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INITIAL STUDY
AND PROPOSED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD
CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT CHANGE IN PLACE OF
USE

**Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and
Water Conservation Improvement District**
151 Laws Avenue, Suite D
Ukiah, CA 95482

January 15th, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (“**District**”) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for its Change in Place of Use Project.

Project Title: Change in Place of Use

Project Location: The Project is located within Mendocino County, as shown on the map attached as **EXHIBIT “A”**.

Project Description: The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District filed for license of Permit 12497B in 2008. During the inspection process, GIS analysis conducted by the University of California Hopland Research and Extension Center of the existing agricultural Place of Use map (Drawing 50-1-26) revealed that the ‘irrigable acres’ referred to in Applications 12920 which was previously believed to be 12,109 acres is actually 16,591 acres.

GIS analysis has also determined that portions of the “irrigable acreage” were traced in the incorrect location. The errors in footprint and acreage were the result of imprecise tracing and scaling on the part of the original preparer

The District is filing a petition for a change in place of use to rectify mapping errors associated with Drawing 50-1-26 by: 1) updating the actual acreage of “class lands” depicted in Drawing 50-1-26 and; 2) clarifying the location of class lands within the District’s existing boundary and/or Place of Use.

The proposed class lands footprint is 16,505 acres, which is 86 acres smaller than the existing footprint. The proposed project will retain and additional 506 acre portion of irrigable acres that are outside the District’s boundary so it may, in the future, provide an alternative supply to replace direct diversions from two fish-bearing tributaries. This will improve habitat conditions for protected salmonids, particularly during periods of peak demand (e.g., frost protection). Providing this alternative source is beneficial to the environment and public trust resources

The proposed project applies only to agriculture and does not alter water supply for municipal, industrial, or recreational uses. The proposed project does not increase the amount of acres that can be irrigated with the District as the existing limitation of a maximum irrigable net area of 4,096 acres will remain unchanged.

Based on the Initial Study, it has been found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

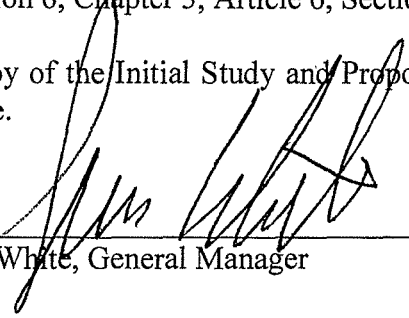
Determination: The District has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the Public Resources code of the State of California).

Public Review: The Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being

circulated for a 30 day period from January 16th, 2014 through February 14th, 2014. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 12:00 noon on February 14th, 2014, to the District, Attention: Mr. Sean White, 151 Laws Avenue, Suite D, Ukiah, CA 95482. Comments will be reviewed by the District, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration, which is scheduled for March 10th, 2014.

This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070 of the California Administrative Code.

A copy of the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the District Office.



Sean White, General Manager

PROPOSED
**MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL AND
WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) and a determination has been made that it will not have a significant effect upon the environment.
2. PROJECT NAME: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (District) Change in Place of Use

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The District is filing a petition to rectify mapping errors associated with Drawing 50-1-26 by: 1) correcting the actual acreage of "class lands" depicted in Drawing 50-1-26 and; 2) correcting the actual amount and location of class lands within the District's existing boundary and/or Place of Use. The petition is being filed as part of an on-going license inspection being conducted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Based on the Initial Study, it has been found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The Project is located within Mendocino County, as shown on the map attached as EXHIBIT "A".
5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District, Sean White, 151 Laws Avenue, Suite D, Ukiah, CA 95482.
6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None
7. A copy of the Initial Study regarding the environmental effect of this project is on file at the District office. This study was:

Adopted as presented.

Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.

8. The District considered this Negative Declaration at a public meeting of its Board of Directors on December 9th, 2013.
9. DETERMINATION: *(To be completed by the Lead Agency)*

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Sean White

Date

1/15/2014

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District Change in Place of Use.
2. Lead agency name and address:

Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
and Water Conservation Improvement District
151 Laws Avenue, Suite D
Ukiah, CA 95482.
3. Contact person and phone number: Sean White, (707) 462-5278
4. Project location: The Project is located Mendocino County, as shown on **EXHIBIT "A"**.
5. Project sponsor's name and address: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (District)
6. General plan designation: Agriculture

Zoning: General Agriculture
7. Description of project: The District is filing a petition to rectify mapping errors associated with Drawing 50-1-26 by: 1) correcting the actual acreage of "class lands" depicted in Drawing 50-1-26 and; 2) correcting the actual amount and location of class lands within the District's existing boundary and/or Place of Use. The petition is being filed as part of an on-going license inspection being conducted by the State Water Resources Control Board.
8. Surrounding land uses and setting: Agricultural
9. Other public agencies whose approval is required: State Water Resources Control Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

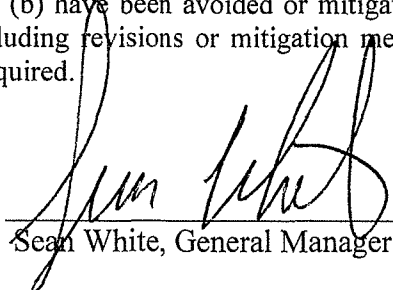
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.

I find that the project proposed MAY have a significant effect on the environmental, 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 the earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

DATE: 1/15/2014


Sean White, General Manager

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Pursuant to Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, a brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one proposed.

1. <u>AESTHETICS</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock croppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-d: The proposed project does not include construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Aesthetics.

2. <u>AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES</u> --	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-c: The proposed project will maintain existing water supplies to agricultural lands within the District. The proposed project will also retain 506 acres outside the District but within its existing Place of Use in order to offer so it may in the future (pending annexation) provide that area with an environmentally superior alternative water supply. Therefore the proposed project will be beneficial to agricultural resources.

3. <u>AIR QUALITY</u>--	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-e: The proposed project does not include construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Air Quality.

4. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native residents or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local regional or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-f: The proposed project does not include soil disturbance or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands. In addition, the proposed project seeks to retain a 506 acre area outside of the District but within its existing Place of Use to allow providing this area with an alternative source of water. The intent of this future alternative supply is to deliver regulated water from storage to supplant direct diversions from two fish-bearing tributaries. This will improve habitat conditions for protected salmonids. This will be particularly beneficial during periods of peak demand (e.g., frost protection). Providing this alternative source is beneficial to the environment and public trust resources.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-c: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Cultural Resources

6. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known Fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

f) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-h: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Geology and Soils.

<u>7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handles hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working within the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-h: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

8. <u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or volume of surface runoff in a manner that would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) result in flooding on- or off-site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater discharge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Place housing or other structures which would impede or re-direct flood flows within a 100-yr. flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) as a result of the failure of a dam or levee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) from inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Would the change in the water volume and/or the pattern of seasonal flows in the affected watercourse result in:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) a significant cumulative reduction in the water supply downstream of the diversion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) a significant reduction in water supply, either on an annual or seasonal basis, to senior water right holders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

downstream of the diversion?				
iii) a significant reduction in the available aquatic habitat or riparian habitat for native species of plants and animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) a significant change in seasonal water temperatures due to changes in the patterns of water flow in the stream?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-g: The proposed project does not include construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands. In addition, the proposed project seeks to retain a 506 acre area outside of the District but within its existing Place of Use to allow providing this area with an alternative source of water. The intent of this future alternative supply is to deliver regulated water from storage to supplant direct diversions from two fish-bearing tributaries. This will improve habitat conditions for protected salmonids. This will be particularly beneficial during periods of peak demand (e.g., frost protection). Providing this alternative source is beneficial to the environment and public trust resources.

9. <u>LAND USE AND PLANNING</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable HCP or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-c: The proposed project seeks to retain a 506 acre area outside of the District but within its existing Place of Use to allow providing this area with an alternative source of water. In order to serve this area in the future the District will need approval from LAFCO.

10. <u>MINERAL RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-b: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Mineral Resources.

11. NOISE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) 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 agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-f: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Noise.

12. <u>POPULATION</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through the extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Response to questions:

(a)-(c): The proposed project consists of correcting the District's existing irrigation footprint to a revised footprint that is smaller in size and comprised entirely of current or historic agricultural land. The corrected footprint applies to water availability solely for irrigation purposes and does not apply to municipal or industrial water supply. Therefore there will be no impact on population.

13. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u> --	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service rations, response time or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-e: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands. The corrected footprint applies to water availability solely for irrigation purposes and does not apply to municipal or industrial water supply, therefore there will be no impacts on Public Services.

14. <u>RECREATION</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-b: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands, therefore there will be no impacts on Recreation.

15. <u>TRANSPORTATION/ TRAFFIC</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase on either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-g: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands. The corrected footprint applies to water availability solely for irrigation purposes and does not apply to municipal or industrial water supply, therefore there will be no impacts on Transportation or Traffic.

<u>16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses to a-g: The proposed project does not include any soil disturbance, or construction of any new infrastructure and is limited to existing or historical agricultural lands. The corrected footprint applies to water availability solely for irrigation purposes and does not apply to municipal or industrial water supply, therefore there will be no impacts on Utilities and Service Systems.

<u>17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environment effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Response to questions:

(a-b): The proposed project consists of correcting the District's existing irrigation footprint to a revised footprint that is smaller in size and comprised entirely of current or historic agricultural land. Since the proposed project does not involve the construction of, or approval of, any new infrastructure there will be no environment impacts resulting from the proposed project.

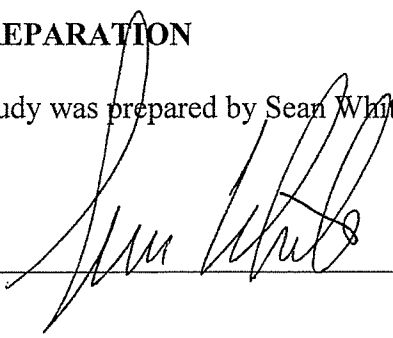
The proposed project will provide the 506 acre retention area with a potential alternative source of water. The intent of this future alternative supply is to allow regulated water from storage to supplant direct diversions from two fish-bearing streams to improve habitat conditions for protected salmonids. This will be particularly beneficial during periods of peak demand (e.g., frost protection). Providing this alternative source is beneficial to the environment and public trust resources.

The proposed project will not interfere with fish or wildlife resources, native residents, or impede the use of native migratory wildlife corridors. No wetlands or waters of the state will be impacted. The project would not have an adverse effect on any sensitive habitat in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project will not conflict with local policies protecting biological resources.

(c): As described throughout the preceding checklist sections, the proposed project would not result in any environmental impacts that would cause substantial adverse effects to human beings, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, there would be no impact.

REPORT PREPARATION

This Initial Study was prepared by Sean White of the MCRRFC&WCID.

Prepared by:  Date: 1/15/2014