CITY OF FRESNO
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a mitigated negative declaration has been prepared by the City of Fresno Development & Resource Management Department resulting from Initial Study and Environmental Assessment (EA) of the project described below:

EA No. C-14-083: for **Conditional Use Permit No. C-14-083. for the City of Fresno Fresno Nielsen Avenue Recharge Basin Project**, was filed by Randy Hopkins of Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group on behalf of the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities Water Division, and was revised prior to completion of the environmental assessment. The site address assigned to this project is 540 North Brawley Avenue, and it involves approximately 35 acres of land owned by the City of Fresno between N. Brawley and North Valentine Avenues, and between the Union Pacific Railroad line and West Nielsen Avenue. The Assessor Parcels which comprise this project are Nos. 326-140-18, 23, and -24 (located in the unincorporated area of the Fresno Sphere of Influence), and 326-140-26T (located within the City's corporate boundaries). The proposed project involves development and City operation of groundwater recharge facilities to benefit the Kings Groundwater Basin and the Fresno Sole Source Aquifer, using surface water delivered via Fresno Irrigation District's Houghton Canal. Project elements include the construction of small trial-scale basins and larger recharge basins; Houghton Canal turnout (water delivery) facilities; installation of monitoring wells; pumps, and settling channels; and operational support and safety features such as access driveways, security cameras, fencing, gates, and equipment parking/storage areas for the operation. The project also provides for future installation of a municipal water supply well, and photovoltaic panels. The subject property is located entirely within the City of Fresno Sphere of Influence and is planned for Ponding Basin Use. The current zoning of APN 326-140-26T is M-2 *(General Manufacturing District)*; the current Fresno County zoning of APNs 326-140-23 and -24 is M-3 (Heavy Manufacturing District), and the current Fresno County zoning of APN 326 140-18 is AL-20 *(Limited Agricultural District, 20-Acre Minimum Lot Size)*. All these zone districts allow utility and public facility projects such as ponding basins by conditional use permit in both the City and the County. There was a preceding Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted for land acquisition and the initial version of this project, State Clearinghouse No. 2011021037; the current finding is tiered from that as well as from the Fresno General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR), State Clearinghouse No. 2012111015.

FINDING OF CONFORMITY:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A FINDING OF CONFORMITY WITH THE FRESNO GENERAL PLAN MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (MEIR), STATE CLEARINGHOUSE No. 2012111015, has been prepared by the City of Fresno Development & Resource Management Department resulting from an Initial Study and Environmental Assessment (EA) of the projects described below:

EA No. EA-16-001: for the **City of Fresno Sewer Collection Master Plan Update**, was filed by the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities Wastewater Management

Division to update the 2004 City of Fresno Wastewater Collection System Master Plan by planning for wastewater system infrastructure that will serve future development projected by the Fresno General Plan within the City's wastewater collection service area (generally its Sphere of Influence); by developing a rehabilitation and repair plan for the City's wastewater collection system; and by identifying capacity deficiencies in the City's sanitary sewer system and feasible alternatives to correct those deficiencies. The draft Master Plan Update was developed by Carollo Engineers, in consultation with City staff and other agencies.

Additional information on the proposed projects, including copies of the proposed environmental findings, may be obtained from the City of Fresno Development and Resource Management Department, Development Services Division, 2600 Fresno Street, Rm. 3043, Fresno, CA 93721, or by contacting Sandra Brock at (559) 621-8041 or via e-mail directed to Sandra.Brock@fresno.gov.

ANY INTERESTED PERSON may comment on the above proposed environmental findings. Comments must be in writing and must state (1) the commenter's name and address; (2) the commenter's interest in or relationship to the project; (3) the environmental determination being commented upon; and (4) the specific reason(s) why the proposed environmental determination should or should not be made. Any comments may be submitted at any time between the publication date of this notice and on or before 5:00 p.m. March 18, 2016. Your comments are welcomed and will be considered in the final decision.

DO NOT PUBLISH BELOW LINE
Publish on February 12, 2016

E201610000054

CITY OF FRESNO
NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPROVE A FINDING OF CONFORMITY

City of Fresno EA-16-001

SCH No. _____

Prepared for the City of Fresno Sewer Collection Master Plan Update

APPLICANT:

City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities
Wastewater Management Division
5607 West Jensen Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

Contact: Patricia Diep., project manager, (559) 621-5268

PROJECT LOCATION:

Throughout the City of Fresno's Wastewater Collection utility service area, generally located within the City of Fresno's Sphere of Influence in the County of Fresno.

36°47' N Latitude, 119°47' W Longitude (centroid);

Filed with:

FILED
FEB 12 2016 TIME 1:40 pm
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
By Claryssa B. Bailey DEPUTY

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
2221 Kern Street, Fresno, California 93721

State Clearinghouse, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Environmental Assessment Application No. EA-16-001, for the **City of Fresno Sewer Collection Master Plan Update,** was filed by the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities Wastewater Management Division to update the 2004 City of Fresno Wastewater Collection System Master Plan by planning for wastewater system infrastructure that will serve future development projected by the Fresno General Plan within the City's wastewater collection service area (generally its Sphere of Influence); by developing a rehabilitation and repair plan for the City's wastewater collection system; and by identifying capacity deficiencies in the City's sanitary sewer system and feasible alternatives to correct those deficiencies. The draft Master Plan Update was developed by Carollo Engineers, in consultation with City staff and other agencies.

An initial study was prepared for the above-described project, which has been determined to be a subsequent report fully within the scope of the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) prepared for the Fresno General Plan (SCH No. 2012111015). With the mitigation imposed, there is no substantial evidence in the record that this project may have additional significant, direct, indirect or cumulative effects on the environment that are significant and that were not identified and analyzed in

the MEIR. After conducting a review of the adequacy of the MEIR pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 21157.6(b)(1), staff has determined that no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the MEIR was certified and that no new information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time that the MEIR was certified as complete has become available. The project is not located on a site which is included on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code including, but not limited to, lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, hazardous waste disposal sites and others, and the information in the Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement required under subdivision (f) of that Section. Therefore, any necessary environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act has been completed for the project.

Additional information on the proposed project, including the proposed addendum, the previously approved environmental finding of Mitigated Negative Declaration and its initial study and all documents relating to the Conditional Use Permit filed to develop this facility, may be obtained from the Development and Resource Management Department, Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93721-3604. Please contact Sandra Brock at (559) 621-8041, or via email, *sandra.brock@fresno.gov*, for more information or if you would like to obtain a copy of the documents in electronic format (CD-ROM).

ANY INTERESTED PERSON may comment on the proposed environmental finding. Comments must be in writing and must state (1) the commentor's name and address; (2) the commentor's interest in, or relationship to, the project; (3) the environmental determination being commented upon; and (4) the specific reason(s) why the proposed environmental determination should or should not be made. Comments may be submitted at any time between the publication date of this notice and close of business on **March 18, 2016**. Please direct all comments to Sandra Brock, City of Fresno Development and Resource Management Department, City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street, MS FC034, Fresno, California, 93721-3604; via email sent to *sandra.brock@fresno.gov*; or via facsimile, (559) 498-1026.

INITIAL STUDY PREPARED BY: Sandra Brock, Planner	SUBMITTED BY: Bonique Emerson, Planning Manager CITY OF FRESNO DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEP'T.
DATE: February 12, 2016	

E201610000054

APPENDIX G
INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM TO ANALYZE A SUBSEQUENT PROJECT IDENTIFIED IN THE CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (MEIR), STATE CLEARINGHOUSE (SCH) No. 2012111015

Environmental Assessment No. EA-16-001

February 11, 2016

1. **Project Title:**

   City of Fresno Wastewater (Sewer) Collection System Master Plan Update

2. **Lead agency name and address:**

   City of Fresno
   2600 Fresno Street
   Fresno, CA 93721

3. **Contact person and phone number:**

   Patricia Diep, Project Manager
   City of Fresno Wastewater Management Division, Dep't. of Public Utilities
   (559) 621-5268, Patricia.Diep@fresno.gov

4. **Project location:**

   Throughout the City of Fresno's Wastewater Collection utility service area, generally located within the City of Fresno's Sphere of Influence in the County of Fresno. 36°47' N Latitude, 119°47' W Longitude (centroid)

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**

   Wastewater Management Division
   City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities
   5607 West Jensen Avenue
   Fresno, CA 93706

6. **General plan designation:**

   The Fresno General Plan establishes the land use pattern which the City's utility systems are designed to serve. Facilities constructed pursuant to the City of Fresno Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update (hereinafter, "the Master Plan" or "Sewer Collection Master Plan") will primarily be installed in street rights-of-way and on non-roadway property owned by the City or on private property for which the City has acquired a utility easement.

7. **Zoning:**

   Street rights-of-way are not assigned a zoning classification. Non-roadway property owned by the City for utility purposes will typically be classified into the PI *(Public and Institutional)* Zone District. Private property used for facilities (when the City has acquired a utility easement) will be zoned according to its primary planned land use, and zoning consistency will be achieved through approval of a conditional use permit (CUP). Public facilities are permitted by CUP in any zone district where they are not expressly prohibited.

8. **Description of project (project objective):**

The City's sewer collection Master Plan provides for establishment, operation, and maintenance of for wastewater system infrastructure that will serve future development projected by the Fresno General Plan within the City's wastewater collection service area (generally its Sphere of Influence); by developing a rehabilitation and repair plan for the City's wastewater collection system; and by identifying capacity deficiencies in the City's sanitary sewer system and feasible alternatives to correct those deficiencies. The draft Master Plan Update was developed by Carollo Engineers, in consultation with City staff and other agencies.

9. **Other public agencies whose approval is required** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

California Water Boards (waste discharge requirements for operation of the Master Plan facilities; storm water discharge permit for construction and revolving loan and grant funding for construction of some portions of facilities).

10 **Surrounding land uses:** (also see attached regional vicinity map and aerial)

		Existing Land Uses
North	San Joaquin River Conservancy and County of Madera	Regional conservancy and parkway, floodplain protection, wildlife habitat, mineral resource recovery, agriculture, and some rural residences; and Agriculture and a variety of residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and institutional uses (Rio Mesa Area Plan)
East	City of Clovis and Fresno County	Urbanized area with full range of land uses and Agriculture and rural residential, some rural commercial sites
South	Malaga County Water District and Fresno County	Urbanized area, primarily developed with industrial and residential uses, and some rural commercial and Agriculture and rural residential, some rural commercial sites
West	Fresno County	Rural residential and agriculture, with some rural commercial sites

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21157.1(b) and CEQA Guidelines 15177(b)(2), the purpose initial study is to analyze whether the subsequent project was described in the General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015) and whether the Sewer Collection Master Plan Update, as a subsequent project to the Fresno General Plan, may cause any additional significant effect on the environment which was not previously examined in the General Plan.

The General Plan MEIR certified in December of 2014 classified potential environmental impacts into four categories: (1) those found to be significant and unavoidable; (2) those found to be less than significant with application of mitigation measures; and (3) those found to have less than significant impacts without application of mitigation measures; and (4) those found to have no potential impact from the proposed project.

The issues found to have no impact or less than significant impacts in the General Plan MEIR will continue to have no impact or less than significant impacts without the need for additional mitigation measures as the proposed land uses in the General Plan are developed along with supporting infrastructure. These issues include geology and soils; hazardous materials; land use and planning; population and housing, and mineral resources. The proposed project will incrementally increase environmental impacts; however, the level of impact will continue to be less than significant and no project-specific mitigation measures will be required.

The issues found to be less than significant with mitigation measures certified for the General Plan MEIR will continue to be less than significant. These potential impacts involve biological resources (habitat, plan and wildlife species, and wetlands); hazards (airport and emergency response plan); hydrology (groundwater supplies and stormwater runoff); public services (construction of facilities), and utilities/service systems (capacities for water, sewer, drainage, and landfill facilities). The implementation of General Plan MEIR mitigation measures is anticipated to reduce potential significant impacts to less than significant impacts for each of these issues as the Sewer Collection Master Plan is implemented.

Impacts that were identified as significant and unavoidable in the General Plan MEIR will continue to cause significant and unavoidable impacts. These issues include impacts affecting aesthetics (change in visual character as development proceeds pursuant to the Fresno General Plan); agricultural resources (loss of farmland and removal of Williamson Act contract land); cultural resources (potential removal/disturbance of some historic resources and possible alteration of the setting or provenance for other resources); air quality (emission of air pollutants); and incremental contributions to global climate change (increase in emissions greenhouse gases beyond the Year 2020). The project's infrastructure development will contribute to these previously identified potential significant and unavoidable impacts. However, the approval of the Sewer Collection Master Plan will not increase the severity of the impacts that were analyzed and addressed in the Fresno General Plan MEIR. MEIR mitigation measures that were identified for each of these environmental issues will be implemented with the subsequent utility projects proposed in the Master Plan to reduce impacts to the maximum extent feasible.

The subsequent project has been found not to cause any additional significant effect on the environment, which was not previously examined in the General Plan MEIR. Based on the environmental review contained in the General Plan MEIR and in this initial study, the proposed Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update would not result in any new or substantial significant changes to the evaluation of the environmental resources within and outside of the Planning Area beyond those that were addressed in the MEIR.

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project:

____ Aesthetics	_____ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	_X_ Air Quality
_X_ Biological Resources	_X_ Cultural Resources	_X_ Geology /Soils
_X_ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	_X_ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	_X_ Hydrology/Water Quality
____ Land Use/Planning	_____ Mineral Resources	____ Noise
____ Population /Housing	_____ Public Services	____ Recreation
____ Transportation/Traffic	_X_ Utilities/ Service Systems	____ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial study evaluation:

X I find that the proposed project is a subsequent project identified in the General Plan MEIR because it would have no additional significant effects that were not examined in that EIR such that no new additional mitigation measures or alternatives may be required. All applicable mitigation measures contained in the Mitigation Monitoring Checklist shall be imposed upon the proposed project. A FINDING OF CONFORMITY will be prepared.

— I find that the proposed project is a subsequent project identified in the Fresno General Plan MEIR, but that it is not fully within the scope of these EIRs because the proposed project could have a potentially significant effect on the environment that was not examined in the EIRs. However, there will not be a significant effect in this case because conditions of approval are incorporated into the project to modify its potential impact and because project-specific mitigation measures reduce these impacts to less than significant. All applicable mitigation measures contained in the General Plan MEIR Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program for EA No. C-14-041 and will be imposed upon the proposed project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

— I find that the proposed project is a subsequent project identified in the MEIR but that it MAY have a significant effect on the environment that was not examined in the MEIR, and which may not be mitigated below a level of significance through conditions of approval imposed on the project and project-specific mitigation measures. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required to analyze the potentially significant effects not examined in the MEIR pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21157.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines 15178(a).

Sandra L. Brock, Planner III — February 11, 2015 Date

EVALUATION OF ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS NOT ASSESSED IN THE GENERAL PLAN MEIR :

1. For purposes of this Initial Study, the following answers have the corresponding meanings:
   a. "No Impact" means the subsequent project will not cause any additional significant effect related to the threshold under consideration which was not previously examined in the MEIR .
   b. "Less Than Significant Impact" means there is an impact related to the threshold under consideration that was not previously examined in the MEIR , but that impact is less than significant;
   c. "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation" means there is a potentially significant impact related to the threshold under consideration that was not previously examined in the MEIR , however, with the mitigation incorporated into the project, the impact is less than significant.
   d. "Potentially Significant Impact" means there is an additional potentially significant effect related to the threshold under consideration that was not previously examined in the MEIR .

2. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

3. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

4. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

5. A "Finding of Conformity" is a determination based on an initial study that the proposed project is a subsequent project identified in the MEIR and that it is fully within the scope of the MEIR and Air Quality MND because it would have no additional significant effects that were not examined in the MEIR or the Air Quality MND.

6. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

7. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR or MIER, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in the MEIR or another earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

8. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

9. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

10. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

11. The explanation of each issue should identify:

a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. **AESTHETICS** -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	

Scenic vista, existing visual character: Sewering facilities constructed and installed pursuant to the Master Plan will primarily be pipelines located underground. When above-ground facilities are required (*i.e.*,lift stations), they will be subject to the conditional use permit (CUP) review and approval process which includes a design review component to ensure design compatability with adjacent development. Therefore, the proposed Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update will not affect scenic vistas or existing visual character.

Light or glare: The General Plan MEIR includes mitigation measures that require that lighting be shielded and directed away from light sensitive uses. Landscaping required for lift station facilities through the CUP review process, and standard conditions for outdoor lighting, will ensure that site and building lighting is screened as well as being shielded and down-directed. Therefore, there is no need to impose additional mitigation beyond that provided in the MEIR.

Mitigation Measures

The project shall implement the aesthetic resource related mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. **AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES**: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. -- Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?			X	

The California Department of Conservation established the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) in 1982. The FMMP produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status. The best quality land is called Prime Farmland with additional categories, including Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance. Based on the FMMP's most recent published survey, there are approximately 9,550 acres of Prime Farmland, approximately 2,911 acres of Unique Farmland, and approximately 2,355 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance for a total of approximately 14,816 acres within the Planning Area. Based on existing farmland data received from the Fresno County Assessor's Office Land Use Codes that was provided by City staff, there is a total of approximately 11,714 acres that have agricultural operations. The 2010 FMMP map of Eastern Fresno County identified the subject property as not meeting the definition of Prime, Statewide, or Unique Farmland, but as Farmland of Local Importance.

With the implementation of the General Plan and Development Code Update, the approximately 15,903 acres of FMMP-designated farmland and approximately 11,714 acres of existing farmland are anticipated to be converted to uses other than agriculture. This farmland conversion was deemed a significant but unavoidable impact, and the General Plan MEIR was certified with a finding of over-riding considerations for farmland conversion impacts.

The Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update would not prevent, or interfere with, agricultural activity, and would not result in conversion of additional farmland in the area because the City's sewer utility is designed to only serve land already planned for urban development within the City's Sphere of Influence. With application of Fresno General Plan policies pertaining to land use, agricultural land impacts of the Master Plan will remain within the scope of the certified General Plan MEIR.

Conflict with Zoning for Ag Use or Williamson Act Contract: Sewer collection facilities are primarily installed in, and appurtenant to, roadways. Roadways are not subject to Agricultural Land Conservation (Williamson Act) contracts; therefore, no new impacts would occur to protected agricultural lands that would exceed the scope of the certified General Plan MEIR, and no additinal mitigation is necessary for the Master Plan.

Therefore no new impacts to farmland that are beyond the scope of the MEIR would occur in from the Master Plan, and no additional agricultural land mitigation is necessary for the Sewer Collection Master Plan Update.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY [see separate analysis, below, for GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS]- (Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.) Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan (*e.g.*, by having potential emissions of regulated criterion pollutants which exceed the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Districts (SJVAPCD) adopted thresholds for these pollutants)?			X	

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
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)?			X	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

The subject property is located in Fresno County and within the San Joaquin Valley ("Valley") Air Basin (SJVAB). This region has had chronic non-attainment of federal and state clean air standards for ozone/oxidants and particulate matter due to a combination of regional factors affect the accumulation and dispersion of air pollutants within the SJVAB, primarily topography and climate. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is the local regional jurisdictional entity charged with attainment planning, rulemaking, rule enforcement, and monitoring under Federal and State Clean Air Acts and Clean Air Act Amendments.

The SJVAB is approximately 250 miles long and averages 35 miles wide, and is the second largest air basin in the state. The SJVAB is defined by the Sierra Nevada in the east (8,000 to 14,000 feet in elevation), the Coast Ranges in the west (averaging 3,000 feet in elevation), and the Tehachapi mountains in the south (6,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation). The Valley is basically flat with a slight downward gradient to the northwest. The Valley opens to the sea at the Carquinez Straits where the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta empties into San Francisco Bay. The Valley, thus, could be considered a "bowl" open only to the north.

Prevailing winds carry pollutants and pollutant precursors from urbanized areas to the north (and, in turn, contributing pollutants and precursors to downwind air basins), where they become trapped by the mountain barriers that forming three sides of the SJVAB. The region has a Mediterranean climate which features a high number of sunny days and little or no measurable precipitation for several months of the year. This climate fosters photochemical reactions in the atmosphere that creating oxidants (ozone) and particulate matter.

Pollutant and pollutant precursor emissions are fairly constant throughout the year, yet the concentrations of pollutants in the air vary from day to day and even hour to hour. Variability is due to complex interactions of weather, climate, and topography. These factors affect the ability of the atmosphere to disperse pollutants. Local climatological effects, including topography, wind speed and direction, temperature, inversion layers, precipitation, and fog can exacerbate the air quality problem in the SJVAB. Conditions that move and mix the atmosphere help disperse pollutants, while conditions that cause the atmosphere to stagnate allow pollutants to concentrate. Periods of extended drought can increase the potential for summertime particulate matter from fugitive dust and from wildfires in the range and forest land surrounding the Valley.

During the summer, wind speed and direction data indicate that summer wind usually originates at the north end of the Valley and flows in a south-southeasterly direction through the Valley, through Tehachapi Pass, into the Southeast Desert Air Basin. In addition, the Altamont Pass also serves as a funnel for pollutant transport from the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin into the region.

During the winter, wind speed and direction data indicate that wind occasionally originates from the south end of the Valley and flows in a north-northwesterly direction. Also during the winter months, the Valley generally experiences light, variable winds (less than 10 mph). Low wind speeds, combined with low inversion layers in the winter, create a climate conducive to high carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations. The SJVAB has an "Inland Mediterranean" climate averaging over 260 sunny days per year. The Valley floor is characterized by warm, dry summers and cooler winters. For the entire Valley, high daily temperature readings in summer average approximately 95°F. Average high temperatures in the winter are in the 50s, but on winter days with persistent fog and low cloudiness. Highs may only reach the 30s and 40s Wintertime low temperatures below freezing are unusual.

Dispersal of air pollutants in the Valley is not only limited by high mountain ranges surrounding the region, it is frequently limited vertically. As altitude increases, air temperature typically decreases due to increasing distance from the source of heat. However in the Valley, that pattern may not occur. Cooler air can be trapped at lower elevations, especially when fog prevents the sun from warming the Valley's ground surfaces. Instead, the upper atmospheric layers are relatively more warmed and those upper layers expand, trapping the cooler air below. This condition is called an "inversion," and it can exist relatively close to the Valley floor or at any height above the ground that the enclosing mountains can still contain. Air pollutants and pollutant precursors accrue in the trapped lower layers until a storm front or other meteorological event occurs which relieves the inversion.

Potential project impacts

Potential conflict with air quality plans and exceedances of Clean Air Act standards

The Sewer Collection Master Plan will comply with, and will implement, the Resource Conservation Element of the Fresno General Plan. The subsequent construction projects to

install, replace, and repair the components of the wastewater collection system are required to comply with APCD Rules for fugitive dust control (APCD Regulation VIII), paving, mobile equipment, and, depending on the length, depth, and width of excavation activity, the APCD's Indirect Source Review Rule (Rule 9510). Wastewater collection and treatment systems are also subject to APCD permitting under Regulation V as Publicly Owned Treatment Works.

It is noted that the severe and protracted drought in Central California limited the availability of water for dust suppression, leading the APCD to issue an advisory on June 30, 2015 modifying its enforcement practices of Regulation VIII for alleviating dust at construction sites (a copy of that advisory is attached). However, owing to the proximity of schools, day care centers, and rural residences to the various locations where utility infrastructure will be installed, the City of Fresno and its contractors will be required to maintain effective dust control through site watering or other equally effective measures.

Cumulative net Increase of pollutants

Despite compliance General Plan policies, APCD Rules, and conditions of approval, as well as implementation of General Plan MEIR mitigation measures, implementation of the Master Wastewater Collection System Plan Update will incrementally add to the region's air pollution exceedances. Findings of over-riding consideration were adopted for the MEIR for the significant and unavoidable potential impacts that will remain after implementation of mitigation measures.

Toxic air contaminants and odors

Diesel particulate matter would be generated during construction activities the implement the Master Plan, and could impact sensitive receptors in the area. The APCD permitting process, which factors in construction emissions, will apply control measures to limit the emissions of diesel particulate matter. Should the standard emission control measures not achieve the percentage of reduction memorialized in the Indirect Source Review Rule, mitigation fees must be paid to the APCD and are dedicated to projects such as area diesel truck and bus upgrade grant programs which will further mitigate hazardous air pollutants.

When a sewer collection system is not operating optimally, wastewater flows are impeded. This can cause surfacing of sewage or fermentation (pre-digestion) of wastes in the system. These problems can generate toxic constituents such as hydrogen sulfide and unwanted odors. The Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update is intended to provide for maintenance, improvement, and enhancement of the sewer system so that backflow and predigestion do not occur. Sewer capacity enhancements, repair, lift stations, and injection of anti-fermentation stabilizers into sewer mains lines are provided for in the Master Plan. The Master Plan, therefore, is itself a mitigation measure to prevent toxic air contaminants and unwanted odors.

Mitigation Measures

The project shall implement the Air Quality related mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- 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 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?			X	
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 US Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
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?			X	
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?			X	

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
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?				X

Impacts to biological resources from the proposed Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update would be within the scope of the General Plan MEIR, since that citywide analysis assumed that the City's wastewater facilities would be expanded, upgraded, maintained, and operated to provide adequate sewer collection functionality to implement the General Plan.

Individual sewer construction projects may be located in areas where Section 404 wetland permits are required, and the appropriate permits will be obtained prior to commencement of work pursuant to federal and state regulations.

The City's Development Code provides for replacement of trees when they are required to be removed for development or infrastructure projects.

Fresno has no Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan within the area to be served under the Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update.

Therefore, the Sewer Collection Master Plan Update is fully within the scope of the General Plan MEIR and no additional mitigation measures are required beyond those certified in the MEIR in order to reduce potential impacts below a level of significance.

Mitigation Measures

The project shall implement the applicable Biological Resources mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. **CULTURAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?		X		
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?		X		
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		X		
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		X		

The General Plan MEIR considered the potential impact to cultural resources accruing from urban development to be potentially significant and unavoidable, and a finding of over-riding considerations was adopted for this impact.

Although impacts are not mitigable below a level of significance, the Fresno General Plan and its MEIR have extensive mitigation measures for protecting cultural resources. The General Plan contains a Historic and Cultural Resources Element to support preservation local history. Objectives and policies contained in the element call for the maintenance of a comprehensive, citywide preservation program, a historic preservation ordinance, and the identification and protection of historic resources. General Plan MEIR mitigation measures applicable to all subsequent projects, as well as state and federal laws, direct the treatment of unexpected remains and resources which may be discovered in the course of construction.

Mitigation Measures

The project shall implement the Cultural Resources related mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS** -- Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X	
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?			X	

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X

Fresno has no known active earthquake faults, and is not in any Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones. The immediate Fresno area has extremely low seismic activity levels, although shaking may be felt from earthquakes whose epicenters lie to the east, west, and south. Known major faults are over 50 miles distant and include the San Andreas Fault, Coalinga area blind thrust fault(s), and the Long Valley, Owens Valley, and White Wolf/Tehachapi fault systems. The most serious threat to Fresno from a major earthquake in the Eastern Sierra would be flooding that could be caused by damage to dams on the upper reaches of the San Joaquin River.

Fresno is classified by the U.S. Geologic Survey as being in a moderate seismic risk zone, Category "C" or "D," depending on the soils underlying the specific location being categorized and that location's proximity to the nearest known fault lines. All new structures are required to conform to current seismic protection standards in the current California Building Code. Due to the nature and scale of the project's equipment, a seismic analysis will be required using U.S. Geologic Service Geohazards modeling, and construction will be required to meet stabilization standards.

Compliance with the following Fresno General Plan Policies were deemed to reduce potential impacts for infrastructure and development projects subsequent to the General Plan:

> ***Objective NS-2.*** *Minimize risks of property damage and personal injury posed by geologic and seismic risks.*
>
> ***Policy NS-2-a.*** *Seismic Protection. Ensure seismic protection is incorporated into new and existing construction, consistent with the Fresno Municipal Code.*
>
> ***Policy NS-2-b.*** *Soil Analysis Requirement. Identify areas with potential geologic and/or soils hazards, and require development in these areas to conduct a soil analysis and mitigation plan by a registered civil engineer (or engineering geologist specializing in soil geology) prior to allowing on-site drainage or disposal for wastewater, stormwater runoff, or swimming pool/spa water.*
>
> ***Policy NS-2-c.*** *Landfill Areas. Require proposed land uses on or near landfill areas to be designed and maintained to comply with California Code of Regulations, Title 27, Section 21190, Post Closure Land Use.*

The General Plan MEIR included an analysis of geology and soils in the Fresno Sphere of Influence. Subsequent development projects complying with the above policies, the California Building Code, and drainage provisions (overseen by the City and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District review of grading, paving, and infrastructure plans) are deemed to have less than significant potential seismic and geologic impacts. No additional mitigation was required at the MEIR level

The topography of the project and its environs is relatively flat with no apparent unique or significant land forms such as vernal pools. Fresno is not susceptible to soil erosion or landslide with the exception of the San Joaquin River Bluffs. The highly erodible face of the San Joaquin River bluff, and small areas of expansive clay in the northeastern portion of the city's Sphere of Influence, are the only unstable soil conditions known to exist in the City. The Wastewater Collection System Master Plan update does not propose to install sewer mains on the Bluff face or San Joaquin Riverbottom.

The proposed project constitutes critical infrastructure for Fresno, and requires an elevated degree of engineering study to ensure seismic stability, functionality of components, and preservation of gravity flow rate in various conveyance structures. City Public Works standards require that utility trenches be backfilled and compacted sufficient to prevent cavitation and subsidence after a pipeline is installed or removed. Any sewering facilities proposed to be installed, expanded or replaced in a locale with expandable clay or other unstable geologic strata will be required to be engineered to maintain structural integrity and stability.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** -- Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X

When sunlight (solar infrared energy) impinges on Earth's surface and atmosphere, some of it is reflected back into space as infrared radiation. When the net amount of solar infrared energy absorbed by Earth is about the same as the amount of energy radiated back into space, average ambient temperatures on Earth should remain more or less constant. However, when atmospheric conditions prevent re-radiation of this infrared energy, the world's temperature may be disturbed. "Global climate change" or "global climate disruption" are terms coined to describe very widespread climate changes characterized by a rise in the Earth's ambient average temperatures with concomitant disturbances in weather patterns and resulting subsequent alteration of oceanic and terrestrial environs/biota and service needs. The predominant opinion within the scientific community is that global climate change is occurring, and that it is being caused and/or accelerated by human activities, primarily the generation of "greenhouse gases" (GHGs). Climate change could drastically harm health and well-being around the world, not only with regard to heat-related illnesses but through broadscale changes in the environment:

- ocean level rise that would displace populations,
- economic and infrastructure damage related to ocean rise as well as heat and storm intensity;
- exacerbation of criteria air pollutants (more air pollutants are formed when the atmosphere is warm);
- spreads of infectious diseases through proliferation of mosquitoes and other vectors carrying "tropical" diseases into temperate climate zones;
- alteration of natural flora and fauna in terrestrial and aquatic environments;
- disruption of water supplies and agricultural activity;

One often-cited risk of global climate change is a potential persistent reduction of Sierra snowpack to as little as 20% of historic levels. This would have dire consequences for California, since it is estimated that over 70% of the state's population relies on this "frozen reservoir" for its water supply.

GHGs are gases having properties that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range, and that would cause thermal energy (heat) to be trapped the earth's atmosphere. It is believed that increased levels of GHGs in the atmosphere can disturb the thermal equilibrium of the earth when natural carbon cycle processes (such as photosynthesis) are unable to absorb sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide and other GHGs in comparison with the amount of GHGs being emitted. It is believed that a combination of factors related to human activities, such as deforestation, emissions of GHG into the atmosphere from carbon fuel combustion, etc. are causing climate change.

GHGs were not generally thought of as traditional air pollutants because their impacts are global and diffuse in nature, while the criteria air pollutants and air toxics directly affect the health of people and other living things at ground level in the general region of their release to the atmosphere. The climate-altering impacts of GHGs are global and diffuse in nature, and take time to exert their effects.

Some GHGs occur naturally and are emitted to the atmosphere through both natural processes and human activities. Other GHGs are created and emitted solely through human activities. 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 major anthropogenic GHGs (those that enter the atmosphere because of human activities) are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. Many of these are emitted by the same human activities which generate criterion pollutants and their precursors (please see earlier discussion of Air Quality in this EA).

Some GHGs exert a much more powerful effect of trapping radiant energy in the atmosphere. The effect of methane, for instance, is 29 times as powerful as that of an equal mass of CO2. In order to describe global warming potential of these differing gases, a convention has been established to quantify GHGs in terms of equivalent quantities of CO2, and to use metric tonnes as the unit of measure for the CO2 (hence the abbreviation "MMTCO2e," for million metric tonnes of CO2 equivalent. A major problem with GHGs is that most of them are not very reactive. That makes them extremely long-lived in the atmosphere. For instance, once CO2 rises above the troposphere (the portion of the atmosphere where plants may absorb some of it for photosynthesis), there are no natural processes that would effectively remove it. The CO2 will persist and exert its global warming effect for centuries. Projects to sequester (remove) carbon from the atmosphere are expensive and of uncertain near-term benefit.

Therefore, statewide and national strategy for preventing global climate change has focused on prevention and reduction of GHG emissions. California took the lead in this with Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order No. S-03-05. Subsequently, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which was codified as Health & Safety Code Section 38501 *et seq.* to mandate GHG emission reductions to 1990 levels by the year 2020 and with further rollbacks for future decades.

One of the important provisions of GHG regulations is a "no backsliding" provision that does not allow measures which would increase criterion pollutants while decreasing GHGs. For instance, catalytic converters change the criterion pollutant carbon monoxide (not a GHG itself) into carbon dioxide—the "no backsliding" provision of carbon emission reduction regulations would not permit removal of catalytic converters as a GHG reduction measure.

Given California's general population increase and the need for ongoing land and economic development, GHG emissions were projected to require a 29% from the "business as usual" scenario of continuing the former rate of escalated GHG emissions over time. In order to achieve these rollbacks formal targets have been established and projects are required to be analyzed as to their compliance with these mandates.

It has been recognized that new development projects would incrementally add GHG emissions and could cumulatively exacerbate global climate change problems, even if the projects are, themselves, small in scale and do not involve powerful GHGs. In order to standardize evaluation of projects under CEQA, Senate Bill 97 (codified as Public Resources Code Sections 21083.05 and 21097) requires the State Resources Agency to adopt guidelines for addressing climate change in environmental analysis. Commonly used air quality emission

models now provide project GHG emission estimates. CEQA Guidelines further call for an assessment of projects' sensitivity to global climate change.

The San Joaquin Valley APCD also adopted a protocol for evaluating potential projects as to their compliance with GHG emission reduction mandates. The APCD determined that the most appropriate assessment criteria would be oriented to performance based standards to streamline the CEQA process for determining significance of project impacts, rather than numerical modeling of GHG emissions and emission reductions. Projects meeting the Best Performance Standards ("BPS") established by the APCD would be determined to have a less than significant cumulative impact on global climate change. If projects could not demonstrate compliance with BPS, then a quantification of GHG emissions and demonstration of a 29% reduction in GHG emissions below the "business as usual" level will be required to determine that a project would have a less than significant cumulative impact.

The Fresno General Plan MEIR contains a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan that includes strategies to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Even with implementation of the City's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, the MEIR concludes that buildout of the development proposed in the General Plan would have significant and unavoidable impacts; an over-riding finding of consideration was adopted when the MEIR was certified.

As noted above in Part III, Air Quality, when a sewer collection system is not operating optimally, wastewater flows may be impeded and that can cause fermentation (pre-digestion) of wastes in the system. These problems can generate methane as well as unwanted odors. The Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update is intended to provide for maintenance, improvement, and enhancement of the sewer system so that backflow and predigestion do not occur. Sewer capacity enhancements, repair, lift stations, and injection of anti-fermentation stabilizers into sewer mains lines are provided for in the Master Plan. The Master Plan, therefore, is itself a mitigation measure to prevent generation of greenhouse gases.

Mitigation Measure

Development and use of the Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility project shall conform to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan contained in the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015) and successor Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plans for the City of Fresno.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL** -- Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
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?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
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?				X
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?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
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?				X

Potential project impacts relating to hazardous materials

Under the California Code of Regulations, hazardous materials are defined as substances with certain physical properties that could pose a substantial present or future hazard to human health or the environment when improperly handled, disposed, or otherwise managed. Hazardous materials have one or more of the following properties:

- Toxicity - causes human health effects
- Ignitability - has the ability to burn
- Corrosivity - causes burns or damages/degrades materials
- Reactivity - causes explosions or generates toxic gases

A hazardous waste is any hazardous material that is discarded, abandoned, or slated to be recycled. While wastewater itself may be considered a hazardous material due to its potential for transmitting communicable disease and chemical contamination, the Department of Public Utilities has established protocols for protecting the public when sewers become damaged or dysfunctional, and the Master Plan's proposals to enhance and repair the sewer pipeline network will further minimize exposures. The California Department of Industrial Relations/Division of Occupational Safety and Health; and the City's Department of Public Utilities has its own policies and procedures for preventing public and employee exposures to hazardous materials.

The General Plan MEIR concluded that the policies in the General Plan provided a sufficient level of mitigation and did not include specific mitigation measures for hazardous materials. The Sewer Collection System Master Plan Update will help prevent accidental releases and human exposure to it by ensuring adequate capacity, providing for necessary repairs, and enhancing functionality of the wastewater collection system. Therefore, the Master Plan is, itself, a preventive mitigation for exposure to a potentially hazardous material.

The wastewater collection system will be operated in conformance with regulations of the California Water Boards. Sewer facilities will be protected from vandalism and sabotage by security measures meeting state and federal Department of Homeland Security standards as they may apply.

Wastewater collection facilities will not generally be subject to wildfire risk. Pipelines will be installed underground, and the lift facility proposed for Bluff Avenue is distanced from the City's only designated wildfire hazard area (the south face of the San Joaquin River Bluff).

Potential impacts related to project components located in an airport safety zone

As noted previously, Master Plan facilities will be installed underground or will be single-story facilities. Should construction cranes be employed which would rise into the regulated conical surface of an airport, the Department of Public Utilities is required to complete and submit submit Federal Aviation Administration Form 7460 for FAA approval. Compliance with established regulations will address this issue sufficiently, and no additional mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

The project shall implement the applicable Hazards and Hazardous Materials related mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** -- Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
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)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site 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-site?				X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
e) 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?				X

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
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?				X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
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?				X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X

Groundwater and surface water, supply and quality

Fresno has been one of the largest cities in the United States relying primarily on groundwater for its public water supply and the Fresno metropolitan area has been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as having a Sole Source Aquifer. While this aquifer has historically been capacious enough to serve drinking water needs, it has become critically overdrafted during the past century, in part due to Fresno's long-term trend of high consumptive use of water on a per capita basis (formerly 250± gallons per day per capita). The relatively recent metering of all domestic water customers supplied by the Fresno Department of Public Utilities has greatly reduced per capita usage, but population growth reduces that beneficial effect on groundwater supplies. Groundwater is replenished mainly by natural recharge and subsurface flows, however as population within and east of Fresno has increased, the added water wells have overwhelmed this natural recharge system. However, the lack of significant subsidence in the Fresno area allows the interstitial pores of the aquifer to be recharged, restoring aquifer capacity to be improved when recharge exceeds withdrawal.

In addition to the general decline in static water levels, the aquifer is contaminated with substances which require removal from public potable water supplies. Many of these contaminants are human-derived, such as the fumigant ethylene dibromide (EDB), the nematicide dibromodichloropropane (DBCP); nitrate from wastewater disposal, livestock, and

fertilizers; and industrial contaminants such as organic solvents. Other contaminants are naturally-occurring (arsenic, iron, manganese, uranium and gross alpha emitting radionuclides), and are not present in increasing concentrations but have become problematic due to increasingly stringent potable water regulations.

The adverse groundwater conditions of limited supply and compromised quality have been well-documented by planning, environmental impact and technical studies done in recent decades, including the 1995 Fresno Metropolitan Water Resource Management Plan and its EIR (SCH 95022029); the 2025 Fresno General Plan and its MEIR (SCH 2001071097), and the Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update (SCH 2013091021); and the Fresno General Plan and its MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015)

Plans to preserve and improve aquifer conditions and to optimize strategies for providing safe, reliable, and sustainable water for Fresno have become increasingly important and multi-jurisdictional in nature. The Fresno General Plan cites the Kings Groundwater Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and the Fresno-Area Regional Groundwater Management Plan. The 2013 California Water Plan and recent state legislation relating to groundwater regulation are likely to also affect public and private groundwater usage. The City of Fresno has adopted a key objective of balancing its groundwater operations by 2025. the major component of this objective is the use of treated surface water from existing entitlements. Heretofore, the water supplies which the City has been unable to use have been remanded back to Fresno Irrigation District in hopes that they would be used for agricultural activity in the Fresno Metropolitan Area and would thereby recharge groundwater. However, as agricultural practices have changed from furrow irrigation (which did provide some percolation) to water-conserving drip and micro-irrigation systems, there has been negligible observable benefit to the aquifer from City water entitlements released back to agricultural users.

The City of Fresno has the ability to reduce its dependence on, and extraction of, groundwater by better utilizing its "portfolio" of available surface water supplies: a 60,000 acre-foot per year (AFY) contract with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for water from the San Joaquin River (via the Friant-Kern Canal) and the Kings River water supply that runs with land located in the City that is part of Fresno Irrigation District (FID). Traditionally, these surface water supplies have been utilized for groundwater recharge (in conjunction with Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, which owns a network of drainage and ponding basins available for recharge use in the summer). The City has also embarked on a recycled water program to utilize tertiary treated wastewater for non-potable uses, as outlined in the 2013 Recycled Water Master Plan.

The City's 2014 Metropolitan Water Resource Management Plan Update and the preceding 2010 Urban Water Management Plan were adopted in compliance in state regulations as guiding documents for the provision of safe, adequate, and dependable water supplies to meet the future needs in an economical manner; to protect groundwater from further degradation and overdraft; to maximize use of the City's available water resources through implementable measures and facilities. The 2010 Urban Water Management Plan contained specific measures to achieve a 'water balance' between supply and demand while decreasing reliance

upon and use of groundwater. To achieve these goals the City is implementing multiple strategies:

- Directed groundwater recharge at suitable Fresno Municipal Flood Control District (FMFCD) stormwater basins, City groundwater recharge facilities (such as "Leaky Acres" located between Ashlan and Dakota Avenues east of Freeway 168), and increasing percolation where possible in existing streams and canals;
- Increased use of existing surface water entitlements from the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers (USBR and FID supplies) by expanding capacity of the Northeast Surface Water Treatment Facility and construction of a new Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility (SESWTF); and
- Recycling treated wastewater at the Fresno-Clovis Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (RWRF) for treatment and re-use for irrigation, and to percolation ponds for groundwater recharge. Further actions include the General Plan, Policy RC-6-d to prepare, adopt and implement a City of Fresno Recycled water Master Plan.

The 2014 Kings River Service Area Annual Groundwater Report, Figure 6, shows that groundwater depletion since 2003 has been more intensive in the eastern and southwestern portions of the Fresno Metropolitan Area (an average 40 feet of groundwater elevation reduction). Transmissivity and recharge capacity have proven low in east and southeast Fresno, and contamination with nitrates and agricultural pesticides (and byproducts of pesticide production) have been elevated in the area. This has exacerbated water supply problems for development projects in the vicinity.

The 2014 Metro Water Resources Management Plan update focused on maximizing the efficient beneficial use of City water supplies by constructing a plant that would obtain its raw water supply via a pipeline from the Kings River to avoid potential contamination and canal capacity constraints. Surface water treatment and distribution was first identified as a groundwater-sparing measure in the 1995 Metro Water Resources Plan. It is a strategy for providing "in lieu" recharge (allowing groundwater levels to recover by reducing dependence on City pump stations). This strategy was implemented in the early 2000s with development of the City's Northeast Surface Water Treatment Plant. That facility utilized 30,800 acre-feet (AF, approximately 326,000 gallons) of surface water in 2014 and is expected to be increased to 120,800 AF in the near future with a planned expansion.

The 2014 Metro Water Resources Management Plan will provide for better utilization of the City's surface water supplies and reduce net groundwater extraction. Whereas 156,487 AF were extracted from the aquifer in 2000, and 144,850 AF were extracted in 2014, by 2025--City groundwater use is projected to drop to 53,500 AFY (with the addition of 25,000 AFY of treated recycled wastewater). By the year 2035 (the planning horizon covered in the recently adopted Fresno General Plan), groundwater is expected to be reduced to 36 percent of total water supply and the aquifer is projected to begin to stabilize, perhaps to recover, in terms of average static water level (groundwater elevation relative to mean sea level).

The Fresno General Plan Resource Conservation and Resilience Element and Public Utilities and Services Element contained significant policy direction with regard to managing the City's water supplies and water utility system, some of which are further implemented by the Sewer Collection Master Plan Update:

> ***Policy RC-6-d:*** *Recycled Water. Prepare, Adopt, and implement a City of Fresno Recycled Water Master Plan.*
>
> ***Policy RC-6-e:*** *Protect Aquifer. Oppose urban development in unincorporated areas that are not served by a wastewater treatment/management system capable of preventing the buildup of compounds that would degrade the aquifer.*
>
> ***Policy PU-7-d:*** *Wastewater Recycling. Pursue the development of a recycled water system and the expansion of beneficial wastewater recycling opportunities, including a timely technical, practicable, and institutional evaluation of treatment, facility siting, and water exchange elements.*
>
> ***Policy PU-8-d:*** *CIP Update. Continue to evaluate capital improvement plans and update them, as appropriate, to meet the demands of both existing and planned development consistent with the General Plan.*
>
> ***Policy PU-8-f:*** *Water Quality. Continue to evaluate and implement measures determined to be appropriate and consistent with water system policies, including prioritize the use of groundwater, installing wellhead treatment facilities, constructing above-ground storage and surface water treatment facilities, and enhancing transmission grid mains to promote adequate water quality and quantity.*

Potential impacts to groundwater and surface water quality

The sewer collection system is designed and operated to prevent wastewater from affecting surface waters. The facilities installed pursuant to the Master Sewer Collection Plan will be constructed 40 to 300 feet above the groundwater leve (saturated zone) given that groundwater elevations in the Fresno metropolitan area range from 220 to 248 feet above mean sea level (see attached Figures 4 and 5 maps from the 2014 Kings River Service Area Annual Groundwater Report). Given that degree of elevation above the saturated zone of the aquifer, the utility lines and pump station facilities would not be in the saturated zone, and through the Master Plan's monitoring system and maintenance proposals, breaches and failures will be prevented that could otherwise expose groundwater to contaminants. Therefore, no water quality standards would be violated as a result of the project; instead, the Master Plan it, itself, a mitigation measure for protecting water quality.

When projects that implement the Wastewater Collection System Master Plan Update are of sufficient size, be required to comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System regulations for protecting water quality during construction. Any project disturbing one or more acres of soil must file a Notice of Intent for coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ). The Construction General Permit requires development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Among other mandated items that are included in a SWPPP, are features designed to eliminate contact of rainfall and

stormwater runoff with sources of pollution that occur on construction sites; soil erosion is considered a primary source of pollution. Effective measures to prevent erosion by water and wind are known as Best Management Practices (BMPs). Common BMPs for construction sites include maintaining or creating drainages to convey and direct surface runoff away from bare areas, and installing physical barriers such as berms, silt fencing, waddles, straw bales, and gabions.

In summary, the project would protect groundwater and surface water supplies. No additional mitigation for groundwater or surface water impacts is necessary beyond that which is achieved through regulatory compliance and through implementation of General Plan MEIR mitigation measures.

[redacted]

The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan area, including the subject property, is served by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD), an agency created by state legislation which provides flood control and drainage services. Public and private developments are required to pay drainage fees and/or install drainage system facilities in order to complete the drainage and flood control network set forth in the FMFCD Master Plan. Each development project is reviewed by FMFCD at the zoning/special permit, subdivision, and grading plan level. Infrastructure plans (*e.g.*, street work plans) are also required to be reviewed by FMFCD. A further discussion of FMFCD drainage services is in the Utilities Systems section of this EA, below.

The General Plan includes the following policies designed to reduce flooding impacts:

Noise and Safety Element

Objective NS-3: *Minimize the risks to property, life, and the environment due to flooding and stormwater runoff hazards.*

Policy NS-3-a: *Stormwater Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan. Support the full implementation of the FMFCD Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan, the completion of planned flood control and drainage system facilities, and the continued maintenance of stormwater and floodwater retention and conveyance facilities and capacities. Work the FMFCD to make sure its Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan consistent with General Plan.*

Policy NS-3-b: *Curb and Gutter Installation. Coordinate with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) to install curbing, gutters, and other drainage facilities consistent with the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan.*

. . .

Policy NS-3-e: *Pollutants. Work with FMFCD to prevent and reduce the existence of urban stormwater pollutants pursuant to the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems Act.*

. . .

Policy NS-3-h: *Runoff Controls. Implement grading regulations and related development policies that protect area residents from flooding caused by urban runoff produced from events that exceed the capacity of the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan system of facilities. Place all structures and/or flood-proofing in a manner that does not cause floodwaters to be diverted onto adjacent property, increase flood hazards to other property, or otherwise adversely affect other property.*

Policy NS-3-i: *New Development Must Mitigate Impact. Require new development to not significantly impact the existing storm drainage and flood control system by imposing conditions of approval as project mitigation, as authorized by law. As part of this process, closely coordinate and consult with the FMFCD to identify appropriate conditions that will result in mitigation acceptable and preferred by FMFCD for each project.*

Policy NS-3-j: *National Federal Flood Insurance Program. Continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by ensuring compliance with applicable requirements. Review NFIP maps periodically to determine if areas subject to flooding have been added or removed and make adjustments to the Land Use Diagram Figure LU-1.*

Policy NS-3-n: *Precipitation Changes. Work with FMFCD to evaluate the planned and existing stormwater conveyance system in light of possible changes to precipitation patterns in the future.*

The General Plan MEIR furthers these objectives and policies by requiring the City to actively participate with FMFCD on Drainage Master Plan updates, and to commission drainage studies as part of the Southeast Development Area (SEDA) Infrastructure Plan (which lies east of Temperance Avenue; the proposed project is not in the SEDA).

The City of Fresno has participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since its inception in the early 1970's. Participation on the FIP requires that the community adopt the NFIP Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), appoint a trained Floodplain Administrator, adopt a floodplain ordinance modeled after the NFIP model ordinance, and enforce the ordinance and the requirements of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60. The 40CFR60 regulations and the floodplain ordinance of the City of Fresno require that all new construction and substantial reconstruction of buildings located within an adopted floodplain be flood-proofed, and that the Community Floodplain Administrator review for conformance with the floodplain ordinance and 40CFR60, and approve the flood-proofing. The City of Fresno has maintained compliance with these requirements and has scored favorably on periodic audits (conducted by the California Department of Water Resources under delegated authority from FEMA). These measures, in combination with the General Plan objectives and policies and conformance to the FMFCD Master Plan reduce the risk of area flooding below the level of significance impacts for risk of flooding:

Official Statewide Tsunami Inundation Maps, coordinated by California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), are developed for all populated areas at risk to tsunamis in California. According to CalEMA's MY HAZARD website and Official Statewide Tsunami Inundation Maps, the City of Fresno's Sphere of Influence is located outside a tsunami hazard

zone. There is no large body of water in the vicinity of the project proposed in CUP No. C-14-041 which could generate a seiche. The flat topography of the project and surrounding properties, and the percolability of area soils, do not potentiate mudflows.

Components of the master planned sewer collection system are, and will be, located in _____The SESWTF site is located in the FEMA flood zone "X-shaded," usually interpreted as meaning it is in the "500-year" flood plain, and could be affected by a storm of an intensity occurring once in 500 years (please see the attached excerpt, or "FIRMette," of Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 06019C1595H). Zone X-shaded is not subject to special regulations or restrictions, and is primarily designated when there is a risk of "breakover" posed by earthen impoundments such as canal banks (the Fresno Irrigation District Mill Ditch irrigation canal lies to the north and the bed of that canal—which is a subsumed and realigned creek bed—is in the regulated "Zone A," pertaining to the "100-year" flood zone). Standard requirements for grading plans in the Fresno area in proximity to canals with elevated banks require that building floor heights be elevated sufficiently to be protected from canal overflows.

Along with the grading plan check process, implementation of the aforementioned General Plan polices would reduce long-term project impacts associated with alteration of grading patterns or creeks or streams and erosion to less than significant levels. Additional protection for other properties in the vicinity of utility improvement projects is afforded by joint street work plan review by the County of Fresno. With these conditions incorporated into the project and application of existing policies, ordinances, and regulations. Storm drainage and flood impacts are less than significant with application of the above General Plan policies and MEIR mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure

The project shall implement the Hydrology and Water Quality related mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. **LAND USE AND PLANNING** - Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
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?				X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

The proposed project would be developed within the confines of existing streets, and would not interrupt any path of travel for the established community when it is complete. (There are no public access easements on the subject property.) During construction of pipeline and roadway improvements related to the SESWTF, there will be temporary road closures but the City is required under terms of the County Road Work Permit (a condition of approval) to provide for alternative routes so that all properties may be accessible and community members would be able to reach other parts of their neighborhood via these detour routes.

The subject property is located within the City of Fresno's Sphere of Influence and the Fresno General Plan designates the subject property for "Public Facility" land use and the proposed project is a public facility; thus, there is no conflict related to City land use planning. Public facilities are developed pursuant to conditional use permits in the City of Fresno. The site has not yet been annexed to the City of Fresno, and Fresno County designates the subject property for agricultural use. It is zoned AE-20 (*Exclusive Agricultural District, 20-acre Minimum Parcel Size)*, as are the surrounding properties (see the Surrounding Land Use table on page 3 of this Initial Study). However, that zone district allows public facilities by unclassified conditional use permits. Therefore, there is no land use conflict for the proposed SESWTF with regard to the site's planning or current zoning.

The future development pattern for the neighborhood, reflected in the Fresno General Plan, is for "Business Park" to the north, west, and south of the subject property. This land use will serve as an employment center and will be characterized by "campus-like" limited-intensity

development of light industrial, office, and service commercial uses with some ancillary retail commercial uses to serve the needs of workers. The Business Park land use is intended to be compatible with adjacent residential areas, so that there would not be incompatibilities which would interfere with the low-density residential area planned on the east side of North Armstrong Avenue. The maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for the Business Park land use specified in the General Plan is 1.0, meaning that buildings housing workers, inventory, and processing equipment cannot occupy more than 50% of a parcel. The SESWTF project proposed in CUP Application No. C-14-041 is well within this ratio.

There are no Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) or other adopted local, regional or state HCP involving the subject property. Therefore, development within the Planning Area will not result in any impacts to an adopted HCP or NCCP.

The General Plan MEIR did not include mitigation measures relating to land use, and due to the Master Plan's lack of potential adverse impacts to land use, there is also no need for project-specific mitigation measures for this impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. **MINERAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:				
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?				X
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?				X

The property included in Conditional Use Permit Application No. C-14-041 is not located in an area designated for mineral resource preservation or recovery. Therefore it would not cause adverse impacts to the availability of local mineral resources or diminution of access to a mineral resource recovery site. Due to the lack of potential adverse impacts to these resources, there General Plan MEIR did not include mitigation measures to address mineral resource impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. **NOISE** -- 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?		X		
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?		X		
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X		
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?		X		
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?				X

Three primary sources of substantial noise that affect Fresno residents on a day to day basis are transportation-related and consist of local streets and regional highways, airport operations, and rail lines.

As part of the General Plan MEIR, ambient noise conditions in the City of Fresno Planning Area (its Sphere of Influence) were measured over 24-hour intervals at various locations, with day-night statistical noise level trends were recorded to develop DNL (Day-Night Sound Level) values. This study informed policy formation for the Fresno General Plan with regard to transportation facilities, so that 65 dB (decibels) LDN or CNEL impinging on outdoor areas associate with residences was adopted in the Fresno General Plan as the acceptable noise limit for ground-based transportation facilities. Allowable indoor noise levels remained at 45 dB LDN, because it is feasible to control noise using design features for a building envelope.

The findings of this study were that, even with the relaxation of transportation facility noise limits and application of General Plan objectives and significant policies for acoustical treatments to limit noise impinging on outdoor areas of residential property, ambient noise levels could exceed existing local standards, and that this potential adverse noise impact of building out the General Plan's designated land uses would be significant and unavoidable. The MEIR analysis found that future development activities within the City's planning area would result in increased traffic volumes, thus incrementally increasing noise levels along existing roadways and highways by 2 dB to 10 dB. New roadways, significantly expanded roadways, and increased use of roadways in sparsely populated areas where new development is expected to occur may see noise levels increase by more than 10 dB. Potential impacts were found to be significant and unavoidable, even with implementation of the General Plan policies. A finding of over-riding considerations was adopted for these noise impacts when the General Plan MEIR was certified.

The MEIR analyzed potential ground borne vibration impacts that could result from buildout under the General Plan and found vibration impacts relating to the buildout of the Fresno General Plan to be less than significant.

Other sources of ambient noise are related to stationary locations, such as commercial, industrial, and public (recreational and institutional) facilities (the MEIR notes that ambient noise levels can be as high as 75 dB measured at a distance of 100 feet from elementary school playground). A maximum average exterior level of 70 dB was adopted in the General Plan, to be measured at the property line where nonresidential facilities abut residential or nonresidential properties. The General Plan contains policy direction for assessing potential noise from nonresidential development:

> ***Policy NS-1-i.*** *Mitigation by New Development. Require a noise study where new development of industrial, commercial or other noise generating land uses (including transportation facilities such as roadways, railroads, and airports) may result in noise levels that exceed the noise level exposure criteria established by Tables 9-2 and 9-3 to determine impacts, and require developers to mitigate these impacts in conformance with Tables 9-2 and 9-3 as a condition of permit approval through appropriate means.*

Noise mitigation measures may include:

- *The screening of noise sources such as parking and loading facilities, outdoor activities, and mechanical equipment;*
- *Providing increased setbacks for noise sources from adjacent dwellings;*
- *Installation of walls and landscaping that serve as noise buffers;*
- *Installation of soundproofing materials and double-glazed windows; and*
- *Regulating operations, such as hours of operation, including deliveries and trash pickup.*

Alternative acoustical designs that achieve the prescribed noise level reduction may be approved by the City, provided a qualified Acoustical Consultant submits information demonstrating that the alternative designs will achieve and maintain the specific targets for outdoor activity areas and interior spaces. As a last resort, developers may propose to construct noise walls along roadways when compatible with aesthetic concerns and neighborhood character. This would be a developer responsibility, with no City funding.

Given the extensive noise policy control, the General Plan MEIR did not contain any mitigation measures for noise impacts.

The Fresno-Yosemite International (FYI) Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan contains a separate airport noise analysis and control strategy that conforms to FAA protocols (see attached map of FYI airport noise contours). The FYI Land Use Compatibility Plan restricts land uses according to the potential for noise from aircraft operations, because noise from above is not readily mitigable for outdoor residential areas. (Fresno General Plan Policy No. NS-1-p also requires that the City implement the land use and noise exposure compatibility provisions of the adopted Fresno Yosemite International Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan when reviewing subsequent development projects.) The SESWTF property is located in the least-restrictive airport noise area, the 60 – 65 CNEL contour (see attached FYI Airport Plan Noise Contours map). There are no airport noise-related restrictions on utility facilities in this noise contour area.

Fresno's Noise Regulations, in Chapter 10 of the Fresno Municipal Code (FMC), have not yet been updated pursuant to the changes adopted with the Fresno General Plan. FMC §10-109 exempts construction activity from noise regulation when the activity occurs between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm Monday through Saturday. It is possible that certain construction activities associated with the SESWTF, such as continuous large concrete pouring operations, would require work that begins earlier than 7:00 a.m. or runs later than 10:00 p.m., or has to continue seven days a week, due to the need for features such as seamless concrete placements that would be water-tight, or avoidance of school operational hours when doing road construction work. In recognition of special situations such as these, Fresno noise regulations grant relief in the form of a permit process administered according to FMC §10-110.

Since the subject property is not yet annexed to the City of Fresno, Fresno County's Noise Control Ordinance is also a consideration. Provisions of the County Noise Control Ordinance are comparable to that of the City of Fresno. General construction activity is exempted when it

occurs between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekdays; however, with respect to the SESWTF, the Fresno County Noise Control Ordinance is more permissive than City of Fresno Noise Regulations in that it completely exempts noise that is generated by public or private utilities when working on their facilities (Fresno County Code §8.40.060.G). The County also has a Variance procedure which can be applied when activities may exceed the County's noise ordinance under special circumstances (Fresno Co. Code §8.40.110 *et seq.*).

Traffic noise relating to project operations is mitigated by a condition of approval for CUP Application No. C-14-041 requires that, as long as East Floradora retains its local street classification, the designated truck entrance for the Phase 1 part of the project will be East Olive Avenue; and for the Phase 2 part of the project, all vehicles accessing the Water Division administrative complex project from East Floradora Avenue can enter only by making a right turn from the eastbound lane of Floradora Avenue, and exit only on Olive Avenue (Olive Avenue will permit entrance and exit and is the designated entrance for heavy trucks for both project phases). This will avoid excess traffic on East Floradora Avenue and will prevent left turn movements which could adversely affect safety. East Olive Avenue is a designated collector roadway with a wider right-of-way to provide noise attenuation through distance to protect existing homes. The planned land use of properties on the south side of East Olive Avenue and the north side of East Floradora Avenue is "Business Park," and when developed with those uses would have a more permissive ambient noise standard.

In summary, the noise and ground borne vibration impacts which would result from installation and maintenance of sewers are within the scope of the General Plan MEIR.

Mitigation Measure

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. **POPULATION AND HOUSING** - - Would the project:				
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)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

When the Fresno General Plan was adopted, it was acknowledged that population in the City's planning area would increase due to the proposed new development and infrastructure called for by the General Plan, approximately 425,000 additional persons by the projected buildout year of 2056 and approximately 145,000 additional housing units.

The project proposed in CUP C-14-041 would not, in itself, cause any population increase or development beyond that approved in the Fresno General plan and analyzed in the MEIR certified for the Fresno General Plan. It is an infrastructure element required to be developed to support the City's projected population and employment growth.

The project is proposed on fallowed agricultural land and would not displace any homes or residents. A single home was formerly on the subject property and was removed years ago. The proposed project would not generate odors or cause other nuisance conditions which could force local residents to vacate their homes.

Therefore, no mitigation is required for population and housing impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. **PUBLIC SERVICES --**				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?		X		
Police protection?			X	
Drainage and flood control?		X		
Parks?				X
Schools?		X		
Other public services?		X		
XV. **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS --** Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			X	
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?				X

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?		X		
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X	
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

The discussion of public services and utilities in this EA is consolidated due to the inter-related nature of these issues.

The Fresno General Plan and its MEIR address the regulations and conditions related to utilities and service systems in the Fresno planning area. The topics of water, wastewater, drainage/flood control, public safety, parks, schools, waste disposal, the City's water supply utilities are analyzed in detail in that MEIR. .

The Fresno General Plan and its MEIR includes an extensive analysis of service needs and service levels related to planned land uses. General Plan policies and adopted City ordinances, resolutions, and policies require monitoring of infrastructure use and conditions,

payment of connection and impact fees, conservation, recycling, and regulation of development to ensure that potable water distribution and supply, fire suppression, and wastewater collection and treatment facilities are installed and have the capacity to adequately serve projects prior to their construction, so that public service capacity and utility infrastructure is developed to support buildout of the City's planning area. MEIR mitigation measures require the following:

- Updating the City of Fresno Wastewater Master Plan
- Construction of new wastewater treatment facilities
- Improving trunk sewer lines
- Adding and improving surface water treatment facilities
- Construction of new water wells
- Construction of water storage reservoirs
- Additional drainage facilities to be constructed by FMFCD

The master wastewater collection system plan update is intended to support and serve the buildout of land uses designated in the Fresno General Plan; the Master Plan is, itself, an implementation measure for the Fresno General Plan. The wastewater treatment facility is planned to be expanded in capacity as new growth occurs, so the Master Plan Update would not affect current or projected wastewater treatment levels. Because the Master Plan update would not introduce adverse utility service impacts, there is no need for mitigation for utility service impacts beyond those identified in the General Plan MEIR mitigation measures.

Potential impacts on policing services will be mitigated by project features and conditions relating to on-site security of the facility, such as walls and fencing constructed to U.S. Department of Homeland Security standards, gate access controls and video monitoring, and alarm systems.

Fire protection needs will be mitigated by conditions of approval requiring hydrant installation on- and off-site, fire sprinklers installed in buildings, filing of a hazardous materials business plan with Fresno County Department of Public Health and Fresno Fire Department, and payment of fire transition fees prior to the annexation of the subject property to the City.

The SESWTF project would not generate solid waste in any quantity that would affect current or projected landfill capacity.

The SESWTF does not increase Fresno's demand for water supply because it would treat surface water derived from the Fresno's existing entitlements and contracted supplies.

The SESWTF will not impact delivery capacity for irrigation and recharge water because its supply will come via a dedicated pipeline, leaving canal capacity available to serve agricultural customers and recharge basins. Conditions of approval for CUP C-1-041 require that street work and on-site grading plans affecting public and private irrigation ditches and pipelines be approved by Fresno Irrigation District. The Fresno Municipal Code requires piping of surface ditches and canals when the sizes of those facilities make piping feasible. Public Works policy

requires that any canals underlying roadways and driveways be constructed of durable rubber-gasketed reinforced concrete pipe.

The City of Fresno Public Works Department and the Fresno County Public Works and Planning Department have rules for construction-related temporary road closures that provide for timely response by fire, police and ambulance vehicles. Therefore, the project would not affect emergency services.

In summary, with application of MEIR mitigation measures, potential service and utility system impacts of the project proposed Wastewater Collection Master Plan Update are reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

The project shall implement the applicable Public Services and Utilities and Service Systems related mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. **RECREATION** --				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X

The proposed project does not include any residences and would not remove any existing recreational facilities. Therefore, it would not potentiate any increase in demand for parks or other recreational facilities. Because the SESWTF is an infrastructure element that implements the Fresno General Plan and does not potentiate any population growth beyond that approved in the General Plan and analyzed in the MEIR certified for the General Plan, it does not indirectly increase the demand for parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, no

mitigation is necessary for impacts to recreation.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. **TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC** -- Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?		X		
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?		X		

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?			X	

The Fresno General Plan will accommodate planned population and employment growth without expanding its existing Sphere of Influence (SOI), accommodating 180,000 more people than the preceding 2025 General Plan had proposed to accommodate within that same SOI. The General Plan focuses on locating employment closer to residences with available nearby services. The General Plan proposes to achieve this by accommodating anticipated growth in compact, walkable, and complete neighborhoods, incorporating mixed-use development, multi-modal districts, high capacity transit corridors, and intensive urban activity centers. The General Plan MEIR includes an extensive analysis of the impacts of the General Plan to transportation and traffic facilities and a full explanation of the traffic modeling used to evaluate the results.

City General Plan objectives and policies enhance the transportation system for all modes of transportation through a "complete streets" approach incorporated into the design of development projects and roadways so that all modes of transportation are provided to support planned population and employment growth. These policies increase transportation connectivity by providing bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities, and are intended to help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, conserve nonrenewable energy, and promote human health by increasing the relative attractiveness of non-automobile modes of travel.

When the differences in street design standards involve road rights of way, lane striping and controls on turning movements between City of Fresno and Fresno County, the differences must be resolved at the preliminary design stage.

The SESWTF does not include any design features which would impair vehicular, bicyclist, or pedestrian safety.

As noted previously the facilities being installed pursuant to the Sewer Collection Master Plan are primarily underground. Above-ground facilities are not proposed to be taller than one story, and any construction cranes used in the vicinity of an airport are required to be cleared through FAA Form 7480. Therefore, the Master Plan update would not cause any air traffic pattern changes (see preceding discussion under Hazards and Safety

Mitigation Measures

The project shall implement any applicable Transportation and Traffic related mitigation measures as identified in the attached Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program Checklist for the certified Fresno General Plan MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015), dated February 11, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. **MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --**				
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?				X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				X
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

Given the preceding analysis and mitigation measures required of the proposed project, it may be concluded that the proposed project:

- does not have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly nor indirectly; and

- does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish/wildlife or native plant species (or cause their population to drop below self-sustaining levels), does not threaten to eliminate a native plant or animal community, and does not threaten or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal; and
- does not eliminate important examples of elements of California history or prehistory; and
- does not have impacts which would be cumulatively considerable even though individually limited.

Therefore, there are no mandatory findings of significance, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not warranted for this project.

Attachments: Vicinity Map of project site and vicinity, annotated

Assessor parcel map of project site and vicinity, annotated

Aerial Photograph of project site and vicinity, annotated (2015)

Street View photos of project site and vicinity (Bing)

CUP Application No. C-14-041 site plan, 2 pages (Exhibits A-1 and A-2)

CUP Application No. C-14-041 elevation renderings along Floradora, Olive, and Armstrong Avenues (Exhibits ER-1 through ER-5)

CUP Application No. C-14-041 operational statement (Exhibit O) and gate operational statement (Exhibit OG)

Environmental impact and mitigation measure summary prepared and certified for the City of Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update EIR (SCH No. 2013091021)

Environmental impact and mitigation measure summary prepared and certified for the Fresno General Plan Update MEIR (SCH No. 2012111015)

APCD comment letter on CUP Application No. C-14-041, dated June 24, 2014

APCD Special Advisory, Emergency Drought Relief Measure [for] Water-Dependent Dust Control at Construction Sites, dated June 30, 2015

Executive Summary from the City of Fresno Kings River Pipeline [and Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility] Project, prepared by ESA for CH2M Hill, January 2015

California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurrence for Section 106 Compliance and Finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the Southeast Surface Drinking Water Facility...City of Fresno...letter dated May 12, 2015

Memorandum from ESA summarizing the Native American Consultation Documentation Package for the City of Fresno Kings River Pipeline and Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility Projects, dated June 4, 2015

Fresno County Landmarks Commission Listing No. 108 for the Forthcamp Home (prepared in 1984); Page 80 from *Heritage Fresno Homes and People* (published by the Association of American University Women, 1975); and February 11, 2016 email correspondence from Karana Hattersley-Drayton, City of Fresno Historic Preservation Program Manager, further describing the Forthcamp Home.

Letter from Fresno County Environmental Health, dated June 12, 2014, advising of the requirements for compliance with State drinking water and waste discharge requirements as well as hazardous waste handling and submittal of a Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Fresno-Yosemite International Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan map of Safety Compatibility Zones (2012) with the project location identified

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Determinations of No Hazard to Air Navigation in response to City submittal of FAA Forms 7460 submitted for SESWTF tanks and buildings, cranes, and SCADA antenna.

Figures 4, 5 and 6 from the 2013-2014 Kings River Service Area Annual Groundwater Report (Kings River Conservation District), showing decline in groundwater elevations from Spring 2003 to Spring 2014; groundwater surface elevations as of Spring 2014; and depth to groundwater as of spring 2014 (with project location indicated)

Excerpt ("FIRMette") of National Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 06019C1595H covering the SESWTF subject property

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Notice of Requirements for Conditional Use Permit Application No. C-14-041, dated November 25, 2014

Fresno-Yosemite International Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan map of Airport Noise Contours (2012) with the project location identified

Sources Consulted

Glenn Knapp, P.E., City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities Water Division

Brock Buche, P.E., [formerly] City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities Water Division

Chris Kliewer, P.E., Yamabe & Horn Engineering, Inc.

Fresno General Plan, adopted December 18, 2014

Fresno General Plan MEIR, certified December 18, 2014

Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update, adopted June 19, 2014

Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan EIR, certified June 19, 2014

Fresno Urban Water Management Plan, adopted 2010

Kings River Service Area Annual Groundwater Report For the Period Covering 2013-2014

Debbie Mahnke, Fresno Office, Central Valley Region, California Water Boards

Fresno Yosemite International Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, adopted 2012

FEMA Flood Map Service Center

Fresno Municipal Code

Fresno County Code

City of Fresno Kings River Pipeline and Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility Projects Phase II Cultural Resources Study

Melissa Scroggins and Nance Espinosa, Fresno County Library History and Genealogy Room

Karana Hattersley-Drayton, City of Fresno Historic Preservation Program Manager

Heritage Fresno, Homes and People (1975, AAUW)

Doug Hahn, CH2M Hill