

CHAPTER 2.0

REVISIONS TO IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE DRAFT EIR

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The Final EIR has been revised to reflect changes made to the Draft EIR since its public circulation in September 2003. Volume 1 of the Final EIR shows these changes in strikethrough/underline format. This Chapter compiles the new or revised mitigation measures that are added to the Final EIR. Where changes are shown inserted in the existing Draft EIR text, revised or new language is underlined, deleted language is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~, and the original text is shown without underline or strikethrough. No other modifications to the impacts and mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR have been included in the Final EIR. These changes are also included in Volume 1 of the Final EIR, but have been compiled here for easy reference.

NEW AND REVISED IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The Final EIR includes the following modification to Impact 4.3-4:

Impact 4.3-4: Effluent water infiltrating into the groundwater from storage reservoirs or oxidation ponds could degrade groundwater quality.

The Final EIR includes the following modification to mitigation measure 4.3-3:

Mitigation Measure 4.3-3: For Alternative 1, the storage reservoirs shall be constructed with an engineered liner, approved by the RWQCB-LR, which minimizes the potential for groundwater degradation. For Alternative 2, the bottom of the storage reservoirs shall be constructed with compacted native low-permeability soil. This construction will also be approved by the RWQCB-LR and supported by an Anti-Degradation analysis. ~~The storage reservoirs shall be constructed with compacted native low permeability soil liner or other engineered liner material approved by the RWQCB-LR to minimize potential for groundwater pollution.~~

The Final EIR includes the following modification to mitigation measure 4.3-4a:

Mitigation Measure 4.3-4a: District No. 14 shall implement a groundwater monitoring program to assess ~~potential~~ actual impacts to groundwater from storage reservoirs.

The Final EIR includes the following new mitigation measure 4.3-4b associated with Impact 4.3-4:

Alternatives 1 and 3

Mitigation Measure 4.3-4b: If groundwater monitoring finds that infiltration from either the existing oxidation ponds or the existing storage reservoirs has significantly degraded

groundwater, District No. 14 will coordinate with the RWQCB-LR to identify the most appropriate method of remediating the condition and preventing further degradation.

The Final EIR includes the following new mitigation measure associated with Impact 4.3-4:

Mitigation Measure 4.3-4b: If groundwater monitoring finds that infiltration from the oxidation ponds has significantly degraded groundwater, District No. 14 will coordinate with the RWQCB-LR to identify the most appropriate method of remediating the condition and preventing further degradation. This could be achieved through conversion of the LWRP to a conventional activated sludge system, operated in a nitrification-denitrification mode.

The Final EIR includes the following modification to mitigation measure 4.3-5:

Mitigation Measure 4.3-5: For agricultural reuse, the Farm Management Plan shall include procedures for determining agronomic rates for the crop being grown and the season. These agronomic rates will then be used to determine the appropriate amount of effluent to be applied at any given time during the year. ~~During land application operations, District No. 14 shall utilize the maximum land available for application of effluent to minimize infiltration rates.~~

The Final EIR includes the following modification to mitigation measure 4.3-6a:

Mitigation Measure 4.3-6a: District No. 14 shall implement a groundwater monitoring program to assess ~~potential~~ actual impacts to groundwater from agricultural and/or land application operations. The results of the monitoring shall be used to modify the farming operations and treatment if necessary.

The Final EIR includes the following new mitigation measure associated with Impact 4.3-5:

Mitigation Measure 4.3-6b: District No. 14 shall provide liners to agricultural retention basins to prevent substantial infiltration of applied water or, with RWQCB-LR approval, manage these basins to minimize infiltration to ensure protection of groundwater.

The Final EIR includes the following modification to mitigation measure 4.3-7:

Mitigation Measure 4.3-7: District No. 14 shall construct berms around the agricultural and land application areas, which will be irrigated at agronomic and/or evaporative rates, and shall construct catch and pump basins. ~~The Farm Management Plan shall include measures to prevent unauthorized runoff.~~

The Final EIR includes the following modification to Impact 4.4-3:

Impact 4.4-3: The construction of storage reservoirs for Alternatives 1 and 2 and the conversion of previously undeveloped areas in the eastern and western agricultural areas for each alternative would cause the loss of potential habitat for burrowing owls, loggerhead shrike, Le Conte's thrasher, and California horned lark, as well as more common migratory birds that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

The Final EIR includes the following modification to mitigation measure 4.4-3:

Mitigation Measure 4.4-3: If project activities cannot avoid the breeding bird season (generally March 1 – August 31), District No. 14 shall conduct focused preconstruction breeding bird surveys to include burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, Le Conte’s thrasher, California horned lark, as well as other species protected under the MBTA, in all areas that may provide suitable nesting habitat. For activities that occur outside the breeding bird season (generally September 1 through February 28) such surveys would not be required.

No more than two weeks before construction, a survey for burrows and burrowing owls would be conducted by a qualified ornithologist. Surveys would conform to the protocol described by the California Burrowing Owl Consortium (1993) which includes up to four surveys on different dates if there are suitable burrows present. Surveys would include areas within 500 feet of the construction area that provide potential burrowing owl nesting habitat (access permitting). Simultaneous with the owl surveys, an assessment of the construction area would also be conducted to determine the nesting status of loggerhead shrike, Le Conte’s thrasher, and California horned lark, and other birds protected by the MTBA.

If any of the above species are identified, occupied nests or burrows would not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31 for owls and other raptors; March 1 through August 31 for other species), including a minimum 250-foot buffer zone around any occupied burrow or nest 150 feet for other non-special status passerine birds, and up to 500 feet for raptors. During the non-nesting season, District No. 14 would encourage owls to relocate from the Stage V construction disturbance area to off-site habitat area through the use of one-way doors on burrows. No relocation measures are required for loggerhead shrike, Le Conte’s thrasher, or California horned lark during the non-breeding season. District No. 14 shall conduct preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, Le Conte’s thrasher, and California horned lark habitat by a qualified ornithologist prior to clearing undisturbed land. If any of the above species are identified, occupied nests or burrows shall not be disturbed during the nesting season, including a minimum 250 foot buffer zone around any occupied burrow or nest. If burrowing owls are identified, they shall be relocated during the non-breeding season.

The Final EIR includes the following modification to mitigation measure 4.11-1:

Mitigation Measure 4.11-1: The Farm Management Plan shall include when necessary measures such as offsets from roads, low aerosol nozzles, and constructing windbreaks of planted trees in areas where residences are located adjacent to the application operations to minimize off-site migration of wind-induced effluent drift.