

**TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
CONSOLIDATED FINAL PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

PRESENTATION TO THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY BOARD
MARCH 16, 2023



TURLOCK GROUNDWATER

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources.



AGENDA



- Consolidated Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
 - CEQA Context
 - Development Timeline
 - Environmental Analysis
- Public Comments
 - Oral and Written Comments Received
 - Document Changes
- Next Steps
- Questions



CEQA CONTEXT



- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Not required for the development/adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 - Is required for implementation of GSP projects and management actions (PMAs)
- A program-level CEQA document is appropriate
 - Streamline future project-specific CEQA analyses by project or management action proponents
- Types of PMAs implemented under the GSP represent the “proposed project”



DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



- GSAs adopted the Turlock Subbasin GSP January 6, 2022
- Notice of Preparation (NOP) for PEIR released January 7, 2022
- Public Draft PEIR released July 27, 2022
- Consolidated Final PEIR
 - TACs recommended certification of the PEIR to their Boards on February 14, 2023
 - Consolidated Final PEIR posted on Turlock Groundwater website March 6, 2023

CONSOLIDATED FINAL PEIR FOR THE TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSP



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B. Notice of Preparation and Notice of Preparation Comments

C. Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Final Program
Environmental Impact Report

D. Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations

E. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

F. Project and Management Action-Specific Checklist

SCOPE OF PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT



- The Turlock Subbasin GSP is a planning level document: “concepts”
- The PEIR presents a summary of typical construction and operations and maintenance activities common to the development of the types of Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) described in the PEIR
- The PEIR evaluates, at a program-level, the potential impacts of the types of PMAs to be implemented under the Turlock Subbasin GSP.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



- The PEIR identifies no impact or less-than-significant impacts on the following resource areas:
 - Energy Resources
 - Mineral Resources
 - Population and Housing



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



- The PEIR identifies less-than-significant impacts on the following resource areas after incorporation of mitigation measures:
 - Aesthetics and Visual Resources
 - Air Quality
 - Biological Resources
 - Geology, Soils and Paleontological Resources
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - Hydrology and Water Quality
 - Noise
 - Recreation
 - Transportation
 - Wildfire



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



- Impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation measures, for example:
 - minimize disturbance of sensitive species, natural communities, and wetlands and waters
 - implement water quality protection measures and site-specific modeling to prevent adverse groundwater changes
 - implement technological, noticing, and timing requirements for construction noise
 - require preparation of a traffic management plan
- Implementation of the mitigation measures would be the responsibility of the PMA proponent(s).

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



- The PEIR identifies potentially significant and unavoidable impacts to the following resource areas:
 - Agriculture and Forestry Resources
 - Air Quality
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Land Use and Planning
 - Tribal Cultural Resources
 - Utilities and Service Systems and Public Services
- Not all PMAs will have significant and unavoidable impacts and the CEQA lead agency can conclude impacts are less-than-significant (with or without mitigation), if applicable.



PUBLIC COMMENTS - SUMMARY



- Received two oral comments and four written comment letters from:
 - State Agencies (CDFW and CVRWQCB), Local Organizations (Tuolumne River Conservancy and Tuolumne River Trust), and an Individual
- Majority of commenters supported the PEIR and requested clarifications and/or additional information regarding site-specific analysis depending on the type and location of the PMA
- Text revisions provide clarifications, amplification, and corrections identified since publication of the draft PEIR

PUBLIC COMMENTS - SUMMARY



- Sought project-level analysis and/or site-specific details, for example:
 - Address using floodwaters and the potential harm to special-status fish, wetlands and riparian habitat
- Provided a global response that:
 - Once the specific characteristics and locations of the PMAs are known, proponents would identify the relevant potential environmental impacts of constructing and/or operating the PMAs, including through hydrologic, fisheries and/or cultural analyses, as applicable.

Refer to Appendix C of the Consolidated Final PEIR for comment letters and responses, and revisions to the draft PEIR.

NEXT STEPS



- WTS GSA, as the CEQA lead agency, considers certification of the Consolidated Final PEIR
 - WTS GSA certifies the PEIR, triggering a 30-day statute of limitations
 - Within 5 working days after certification, WTS GSA submits the Notice of Determination (NOD) to Merced and Stanislaus County Clerks
- ETS GSA, as the CEQA responsible agency, is scheduled to certify the PEIR following the action of the WTS GSA March 23, 2023

NEXT STEPS



- The Consolidated Final PEIR is available at:
 - Turlock Groundwater website:
www.turlockgroundwater.org/peir
 - Turlock, Merced County and Stanislaus County libraries
- Record of Proceeding
 - WTS GSA at the offices of the Turlock Irrigation District;
Jennifer Land (Custodian of Record)
- Workshop at the Joint TAC Meeting April 11, 2023
 - Appendix F – Project and Management Action-Specific Checklist



THANK YOU!



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The logo consists of three stylized, overlapping wavy lines in green, blue, and orange, representing water or groundwater. To the right of the logo is the website address in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.