

Orange Center Daleville Area

EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM Environmental Report

Overview

USDA Rural Development (RD) is required to assess the impacts of proposed federal actions, such as the provision of financial assistance through the Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants Program (ECWAG), to the human environment. ECWAG applicants must complete an Environmental Report (ER) to submit with their applications. The ER provides information to RD so that it can either complete the environmental review process or determine the appropriate level of additional impact analyses needed. RD will notify applicants if additional information or analyses are necessary beyond what was submitted in the ER.

If there is no construction proposed in the application or the proposed action involves replacement-in-kind facilities then no additional environmental documentation is required. The applicant shall, however, provide an appropriate project description and, if necessary, location information in Section A below, and sign and date this document as the ER preparer in the space provided below. Once the RD State Environmental Coordinator concurs the environmental process is concluded.

No construction activities may begin until RD concludes and approves the environmental review process. In accordance with 7 CFR § 1794.15, applicants are prohibited from taking actions that may have adverse environmental impacts until RD has concluded the environmental review process.

Requested Information

A. Project Description and Location: Describe all project-related construction activities, including, but not limited to, the extension of water lines, additions to existing facilities or new facilities. Describe the amount of property to be cleared, excavated, fenced, or otherwise disturbed by the proposed action. Complete descriptions, locations and mapping must be provided for each site affected by project-related construction activities (recommend U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle or similar maps at a map scale of 1:24,000). USGS maps may be obtained and purchased at the following [website](#). All project elements, if known at the time of the application, must be clearly depicted on any map provided. If appropriate, photographs or aerial photographs of site-specific proposals may be provided.

B. Wetlands: Describe and indicate whether wetlands are present on or near any project sites affected by proposed construction (maps of wetlands may be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory [website](#) or maps of hydric soils from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service's [website](#)). If wetlands are identified within the project area, document where the project components will be located in relation to the identified wetland areas.

C. Threatened and Endangered Species: Describe and indicate whether any proposed project sites will directly or indirectly affect any threatened, endangered or candidate species, or are within or near critical habitats. Applicants must provide species lists and appropriate species accounts (i.e. requisite habitat or other life history information useful in determining potential effects) for each county affected by construction. This information can be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) [website](#). Information about potential critical habitat areas can also be found on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [website](#). Depending on information provided, RD may need to consult directly with the USFWS prior to concluding the Section 7 consultation process.

D. Floodplains: Describe and indicate whether any facilities or sites are located within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain. If any project-related construction activities are within floodplains, a copy of a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with construction activities delineated on it must be included. Information related to floodplains and National Flood Insurance Maps may be obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) website.

E. Coastal Areas: Determine whether the project area is within the boundaries of a coastal zone management area (CZMA). For boundary and contact information related to the CZMA, see the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management's website.

F. Section 106 Review

RD will conduct Section 106 review for any extension of water lines, additions to existing facilities or new facilities. The required information to be gathered by the applicant as described below must be included in the ER. Databases and maps to assist in identifying known archeological sites and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed or eligible resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in your respective State. The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers' website provides a directory of SHPOs.

For all components of a proposed action the following requirements apply:

1. **Water Line Extensions or Construction of New Facilities** - For water line extensions, applicants must identify and describe, including type and status for listing on the NRHP, known archeological sites located within 50 feet of either side of the water line route and, if any, prior archeological surveys that have been conducted in this study area. For new facilities, applicants must identify and describe, including type and status for listing on the NRHP known archeological sites located in the project area or located within or adjacent to a historic district that is listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP. Include this information in the ER along with mapping that shows the relationship between these known sites and the project area as well as areas of planned disturbance.
2. **Renovation/Rehabilitation of an Existing Building** - If the building to be renovated is more than 50 years old, the applicant will determine if the structure is listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP, or located within or adjacent to a historic district that is listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP. The results of this study must be presented in the ER.


Environmental Report Preparer Signature Paul Boyer, Self-Help Enterprises


Rural Development State Environmental Coordinator Concurrence

6-30-2015
Date

7/8/15
Date

(See attached Environmental Report)

CITY OF FRESNO
ORANGE CENTER DALEVILLE AREA
DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONSOLIDATION WATER SUPPLY PROJECT
FUNDING PROPOSAL TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT / ECWAG
JUNE 30, 2015
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

A. Project Description and Location:

Orange Center Daleville Area is an approximately 280 acre, unincorporated area of Fresno County that is located just outside the boundary of Fresno's city limits. A map and aerial view of Orange Center Daleville Area are attached as Figures 1.

The proposed project would consist of the installation of 8-inch water mains within the existing road ways of East Daleville Avenue and South Mary Avenue, isolation gate valves at intersections, fire hydrants, water services to each lot, and water meters compatible with the City of Fresno's billing system. The proposed pipeline system would be looped by connecting to a proposed larger water main at the intersection of South Cherry Avenue and East Central Avenue. In addition, water services with meters would be connected the proposed water mains on South Cherry Avenue and East Central Avenue to serve each lot that fronts the proposed new water main

The proposed project's **construction activities will be carried out in existing road rights-of-way.**

- B. **Wetlands:** No wetlands are located in the proposed project area or will be affected by the proposed project (see Figure 2 from CH2MHill utilizing US Fish and Wildlife Service data from 2014). Several irrigation canals would be crossed by another related project that will be located within the road rights-of-way of South Cherry Avenue, East Central Avenue and South East Avenue, but these canals would be crossed by the pipelines utilizing a trenchless method for those crossings. Therefore, the proposed project will have no effect on wetland resources.
- C. **Threatened and Endangered Species:** The proposed project will be conducted in county road rights-of-way. The Orange Center Daleville Area is an established community.

The following is information related to the larger related Orange Center School District Water System Pipeline Consolidation Project proposed by the City of Fresno:

The project is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Fresno South 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (quad) map. Based on a review of information from the

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) RareFind 3 data (March, 2014) for the project area and a five-mile buffer, a review of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) records for the USGS Fresno South 7.5-minute quad map and the nine surrounding quad maps, and a review for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species list for the Fresno South quad map, there are five species of plants with federal status, and nine species of wildlife that have federal status that potentially occur within the vicinity of the project (Table 1). Figure 4 depicts the results of the CNDDB query.

Table 1
Federally Listed Species that May Occur in the Project Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Likelihood of Occurrence
Plant Species			
<i>Castilleja campestris</i> ssp. <i>succulenta</i>	Succulent owl's-clover	Threatened	None. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Caulanthus californicus</i>	California jewel-flower	Endangered	None. No suitable habitat present. Nearest record (1986) 9.3 miles from the project area (CDFW, 2014) and is likely extirpated due to habitat loss.
<i>Orcuttia inaequalis</i>	San Joaquin Valley orcutt grass	Threatened	None. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Orcuttia pilosa</i>	Hairy orcutt grass	Endangered	None. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	Greene's tuctoria	Endangered	Low. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
Wildlife Species			
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	Threatened	None. No suitable habitat present. Nearest historical record (1936) from 6.7 miles north of the project area (CDFW, 2014), which is probably extirpated due to habitat loss.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	Vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Threatened	None. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Dipodomys nitratoideis exilis</i>	Fresno kangaroo rat	Endangered	None. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Gambelia sila</i>	Blunt-nosed leopard lizard	Endangered	None. No suitable habitat. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	Delta smelt	Threatened	None. No suitable habitat. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	Threatened	None. No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	giant garter snake	Threatened	Low. Limited, marginally-suitable habitat present in project area and vicinity. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	San Joaquin kit fox	Endangered	Low. Limited, marginally-suitable habitat present in project area and vicinity. No records within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW, 2014).

Sources: USFWS, 2014; CDFW, 2014; and CNPS, 2014.

As shown in Table 1, the proposed project pipeline alignments contain potential habitat, including foraging ground, for the San Joaquin Kit Fox and giant garter snake. The project includes implementation of the following mitigation measures for these species.

San Joaquin Kit Fox

Because there is a potential for kit fox to occur along the project pipeline alignments, the City of Fresno shall follow the *Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS, 2011). The measures that are listed below have been excerpted from that document (USFWS, 2011).

1. A pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance and/or construction activities on the project site, or prior to any project activity likely to impact the San Joaquin kit fox. The surveyor shall thoroughly check the project site for kit fox dens and, if found, exclusion zones shall be placed in accordance with USFWS recommendations at the following radii:

Potential den:	50 feet
Known den:	100 feet
Natal/pupping den (occupied and unoccupied):	Contact USFWS
Atypical den:	50 feet

2. If dens must be removed, they must be appropriately monitored and excavated by a qualified wildlife biologist. Replacement dens will be required. Destruction of natal dens and other "known" kit fox dens must not occur until authorized by USFWS.
3. Project-related vehicles shall observe a 20 mph speed limit in all project areas during construction, except on county roads and State and federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. To the extent possible, nighttime construction should be avoided. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas should be prohibited during construction.
4. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during project construction, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the procedures under numbers 8 and 9 of this section must be followed.
5. Kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes, and therefore, may enter stored pipe, becoming trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods shall be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe shall not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.

6. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.
7. No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.
8. To prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens by dogs or cats, no pets shall be permitted on project sites during construction.
9. A representative shall be appointed by the City of Fresno who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured, or entrapped individual. The representative's name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS.
10. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS shall be contacted for advice.
11. Any contractor, employee(s), or military or agency personnel who inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox shall immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative shall contact the CDFW immediately in the case of a dead, injured, or entrapped kit fox. The CDFW contact will contact the local warden or biologist.
12. The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office and CDFW shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project-related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information.

Giant Garter Snake

Because there is a potential for giant garter snake to occur along the project pipeline alignments, the City of Fresno shall follow the *Standard Avoidance and Minimization Measures During Construction Activities in Giant Garter Snake (Thamnophis gigas) Habitat* (USFWS, 1997). The measures include, but are not limited to, minimizing disturbed areas to only those required to complete project construction, limiting construction windows to warm months when snakes are more likely to be active and be able to avoid construction activities, and restoration of the construction area after completion of construction. The measures that are listed below have been excerpted from that document (USFWS, 1997).

1. Avoid construction activities within 200 feet from the banks of giant garter snake aquatic habitat. Confine movement of heavy equipment to existing roadways to minimize habitat disturbance.
2. Construction activity within habitat should be conducted between May 1 and October 1. This is the active period for giant garter snakes and direct mortality is lessened, because snakes are expected to actively move and avoid danger. Between October 2 and April 30, contact the USFWS Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office to determine if additional measures are necessary to minimize and avoid take.

3. Confine clearing to the minimal area necessary to facilitate construction activities. Flag and designate avoided giant garter snake habitat within or adjacent to the project construction disturbance area as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. This area should be avoided by all construction personnel.
4. Construction personnel should receive USFWS-approved worker environmental awareness training. This training instructs workers to recognize giant garter snakes and their habitat(s).
5. 24 hours prior to construction activities, the project construction disturbance area should be surveyed for giant garter snakes. Survey of this area should be repeated if a lapse in construction activity of two weeks or greater has occurred. If a snake is encountered during construction, activities shall cease until appropriate corrective measures have been completed or it has been determined that the snake will not be harmed. Report any sightings and any incidental take to USFWS.
6. Any dewatered habitat should remain dry for at least 15 consecutive days after April 15 and prior to excavating or filling of the dewatered habitat.
7. After completion of construction activities, remove any temporary fill and construction debris and, wherever feasible, restore disturbed areas to pre-project conditions. Restoration work may include such activities as replanting species removed from banks or replanting emergent vegetation in the active channel.
8. Contact USFWS about conservation ratios to minimize the effects of loss and disturbance of habitat on giant garter snakes.

Therefore, since the proposed project will be conducted in county road rights-of-way in the Orange Center Daleville Area in an established community and since mitigation measures will be employed for this and the larger School project area, the proposed project will not affect any endangered, threatened species or candidate species.

- D. **Floodplains:** The proposed project will be conducted in county road rights-of-way. The Orange Center Daleville Area is an established community and is not located in a 100 or 500-year floodplain. This is verified in Figure 3 which shows the entire Orange Center Daleville Area within Zone X delineating an area with Minimal Flood Hazard.

E.

The following is information related to the larger related Orange Center School District Water System Pipeline Consolidation Project proposed by the City of Fresno:

The portion of the project pipeline that is located in East Central Avenue between South Cherry Avenue and South East Avenue is within a 100-year floodplain. This is shown on Figure 3. Installing the pipeline within the road right-of-way and restoring the disturbance area to its existing condition would avoid flood damage by the project. The proposed drought water

supply project will be beneficial and will have only positive impacts on Orange Center Daleville Area families by providing potable water which will improve the lives of those who reside in the community. The project will not alter the natural moderation of floods and water quality maintenance or groundwater recharge.

Therefore, again, since the more narrowly defined project for the Daleville area is located in Zone X, the proposed project will have no effect on floodplain issues.

- F. **Coastal Areas:** The project site is not located within the boundaries of a coastal zone management area (CZMA). Therefore, the proposed project will have no effect on coastal area issues.
- G. **Section 106 Review:** The proposed project will be conducted in county road rights-of-way. The Orange Center Daleville Area is an established community.

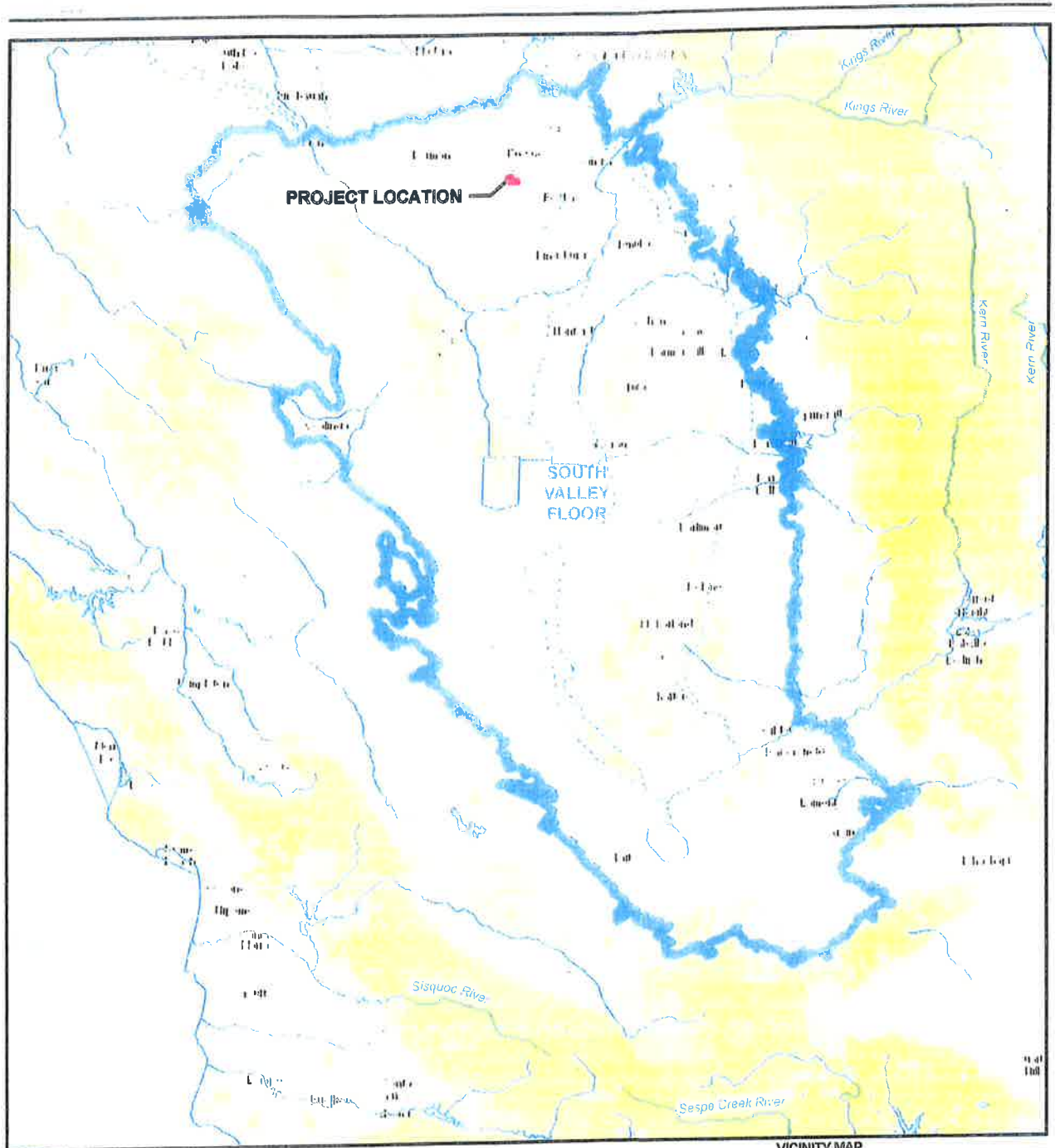
The following is information related to the larger related Orange Center School District Water System Pipeline Consolidation Project proposed by the City of Fresno:

A cultural resources records search was conducted for the proposed project on March 25, 2014, at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Historical Resources Information Center at California State University, Bakersfield. The results of the records search showed that no resources have been previously recorded within the study area¹. A complete pedestrian survey of the project construction disturbance area was conducted on March 27, 2014. No historical resources were observed. If archaeological resources are unearthed during the course of project construction activities, per the requirements of 36CFR 800.13(b), all ground disturbing work in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease and all exposed materials shall be left in place. The contractor shall immediately contact the City of Fresno and a qualified archaeologist shall conduct an evaluation of significance of the site, and assess the necessity for appropriate mitigation. The contractor shall not resume construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the find until authorization to proceed is received from City of Fresno. As such, the proposed project will have no affect on any cultural or historical resources.

The proposed project would consist of the installation of 8-inch water mains within the existing road ways of East Daleville Avenue and South Mary Avenue, isolation gate valves at intersections, fire hydrants, water services to each lot, and water meters compatible with the City of Fresno's billing system. The proposed pipeline system would be looped by connecting to a proposed larger water main at the intersection of South Cherry Avenue and East Central Avenue. In addition, water services with meters would be connected the proposed water mains on South Cherry Avenue and East Central Avenue to serve each lot that fronts the proposed new water main.

¹ The study area is defined as the proposed project pipeline alignments and a 0.25-mile buffer around each alignment

Figures



- LEGEND**
- Construction Disturbance
 - Watershed Basin
 - Stream
 - Canal
 - Aqueduct
 - Wild and Scenic Rivers

Source: National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (2009).

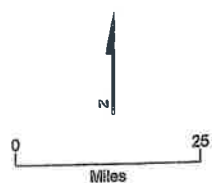


Figure 1
Location of the Proposed Project
Relative to Wild and Scenic Rivers
 Orange Center School District
 Water Consolidation Project
 Fresno, California

