**City of Visalia -** First Addendum to Initial Study/ Negative Declaration Document No. 2009-88 (State Clearinghouse 2009101032)

## **DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL PROJECT IN INITIAL STUDY/ NEGATIVE DECLARATION:**

Project Title: Detention Basin Borrow Sites Project

<u>Project Description</u>: This project is comprised of increasing the freeboard capacity of two City-owned wastewater treatment plant detention basins totaling 240 acres by excavating up to 591,000 cubic feet of native earth materials, and transporting the materials to two road construction sites located up to two miles away at State Highway 198. Site One is in the City of Visalia corporate limits (within the sites boundaries of the city-owned wastewater treatment plant), and Site Two is owned by the City of Visalia, and is in unincorporated Tulare County. The City of Visalia has assumed Lead Agency responsibilities over the project, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b).

The sites are as follows:

Site One: Southeast corner of Road 68 and Avenue 288. This site consists of 80 acres of existing ponding basins that are five feet deep. APNs: 118-020-031, -032 (portion), and -036 (portion), City of Visalia, County of Tulare.

Site Two: Northeast corner of Road 44 and Avenue 280. APN: 118-010-017, County of Tulare.

## SUMMARY

This document is an addendum to Initial Study/ Negative Declaration Document No. 2009-88 (State Clearinghouse 2009101032) originally prepared for the Detention Basin Burrow Sites Project. The decision to prepare an addendum was based on the original document's adequate analysis regarding the excavation project at the City's wastewater treatment plant facilities. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(a), none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, which would require the preparation of a Subsequent EIR, Negative Declaration, or Supplemental EIR have been met.

This addendum is being prepared to incorporate into the project description the **Basin 3 and Basin 4 Excavation Project**, described as follows:

The proposed Basin 3 and Basin 4 Excavation Project involves the removal of approximately 495,000 cubic yards of soil from two existing City-owned stormwater basins located near Avenue 280 (Caldwell Avenue) and Roads 44 and 68 in Tulare County. The project is intended to deepen and regrade the basins to improve stormwater storage and groundwater percolation capacity, consistent with their long-established use as part of the City's stormwater management system. There is no expansion of use or change in basin function will occur, and all work will take place within the existing basin footprints. The excavated material will be transported by Granite Construction for beneficial reuse as engineered fill on the nearby Caltrans Caldwell Avenue and Highway 99 Widening Project. All the work will be completed at no cost to the City, and in accordance with City-approved grading plans and environmental compliance requirements.

No changes will be made to the zoning or land use designations associated with the project, and no changes will be made to the land uses themselves. The change to the Initial Study/ Negative Declaration's project description is minor and is supported by evidence in the record. A copy of the original Initial Study/ Negative Declaration is included together with this addendum.

This addendum shall be attached to and considered with Initial Study / Negative Declaration No. 2009-88, which was prepared for the Detention Basin Borrow Sites Project, and was approved on November 9, 2009. The Initial Study / Negative Declaration was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and disclosed that environmental impacts are determined to be not significant for the project.

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## DECISION TO PREPARE AN ADDENDUM PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES, SEC. 15162

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, a subsequent Negative Declaration is required if one or more of three criteria have occurred. These criteria generally involve substantial changes proposed in the project or occurring with respect to the circumstances under which the project is taken that warrant major revisions to the Negative Declaration due to new or increased significant environmental effects, or the revealing of new information of substantial importance that was not and could not have reasonably been known previously that show an increased significant impact from the project.

The City's evaluation of the proposed project has determined that the excavation of native earth from the same location that was previously considered for the burrow / excavation project is not a substantial change that brings about a new significant environmental impact or significantly increases the severity of an environmental impact. Also, no new information has arisen since the approval of Negative Declaration No. 2009-88 regarding the project or its site conditions that warrant a change in environmental effects.

Staff makes the following findings for the First Addendum to Initial Study/ Negative Declaration Document No. 2009-88:

## **FINDINGS**

- 1. That the inclusion of the **Basin 3 and Basin 4 Excavation Project**, constitutes a minor change to the Initial Study/ Negative Declaration Document No. 2009-88 (State Clearinghouse 2009101032) prepared for the Detention Basin Borrow Sites Project, and none of the conditions which would require the preparation of a Subsequent Negative Declaration have occurred, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(a).
- 2. That no changes have occurred since Initial Study/Negative Declaration No. 2009-88 was approved that would change the outcome of the previous Initial Study.

Addendum to Initial Study/ Negative Declaration No. 2009-88 prepared by:

**Brandon Smith** 

Environmental Coordinator

City of Visalia Planning Division

October 13, 2025

Date

# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following documents are hereby incorporated into this Addendum by reference:

- Initial Study/ Negative Declaration Document No. 2009-88 (State Clearinghouse 2009101032)
- California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

Notice of Determination		Environmental Document No. 2009-88			
To: ⊠ Office of Planning and Research PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Ro Sacramento, CA 95812-3044		From: City of Visalia 315 E. Acequia Avenue Visalia, CA 93291			
<ul><li></li></ul>	Subject:				
Filing of Notice of Determination in compl		08 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.			
Project Title: Detention Basin Borrow Sites	s Project				
2009101032 State Clearinghouse Number	City of Visalia Lead Agency	(559) 713-4359 Area Code/Telephone/Extension			
and Avenue 288. This sites consists of 80 Northeast corner of Road 44 and Avenue 2	acres of existing pondi 80. ve to the north and e: 118-002-031, -032	vs: Sites One: Southeast corner of Road 68 ng basins that are five feet deep. Sites Two: I Ferguson Avenue to the south in the City of (portion), and -036 (portion), City of Visalia,			
water treatment plant detention basins total materials, and transporting the materials to Highway 198. Sites One is located in the Cowned waste water treatment plant), and	ing 240 acres by excave two road construction ity of Visalia corporated Sites Two is owned	freeboard capacity of two City-owned waste ating up to 591,000 cubic feet of native earth sites located up to two miles away at State limits (within the sites boundaries of the city-by the City of Visalia, and is located in om County Center Drive to Demaree Street.			
Name and Address of Project Proponent Visalia, CA 93291	nt: City of Visalia Pub	ic Works Department, 315 E. Acequia Ave.,			
This is to advise that the City Council on 11/09/09 and has made the following de		on has approved the above described project the above described project:			
1. The project ⊡will ⊠will not have a	significant effect on the	environment.			
2. An Environmental Impact Report	was prepared for this	project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.			
⊠A Negative Declaration was prep	ared for this project pur	suant to the provisions of CEQA.			
<ol><li>Mitigation measures (☐were ☒wer</li></ol>	re not) made a conditio	n of the approval of the project.			
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring	plan (⊡was ⊠was no	t) adopted for this project.			
5. A Statement of Overriding Consider	ations (⊡was ⊠was r	ot) adopted for this project.			
6. Findings (⊠were ⊡were not) made	e pursuant to the provis	ions of CEQA.			
This certifies that the final environmental document with comments, responses, and record of project approval is available to the General Public at the City of Visalia Planning Dept. located at 315 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia.					

Paul Scheibel, A.I.C.P.

City of Visalia Environmental Coordinator

Date received for filing at OPR:

Date //- \$ -0 \$

Revised September 2005 Governor's Office of Planning and Research

## CITY OF VISALIA 315 E. ACEQUIA STREET VISALIA, CA 93291

# NOTICE OF A PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Detention Basin Borrow Sites Project

<u>Project Description</u>: This project is comprised of increasing the freeboard capacity of two City-owned waste water treatment plant detention basins totaling 240 acres by excavating up to 591,000 cubic feet of native earth materials, and transporting the materials to two road construction sites located up to two miles away at State Highway 198. Sites One is located in the City of Visalia corporate limits (within the sites boundaries of the city-owned waste water treatment plant), and Sites Two is owned by the City of Visalia, and is located in unincorporated Tulare County. The City of Visalia has assumed Lead Agency responsibilities over the project, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15051(b).

The sites are located as follows: Sites One: Southeast corner of Road 68 and Avenue 288. This sites consists of 80 acres of existing ponding basins that are five feet deep. Sites Two: Northeast corner of Road 44 and Avenue 280. ve to the north and Ferguson Avenue to the south in the City of Visalia, County of Tulare. APNs: Sites One: 118-002-031, -032 (portion), and -036 (portion), City of Visalia, County of Tulare. Sites Two: 118-001-017, County of Tulare.

Contact Person: Jim Ross, City of Visalia Phone: (559) 713-4466

Pursuant to City Ordinance No. 2388, the Environmental Coordinator of the City of Visalia has reviewed the proposed project described herein and has found that the project will not result in any significant effect upon the environment.

Reasons for Negative Declaration: Initial Study No. 2009-88 has not identified any significant, adverse environmental impacts that may occur because of the project that were not adequately described in a previous environmental document, and there are no impacts peculiar to the project that will increase the severity of impacts or create new impacts that were not covered in these documents. Copies of the initial study and other documents relating to the subject project may be examined by interested parties at the Planning Division in City Hall East, at 315 East Acequia Avenue, Visalia, California.

Comments on this proposed Negative Declaration will be accepted until Monday November 5, 2009.

Date: September 30, 2009

Signed: Paul Scheibel, AICP

**Environmental Coordinator** 

City of Visalia

#### **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** This project involves increasing the freeboard capacity of two City-owned waste water treatment plant detention basins totaling 240 acres by excavating up to 591,000 cubic feet of native earth materials, and transporting the materials to two road construction sites located up to two miles away at State Highway 198. Sites One is located in the City of Visalia corporate limits (within the sites boundaries of the city-owned waste water treatment plant), and Sites Two is owned by the City of Visalia, and is located in unincorporated Tulare County. The City of Visalia has assumed Lead Agency responsibilities over the project, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15051(b).

The sites are located as follows: Sites One: Southeast corner of Road 68 and Avenue 288. This sites consists of 80 acres of existing ponding basins that are five feet deep, with earthen berms forming the above-grade portion of the basins. Sites Two: Northeast corner of Road 44 and Avenue 280. This sites consists of 160 acres divided equally into four separate basins. The basins are five feet deep, with earthen berms forming the above-grade portion of the basins. The Kaweah Water Conservation Ditch runs into the basins from along Ave. 280.

**Project Facts:** Refer to Initial Study for project facts, plans and policies, discussion of environmental effects and, and determination of significant effect.

#### Attachments:

Initial Study	(X)
Environmental Checklist	(X)
Maps	(X)
Mitigation Measures	()
Letters	()

## **DECLARATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT:**

This project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- (a) The project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- (b) The project does not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- (c) The project does not have environmental effects which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of an individual 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.
- (d) The environmental effects of the project will not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The proposed project may have one or more "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" or "significant cumulative impact" on the environment, but these effects have been adequately analyzed in the Visalia Land Use Element Update EIR (SCH 2001060) pursuant to applicable legal standards, and the applicable mitigations in that EIR have been included in the project to eliminate or reduce in severity, to the maximum degree feasible.

This Negative Declaration has been prepared by the City of Visalia Planning Division in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended and local CEQA Guidelines. Determinations have been made as to adequacy by City staff, as required by Section 15204 of CEQA. A copy of the referenced attachments, local CEQA Guidelines and state CEQA Guidelines and statutes may be obtained from the City of Visalia Planning Division Staff during normal business hours.

**APPROVED** 

Paul Scheibel, AICP

**Environmental Coordinator** 

Date Approved: September 30, 2009

Review Period: 30 days

(October 6, 2009 to November 5, 2009)

## **INITIAL STUDY**

#### I. GENERAL

**A. Description of the Project:** This project is comprised of increasing the freeboard capacity of two City-owned waste water treatment plant detention basins totaling 240 acres by excavating up to 591,000 cubic feet of native earth materials, and transporting the materials to two road construction sites located up to two miles away at State Highway 198. Sites One is located in the City of Visalia corporate limits [within the sites boundaries of the city-owned waste water treatment plant (WWTP)], and Sites Two is owned by the City of Visalia, and is located in unincorporated Tulare County. The City of Visalia has assumed Lead Agency responsibilities over the project, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15051(b).

The borrow materials will be dredged or excavated from the dry portions of the existing detention basins using a Cat 365 w/9-10 yard bucket and materials will be hauled on Roads 68 (for Sites One) or 44 (for Sites Two) to their respective road construction sitess at HWY 198. The haul trucks are expected to be 14 yd bottom-dump truck and trailer combinations (total of 28 yards per haul). Excavation and hauling operations are expected to be during daylight hours, Monday through Saturday, beginning November 2009 through Summer 2010. The excavation and hauling operations will be performed by the awardee of the State HWY 198 widening project, but onsites excavation will be overseen by the City of Visalia Public Works Department.

The excavation and hauling operations are determined to be exempt under State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) per GC 2714(b). Neither sites is within a mineral resource zone, per applicable Tulare County maps. Onsites excavation and onsites earthmoving activities associated with onsite construction. In this case, the excavation is occurring on already disturbed ground (detention basins), and will be excavated to only five feet below their current freeboard depths. Sites Two is within the jurisdiction of Tulare County. Therefore, the final determination of permit requirements will rest with that Agency. In either case, all laws, regulatory and construction and operating permit provisions of the State, County, City and the servicing Air Quality District (SJVAPCD) will be adhered to.

The project is a City of Visalia Public Works Improvement project.

**B. Identification of the Environmental Setting:** The existing detention basin sitess are generally in farmland/dairy operation settings. Watson Ditch a non-jurisdictional irrigation canal that runs parallel with Ave. 288 is adjacent to and the drainage/overflow outlet for Sites One. Kaweah Water Conservation Ditch extends from the WWTP to Sites Two. The ditch and the partially filled basin are generally riparian with a non-native water source. The water in the partially filled basin is stagnant water as evidenced by a fairly uniform ¼-inch layer of foamy green scum on the water surface. There was no evidence of natural riparian habitat activity. Species observed were small minnows, dragon flies, field mice and frogs. Vegetation observed in the water are non-native weeds and rushes. No vegetation was observed outside of the water filled areas on the sitess. All transit roads are paved two-lane roads from the borrow sites to their drop sites.

#### Sites One:

North: County Agriculture Zone / field crops.

South: City Zoning Public Institutional/ Ponding basin portion of WWTP East: City Zoning Public Institutional/ Ponding basin portion of WWTP

West: County Agriculture Zone / Dairy Farm

Sites Two:

North: County Agriculture Zone / field crops.

South: County Agriculture Zone / field crops.

East: County Agriculture Zone / field crops

West: Kings County Agriculture Zone/ filed crops

**C. Plans and Policies:** The proposed project is consistent with the Land Use Element of the Visalia General Plan. The increased capacity of the drainage basins is occurring on property already designated for that purpose, and which is also consistent with City and County groundwater recharge policies and programs. The excavation and hauling of materials to the HWY 198 Widening project sites may qualify for exemption under SMARA. That determination will be made separately by the County of Tulare and State Office of Mine Reclamation.

## II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

No significant adverse environmental impacts have been identified for this project. The City of Visalia Land Use Element, and Zoning Ordinance contain land use mitigation measures that are designed to reduce/eliminate impacts to a level of non-significance.

## **III. MITIGATION MEASURES**

The City of Visalia General Plan and Zoning Ordinance contains guidelines, criteria, and requirements for the mitigation of potential impacts related to light/glare, visibility screening, traffic/parking and other impact areas to eliminate and/or reduce potential impacts to a level of non-significance.

## **IV. MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM**

No mitigation is required for this project to reduce significance.

## V. PROJECT COMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING ZONES AND PLANS

The project is compatible with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance as the project relates to surrounding properties.

## VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following documents are hereby incorporated into this Negative Declaration by reference:

City of Visalia Groundwater Overdraft Mitigation Ordinance

#### VII. NAME OF PERSON WHO PREPARED INITIAL STUDY

Paul Scheibel, AICP

**Environmental Coordinator** 

# INITIAL STUDY

	ENVIRONMENTA	AL CHECKLIST	
Name of Proposal	Detention Basin Borrow Sites Project		
NAME OF PROPONENT:	City of Visalia	NAME OF AGENT:	Jim Ross
Address of Proponent:	315 E. Acequia Ave.	Address of Agent:	315 E. Acequia Ave.
	Visalia, CA 93291	-	Visalia, CA 93291
Telephone Number:	(559) 713-4369	Telephone Number:	(559) 713-4466
Date of Review	September 30,2009	Lead Agency:	City of Visalia
Explanations and informa	s used to determine if the proposed projection regarding each question follow the chect    1 = No Impact    2 = Impact    Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incompact    2 = Impact    2 = Impact    2 = Impact    3 = Impact    4 = Impact    5 = Impact    6 = Impact    7 = Impact    7 = Impact    8 = Impact    9 = Impac	cklist. Less Than Significant Impa	•
I. AESTHETICS		IV. BIOLOGICAL RESO	URCES
Would the project:		Would the project:	
1 a) Have a substantia	al adverse effect on a scenic vista?	2 a) Have a substant	ial adverse effect, either directly or through
	nage scenic resources, including, but not rock outcroppings, and historic buildings		ations, on any species identified as a itive, or special status species in local or

## II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

within a state scenic highway?

of the sites and its surroundings?

#### Would the project:

1 a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency to non-agricultural use?

Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would

adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

- 1 b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- 1 c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which. due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?

#### III. AIR QUALITY

#### Would the project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?
- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any \_2\_\_c) criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?
- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of \_1\_

- regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 2 b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 1 c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- 1 d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

#### V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### Would the project:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 15064.5?
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 15064.5?
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological 1\_\_\_\_ resource or sites, or unique geologic feature?

_1_	d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	_1_	b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the			
VI.	OLOGY AND SOILS			local groundwater table lever (e.g., the production rate of				
Woul	d the	project:			pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would			
	a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			
_1_		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?	_1	C)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the sites or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-sites?			
_1_		ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	_1_	d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the sites or area, including through the alteration of the course of a			
_1_		iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount			
_1_		iv) Landslides?			of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-sites?			
_2_	b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?	4	~\				
_1_	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-sites landslide, lateral	_1_	<del>c</del> )	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?			
		spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	_1_	f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			
_2_	d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	_1_	g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			
VII.		ZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	_1_	h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			
Woul		e project:  Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment	_1_	i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			
		through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	_1_	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			
_1_	b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident	IX.	LA	ND USE AND PLANNING			
		conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into	Woul	d th	e project;			
		the environment?	_1_	a)	Physically divide an established community?			
1_		Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	_1_	b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan,			
_1_	d)	Be located on a sites which is included on a list of hazardous materials sitess compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant			local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			
_1_	e)	hazard to the public or the environment?  For a project located within an airport land use plan or,	_1_	,	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?			
	Ο,	where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of	X MINERAL RESOURCES					
		a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the	Woul	d th	e project:			
1	f)	project area?  For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the	_1_	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?			
	'/	project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	_1_	þ)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery sites delineated on a local general plan,			
1	g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an			specific plan or other land use plan?			
		adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	XI.	N(	DISE			
1	h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss,	Woul	ld th	e project:			
	,	injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	2	a)	Cause exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other			
VIII HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			•	۳٬	agencies?			
Would the project:					Cause exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			
_1_	a)	Violate any water quality standards of waste discharge requirements?	1	c)	Cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			

past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the

Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either

effects of probable future projects)?

directly or indirectly?

				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
_2_ d)	Cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	_1_	c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	
_1e)	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	_1_	d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	
	expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	_1_	e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	
_1f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the	_1_	f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?	
	project expose people residing or working the in the project area to excessive noise levels?	XVI.	UT	ILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	
L.		Wou	ld th	e project:	
-2/2/	DPULATION AND HOUSING be project:	_1_	a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	
_1_ a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	_2_	b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	
	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	_2_	c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	
_1_ c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	1	d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to service the	
XIII. PI	JBLIC SERVICES			project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	
Would th	e project:	1	e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment	
<u>1</u> a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically			provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	
	altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to	_1_	f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	
	maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	_1_	g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	
	i) Fire protection?	XVII.	M	ANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	
1_	ii) Police protection?	Wou	ld th	e project:	
_1_	iii) Schools?	1		Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of	
1	iv) Parks?			the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or	
	v) Other public facilities?			wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or	
GOOD STATES OF A STORE	ECREATION			animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range	
	e project:			of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history	
_1_ a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that			or prehistory?	
	substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	_2_	b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable"	
<u>1</u> b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which			means that the incremental effects of a project considerable when viewed in connection with the effects	

might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management

2 a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to

agency for designated roads or highways?

XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC

congestion at intersections)?

Would the project:

#### DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

#### I. AESTHETICS

- a. The Sierra Nevada mountain range is a scenic vista that can be seen from Visalia on clear days. This project will not adversely affect the view of this vista.
- b. There are no scenic resources on the sites.
- c. The project will not result in new permanent structures at the borrow sites. Therefore will not degrade the visual character of the sites.
- d. The project will be located underground and will not create a new source of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

#### II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

- The sites are not currently in agricultural production, but they provide a groundwater recharge function which directly supports area agricultal production. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency has designated farmland in and around Visalia as Irrigated Farmland on the map of Important Farmlands of Tulare County. The predominant soil types (Grangeville sandy loam with some Nord fine sandy loam) have a land capability classification of Class I as irrigated land and Class IV(c) as non-irrigated land. The sites size and soil classes are such that the sites is considered farmland of local importance and prime farmland. This sites was evaluated in the EIR for the City of Visalia Land Use Element Update for conversion to urban use. The City adopted urban development boundaries as mitigation measures for conversion of prime agricultural land.
- b. The subject sites do not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural and Public uses. The sites have been designated for urban (commercial and residential) land uses in the City's 1991 Land Use Element Update and is not currently under a Williamson Act contract.
- c. The project will not involve changes in the existing environment which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

## III. AIR QUALITY

 a. The project itself does not disrupt implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (SJVAPCD) air quality plan.

Development of the project will be subject to the SJVAPCD Indirect Source Review (Rule 9510) procedures that became effective on March 1, 2006. The applicant will be required to obtain permits demonstrating compliance with Rule 9510, or payment of mitigation fees to the SJVAPCD.

b. The project could result in an air quality impact, and therefore is required to adhere to requirements administered by the SJVAPCD to reduce emissions to a level of compliance consistent with the District's regulations. Development of the project may be subject to the SJVAPCD Indirect Source Review (Rule 9510) procedures that became effective on March 1, 2006. The applicant will be required to obtain permits demonstrating compliance with Rule 9510, or payment of mitigation fees to the SJVAPCD.

c. The San Joaquin Valley is a region that is already at nonattainment for air quality. The project could result in a significant air quality impact, and therefore is required to adhere to requirements administered by the SJVAPCD to reduce emissions to a level of compliance consistent with the District's regulations.

Development of the project may be subject to the SJVAPCD Indirect Source Review (Rule 9510) procedures that became effective on March 1, 2006. The applicant will be required to obtain permits demonstrating compliance with Rule 9510, or payment of mitigation fees to the SJVAPCD.

Project construction will result in activities that generate dust. Grading, earthmoving, and excavation are the activities that generate the most  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions. Construction activities associated with project development include sites preparation, soil excavation, grading, and equipment traffic on paved and unpaved surfaces.

Because prediction of  $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$  generation depends on a large number of variables which may change from project to project or from day to day, the SJVAPCD has recommended a qualitative, rather than a quantitative, approach to assessing impact significance for  $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$  construction activity emissions. The air district has developed a menu of  $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$  control options that define the minimum content of a construction dust control program. The control measures are required under Regulation VIII. Regulation VIII (Table 3.1) control measures reduce the amount of  $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$  emissions generated from fugitive dust sources.

Regulation VIII, Rule 8021 was last amended in August 2004. Rule 8021 was adopted by the SJVAPCD to limit dust emissions from construction, excavation and other earthmoving activities. Prior to the start of construction activities, the owner/operator will be required to file a Dust Control Plan with the SJVAPCD in accordance with Section 6.3 of Rule 8021. In addition to other measures, the SJVAPCD reported an 87% control in reducing PM<sub>10</sub> emissions when properly using water as a control measure according to a UC Davis Study conducted in 1994.

 $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$  emissions generated during construction constitute a temporary, less than significant impact, possibly exposing residents downwind to elevated  $PM_{10}$  concentrations and contributing to the regional  $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$  emission burden.

It is anticipated that from the perspective of the SJVAPCD, compliance with Regulation VIII (Table 3.1) will

constitute sufficient mitigation to reduce PM<sub>10</sub> impacts to a level below significance.

Compliance with Regulation VIII will reduce PM10/PM2.5 emissions generated during construction, and assure that they remain at less than significant levels.

This will be implemented by the construction contractor and the applicant. Monitoring will be the responsibility of the SJVAPCD.

- d. The project does not propose any land uses or will not directly accommodate for any known land uses that generate substantial pollutant concentrations.
- The project does not propose any land uses or will not directly accommodate for any known land uses that generate objectionable odors.

#### Global Warming/Climate Change

"Global warming" is the term coined to describe very widespread climate change characterized by a rise in the Earth's ambient average temperatures with concomitant disturbances in weather patterns and resulting alteration of oceanic and terrestrial environs and biota. The predominant opinion within the scientific community is that global warming is currently occurring, and that it is being caused and/or accelerated by human activities, primarily the generation of "greenhouse gases" (GHG).

When sunlight strikes the Earth's surface, some of it is reflected back into space as infrared radiation. When the net amount of solar energy reaching Earth's surface is about the same as the amount of energy radiated back into space, the average ambient temperature of the Earth's surface would remain more or less constant. Greenhouse gases disturb this equilibrium by absorbing and retaining infrared energy, trapping heat in the atmosphere—the "greenhouse gas effect." The belief is that global warming is now occurring because natural carbon cycle processes (such as photosynthesis) are unable to absorb sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide and other GHG, and cannot keep the level of these gases under control. It is believed that a combination of factors related to human activities, such as deforestation and an increased emission of GHG into the atmosphere, is causing global warming.

Water vapor is the most predominant GHG, and is primarily a natural occurrence: approximately 85% of the water vapor in the atmosphere is created by evaporation from the oceans. The predominant types of anthropogenic greenhouse gases (those caused by human activity), are

- carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), largely generated by combustion activities such as coal and wood burning and fossil fuel use in vehicles but also a byproduct of respiration and volcanic activity;
- methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), known commonly as "natural gas," is present in geologic deposits and is also evolved by anaerobic decay processes and animal digestion. On a ton-for-ton basis, CH<sub>4</sub> exerts about 20 times the greenhouse gas effect of CO<sub>2</sub>;
- nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), produced in large part by soil microbes and enhanced through application of fertilizers.
   N<sub>2</sub>O is also a byproduct of fossil fuel burning: atmospheric nitrogen, an inert gas that makes up a large proportion of

the atmosphere, is oxidized when air is exposed to high-temperature combustion.  $N_2O$  is used in some industrial processes, as a fuel for rocket and racing engines, as a propellant, and as an anesthetic.  $N_2O$  is one component of "oxides of nitrogen" (NOX), long recognized as precursors of smog-causing atmospheric oxidants.

- chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), synthetic chemicals developed in the late 1920s for use as improved refrigerants (e.g., "Freon™"). It was recognized over two decades ago that this class of chemicals exerted powerful and persistent greenhouse gas effects. In 1987, the Montreal Protocol halted production of CFCs.
- hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), another class of synthetic refrigerants developed to replace CFCs;
- perfluorocarbons (PFCs), used in aluminum and semiconductor manufacturing, have an extremely stable molecular structure, with biological half-lives tens of thousands of years, leading to ongoing atmospheric accumulation of these GHGs.
- sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) is used for insulation in electric equipment, semiconductor manufacturing, magnesium refining and as a tracer gas for leak detection. Of any gas evaluated, SF<sub>6</sub> exerts the most powerful greenhouse gas effect, almost 24,000 times as powerful as that of CO<sub>2</sub> on a ton-for-ton basis.

In an effort to address the perceived causes of global warming by reducing the amount of anthropogenic greenhouse gases generated in California, the state enacted the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Codified as Health & Safety Code Section 38501 et seg.). Key provisions include the following:

- Codification of the state's goal by requiring that California's GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 "baseline" levels by 2020.
- Set deadlines for establishing an enforcement mechanism to reduce the GHG emissions:
  - By June 30, 2007, the California Air Resources Board ("CARB") was required to publish "discrete early action" GHG emission reduction measures. Discrete early actions are regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to be adopted by the CARB and enforceable by January 1, 2010;
  - By January 1, 2008, CARB was required to identify what the state's GHG emissions were in 1990 (set the "baseline") and approve a statewide emissions limit for the year 2020 that is equivalent to 1990 levels. (These statewide baseline emissions have not yet been allocated to regions, counties, or smaller political jurisdictions.) By this same date, CARB was required to adopt regulations to require the reporting and verification of statewide greenhouse gas emissions.
  - By January 1, 2011, CARB must adopt emission limits and emission reduction measures to take effect by January 1, 2012.

As support for this legislation, the Act contains factual statements regarding the potential significant impacts on

California's physical environment that could be caused by global warming. These include, an increase in the intensity and duration of heat waves, the exacerbation of air quality problems, a reduction in the quality and supply of water to the state from the Sierra snowpack, a rise in sea levels resulting in the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and the natural environment, and an increase in the incidences of infectious diseases, asthma, and other human health-related problems.

On August 24, 2007, California also enacted legislation (Public Resources Code §§ 21083.05 and 21097) requiring the state Resources Agency to adopt guidelines for addressing climate change in environmental analysis pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. By July 1, 2009, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is required to prepare guidelines for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and transmit those draft regulations to the Resources Agency. The Resources Agency must then certify and adopt the guidelines by January 1, 2010.

Because it is believed that global warming is being caused by human activities on the entire planet, it would be highly speculative to conclude that this project would have a direct adverse impact on global climate. CARB has not adopted GHG emission limits and emission reduction measures and because CEQA guidelines have not been established for the evaluation and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, there is an absence of regulatory guidance to assist any lead agencies in determining whether a particular project will have a significant impact on global warming.

## IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- a. A site inspection was performed for the Project. No special status species were observed on the sites. The sites have been previously disturbed. The sites have no known species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. City-wide biological resources were evaluated in the EIR for the City of Visalia Land Use Element Update for conversion to urban use.
- b. The project areas include small irrigation ditches that serve the sites by transporting treated water from the WWTP to the detention basins. The excavation activities will not affect this function.
- The project is not located within or adjacent to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- d. The project will not significantly interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species. The project will not substantially interfere with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridor, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. This sites were evaluated in the City and County General Plan EIRs. Their continued detention basin functions are consistent with the conclusions of the GP EIRs.
- e. There are no trees in or adjacent to the excavation or haul road sites.
- f. There are no local or regional habitat conservation plans for the area.

## V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a. There are no known historical resources located within the project areas. Construction activities and improvements have the potential to disturb or destroy unknown cultural resources, but this is unlikely since both sites were previously excavated. However, compliance with the City of Visalia's General Plan and policies for handling cultural resources reduces this potentially significant impact to a status of less than significant.
- o. There are no known archaeological resources located within the project area. In the event presently unknown archaeological resources are discovered during development of specific projects, work shall be terminated until such time that a certified archaeologist can investigate the findings. In such a case, the investigating historian shall determine appropriate future actions that must be taken prior to continuation of all affected project(s) pursuant to Appendix K of the CEQA Guidelines. Implementation of this measure will reduce the Project's cultural resources impact to less than significant.
- There are no known unique paleontological resources or geologic features located within the project area.
- d. There are no known human remains buried in the project vicinity. If human remains are unearthed during development, all work should cease until the proper authorities are notified and a qualified professional archaeologist can evaluate the finding and make any necessary mitigation recommendations.

#### VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- a. The State Geologist has not issued an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Map for Tulare County. The project area is not located on or near any known earthquake fault lines. Therefore, the project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse impacts involving earthquakes. All Project-related construction will conform to the latest standards for seismic design as adopted by the Uniform Building Code. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.
- b. The development of the sites will require movement of topsoil. A grading and drainage plan will be completed prior to any excavation activities.
- c. The project areas are flat and the underlying soil is not known to be unstable. Soils in the greater Visalia area have few limitations with regard to development. Due to low clay content and limited topographic relief, soils in the Visalia area generally have low expansion characteristics.
- d. Due to low clay content, soils in the greater Visalia area have an expansion index of 0-20, which is defined as very low potential expansion.

#### VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- The project will not involve the use or transport of hazardous materials during construction or operation.
- b. The project will not involve the use or transport of hazardous materials during construction or operation.
- The project does not include the use or release of hazardous materials.
- d. There are no hazardous waste sites in the immediate

vicinity of the proposed project.

- e. The project area is not located within any airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport.
- The project area is not within the vicinity of any private airstrip.
- g. The project will not impair the implementation of any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- There are no wildlands or flammable brush, grassy or dry tree areas within or near the project area.

#### VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.
- b. The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies in the project vicinity. The project involves installing a pipeline to facilitate stormwater to a basin with additional capacity for increased groundwater storage.
- The project will not result in substantial erosion on- or offsites.
- d. The Project will not affect existing drainage patterns. The excavation of the existing pond will only increase capacity at the sites and the pipeline will add additional stormwater at the existing park/pond location.
- e. The Project calls for the expansion of an on-sites drainage basin to handle additional storm water run-off from the surrounding area. The project will not create any additional runoff water and the increase in size of the existing ponds location will handle the stormwater travelling in the proposed pipeline.
- f. There are no reasonably foreseeable reasons why the project would result in the degradation of water quality.
- g. There is no housing to be a part of this project and therefore no housing would be placed within a 100-year flood hazard area.
- h. The project is for a detention basin with no habital structures included in the project. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse impact for flood purposes.
- The project would not expose people or structures to risks from failure of levee or dam.
- j. There is no potential for seiche or tsunami due to the lack of a significant water body near the sites. The Project sites is relatively flat, therefore eliminating the possibility of mudflow.

## IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

- No change in surrounding land uses will occur as a result of the project. The project does not impede growth or divide the community. There is no impact.
- b. The Project does not involve any change to, or conflict with, applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations.
- c. The project sites is not within an adopted habitat conservation plan.

## X. MINERAL RESOURCES

 There are no known mineral resources within the Project area. The Project will not result in a loss of mineral resources

b. There are no mineral resource recovery sites delineated in the Visalia area. The Project will not result in the loss of availability of an important mineral resource recovery sites.

#### XI. NOISE

The Project will not generate noise that exceeds the thresholds established by the City's Noise Element. The impact is less than significant.

The Visalia Noise Element and Ordinance contain criterion for acceptable noise levels inside and outside residential living spaces. This standard is 65 dB DNL for outdoor activity areas associated with residences and 45 dB DNL for indoor areas.

- b. The project will not result in ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. There are no existing uses near the project area that create ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels.
- c. The Project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.
- d. Construction of the project will create short-term noise that may adversely impact sensitive receptors. The Noise Element of the City of Visalia General Plan 1995 prescribes noise standards to ensure that noise sensitive areas are not adversely affected from noise sources. This is also consistent with the Tulare County General Plan Noise Element.

Typical construction equipment would include tractors, and dump trucks with trailers. Noise levels generated by this type of construction equipment is consistent with ambient noise episodes typical of the farm equipment common in the project area.

Noise levels generated from construction activities decrease with increasing distance from the noise source; generally, noise levels reduce by six decibels for every doubling of distance from the source.

Construction activities will be temporary in nature and will only occur during the daytime hours. The City enforces the Noise Ordinance from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday and from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Construction noise impacts could result in annoyance or sleep disruption for nearby residents if nighttime operation were to occur of if equipment is not properly muffled or maintained. Construction noise will be a temporary and less than significant impact.

- e. Site One is within a 2 miles of the Visalia Airport. The propose excavation activity is allowed in this area..
- f. There is no private airstrip near the project area.

#### XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

- a. The proposed Project does not include the development or removal of any residential structures. The Project is the excavation of existing detention basins.
- The Project will not displace any housing on the sites.
- Construction of the Project will not displace any people on the sites.

#### XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a.
- Current fire protection services are provided by the City of Visalia and the project will not create a significant demand for additional fire services.
- Current police protection services are provided by the City of Visalia Police Department and the project will not create a significant demand for additional police services.
- Primary educational services within the City are provided by the Visalia Unified School District and this project will not create a demand for additional school facilities.
- iv. The Project does not include the construction of residential uses which would require new parks. Existing park facilities will not be significantly impacted by this project.
- The Project does not include any other impacts to public facilities.

#### XIV. RECREATION

- a. The proposed project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- b. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities within the area that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

#### XV. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

- The project will not alter traffic conditions in the City.
   During construction, the contractor will implement a traffic control plan.
- b. The project will not alter traffic conditions in the City.
- The project will not result in nor require a need to change air traffic patterns.
- d. The project will not increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible use.
- e. The project will not result in inadequate emergency access.
- f. The project will not affect parking capacity and will therefore not result in inadequate parking capacity.

#### XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- a. The project will not require the use of wastewater facilities.
- The project will not require the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities.
- c. The project involves excavation of existing detention basins. The construction will be required to prevent air quality impacts to a level less than significant as noted by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The construction will not cause significant environmental effects.
- d. The project will not affect existing water demands.
- e. The project will not require the use of wastewater facilities.

- f. The project will not require the use of solid waste facilities.
- g. The project will not require the use of solid waste facilities.

## XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- The project will not have any impacts on wildlife species, rare or endangered plant species or eliminate major periods of California history or prehistory.
- b. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(i) states that a Lead Agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a project is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of a project must, therefore, be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects.

Due to the nature of the project and consistency with environmental policies, incremental contributions to impacts are considered less than cumulatively considerable.

c. The analyses of environmental issues contained in this Initial Study indicate that the project is not expected to have substantial impact on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

## DETERMINATION OF REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this initial evaluation:					
<u>X</u>	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.				
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on the attached sheet have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.				
***************************************	I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required				
<u>X</u>	I find that as a result of the proposed project no new effects could occur, or new mitigation measures would be required that have not been addressed within the scope of the Program Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 90020160). The Environmental Impact Report prepared for the City of Visalia Land Use Element (Amendment No. 90-04) was certified by Resolution NO. 91-105 adopted on September 3, 1991. THE PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT WILL BE UTILIZED.				
City of Visalia	September 30, 2009 Date				

#### Table 3.1

# Mandatory Control Measures for Construction, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities

#### A. Pre-Activity:

- A1: Pre-water sites sufficient to limit Visible Dust Emissions (VDE) to 20% opacity
- A2: Phase work to reduce the amount of disturbed surface area at any one time.

#### B. During Active Operations:

- B1: Apply water or chemical/organic stabilizers/suppressants sufficient to limit VDE to 20% opacity
- B2: Construct and maintain wind barriers sufficient to limit VDE to 20% opacity. If utilizing wind barriers, control measure B1 above shall also be implemented.
- B3: Apply water or chemical/organic stabilizers/suppressants to unpaved haul/access roads and unpaved vehicle/equipment traffic areas sufficient to limit VDE to 20% opacity and meet the conditions of a stabilized unpaved road surface.

#### C. Temporary Stabilization During Periods Of Inactivity:

- C1: Restrict vehicular access to the area
- C2: Apply water or chemical/organic stabilizers/suppressants, sufficient to comply with the conditions of a stabilized surface. If an area having 0.5 acres or more of disturbed surface area remains unused for seven or more days, the area must comply with the conditions for a stabilized surface area as defined below:

<u>Stabilized Surface</u>: any disturbed surface area or open bulk material storage pile that is resistant to wind blown fugitive dust emissions. A surface is considered to be stabilized if it meets at least one of the following conditions:

- A visible crust; or
- A threshold friction velocity (TFV) for disturbed surface areas corrected for nonerodible elements of 100 centimeters per second or greater; or
- A flat vegetative cover of at least 50 percent that is attached or rooted vegetation; or unattached vegetative debris lying on the surface with a predominant horizontal orientation that is not subject to movement by wind; or
- A standing vegetative cover of at least 30 percent that is attached or rooted vegetation with a predominant vertical orientation; or
- A standing vegetative cover that is attached or rooted vegetation with a predominant vertical orientation that is at least 10 percent and where the TFV is at least 43 centimeters per second when corrected for nonerodible elements; or
- A surface that is greater than or equal to 10 percent of non-erodible elements such as rocks, stones, or hard-packed clumps of soil.

#### D. Speed Limitations and Posting of Speed Limit Signs

- D1: Limit the speed of vehicles traveling on uncontrolled unpaved access/haul roads within construction sitess to a maximum of 15 miles per hour.
- D2: Post speed limit signs that meet State and Federal Department of Transportation standards at each construction sites's uncontrolled unpaved access/haul road entrance. At a minimum, speed limit signs shall also be posted at least every 500 feet and shall be readable in both directions of travel along uncontrolled unpaved access/haul roads.

#### E. Wind Generated Fugitive Dust Requirements

- E1: Cease outdoor construction, excavation, extraction, and other earthmoving activities that disturb the soil whenever VDE exceeds 20% opacity. Indoor activities such as electrical, plumbing, dry wall installation, painting, and any other activity that does not cause any disturbances to the soil are not subject to this requirement.
- E2: Continue operation of water trucks/devices when outdoor construction excavation, extraction, and other earthmoving activities cease, unless unsafe to do so.

**Table 3.11 Estimated Construction Noise Levels** 

	Typical Noise Level (dBA) (distance from source)				
Construction Equipment	50 feet	100 feet	1.0 mile		
Pneumatic tools	85	79	45		
Truck (e.g., dump, water)	88	82	48		
Concrete mixer (truck)	85	79	45		
Scraper	88	82	48		
Bulldozer	87	81	47		
Backhoe	85	79	45		
Portable air compressor	81	75	41		

#### Visalia, CA Municipal Code

Title 16 SUBDIVISIONS

Chapter 16.54 GROUNDWATER OVERDRAFT MITIGATION

## Chapter 16.54 GROUNDWATER OVERDRAFT MITIGATION

## Sections:

16.54.010	Legislative findings.
16.54.020	Purpose.
16.54.030	Short title, authority, applicability.
16.54.040	Rules of construction.
16.54.050	Imposition of groundwater mitigation fee on new development.
16.54.060 include all r	Imposition of groundwater impact fee on providers of municipal water supplies, which residential, commercial and industrial water suppliers.
16.54.070	Computation of the amount of the fee.
16.54.080	Use of funds.
16.54.090	Refund of fees paid.
16.54.100	Modification of the fee.
16.54.110	Penalty.
16.54.120	Severability.

## 16.54.010 Legislative findings.

The City Council finds, determines and declares that:

- A. Local water resources are among the most precious resources of the city and surrounding area.
- B. Management of the water resources serving the residents of the city is critical to the long-term health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the city.
- C. The city's primary water supply is from underground water resources, which are being depleted by groundwater extraction in excess of groundwater replenishment ("groundwater overdraft").
- D. Conversion of land from agricultural to urban uses increases the local groundwater overdraft and has the potential to seriously deplete available groundwater resources over time.

- E. Provision of municipal water supplies by private water companies and utilities contributes substantially to the continuing groundwater overdraft.
- F. The impact of existing and proposed development on groundwater overdraft has been determined through a technical study prepared for the city by the consulting engineering firm of Provost & Pritchard, which study has been reviewed and considered by the City Council prior to adoption of this chapter. The technical analysis provides the basis for the fees established by this chapter.
- G. California Constitution, Article XI, Section7, California Public Utilities Code Sections 6203 and 6294, <u>Article III</u> and <u>XIV</u> of the City Charter and objective 2.4 and policies 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 of the city's General Plan authorize the city to enact this chapter. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.020 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to assess impact fees upon new development and a volumetric fee upon existing urban water supplies to fund programs to mitigate the impact of such new development and existing water extractions upon conditions of groundwater overdraft. Specifically, this chapter is intended to fund activities and projects to mitigate impacts to conditions of groundwater overdraft. Such activities will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Acquisition of surface water rights and surface water supplies.
- B. Development of groundwater recharge facilities.
- C. Reconfiguration of stormwater facilities designed to retain as much stormwater as possible within and near the city.
  - D. Enhancement of cooperative programs with local water management agencies and companies.
  - E. Development of more efficient water delivery systems. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.030 Short title, authority and applicability.

- A. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "City of Visalia Water Resource Management and Groundwater Overdraft Mitigation Fee Ordinance."
- B. The City Council has the authority to adopt this chapter pursuant California Constitution, Article XI, Section 7, California Public Utilities Code Sections 6203 and 6294, <u>Article III</u> and <u>XIV</u> of the City Charter and objective 2.4 and policies 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 of the city's General Plan.
- C. This chapter shall apply in the incorporated area of the city to the extent permitted by Article XI of Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of California. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005: prior code § 9554).

## 16.54.040 Rules of construction.

A. The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed so as to effectively carry out its purpose in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare.

- B. For the purpose of administration and enforcement of this chapter, unless otherwise stated in this chapter, the following rules of construction shall apply to the text of this chapter:
- 1. In case of any difference of meaning or implication between the text of this chapter and any caption, illustration, summary table, or illustrative table, the text shall control.
  - 2. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not discretionary; the word "may" is permissive.
- 3. Words used in the present tense shall include the future; and words used in the singular number shall include the plural, and the plural the single, unless the context clearly indicates the contrary.
- 4. The word "person" includes an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an incorporated association, or any other similar entity.
- 5. Unless the context clearly indicates the contrary, where a regulation involves two or more items, conditions, provisions, or events connected by the conjunction "and," "or" or "either...or," the conjunction shall be interpreted as follows:
  - a. "And" indicates that all the connected terms, conditions, provisions or events shall apply.
  - b. "Or" indicates that the connected items, conditions, provisions or events may apply singly or in any combination.
- c. "Either...or" indicates that the connected items, conditions, provisions or events shall apply singly but not in combination.
- 6. The word "includes" shall not limit a term to the specific example but is intended to extend its meaning to all other instances or circumstances of little kind or character. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.050 Imposition of groundwater mitigation fee on new development.

- A. Any person seeking to annex, subdivide or otherwise procure entitlement to develop property within the city, shall be required to pay the fee specified below.
  - 1. The initial fee shall be \$950 per acre of land to be developed.
- 2. The obligation to pay the fee shall be made a condition of annexation or approval of a tentative subdivision map or other entitlement for development.
- 3. The fee required by this chapter shall be paid as a condition of final map approval or other final discretionary development approval. The fee paid shall be in addition to all other impact fees paid prior to issuance of a building permit.
- B. In lieu of payment of the fee specified in A. above, and with concurrence of the city, any person seeking to annex, subdivide or otherwise procure entitlement to develop property within the city may dedicate water rights to the city. The city, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether such dedication equals in value the amount of the fee otherwise applicable pursuant to A. above. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.060 Imposition of groundwater impact fee on providers of municipal water supplies, which include all

## residential, commercial and industrial water suppliers.

- A. Effective January 1, 2006, all municipal water suppliers providing water service in the city shall pay a groundwater impact mitigation fee of \$14 per acre foot of water pumped to provide such service.
- B. The fee shall be paid within 60 days of the end of each month. The payment shall be accompanied by a report of the volume of water pumped from each well utilized to provide water service within the city. Fees not paid within 30 days shall be subject to late fees and interest consistent with the city's standard practice.
- C. All municipal water suppliers shall maintain records of all pumping for the purpose of supplying water within the city. Such records shall identify the volume of water pumped from each well utilized to provide water service within the city. Such records shall be subject to inspection by the city during normal business hours after providing five working days notice of intent to inspect such records.
- D. In lieu of payment of the fee specified in A. above, and with concurrence of the city, a municipal water supplier may dedicate water rights to the city. The city, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether such dedication equals in value the amount of the fee otherwise applicable pursuant to A. above. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.070 Computation of the amount of the fee.

The fees established by Sections 16.54.060 and 16.54.070 were determined by evaluating the impact of development on existing conditions of groundwater overdraft and calculating the cost of the water and facilities necessary to mitigate such impact. A technical study was prepared by a qualified consulting engineering company of all of the data available to make such determination. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

#### 16.54.080 Use of funds.

All funds collected shall be used exclusively for the purposes specified in Section <u>16.54.020</u>. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.090 Refund of fees paid.

If a building permit or permit for mobile home installation expires without commencement of construction, then the feepayer shall be entitled to a refund, without interest, of the fee paid plus a condition of its issuance; except, that the city shall retain three percent of the fee to offset a portion of the costs of collection and refund. The feepayer must submit an application for such refund to the city within 30 days of the expiration of the permit. Within 20 working days of receipt of an application for refund the city shall issue a refund or issue written findings as to why the refund shall not be made. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.100 Modification of the fee.

The City Council may modify the fees established in Sections 16.54.050 and 16.54.060 annually by resolution if the assumptions utilized in calculating the fees have changed. The modifications adopted by resolution will not be based on a change in the method of calculating the fees. Absent action by the City Council to modify the fees by resolution, each April of each year the chief financial officer shall review the current Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (ENRCCI) for the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, California. When the average of such indices differs from the

average of the indices for the preceding April first, the factor of increase or decrease shall be applied to the fees established in Sections 16.54.050 and 16.54.060. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005)

## 16.54.110 Penalty.

Any violation of this chapter shall be prosecuted in the same manner as misdemeanors are prosecuted and upon conviction the violator shall be punishable according to law; however, in addition to or in lieu of any criminal prosecution the city shall have the power to sue in civil court to enforce the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005: prior code § 9574)

## 16.54.120 Severability.

If any section, phrase, sentence or portion of this chapter is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof. (Ord. 2005-09 § 2 (part), 2005; prior code § 9578)

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OF PROPOSED Weg I VERIFICATION OF THE WORDING FOR THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PUBLISHED IN THE VISALIA TIMES DELTA Verified Public Hearing date: Verified Public Hearing day: Verified ending comment date: Verified wording Project Planner Verified Public Hearing date: Verified Public Hearing day: Verified ending comment date:/ Verified wording

City Planner

# Ad Placement Form If you purchase more than one ad, you must fill out multiple ad placement forms. ACCOUNT INFORMATION Contact Name Susan Currier Organization City of Visalia, Planning Department Address 315 E. Acequia City Visalia State CA Zip **93291** Phone **559-713-4436** Fax 559-713-4814 Email AD PLACEMENT LENGTH X 1 Day □2 Days □3 Days □Other: Start Date: October 7, 2009 End Date October 7, 2009 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION If you require additional information please contact me via phone or email. Notice of a Proposed Negative Declaration AD DESCRIPTION If you need more room please attach separate pages \*\*\*\*See Attached\*\*\*\* **TYPE**

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

□ Classified

□Other

□ Job Announcement

X Legal Announcement

□ Notice of Public Hearing

□ Meeting Announcement

Credit Card VISA 4246044101094716 (388)
Card Holder Name Susan Currier
Card Expiration Date 05/10
Internal Accounting Code 0011-18111-556000

\*\*\*\*\*\*Vendor, please E-mail a receipt of payment.

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PLEASE E-MAIL A COPY OF PROOF A.S.A.P. scurrier@ci.visalia.ca.us

run once on Wednesday October 7, 2009

Susan Currier: 713-4436

ATTN: Rebe

REF: CITY OF VISALIA PO #04360

## Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Project Title: Detention Basin Borrow Sites Project

<u>Project Description</u>: This project is comprised of increasing the freeboard capacity of two City-owned waste water treatment plant detention basins totaling 240 acres by excavating up to 591,000 cubic feet of native earth materials, and transporting the materials to two road construction sites located up to two miles away at State Highway 198. Sites One is located in the City of Visalia corporate limits (within the sites boundaries of the city-owned waste water treatment plant), and Sites Two is owned by the City of Visalia, and is located in unincorporated Tulare County. The City of Visalia has assumed Lead Agency responsibilities over the project, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15051(b).

The sites are located as follows: Sites One: Southeast corner of Road 68 and Avenue 288. This sites consists of 80 acres of existing ponding basins that are five feet deep. Sites Two: Northeast corner of Road 44 and Avenue 280. ve to the north and Ferguson Avenue to the south in the City of Visalia, County of Tulare. APNs: Sites One: 118-002-031, -032 (portion), and -036 (portion), City of Visalia, County of Tulare. Sites Two: 118-001-017, County of Tulare.

<u>Contact Person</u>: Jim Ross, City of Visalia <u>Phone</u>: (559) 713-4466

Pursuant to City Ordinance No. 2388, the Environmental Coordinator of the City of Visalia has reviewed the proposed project described herein and has found that the project will not result in any significant effect upon the environment.

Reasons for Negative Declaration: Initial Study No. 2009-88 has not identified any significant, adverse environmental impacts that may occur because of the project that were not adequately described in a previous environmental document, and there are no impacts peculiar to the project that will increase the severity of impacts or create new impacts that were not covered in these documents. Copies of the initial study and other documents relating to the subject project may be examined by interested parties at the Planning Division in City Hall East, at 315 East Acequia Avenue, Visalia, California.

Comments on this proposed Negative Declaration will be accepted until Monday November 5, 2009.

KAWEAH DELTA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2975 NORTH FARMERSVILLE BOULEVARD FARMERSVILLE, CA 93223

TULARE IRRIGATION DITCH COMPANY ATTN: ROGER THOMPSON 1350 WEST SAN JOAQUIN AVENUE TULARE, CALIFORNIA 93274

EVANS DITCH COMPANY 1350 WEST SAN JOAQUIN TULARE, CALIFORNIA 93275

MODOC DITCH COMPANY 11878 AVENUE 328 VISALIA, CA 93291

WATSON/PERSIAN DITCH CO. P. O. BOX 366 FARMERSVILLE, CA 93223

JEANNETTE LYONS VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 5000 WEST CYPRESS VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93277

TULARE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT 1968 SOUTH LOVERS LANE VISALIA, CA 93277-5650

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY LONG RANGE PLANNING 5961 SOUTH MOONEY BOULEVARD VISALIA, CA 93277

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS 5961 SOUTH MOONEY BOULEVARD VISALIA, CA 93277

TULARE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS 5961 S. MOONEY BOULEVARD VISALIA, CA 93277

TULARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU 737 N. BEN MADDOX WAY VISALIA, CA 93292

KINGS COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 1400 W. LACEY BLVD. HANFORD, CA 93230

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT CENTRAL REGION OFFICE 2700 "M" STREET, SUITE 275 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

TULARE COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION 5961 SOUTH MOONEY BOULEVARD VISALIA CA 93277

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Form A Notice	of Completi	on & Environmen	tal Docur	nent Tra	nsmittal		
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Reviewing Agencies Checklist	Form A, continued	KEY
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Resources Agency		<b>X</b> = Document sent by SCH
Boating & Waterways		✓ = Suggested distribution
Coastal Commission		
Coastal Conservancy		
Colorado River Board	Environmental	Protection Agency
Conservation	Air Resources Boa	ard
Fish & Game	California Waste !	Management Board
Forestry & Fire Protection	SWRCB: Clean W	ater Grants
Office of Historic Preservation	SWRCB: Delta Ui	nit
Parks & Recreation	SWRCB: Water Q	uality
Reclamation Board	SWRCB: Water R	ights du la
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City/State/Zip:	Date Review Starts	
Contact:	Date to Agencies	
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Address: 315 E. AcequiA  City/State/Zip: Usq/11 CA 93291		
City/State/Lip: 1154/14 CA 7351		
Phone: (559) 713-4369		