrate as much runoff as possible into the underlying groundwater aquifer and to accept the peak flow rate of runoff from a two-year intensity storm event (a storm that has a 50% probability of occurring in any given year).

Local storm drainage master plan engineering is achieved by analyzing the topography, planned land use, climatology and geology to produce a detailed hydrology for each local drainage area. Following these analyses, drainage area boundaries are identified, runoff flows based on planned land uses are computed, retention basin size and location is determined, and preliminary pipeline or alternative conveyance system plans are completed.

As the Lead Agency, FMFCD is preparing an Initial Study for the Basin "DM" Expansion Project. The purpose of an Initial Study is to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. Your response to this notice will help FMFCD gather information about the potential

j:\wprocess\josephd (jgd)\2022\env consultation form dm expansion.doc.docx

5469 E. Olive Avenue • Fresno, CA 93727 • (559) 456-3292 • FAX (559) 456-3194 www.fresnofloodcontrol.org Request for Environmental Consultation March 1, 2022 Page 2

environmental effects of the proposed project and determine whether there is substantial evidence that any aspect of the project may cause a significant effect on the environment.

If you are an interested property owner or individual, we invite your comments on the impacts the project may have upon your property or the environment. Please share this notice with anyone else you feel may be interested in the project.

If you are a Responsible, Trustee, or Interested Agency, we need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Please provide information necessary to substantiate your comments, any mitigation measures you may recommend for the project, and the name of a contact person in your agency.

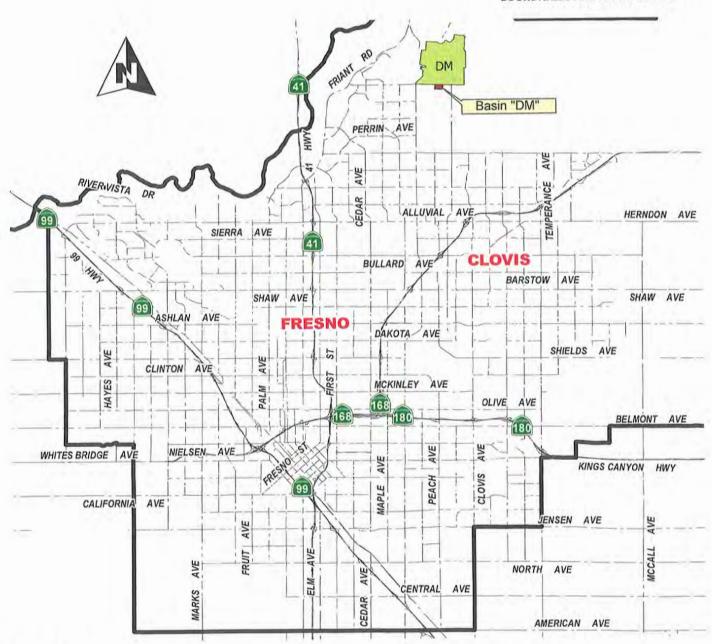
Please provide your response in writing no later than March 31, 2022. Send your responses to Joseph Draper, Staff Analyst to the contact information listed above.

**Project Location:** The project is located on the southeast corner of Copper Avenue and Peach Avenue in Clovis, California. The Basin "DM" Expansion area consists of acquiring approximately 3.2 acres of land directly south of FMFCD's existing Basin "DM" property. Please see Exhibit's No. 1 and 2 for project location illustrations.

**Project Description:** Basin "DM" is an existing 19.14-acre stormwater basin. FMFCD proposes to acquire 3.2 acres of the property on its south side to accommodate a revised basin design. The revised basin design accounts for updated "C-factors" used to determine urban runoff volume. Additionally, the revised design includes public right-of-way dedications to the City of Clovis, which further reduced the buildable area on the existing property. Environmental review for the "DM" drainage area and basin was first adopted on August 25, 1992. More recently, FMFCD adopted a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2016 District Services Plan Update on December 13, 2017. The Initial Study will be tiered from the District's SEIR with the intent of using the environmental analysis in the SEIR, as applicable. The SEIR can be found on the District's website at:

http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Final-Subsequent-EIR-12-20-17.pdf

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



# LEGEND



Prepared by: danielg

Drainage Area "DM"

Basin "DM"

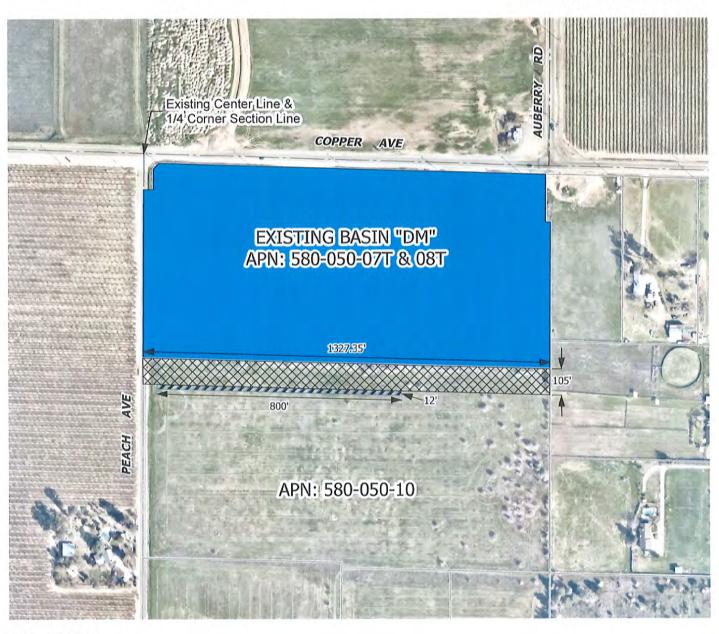
# **Regional Map**



FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Date: 1/21/2022
Path: K:\Autocad\DWGS\0EXHIBIT\LAND ACQUISITION\DM Figure 1.mxd

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



# LEGEND





Proposed Basin "DM" Expansion Area Approximately 3.2± Ac.



Proposed Slope Easement Area Approximately 0.2± Ac.



# **BASIN "DM" EXPANSION**

**DRAINAGE AREA "DM"** 



**EXHIBIT NO. 2** 

**METROPOLITAN** FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FRESNO

Date: 1/12/2022 Path: K:\Autocad\DWGS\0EXHIBIT\BASINS\DM\DM Expansion\_Ex 1.mxd



# **County of Fresno**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

March 3, 2022

LU00021646 2600

Mr. Joseph Draper, Staff Analyst Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 5469 E. Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Mr. Draper:

# PROJECT:Basin "DM" ExpansionLOCATION:Southwest Corner Copper & Peach Avenues (APN's: 580-050-07T, -08T)

The Fresno County Department of Public Health is concerned that abandoned water wells and sewage disposal systems are not being properly destroyed, particularly with respect to new development projects. As city boundaries expand, community services are provided to areas originally served only by individual domestic and agricultural wells. Improper abandonment of such wells presents a significant risk of contaminating the city's community water supply. For this reason, it is extremely important to ensure the safe and proper destruction of all abandoned water wells and sewage disposal systems.

- As a measure to protect groundwater, all water wells (not intended for use) and septic systems within the annexation area shall be properly destroyed by an appropriately licensed contractor.
- If any underground petroleum storage tank(s) are discovered during construction/grading activities, the property owner shall apply for and secure an Underground Storage Tank Removal Permit from the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division. Contact the Fresno County Hazmat Compliance Program at (559) 600-3271 for more information.
- The construction project may have the potential to expose nearby residents to elevated noise levels. Consideration by the applicant should be given to the Fresno County Noise Ordinance Code and City of Clovis Municipal Code.

If I can be of more assistance, please contact me at (559) 600-3271.

Sincerely,

Touda

Kevin Tsuda, R.E.H.S. Environmental Health Specialist II Environmental Health Division

cc: Deep Sidhu- Environmental Health Division (CT 55.25)

# Appendix II.a: Summary of Tribal Government Outreach

Summary of Native American Consultation and Outreach			
Organization	Name	Position	Summary of Contact
Kings River Choinumni Farm Tribe	Stan Alec		March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.
Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government	Robert Ledger SR	Chairperson	<ul> <li>March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed.</li> <li>March 14, 2022: Staff received a phone call from Mr. Ledeger requesting cultural monitors onsite during excavation.</li> <li>March 14, 2022: Mr. Ledger followed up by email requesting cultural monitors and consultation.</li> <li>April 4, 2022: Staff responded to Mr. Ledger's email that we would contact them to set a meeting date for consultation. At this time, staff also attached a copy of the records search from the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).</li> <li>June 7, 2022: Staff emailed Mr. Ledger a copy of the initial AB52 consultation letter, Mr. Ledger's response, the records search and the sacred lands file search from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and requested availability to discuss the project.</li> <li>June 23, 2022: Staff called Mr. Ledger to follow up on the June 7th email. Ms. Juanita Ledger answered and said to send via email and physical mail, copies of the initial letter, records search, and sacred lands file search for the project.</li> <li>June 28, 2022: Staff delivered via email and physical mail the requested project information. Additionally, staff requested a response within two weeks of receiving the letter to begin/continue the consultation.</li> <li>July 14, 2022: Staff has not received a response from Ms. Juanita Ledger. The District will accept comments during the public comment period.</li> </ul>
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	Ruben Barrios SR	Chairperson	March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. March 9, 2022: Staff received an email differing consultation to another tribe but requested any
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	Hector Franco	Director	archaeological reports, record search results, EIRs, and other environmental documents completed for the project.
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	Shawna powers	Cultural Resources Specalist	July 7, 2022: Staff emailed the completed cultural study and noted that the tribe is on our CEQA mailing list for future notifications of available documents related to the Basin "DM" Expansion Project.
Table Mountain Rancheria	Leanne Walker-Grant	Director	March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. Mr. Pennell responded to the letter on behalf of Table Mountain Rancheria as described below.

Number of the constraint of the				
Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians       Elizabeth Kipp       March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.         Cold Springs Rancheria       Carol Bill       March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.         North Fork Mono Tribe       Ron Good       March 1, 2022: Carol Bill       March 1, 2022: Carol Bill         Dunlap Band of Mono Indians       Benjamin Charley Jr.       March 1, 2022: Carol Bill Consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.         Dunlap Band of Mono Indians       Benjamin Charley Jr.       March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.         Dunlap Band of Mono Indians       Benjamin Charley Jr.       March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.         Traditional Choinumni Tribe       David Alverez       March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.         Traditional Choinumni Tribe       Rick Osborne       March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.         Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians       Claudia Gonzales       Chairwoman       April 25, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.	Table Mountain Rancheria	Bob Pennell	Cultural Resources Director	<ul> <li>March 28, 2022: Table Mountain Rancheria (TMR) mailed a letter to the District asking the District to contact TMR to coordinate a discussion and meeting date regarding the project.</li> <li>March 30, 2022: Staff emailed TMR a copy of the CHRIS records search and indicated staff would contact TMR soon to set a meeting date for further discussion.</li> <li>May 5, 2022: Staff sent an email to TMR requesting availability to set a meeting date to discuss the project. Mr. Pennell requested a copy of the CHRIS records search. Staff delivered a copy of the CHRIS records search.</li> <li>May 9, 2022: Staff called Mr. Pennell to discuss the project and their availability to set up a meeting. Mr. Pennell indicated that they would look into the project and get back to me by phone or email.</li> <li>May 11, 2022: Staff sent a follow-up email to Mr. Pennell asking if they had reviewed the CHRIS records search and their availability to set up a meeting date to discuss the project.</li> <li>May 26, 2022: Staff sent a follow-up email to Mr. Pennell requesting a response by June 3, 2022.</li> <li>July 7, 2022: Staff never received a response from Mr. Pennell. However, staff delivered a copy of</li> </ul>
Cold Springs RancheriaCarol BillMarch 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.North Fork Mono TribeRon GoodMarch 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. March 1, 2022: Mr. Goode responded by email indicating locations of cultural sites nearby and bald and golden eagles near Owen Mountain. March 1, 2022: Staff replied to Mr. Goode's email thanking them for the information.Dunlap Band of Mono IndiansBenjamin Charley Jr.March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.Dunlap Band of Mono IndiansDirk CharleyMarch 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.Dunlap Band of Mono IndiansDirk CharleyMarch 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed.Dunlap Band of Mono IndiansDirk CharleyMarch 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed.Traditional Choinumni TribeDavid AlverezMarch 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.Traditional Choinumni TribeRick OsborneMarch 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi IndiansClaudia GonzalesChairwomanApril 25, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.	Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band	Kenneth Woordrow	Chairperson	March 1, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.
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			Chairwoman	
	Tule River Indian Tribe	Neil Peyron	Chairperson	April 25, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.

North Valley Yokuts Tribe	Katherine Perez	Chairperson	April 25, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.
North Valley Yokuts Tribe	Timothy Perez		April 25, 2022: AB52 consultation letter was mailed. No response was received.



File 560.20 "Basin DM Expansion"

March 1, 2022

Kings River Choinumni Farm Tribe Stan Alec 3515 East Fedora Ave Fresno, CA 93726

Dear Stan Alec,

# Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

Formal Notification of determination that a Project Application is Complete or Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (hereafter PRC).

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) has decided to undertake the following project: Basin "DM" Expansion Project and prepare a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) encompasses the area generally located in the north-central portion of Fresno County between the San Joaquin and Kings rivers. The District's service area consists of approximately 400 square miles and extends from the agricultural lands west and south of Fresno eastward into the Sierra Nevada to an elevation of approximately 4,500 feet above sea level. The District's service area includes most of the Clovis – Fresno metropolitan area, and unincorporated lands to the east and northeast.

#### Basin "DM"

The project is located on the southeast corner of Copper Avenue and Peach Avenue in Clovis, California. The Basin "DM" Expansion area consists of acquiring approximately 3.2 acres of land directly south of FMFCD's existing Basin "DM" property. Please see Exhibit's No. 1 and 2 for location illustrations.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Basin "DM" is an existing 19.14-acre stormwater basin. FMFCD proposes to acquire 3.2 acres of the property on its south side to accommodate a revised basin design. The revised basin design accounts for updated "C-factors" used to determine urban runoff volume. Additionally, the revised

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AB 52 Notice March 1, 2022 Page 2

design includes public right-of-way dedications to the City of Clovis, which further reduced the buildable area on the existing property. Environmental review for the "DM" drainage area and basin was first adopted on August 25, 1992. More recently, FMFCD adopted a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2016 District Services Plan Update on December 13, 2017. The Initial Study will be tiered from the District's SEIR with the intent of using the environmental analysis in the SEIR, as applicable. The SEIR can be found on the District's website at:

http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Final-Subsequent-EIR-12-20-17.pdf

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. Contact Joseph Draper at joseph@fresnofloodcontrol.org or (559) 456-3292 with your request.

Sincerely,

Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



File 560.20 "Basin DM Expansion"

March 1, 2022

Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government Robert Ledger SR Chairperson 2191 West Pico Ave Fresno, CA 93705

Dear Robert Ledger SR,

Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

Formal Notification of determination that a Project Application is Complete or Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (hereafter PRC).

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AB 52 Notice March 1, 2022 Page 2

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Sincerely,

n Dup

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment

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March 1, 2022

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Rueben Barrios SR Chairperson PO Box 8 Lemoore, CA 93245

Dear Rueben Barrios SR,

### Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

Formal Notification of determination that a Project Application is Complete or Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (hereafter PRC).

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



March 1, 2022

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Hector Franco Director PO Box 8 Lemoore, CA 93245

Dear Hector Franco,

## Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

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Sincerely,

Dup

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



March 1, 2022

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Shana Powers Cultural Resources Specialist PO Box 8 Lemoore, CA 93245

Dear Shana Powers,

# Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



March 1, 2022

Table Mountain Rancheria Leanne Walker-Grant Chairperson PO Box 410 Friant, CA 93626

Dear Leanne Walker-Grant,

## Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl



March 1, 2022

Table Mountain Rancheria Bob Pennell Cultural Resources Director PO Box 410 Friant, CA 93626

Dear Bob Pennell,

### Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



March 1, 2022

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band Kenneth Woodrow Chairperson 1179 Rock Haven Ct. Salinas, CA 93906

Dear Kenneth Woodrow,

### Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

Formal Notification of determination that a Project Application is Complete or Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (hereafter PRC).

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl



March 1, 2022

Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians Elizabeth D. Kipp PO Box 337 Auberry, CA 93602

Dear Elizabeth D. Kipp,

# Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

Formal Notification of determination that a Project Application is Complete or Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (hereafter PRC).

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Sincerely,

Pon

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl



March 1, 2022

Cold Springs Rancheria Carol Bill PO Box 209 Tollhouse, CA 93667

Dear Carol Bill,

## Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl



March 1, 2022

North Fork Mono Tribe Ron Goode 13396 Tollhouse Road Clovis, CA 93619

Dear Ron Goode,

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl



March 1, 2022

Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Beniamin Charlev Jr. PO Box 14 Dunlap, CA 93621

Dear Beniamin Charley Jr.,

# Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



March 1, 2022

Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Dirk Charlev 5509 E. McKenzie Ave Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Dirk Charlev,

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl



March 1, 2022

Traditional Choinumni Tribe David Alverez 2415 E. Houston Ave Fresno, CA 93720

Dear David Alverez,

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j/\wprocess\josephd (jgd)\2022\ab 52 notice letter to ca native american tribe dm.docx

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Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



March 1, 2022

Traditional Choinumni Tribe Rick Osborne 2415 E. Houston Ave Fresno, CA 93720

Dear Rick Osborne,

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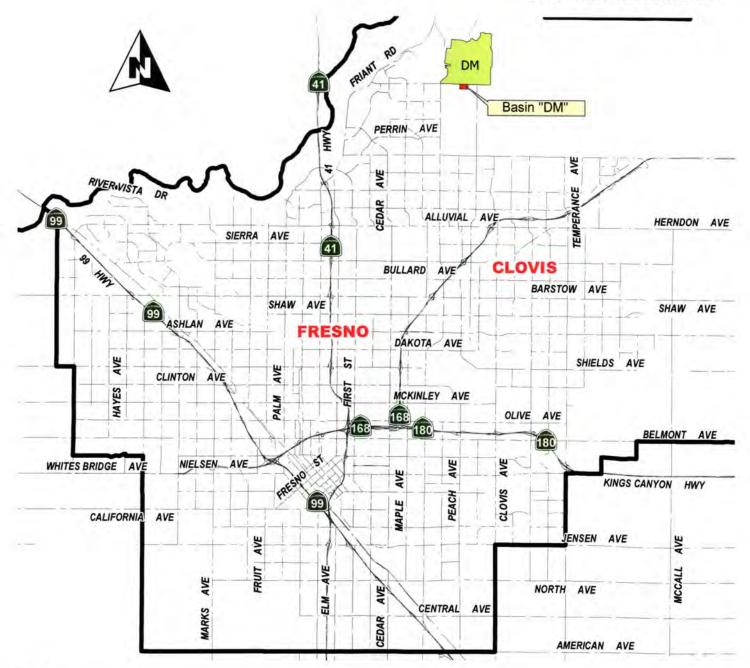
Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



### LEGEND

Drainage Area "DM"

Basin "DM"

### **Regional Map**



**FIGURE 1** 

FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



### LEGEND



Existing Basin "DM"



Proposed Basin "DM" Expansion Area Approximately  $3.2\pm$  Ac.



Proposed Slope Easement Area Approximately 0.2± Ac.



BASIN "DM" EXPANSION

DRAINAGE AREA "DM"



Prepared by: danielg Date: 1/12/2022 Path: K/Autocad/DW/CS/DEXHIBIT/RASINS/DM/DM Expansion Ex EXHIBIT NO. 2

FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

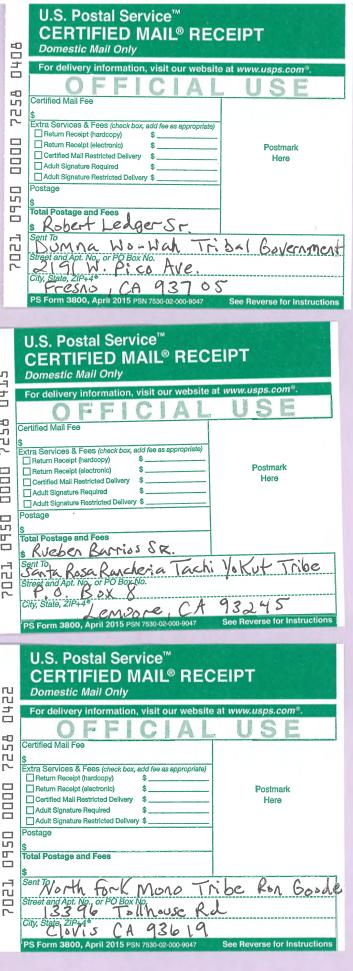


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<ul> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> <li>Article Addressed to: Big Sandy Rancherta, f Western Mono Indians Elizabeth D. Kipp P. O. Box 337 Auberry, CA 93602</li></ul>		ce item 1?  Ves	<ul> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> <li>Article Addressed to: WUKSache Indian Tribe JEshom Valley Band Kenneth Woodrow</li> <li>1179 Rock Haven Ct. Salinas, CA 93906</li> </ul>	A. Signature X B. Received by (Printed Name) D. Is delivery address different fro If YES, enter delivery address	
9590 9402 6878 1104 4792 21 2. Article Number ( <i>Transfer from service label</i> )	Service Type     Adult Signature     Adult Signature Restricted Delivery     Certified Mail®     Certified Mail     Certified Mail     Collect on Delivery     Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery     Insured Mail	<ul> <li>☐ Priority Mail Express®</li> <li>☐ Registered Mail™</li> <li>☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery</li> <li>☐ Signature Confirmation™</li> <li>☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery</li> </ul>	9590 9402 6878 1104 4792 14 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)	Service Type     Adult Signature     Adult Signature Restricted Delivery     Certified Mail®     Certified Mail Restricted Delivery     Collect on Delivery     Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery	Priority Mail Express®      Registered Mail <sup>TM</sup> Registered Mail Restricted     Delivery      Signature Confirmation <sup>TM</sup> Signature Confirmation     Restricted Delivery
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5 2 COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION A. Signature Ar Signature Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Agent Agent Print your name and address on the reverse Print your name and address on the reverse X X Addressee Addressee so that we can return the card to you. so that we can return the card to you. C. Date of Delivery C Date of Delivery B. Received by (Printed Name) Received by (Printed Name) Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece. or on the front if space permits. or on the front if space permits. D. Is delivery address different from item 1? 
Yes 1. Article Addressed to: ts delivery address different from item/1? 1. Article Addressed to; Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Traditional Choinumni Tribe If YES, enter delivery address below: 1 No If YES, enter delivery address below: D No Benjamin Charlev Jr. David Alverez 2415 E. Houston Ave. P.O. Box 14 Freshs, CA 93720 Dunlap, CA 93621 Priority Mail Express® 3. Service Type 3. Service Type Priority Mail Express® □ Registered Mail™ Adult Signature D Adult Signature □ Registered Mail™ Registered Mail Restricted Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Registered Mail Restricted Certified Mail® Delivery Certified Mail® Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery 9590 9402 6878 1104 4793 13 9590 9402 6878 1104 4792 90 Collect on Delivery Signature Confirmation Collect on Delivery Signature Confirmation **Restricted Delivery** Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery **Restricted Delivery** 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) Insured Mail Insured Mail Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500) Insured Mall Restricted Delivery 7021 0950 0000 7258 0477 7021 0950 0000 7258 0453 (over \$500) PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 **Domestic Return Receipt** PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 **Domestic Return Receipt** Dat ...... W.W. - # #2 W STATE A 5- M. ... SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY A. Signature A. Signature Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Complete items 1, 2, and 3. □ Agent Agent Print your name and address on the reverse Print your name and address on the reverse X Addressee Addressee so that we can return the card to you. so that we can return the card to you. C. Date of Delivery B. Received by (Printed Name) B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece. 3/4/27 HDieail C d 2) or on the front if space permits. Day's or on the front if space permits. 1. Article Addressed to: Dun lap Band of Mono Indians 1. Article Addressed to: Yes Cold Springs Rancheria D. Is delivery address different from item 1? D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: D No If YES, enter delivery address below: □ No Dirk Charler Carol Bill 5509 E. McKenzie Ave. P.O. Box 209 Tollhouse, CA 93667 Fresno, CA 93727 3. Service Type 3. Service Type Priority Mail Express® Priority Mail Express® Adult Signature □ Adult Signature C Registered Mail<sup>TM</sup> □ Registered Mail™ Adult Signature Restricted Deliverv Adult Signature Restricted Delivery C Registered Mail Restricted E Registered Mail Restricted Certified Mail® Certified Mail® Delivery Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ □ Signature Confirmation<sup>™</sup> 9590 9402 6878 1104 4792 83 9590 9402 6878 1104 4793 06 Collect on Delivery Signature Confirmation Collect on Delivery □ Signature Confirmation Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery **Restricted Delivery** 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) Restricted Delivery Insured Mail Insured Mail Insured Mail Restricted Delivery Insured Mail Restricted Delivery 7021 0950 0000 7258 0446 7021 0950 0000 7258 0460 (over \$500) (over \$500) PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 Domestic Return Receir Domestic Hafurn Receipt









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	City, State, ZIP-10 Tollhouse, CA 93667					
_	PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047	See Reverse for Instructions				





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70	Street and Apt. No, or PO Box No. 179 Rock Haren Ct. City, State, ZIP+4 <sup>9</sup> Salinas, CA 93906 PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions				



April 25, 2022

Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Claudia Gonzales Chairwoman P.O. Box 2226 Oakhurst, CA 93644

Dear Claudia Gonzales,

# Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

Formal Notification of determination that a Project Application is Complete or Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (hereafter PRC).

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) has decided to undertake the following project: Basin "DM" Expansion Project and prepare a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration.

### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) encompasses the area generally located in the north-central portion of Fresno County between the San Joaquin and Kings rivers. The District's service area consists of approximately 400 square miles and extends from the agricultural lands west and south of Fresno eastward into the Sierra Nevada to an elevation of approximately 4,500 feet above sea level. The District's service area includes most of the Clovis – Fresno metropolitan area, and unincorporated lands to the east and northeast.

#### Basin "DM"

The project is located on the southeast corner of Copper Avenue and Peach Avenue in Clovis, California. The Basin "DM" Expansion area consists of acquiring approximately 3.2 acres of land directly south of FMFCD's existing Basin "DM" property. Please see Exhibit's No. 1 and 2 for location illustrations.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Basin "DM" is an existing 19.14-acre stormwater basin. FMFCD proposes to acquire 3.2 acres of the property on its south side to accommodate a revised basin design. The revised basin design

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AB 52 Notice April 25, 2022 Page 2

accounts for updated "C-factors" used to determine urban runoff volume. Additionally, the revised design includes public right-of-way dedications to the City of Clovis, which further reduced the buildable area on the existing property. Environmental review for the "DM" drainage area and basin was first adopted on August 25, 1992. More recently, FMFCD adopted a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2016 District Services Plan Update on December 13, 2017. The Initial Study will be tiered from the District's SEIR with the intent of using the environmental analysis in the SEIR, as applicable. The SEIR can be found on the District's website at:

http://www.fresnofloodcontrol.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Final-Subsequent-EIR-12-20-17.pdf

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. Contact Joseph Draper at josephd@fresnofloodcontrol.org or (559) 456-3292 with your request.

Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl



File 560.20 "Basin DM Expansion"

April 25, 2022

North Valley Yokuts Tribe Katherine Perez Chairperson P.O. Box 717 Linden, CA 95236

Dear Katherine Perez,

# Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

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AB 52 Notice April 25, 2022 Page 2

accounts for updated "C-factors" used to determine urban runoff volume. Additionally, the revised design includes public right-of-way dedications to the City of Clovis, which further reduced the buildable area on the existing property. Environmental review for the "DM" drainage area and basin was first adopted on August 25, 1992. More recently, FMFCD adopted a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2016 District Services Plan Update on December 13, 2017. The Initial Study will be tiered from the District's SEIR with the intent of using the environmental analysis in the SEIR, as applicable. The SEIR can be found on the District's website at:

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Sincerely,

Haper

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



File 560.20 "Basin DM Expansion"

April 25, 2022

North Valley Yokuts Tribe Timothy Perez P.O. Box 717 Linden, CA 95236

Dear Timothy Perez,

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AB 52 Notice April 25, 2022 Page 2

design includes public right-of-way dedications to the City of Clovis, which further reduced the buildable area on the existing property. Environmental review for the "DM" drainage area and basin was first adopted on August 25, 1992. More recently, FMFCD adopted a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2016 District Services Plan Update on December 13, 2017. The Initial Study will be tiered from the District's SEIR with the intent of using the environmental analysis in the SEIR, as applicable. The SEIR can be found on the District's website at:

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Sincerely,

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment



File 560.20 "Basin DM Expansion"

April 25, 2022

Tule River Indian Tribe Neil Peyron Chairperson P.O. Box 589 Poterville, CA 93258

Dear Neil Peyron,

# Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014)

Formal Notification of determination that a Project Application is Complete or Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (hereafter PRC).

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AB 52 Notice April 25, 2022 Page 2

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Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. Contact Joseph Draper at josephd@fresnofloodcontrol.org or (559) 456-3292 with your request.

Sincerely,

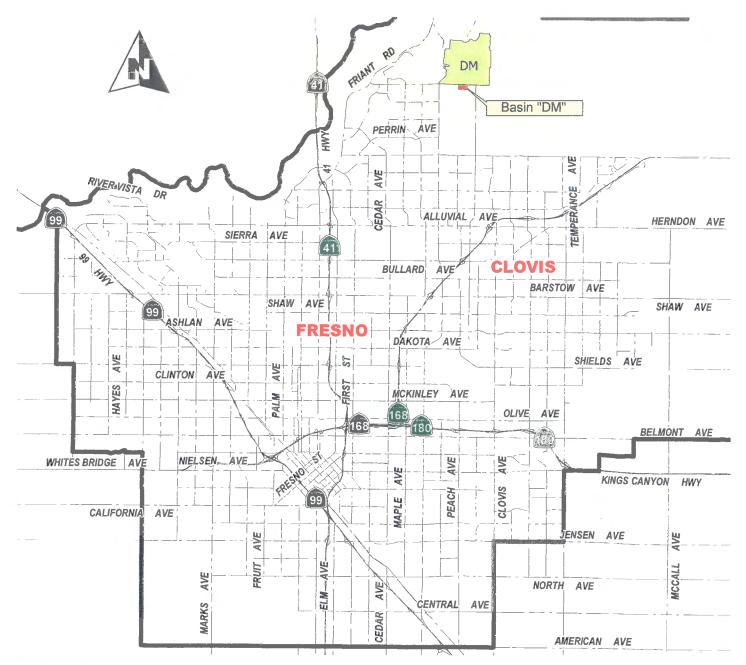
Huper

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II

JD/rl

Attachment

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



# LEGEND

Basin "DM"

Drainage Area "DM"

**Regional Map** 



**FIGURE 1** 

FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Pate: 1/21/2022 Path: K'\Autocad\D\M/GS\0EXHIBIT\LANDACOLIISITION\D& Figure 1 mmd

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SCHEMATIC. DISTANCES, AMOUNT OF CREDITABLE FACILITIES, AND LOCATION OF INLET BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.



# LEGEND





Proposed Basin "DM" Expansion Area Approximately 3.2± Ac.



Proposed Slope Easement Area Approximately 0.2± Ac.



BASIN "DM" EXPANSION

DRAINAGE AREA "DM"



# EXHIBIT NO. 2

Prepared by: danielg

Date: 1/12/2022 Path: K:\Autocad\DWGS\0EXHIBIT\BASINS\DM\DM Expansion Ex 1.mxd

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION A. Signatur A. Signature Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Complete items 1, 2, and 3. -Agent EL Agent Print your name and address on the reverse Print your name and address on the reverse Addressee Addressee so that we can return the card to you. so that we can return the card to you. C. Date of Delivery C. Date of Belivery B. Received by (P B. Received by (Printed Name) Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece. 29.27 or on the front if space permits. or on the front if space permits. 1. Article Addressed to: □ Yes 1. Article Addressed to: D. Is delivery address alterent from item 1? D. As delivery address different from item 12 Yes >icavine Rancherian + Chukchansi If YES, enter delivery address below: I No North Valley Yokuts Tribe If YES, enter delivery address below: No.No Indians Timothy Perez Claudia Gorzales, Chairwoman P.O. Box 717 P. O. BOX 2226 Linder, CA 95236 Oakhurst, CA 93644 3. Service Type C Priority Mail Express® 3. Service Type Priority Mail Express® Adult Signature □ Registered Mail™ Adult Signature □ Registered Mail™ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Registered Mail Restricted Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
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Restricted Delivery

Delivery

Adult Signature Restricted Delivery

Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

Certified Mail Restricted Delivery

Insured Mail Restricted Delivery

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Insured Mail

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PS Form 3811. July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)





# Appendix II.b: Cultural Resources Report

# LSA

CARLSBAD CLOVIS IRVINE LOS ANGELES PALM SPRINGS POINT RICHMOND RIVERSIDE ROSEVILLE SAN LUIS OBISPO

July 5, 2022

Joseph Draper, Staff Analyst Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 5469 East Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727

Subject: Phase I Cultural Study for the Basin "DM" Expansion Project in Fresno County (LSA Project No. FMF2101.02)

Dear Mr. Draper:

LSA conducted a Phase I cultural study (study) for the proposed Basin "DM" Expansion Project (project) in Fresno County, California. Basin "DM" is an existing 19.14-acre stormwater basin and the proposed project would expand the existing basin footprint by 3.2 acres on its southside. Study work was completed per the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA).

This study has the following purposes: (1) identify archaeological deposits that may meet the CEQA definition of a historical resource (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.1) or a unique archaeological resource (PRC Section 21083.2) and that may be impacted by the proposed project; (2) assess the potential for human remains; and (3) recommend procedures for avoiding or mitigating impacts to such deposits, if warranted. The study consisted of background research and a field survey and was conducted by LSA Associate/Senior Cultural Resources Manager Kerrie Collison, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) 28731436.

#### **PROJECT SITE LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS**

The 3.2-acre project site, which is also the study site, is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Friant, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map in Section 18 of Township 12 South, Range 21 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (USGS 1964; Figure 1). The project site is located near the intersection of Copper Avenue and Peach Avenue in unincorporated Fresno County (Figure 2).

The project site is flat and is at an elevation of approximately 390 feet. The nearest year-round freshwater source is the San Joaquin River, which is 3.75 miles west of the project site at its closest point. Soil surveys (USDA n.d.) indicate that the project site consists of Ramona sandy loam sediments, which are stream terraces and alluvial fans derived from granite that typically extend 60 inches below the surface. Surficial sediments of the project site overlay geologic deposits, specifically older alluvium, lake, playa, and terrace deposits that date to the Pleistocene (2.58 million to 11,700 years ago) (CGS 2015).

#### **BACKGROUND RESEARCH**

#### Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (the District) contacted the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Bakersfield, to request a cultural resources record search for the project site and a 0.5-mile search radius. The SSJVIC, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation, is the official repository of cultural resources records and reports for Fresno County.

SSJVIC Coordinator Celeste M. Thomson responded to the District's request with a record search summary letter on January 31, 2022 (SSJVIC Records Search File No. 22-027; Attachment C). According to the record search results, two previous cultural resources studies have included a portion of the project site and seven previous studies have included a portion of the 0.5-mile radius of the project site. As a result of the nine previous studies, no cultural resources have been previously recorded within the project site. One historic-period cultural resource (P-10-005934, the Enterprise Canal) has been recorded within 0.5 mile of the project site. 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.

#### **Native American Heritage Commission**

The District contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a review of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the presence of Native American cultural resources that might be impacted by the proposed project. The NAHC maintains the SLF database and is the official State repository of Native American sacred-site location records in California.

NAHC Cultural Resources Analyst Cameron Vela responded to the District on April 21, 2022, stating that the results of the SLF search were negative (Attachment D). The District is conducting Native American consultation for this project pursuant to Assembly Bill 52.

#### **Aerial Photographs and Maps**

Aerial photographs and historic maps that include the project site were also reviewed (USGS n.d., NETR n.d.). The results of the review are presented in Table A.

Map/Photograph	Results		
1922 Friant, California map (Scale 1:31,680)	No buildings or developments are depicted on the project site. Roads are delineated in the vicinity of the project site. The modern Copper Avenue is labeled Fresno Road. The Enterprise Canal is depicted, as an unnamed stream or creek about 0.75 mile east of the project site. This unnamed stream or creek drains into Gates Lake, which is depicted more than 1.0 mile southeast of the project site. It is unclear whether Gates Lake is a natural or artificially created feature.		
1946 Friant, California map (Scale 1:62,500)	No buildings or developments are depicted on the project site. Copper Avenue is labeled with its modern name. No other changes are depicted.		

#### **Table A: Aerial Photograph and Historic Map Review**

Map/Photograph	Results
1957 aerial photograph	No buildings are depicted within the project site. The project site is used for agricultural purposes.
1962 aerial photograph	No change from the 1957 aerial photograph.
1964 Friant, CaliforniaGates Lake now consists of smaller water bodies instead of one larger lake.map (Scale 1:24,000)	
1972 aerial photograph	No change from the 1962 aerial photograph.

#### **Table A: Aerial Photograph and Historic Map Review**

Source: United States Geological Survey (USGS var.) and National Environmental Title Research (n.d.).

#### **FIELD SURVEY**

On May 17, 2022, LSA archaeologist Kerrie Collison conducted a pedestrian field survey of the entire project site by walking transects spaced 5 meters apart. Ground visibility was greater than 75 percent throughout the entire 3.2-acre project site. Sparse, ankle-high vegetation throughout the project site appears to have been maintained via mechanical disking, as evidenced by the patterns of dirt throughout the site (see Photo 1, below). A trowel was occasionally used to expose subsurface sediments to check subsurface sediment characteristics. Where present, rodent burrowing holes and rodent dirt aprons were also examined for indications of archaeological deposits and/or human remains.



Photo 1: Overview of Property from Center of East Edge. View west.

The field survey did not identify any cultural resources in the project site. Observed sediments were uniform throughout the project site and were a light-brown, fine-grained material. Examined subsurface sediments were similar in composition and contained no evidence of midden deposits.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study, consisting of background research and a field survey, did not identify archaeological deposits or human remains in the project site. The project site is not known to ever have been developed other than for agricultural purposes, with recent mechanical disking. No historic-period buildings are known to have been constructed on the project site. As such, there is a very low likelihood that subsurface historic period archaeological deposits exist within the project site.

According to historic maps, the nearest freshwater source would have been an unnamed creek or stream located 0.75 mile from the project site; however, the nearest year-round (reliable) freshwater source is the San Joaquin River, which is 3.75 miles west of the project site at its closest point. Recent mechanical disking is estimated to have disturbed approximately the top 18 inches of sediment within the project site, and deeper sediments within the project site date to a time that does not include human occupation of the region. The field survey did not identify any midden deposits near the surface that would indicate permanent or semi-permanent occupation of the project site. Mechanical disking and rodent burrowing have disturbed all of the project site's surficial sediments and allowed for multiple glimpses into the subsurface sediments of the project site. For these reasons, there is a low likelihood that subsurface prehistoric archaeological deposits exist within the project site.

Given the above factors, the potential for the project to impact cultural resources is low, and no further cultural studies are recommended for this project. However, LSA recommends the following language be incorporated into the project CEQA environmental document to address the inadvertent discovery of prehistoric (Native American) or historic-period archaeological resources and to address the inadvertent discovery of human remains:

- In the event that archaeological resources are identified during project activities, work shall be • halted immediately within 25 meters of the find until a gualified professional archaeologist is contacted to assess the nature and significance of the find and determine if any additional study or treatment of the find is warranted. The archaeologist shall develop proper mitigation measures required for the discovery per California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5(f)). Additional studies could include, but would not be limited to, collection and documentation of artifacts, documentation of the cultural resources on State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Series 523 forms, or subsurface testing. If determined appropriate by the qualified archaeologist, archaeological monitoring shall commence and continue until grading and excavation are complete or until the monitoring archaeologist determines, based on field observations and in consultation with the qualified archaeologist, that there is little likelihood of encountering additional archaeological cultural resources. Archaeological monitoring may be reduced from full-time to part-time or spot-checking if determined appropriate by the qualified archaeologist based on monitoring results. Upon completion of any monitoring activities, the archaeologist shall prepare a report to document the methods and results of monitoring activities. The final version of this report shall be submitted to the SSJVIC.
- In the event that human remains are encountered at any time during project work, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Fresno

County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to State PRC Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner would notify the NAHC within 24 hours, which would determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection and make recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The MLD's recommendations may include scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials, preservation of Native American human remains and associated items in place, relinquishment of Native American human remains and associated items to the descendants for treatment, or any other culturally appropriate treatment.

Please contact me at kerrie.collison@lsa.net if you have any questions regarding this study. Thank you for using the services of LSA.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.

Kerrie Collison, M.A., RPA 28731436 Associate/Senior Cultural Resources Manager

Attachments: A-References

- **B**—**Project Figures**
- C—Records Search Results Summary Letter
- D—Native American Heritage Commission Response

### **ATTACHMENT A**

#### REFERENCES

California Geological Survey (CGS)

2015 Geologic Map of California. Website: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/gmc/ (accessed June 15, 2022).

National Environmental Title Research (NETR)

n.d. Historic Aerials. Website: http://www.historicaerials.com (accessed June 15, 2022).

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)

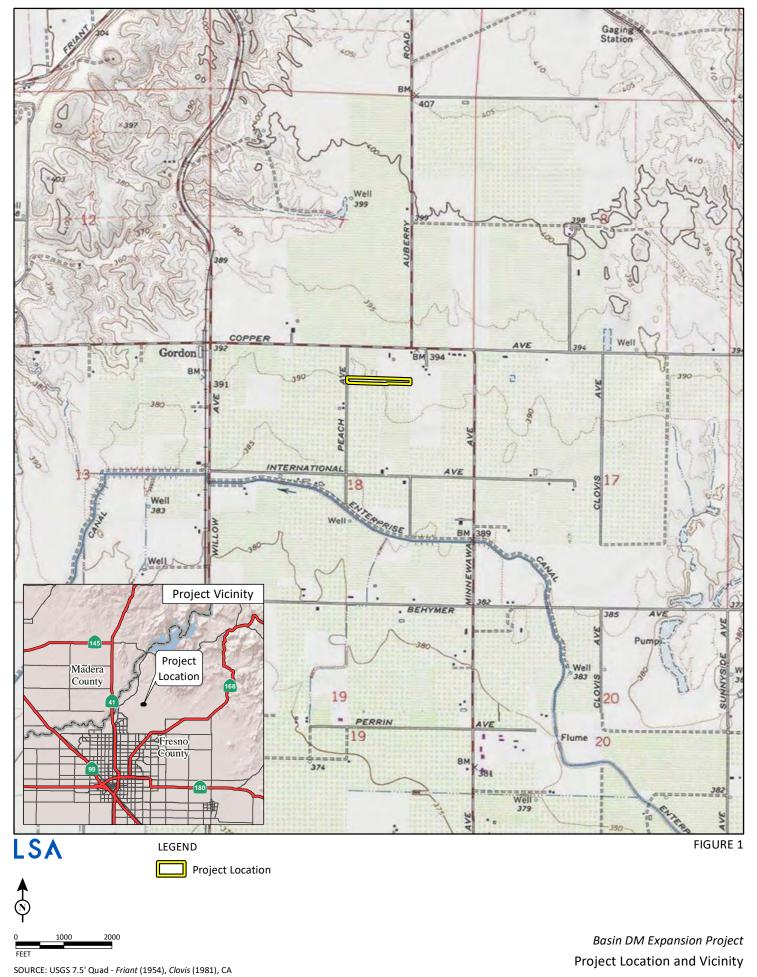
n.d. Web Soil Survey. Website: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx (accessed June 15, 2022).

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1964 Friant, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. USGS, Denver, Colorado.
- var. USGS topoView. Website: https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/39.98/-100.06 (accessed June 15, 2022).

## **ATTACHMENT B**

**PROJECT FIGURES** 



I:\FMF2101.02\GIS\MXD\ProjectLocation\_USGS.mxd (5/17/2022)





SOURCE: Google (2021)

I:\FMF2101.02\GIS\MXD\ProjectArea.mxd (5/17/2022)

500

Basin DM Expansion Project Project Area

## **ATTACHMENT C**

**RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS SUMMARY LETTER** 

_ <u>I</u> n f		Fresno Kern Kings Madera Tulare	Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center California State University, Bakersfield Mail Stop: 72 DOB 9001 Stockdale Highway Bakersfield, California 93311-1022 (661) 654-2289 E-mail: ssjvic@csub.edu Website: www.csub.edu/ssjvic				
То:	Joseph Draper Fresno Metropolitan Flood Contro 5469 E. Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727	Record Search 22-027					
Date:	January 31, 2022						
Re:	Basin "DM" Expansion Project						
County:	Fresno						
Map(s):	Friant 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 two previous cultural resource studies in the project area, FR-00074 and FR-02289. There have been seven additional studies conducted within the one-half mile radius, FR-00492, 00493, 01219, 02203, 02251, 02295, and 02698.

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

There are no recorded resources within the project area. There is one recorded resource within the one-half mile radius, P-10-005934, the Enterprise Canal.

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 acquiring approximately 3.2 acres of land south of existing District property to expand Basin "DM." Further, we understand the project area is currently vacant agricultural land. Please note that agriculture does not constitute previous development, as it does not destroy cultural resources but merely moves them around within the plow zone. Of the two studies conducted with the project area, the most recent on was completed in 2006. A new field survey is routinely recommended when a previous study is more than five years old. Therefore, prior to ground disturbance activities, we recommend a qualified, professional consult conduct a field survey of the project area to determine if any cultural resources are present. A list of qualified consultants can be found at 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: January 31, 2022

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

## ATTACHMENT D

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION RESPONSE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



Chairperson Laura Miranda Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON Reginald Pagaling Chumash

Parliamentarian Russell Attebery Karuk

SECRETARY Sara Dutschke *Miwok* 

COMMISSIONER William Mungary Paiute/White Mountain Apache

Commissioner Isaac Bojorquez Ohlone-Costanoan

Commissioner Buffy McQuillen Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

Commissioner Wayne Nelson Luiseño

Commissioner Stanley Rodriguez Kumeyaay

Executive Secretary Raymond C. Hitchcock Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS 1550 Harbor Boulevard Suite 100 West Sacramento, California 95691 (916) 373-3710 nahc@nahc.ca.gov

# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

April 21, 2022

Joseph Draper Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Via Email to: josephd@fresnofloodcontrol.org

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Basin "DM" Expansion Project, Fresno County

Dear Mr. Draper:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

• Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

- 3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was <u>negative</u>.
- 4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and
- 5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: <u>Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Appendix III.a: Tree Inventory



9493 N Fort Washington Road, Suite 108 Fresno, CA 93730 559,500.4458 www.colibri-ecology.com

26 February 2022

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 5469 East Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727

#### Subject: Tree Inventory for the Basin "DM" Expansion Project in Fresno County, California

Dear Joseph:

On 26 February 2022, I conducted an inventory of all trees at the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District's proposed Basin "DM" expansion area. Basin "DM" is at the southeast corner of Copper Avenue and Peach Avenue in Fresno County, California. The expansion area consists of 3.2 acres of land along the southern border of the existing basin. The inventory was conducted to preliminarily evaluate the potential need to mitigate for the loss of nest trees that may be used by the state listed as threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) during the 2022 nesting season or that may have been used by this species in the past.

I walked the entire 3.2-acre expansion area and documented the species, approximate total height, and approximate diameter at breast height (DBH) of each tree in the expansion area. I found a total of 162 live trees comprising five species: almond (*Prunus amygdalus*), peach (*Prunus persica*), Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), and Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) (Table 1, Figures 1–3). Only the largest tree (a 30-foot tall, 16-inch DBH valley oak) appeared to have the appropriate structure to support a Swainson's hawk nest (Figure 3). In fact, that tree did contain a large, unoccupied stick nest (Figure 4).

	•		
Tree Species	Total Number	Total Height (feet)	DBH (inches)
Almond or peach <sup>1</sup>	123	5–25 (av. = 11.0)	1–11 (av. = 3.4)
Chinese pistache	28	10–22 (av. = 14.8)	3–11 (av. = 5.9)
Valley oak	10	5–30 (av. = 13.0)	1– 16 (av. = 5.2)
Canary Island pine	1	18	4

<sup>1</sup>These species were generally indistinguishable due to the lack of fruits; both species were determined to be present based on a few dried fruits or pits from previous seasons.



Figure 1. Photograph showing a Canary Island pine flanked by almond or peach trees.



Figure 2. Close-up photograph showing the leaves of a Chinese pistache.



**Figure 3.** Overview photograph, looking northeast, showing the one tree in the expansion area, a valley oak, with enough structure to support a Swainson's hawk nest.



Figure 4. Photograph showing an unoccupied stick nest in a valley oak.

The identity of the species that constructed the nest is unknown. However, the nest size (roughly 2 feet wide) and placement (toward the top of the tree) indicate it could be Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), or red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*).

Please call or email me with any questions or comments.

Best regards,

9.4N. D.V

Jeff N. Davis Principal Scientist (559) 721-6810 jdavis@colibri-ecology.com

# Appendix III.b: Swainson's Hawk Survey



9493 N Fort Washington Road, Suite 108 Fresno, CA 93730 559,500,4458 www.colibri-ecology.com

30 June 2022

Joseph Draper Staff Analyst II Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District 5469 East Olive Avenue Fresno, CA 93727

#### Subject: Swainson's hawk surveys for the Basin DM Expansion Project in Fresno County, California

Dear Joseph:

During April and June 2022, I conducted surveys for the state listed as threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) in support of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) Basin DM Expansion Project. Basin DM is at the southeast corner of E Copper Avenue and N Peach Avenue in Fresno County, California. I understand the FMFCD is completing an Initial Study under the California Environmental Quality Act to acquire 3.2 acres of land along the southern border of the existing basin for the expansion. I also understand surveys for Swainson's hawk were needed to comply with previously adopted biological measures for the protection of the species that included the need to compensate for the loss of Swainson's hawk nest trees.

#### Methods

I conducted surveys for nesting Swainson's hawks following the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee's *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Surveys in California's Central Valley* (2000). Following the protocol required conducting surveys over six days, three between 5 and 20 April and three between 10 June and 30 July within 0.5 miles of the Basin DM Expansion Area. I conducted the surveys on 5, 12, and 20 April and 13, 15, and 17 June 2022.

#### Results

I did not observe Swainson's hawk in the survey area during any survey. The only raptors I detected were red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and the only raptor nest I found was that of a red-tailed hawk. That nest was in a eucalyptus tree 0.27 miles northwest of the Basin DM Expansion Area (Figures 1 and 2).



**Figure 1.** Map of the Basin DM Expansion Area, the 0.5-mile buffer representing the survey area, and the location of the only raptor nest found in the survey area.



**Figure 2.** Photograph of an occupied red-tailed hawk nest in a eucalyptus tree 0.27 miles northwest of the Basin DM Expansion Area on 12 April 2022.

#### Discussion

As Swainson's hawk was not detected during the surveys, and no evidence otherwise suggests this species has nested in the Basin DM Expansion Area<sup>1</sup>, no compensation for the loss of Swainson's hawk nest trees is warranted.

Please call or email me with any questions or comments.

Best regards,

-J. H.N.

Jeff N. Davis Principal Scientist (559) 721-6810 jdavis@colibri-ecology.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For example, there are no nesting records of this species in this area in the California Natural Diversity Database <a href="https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Maps-and-Data">https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Maps-and-Data</a> Accessed 30 June 2022.