

LOAN REQUEST FORM (LRF)

CEC-271 (Revised 10/2015)

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

New Agreement 004-18-ECD (To be completed by CGL Office)

400 Efficiency Division	David Michel	23	916-651-3747
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Rio Alto Water District	94-1712226
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Rio Alto Water District's Solar Photovoltaic System Project

04 / 10 / 2019	3 / 31 / 2021	\$ 1,590,800
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<input type="checkbox"/> ARFVTP agreements \$75K and under delegated to Executive Director.			
Proposed Business Meeting Date	04 / 10 / 2019	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion
Business Meeting Presenter	David Michel	Time Needed:	5 minutes
Please select one list serve. Financing (Energy Efficiency Financing)			

Agenda Item Subject and Description

RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT. Proposed resolution adopting CEQA findings for Rio Alto Water District's Solar Photovoltaic System Project, and approving Agreement 004-18-ECD with Rio Alto Water District (ECAA funding).

Contact: David Michel. (Staff presentation: 5 minutes)

a. CEQA FINDINGS. Findings that, in addition to the lead agency Rio Alto Water District's Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, the proposed project presents potentially significant impacts to biological resources and cultural resources and that mitigation measures different from, and in addition to, those analyzed in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are required to reduce environmental effects to a less than significant level. These additional mitigation measures will be implemented by Rio Alto Water District, and are included as conditions in proposed Agreement 004-18-ECD.

b. RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT'S SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM PROJECT. Proposed resolution adopting an agreement with Rio Alto Water District for a \$1,590,800 loan at one percent interest for a 420-kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic system located at three District-owned sites. The project is estimated to save the District 617,521 kWh of electricity, resulting in annual energy cost savings of \$103,930. The simple payback on the loan amount is approximately 15.3 years.

1. Is Agreement considered a "Project" under CEQA? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (skip to question 2) <input type="checkbox"/> No (complete the following (PRC 21065 and 14 CCR 15378)): Explain why Agreement is not considered a "Project": Agreement will not cause direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because _____.	
2. If Agreement is considered a "Project" under CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> a) Agreement IS exempt. (Attach draft NOE) <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. List PRC and/or CCR section number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. List CCR section number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Common Sense Exemption. 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3) Explain reason why Agreement is exempt under the above section: _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Agreement IS NOT exempt. (Consult with the legal office to determine next steps.) Check all that apply <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Study <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Overriding Considerations </div> </div>	

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION



Legal Company Name:	Budget
Halcyon Solar Construction	\$ 1,590,800
	\$ 0
	\$ 0

Legal Company Name:

Funding Source	Funding Year of Appropriation	Budget List No.	Amount
ECAA	2018-2019	0401.007D	\$1,590,800
Funding Source			\$
Funding Source			\$
Funding Source			\$
Funding Source			\$
R&D Program Area:	Select Program Area		\$1,590,800
Explanation for "Other" selection			
Reimbursement Contract #:	Federal Agreement #:		

Name:	Martha Slack	Name:	Dan Herman
Address:	22099 River View Drive	Address:	20834 Front Street
City, State, Zip:	Cottonwood, CA 96022	City, State, Zip:	Cottonwood, CA 96022
Phone:	530-347-3835	Fax:	- -
E-Mail:	mslack56@sbcglobal.net	E-Mail:	dherman@halcyonsolar.com

1. Annual Energy Savings	\$103,930
2. Number of Repay Periods:	Leave blank if repay is based on energy savings

<input type="checkbox"/> Competitive Solicitation	Solicitation #: PON-17-401
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Come First Served Solicitation	

1. Loan Application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached
2. Budget Detail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached
3. CEC 105, Questionnaire for Identifying Conflicts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached
4. Recipient Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached
5. CEQA Documentation	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached

Agreement Manager

Date

Office Manager

Date

Deputy Director

Date

**EXHIBIT A
ATTACHMENT 1
BUDGET DETAIL/PROJECT COST AND SAVINGS**

This Loan is made to the Rio Alto Water District (“Borrower”) for an energy savings Project. The Project consists of the energy efficiency measures listed in Table 1 below to be installed at the Rio Alto Waste Water Treatment Plant, Rio Alto Administrative Offices, and Rio Alto Well #6 in the Cottonwood and in the County of Shasta, CA.

The Table below summarizes the estimated Project cost(s), saving(s) and simple payback(s) for the Project.

TABLE 1: Summary of Project Cost and Savings:

Project Measures	Measure Installation Cost (\$)*, **	Peak Demand Savings (kW)	Annual Electric Savings (kWh)	Measure Annual Cost Savings (\$)	EUL (years) (EUL Considered for 1% Loans will be lesser of actual EUL or 17 Years)	Measure Cost Savings over EUL (\$)	Measure Payback (years)
<i>Install Solar PV at WWTP (Site #1) ***</i>	\$456,150	-26,288	166,236	\$22,552	17.0	\$383,384	20.2
<i>Install Solar PV at Well #5 (Site #2A) ***</i>	\$456,150	0	166,236	\$29,906	17.0	\$508,402	15.3
<i>Install Solar PV at District Offices (Site #2B)</i>	\$59,000	-4,201	24,664	\$4,690	17.0	\$79,730	12.6
<i>Install Solar PV at Well #6 (Site #3)</i>	\$619,500	0	260,385	\$46,782	17.0	\$795,294	13.2
TOTAL	\$1,590,800	-30,489	617,521	\$103,930		\$1,766,810	15.3

*Project Installation Cost shall include all labor, engineering, construction, materials, equipment, inspection, demolition (if applicable), and removal (if applicable) less equipment salvage value (if applicable).

** Loan amount will be lesser of \$3 million, actual project cost, or total cost savings over the life of the project.

*** Annual cost savings calculated with different utility rates.

The Borrower shall implement each measure listed in Table 1.

If Borrower does not complete one or more of the measures or deviates from the quantities and specifications listed in Table 1, the Commission Project Manager will calculate the maximum Loan amount supported by the Project. The Loan amount will be determined by the lesser of: 1) multiplying the annual energy cost savings by 15 years; 2) total Project costs; or 3) approved Loan amount.

Borrower shall notify the Commission Project Manager in writing if Borrower expects any information in Table 1 to change. Energy Commission staff will advise Borrower of the procedure to approve any changes. Written documentation is required for any changes to the information included in this Attachment.

If the Borrower has received disbursements exceeding the maximum Loan amount supported by the Project, the Borrower shall refund the difference to the Energy Commission within 30 days of notification.

Memorandum

To: **David Hochschild**
Janea A. Scott
Karen Douglas
Andrew McAllister

Date: January 25, 2019

From: **Andrea Koch**
Environmental Office
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: **Energy Commission Staff Review of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Rio Alto Water District's Solar Photovoltaic System Project (Agreement 004-18-ECD)**

I am an Environmental Planner II in the Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division of the California Energy Commission (Commission). I reviewed the Rio Alto Water District's (District) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed photovoltaic solar installation on the District's property, and it is my opinion that the work to be performed as part of Agreement 004-18-ECD would be consistent with the IS/MND. It is also my opinion that with implementation of the mitigation measures in the IS/MND and the proposed Biological and Cultural mitigation measures detailed in this Commission staff (staff) memo, potential environmental impacts of the project would be less than significant. The reasons for my conclusions are discussed in the analysis below.

Biological Resources

Andrea Stroud, Biologist with the Commission's Biological Resources Unit in the Environmental Office, reviewed the biological resources information provided by the applicant and concluded that with modifications to the applicant's proposed mitigation measure, as well as the addition of staff's proposed mitigation BIOLOGICAL-2 (discussed below), impacts to biological resources would be less than significant. Details of staff's evaluation are discussed below.

Construction would take place at District facilities, where ground vegetation consisting of valley grasses is mowed for fire control and includes no vernal pools, wetlands, or riparian areas. There is no habitat within 100 feet of project construction areas that would support the Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog, a Species of Special Concern and candidate for State status as Threatened. None of the trees to be removed would offer suitable habitat for sensitive species, including the Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Tri-colored Blackbird, or Least Bell's Vireo.

However, native and migratory birds, regardless of any additional conservation status at the local, state, or federal level, are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. § 703 et seq.) and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503 and 3513. This protection extends to nests, nestlings, and eggs of native and migratory birds. Mitigation Measure BIOLOGICAL-1 in the IS/MND proposes preconstruction nest surveys during the breeding season to help protect nesting birds from any construction disturbance. However, this mitigation measure does not go far enough to protect birds, their nests with eggs, and young. In order to provide the necessary protection for nesting birds during construction,

modifications should be made to the mitigation measure BIOLOGICAL-1 proposed in the IS/MND, and the modified mitigation measure should be included as a condition in Loan Agreement 004-18-ECD. The modifications are as follows, with additions in bold and underlined text, and deletions in strikethrough:

BIOLOGICAL-1: A qualified biologist with at least 2 years of avian experience in the habitats occurring in the project area shall conduct a preconstruction nest survey of all trees or other suitable nesting habitat within 500 feet of work ~~no more than one week~~ prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season **(February 1 through August 31)**. **At least two preconstruction surveys shall be conducted, separated by a minimum of 7 days. One survey needs to be conducted within the 3-day period preceding initiation of work. Additional follow-up surveys are required if periods of construction inactivity exceed 21 days**. If an active nest more than half completed is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged **and dispersed or the nest is no longer active**, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent to the Department at: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: CEQA, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA, 96001.

The IS/MND states that trenches will be constructed to connect the proposed solar photovoltaic systems to the facility electrical systems. Trenching, as well as compaction from construction vehicles, could potentially impact the root systems of any oak trees growing near the construction sites. Although Tehama County does not have an oak protection ordinance, Public Resources Code Section 21083.4 requires consideration of oak conservation as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In order to avoid and minimize impacts to remaining oaks that do not need to be removed as part of this project, an additional Biological mitigation measure should be added as a condition of this loan as worded below:

BIOLOGICAL-2: Any nearby and remaining oaks that are not removed will be protected from ground disturbance and root damage caused by construction vehicles and trenching. Orange construction fencing (or similar) will be placed around remaining oak trees for protection and shall be maintained for the duration of any activities in the vicinity of oak trees. This fencing shall be placed around the oak tree(s) as far as the extent of the canopy in order to protect the entire root system. A qualified biologist will ensure the protective fencing is properly placed around the oak trees and maintained. Trenching shall not occur in areas that interfere with any oak tree root systems.

With implementation of the modified condition BIOLOGICAL-1 and the new condition BIOLOGICAL-2, impacts to biological resources from the project would be less than significant.

Cultural Resources

Gabriel Roark (M.A., Anthropology) in the Commission's Cultural Resources Unit in the Environmental Office reviewed the District's IS/MND and archaeological survey report, as well as pertinent documents available online and in the Cultural Resources Unit library. Based on these sources of information, as well as an additional Cultural mitigation measure proposed by staff, staff concludes that the District's CEQA findings regarding cultural resources (comprising CEQA's historical resources, unique archaeological resources, and tribal cultural resources) are adequately supported. Staff reviews the methods of analysis, impact conclusions, and proposed mitigation measures below.

The District hired a consultant to conduct a cultural resources inventory for the proposed project, consisting of a records search at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS); review of background documents concerning local history, ethnography, and

prehistory; correspondence with California Native American tribes¹ (tribes); a pedestrian survey of the project area conducted by a qualified professional; and a report of methods and findings (Skinner 2019; Wiant and Wiant 2019).

The records search indicated that two previously conducted cultural resources studies covered portions of the current project areas (reported in Brown 2011; McCoy and Shaw 2015; Marquardt 2017; Shaw 2015). The records search also indicated that two previously recorded cultural resources are located within 300 feet (archaeological site CA-TEH²-2422) and 0.5 mile (CA-TEH-74/H) of the proposed project, respectively. No previously recorded cultural resources are mapped in the proposed project areas.

Correspondence with tribes consisted of:

- A request directed to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a search of the NAHC's Sacred Lands File and a list of Native Americans that might be interested in the proposed project
- Letters, e-mails, and phone calls to entities on the NAHC list as well as to the Nor Rel Muk tribe

Contacted tribes were the Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, Redding Rancheria, Wintu Tribe of Northern California, Nor Rel Muk Wintu Nation, and Bob Burns, a Nor Rel Muk elder. No comments were received. (Skinner 2019; Wiant and Wiant 2019:6–8.)

Wayne Wiant surveyed the project areas on December 11, 2018. Ground surface visibility ranged from poor to excellent. No cultural resources were identified as a result of the survey. (Skinner 2019; Wiant and Wiant 2019:17–19.)

The cultural resources inventory discussed above is an adequate consideration of the surface of the project areas. The proposed project, however, would require installation of ground screws as well as installation of electrical conduit approximately 1.5 feet below the ground surface (Wiant and Wiant 2019:5). Disturbance of subsurface soils requires consideration of the project's potential to damage buried archaeological resources that lack any expressions on the current ground surface. At least one buried archaeological site is known to exist within 0.5 mile of the proposed project (Brown 2011; McCoy and Shaw 2015:165, 168; Marquardt 2017:19–20; Roark 2018:2). Archaeologists have determined that humans first occupied the project vicinity by 6,500 years ago, whereas occupation of the Clear Lake Basin to the west began approximately 13,500 years ago or slightly earlier (Wiant and Wiant 2019:14). One can therefore expect archaeological materials to occur atop or within soils and sediments dating to the Holocene/Anthropocene (ca. 11,000 years ago to present) and terminal Pleistocene (ca. 11,000–20,000 years ago) epochs in the project vicinity.

The proposed project is sited on relatively shallow (20–56 inches thick) Newville Series soils underlain by the Pliocene-aged (5.333–2.580 million years ago) Tehama geologic formation (Cohen et al. 2017; Gowans 1967:54–55, Sheet 45; Strand 1969). Because the surface geology (Pliocene-aged Tehama geologic formation) of the project areas predates the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs (when humans first occupied the project vicinity), any archaeological materials in the project areas would be expectable only on the ground surface or within the upper 5 feet of soil. Two of the proposed solar areas (Site 2 at Well #5 and Site 3 at the wastewater treatment plant) would be sited on hillslopes or a bench cut into a hillside

¹ The District reached out to tribes as a means of gathering information about cultural resources, not as formal consultation—the District has not received any letters from tribes requesting consultation under Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1.

² "TEH" is the CHRIS's abbreviation for archaeological resources located in Tehama County.

when the District first built its water treatment plant (Wiant and Wiant 2019:Photos 1–2, Figures 1–2A). In the case of proposed Site 2, the solar array would be installed on a slope that exceeds 30 percent (Wiant and Wiant 2019:17). The steepness of this land surface would have been a deterrent to human occupation and a limiting factor in soil development. As such, the potential for buried archaeological remains to exist at proposed Site 2 is low. Proposed Site 3 would be installed within the bounds of a District water treatment plant that was built on a bench cut into the hillside. The natural slope of this hillside prior to construction of the water treatment plant also exceeded 30 percent (USGS 1944). Excavation of the bench on which the water treatment plant is situated effectively removed any Holocene and terminal Pleistocene-aged sediments at that location, exposing Pliocene or older geologic formations. Proposed Site 3 therefore has no potential to contain buried archaeological resources.

Staff also consulted a regional analysis of buried archaeological resource potential as a check on the project-specific assessment in the previous two paragraphs. The buried archaeological resource assessment used methods similar to those of staff, but covered much of Tehama County and used a geographic information system (GIS) to model variables of interest: the location of known cultural resources, surface geology, and soil age and characteristics. The results of this study corroborate staff's findings: the combination of thin soils over a pre-Pleistocene surface geology renders the probability of encountering buried archaeological resources during project construction and implementation low (King et al. 2016:217–218, Figure 24).

In light of the foregoing information, staff agrees with the District's finding that the proposed project would not cause any significant impacts that could not be reduced to less than significant through mitigation (RAWD 2018a:3, 2018b). The District's CEQA analysis points out that, however unlikely, cultural resources could be encountered during project-related ground disturbance. Accordingly, the District proposes the following mitigation measure for handling inadvertent cultural resource discoveries. As shown below, staff has proposed modifications to the mitigation measure to clarify that construction must halt not only if a human burial is inadvertently discovered, but also if any archaeological material is discovered.

CULTURAL-1: If during construction a human burial or archaeological material is inadvertently discovered, construction will halt in the immediate area, and ~~the County Coroner will be contacted to determine the legal status significance of a human burial, and a qualified archaeologist will be contacted if archaeological material is discovered.~~ Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials. Archaeological materials can include flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, and choppers) or obsidian, chert, basalt, or quartzite toolmaking debris; bone tools; culturally darkened soil (i.e., midden soil often containing heat-affected rock, ash and charcoal, shellfish remains, bones and other cultural materials); and stone-milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles and handstones). Prehistoric archaeological sites often contain human remains. Historical materials can include wood, stone, concrete, or adobe footings, walls, and other structural remains; debris-filled wells or privies; and deposits of wood, glass, ceramics, metal, and other refuse. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials or human remains and associated material. (RAWD 2018b.)

This mitigation measure is appropriate, but has the weakness of relying on personnel that are not cultural resources specialists to identify archaeological materials and human remains. This situation would undermine CEQA's mandate that mitigation measures be effective. Staff concludes that an additional mitigation measure would ensure the effectiveness of the District's proposed mitigation measure by providing training to project staff in how to recognize and respond to discoveries of human remains or archaeological materials:

CULTURAL-2: The District shall prepare and implement a worker environmental awareness program (WEAP) for cultural resources discoveries. This training shall include a discussion of applicable laws and penalties under law; who to contact in the event of a discovery; samples or visuals of artifacts that might be found in the project vicinity; a discussion of what such artifacts may look like when partially buried, or wholly buried and then freshly exposed; and instruction

that project staff are obliged to and have the authority to halt ground disturbance in the area of a discovery to an extent sufficient to ensure that the resource is protected from further impacts. The District shall provide a copy of the WEAP to the Commission Project Manager prior to any project ground disturbance, and no ground disturbance shall occur prior to implementation of the WEAP program.

Staff concludes that potential impacts to cultural resources, including tribal cultural resources, would be mitigated to less than significant with the implementation of these two mitigation measures.

With implementation of staff's new and modified conditions, staff agrees with the Rio Alto Water District's findings that the proposed project would have no impacts or less than significant impacts in all environmental areas.

References

Brown 2017—Melissa Brown. *Archaeological Survey Report for the Rio Alto Water District Treatment System Improvements Project, Tehama County, California.* ENPLAN, Redding, CA. Prepared for Rio Alto Water District, Cottonwood, CA.

Cohen et al. 2017—K. M. Cohen, S. C. Finney, P. L. Gibbard, and J.-X. Fan. *International Chronostratigraphic Chart.* February. International Commission on Stratigraphy.

Gowans 1967—K. D. Gowans. *Soil Survey of Tehama County, California.* May. Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., and Agricultural Experiment Station, University of California.

King et al. 2016—Jerome H. King, William R. Hildebrandt, and Sharon A. Waechter. *A Class I Cultural Resources Overview and Existing Information Inventory for the Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan, Bureau of Land Management Redding and Arcata Field Offices: Part I – Overview.* Final. November. Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Davis, CA. Submitted to Redding Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Redding, CA, and Arcata Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Arcata, CA.

Marquart 2017—Sarah Marquart. USDA Rural Development Spotlight: Perseverance Pays off for District. *California Water Journal* (Winter 2017):18–20.

McCoy and Shaw 2015—Jessica McCoy and Heidi Shaw. Chasing Archaeological Site Narrative: The Case of CA-TEH-74/H. *Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology* 29:165–171.

RAWD 2018a—Rio Alto Water District. *Rio Alto Water District Photovoltaic Solar Installation: Mitigated Negative Declaration in Compliance with CEQA Requirements.* July 25. Cottonwood, CA. Submitted to California Energy Commission, Sacramento. SCH # 2018072018.

RAWD 2018b—Rio Alto Water District. *Rio Alto Water District Photovoltaic Solar Installation: Initial Impact Study in Compliance with CEQA Requirements.* July 25. Cottonwood, CA. Submitted to California Energy Commission, Sacramento. SCH # 2018072018.

Roark 2018—Gabriel Roark. Memorandum Regarding Rio Alto Water District Solar System—Review of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. September 7. California Energy Commission, Sacramento.

- Shaw 2015—Heidi Shaw.** *Late Discovery Data Recovery Report for CA-TEH-74/H: Rio Alto Water District Water Treatment System Improvements Project, Tehama County, California.* ENPLAN, Redding, CA. Prepared for Rio Alto Water District, Cottonwood, CA.
- Skinner 2019—David J. Skinner.** Symmary of Archaeological Review. Skinner Water Quality, Redding, CA. Submitted to California Energy Commission, Sacramento.
- Strand 1969—Rudolph G. Strand.** *Geologic Map of California, Olaf P. Jenkins Edition: Redding Sheet.* 2nd printing. California Division of Mines and Geology.
- USGS 1944—U.S. Geological Survey.** Tuscan Buttes, California, Quadrangle. 15-minute Topographic Series. Mapped 1943–1944. Denver, CO.
- Wiant and Wiant 2019—Wayne C. Wiant and Evan Wiant.** *Archaeological Survey Report for the Rio Alto Solar Installation Project.* Confidential. January. Prepared for Rio Alto Water District, Cottonwood, CA.

RESOLUTION 04-18

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, MARTHA SLACK, TO
FILE AN ECAA LOAN APPLICATION FOR ENERGY COMMISSION FINANCING
INTEREST RATE 1%.**

WHEREAS, the California Energy Commission provides loans to schools, hospitals, local governments, special districts, and public care institutions to finance energy efficiency improvements;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes Rio Alto Water District to apply for energy efficiency loan from the California Energy Commission to implement energy efficiency measures.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the Board of Directors finds that the activity funded by the loan is a project and a CEQA document will be prepared.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that if recommended for funding by the California Energy Commission, the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager, Martha Slack, to accept a loan up to \$1,590,800.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the amount of the loan will be paid in full plus interest, under the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, Promissory Note and Tax Certificate of the California Energy Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Martha Slack is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of Rio Alto Water District all necessary documents to implement and carry out the purpose of this resolution, and to undertake all actions necessary to undertake and complete the energy efficiency projects.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, at this regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rio Alto Water District held on June 20, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: 4

NOES: 0


ABSTAINING: 0

ABSENT: 1 (Wilkinson)

Signed and approved after its passage this 20th day of June, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave W. Anders", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Anders, President, Board of Directors

Attested: 
Terri Taggart, Secretary

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Rio Alto Water District Solar System

Lead Agency: Rio Alto Water District

Contact Person: Martha Slack

Mailing Address: 22099 River View Drive

Phone: 530-347-3835

City: Cottonwood

Zip: 96022

County: Tehama

Project Location: County: Tehama

City/Nearest Community: Cottonwood

Cross Streets: Lake California Drive

Zip Code: 96022

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 40 ° 21 ' 15.6 " N / 122 ° 12 ' 45.6 " W Total Acres: 1.3

Assessor's Parcel No.: 009110083000,

Section: _____

Twp.: _____

Range: _____

Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____

Waterways: Sacramento River

Airports: Lake California Airfield

Railways: N/A

Schools: Project Location

Document Type:CEQA: ☐ NOP☐ Draft EIRNEPA: ☐ NOIOther: ☐ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR☐ EA☐ Final Document☒ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.) _____

☐ Draft EIS☐ Other: _____☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other: _____

☐ FONSI**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ Specific Plan☐ Rezone☐ Annexation☐ General Plan Amendment☐ Master Plan☐ Prezone☐ Redevelopment☐ General Plan Element☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Use Permit☐ Coastal Permit☐ Community Plan☐ Site Plan☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☐ Other: _____**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units _____

Acres _____

☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Transportation: Type _____☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Mining: Mineral _____☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Power: Type Solar _____

MW0.5

☐ Educational: _____☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____

MGD

☐ Recreational: _____☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____☐ Water Facilities: Type _____

MGD

☐ Other: _____**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☐ Aesthetic/Visual☐ Fiscal☐ Recreation/Parks☒ Vegetation☐ Agricultural Land☐ Flood Plain/Flooding☐ Schools/Universities☐ Water Quality☐ Air Quality☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☐ Septic Systems☐ Water Supply/Groundwater☐ Archeological/Historical☐ Geologic/Seismic☐ Sewer Capacity☐ Wetland/Riparian☐ Biological Resources☐ Minerals☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☐ Growth Inducement☐ Coastal Zone☐ Noise☐ Solid Waste☐ Land Use☐ Drainage/Absorption☐ Population/Housing Balance☐ Toxic/Hazardous☐ Cumulative Effects☐ Economic/Jobs☐ Public Services/Facilities☐ Traffic/Circulation☐ Other: _____**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Waste Water Treatment Plant, Special Plan Suburban, Residential, AG and Natural Resources, Public Agency.

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The Rio Alto Water District is proposing installation of a Photovoltaic Solar system to offset energy use for the facility. Panels will be ground-mounted in 3 locations on property currently owned by the water district.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #5R
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 7-5-18

Ending Date 8-5-18

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Skinner Water Quality

Address: P.O. Box 494457

City/State/Zip: Redding, Ca. 96049

Contact: David Skinner

Phone: 530-524-2633

Applicant: Rio Alto Water District

Address: 22099 River View Drive

City/State/Zip: Cottonwood, Ca. 96022

Phone: 530-347-3835

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Martha Slack

Date: 6/29/18

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2018072018

Project Title: Rio Alto Water District Solar System

Lead Agency: Rio Alto Water District

Contact Person: Martha Slack

Mailing Address: 22099 River View Drive

Phone: 530-347-3835

City: Cottonwood

Zip: 96022

County: Tehema

Project Location: County: Tehema

City/Nearest Community: Cottonwood

Cross Streets: Lake California Drive

Zip Code: 96022

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 40 ° 21 ' 15.6 " N / 122 ° 12 ' 45.6 " W Total Acres: 1.3

Assessor's Parcel No.: 009110083000,

Section: _____

Twp.: _____

Range: _____

Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____

Waterways: Sacramento River

Airports: Lake California Airfield

Railways: N/A

Schools: Project Location

Document Type:

CEQA:

☐

NOP

☐

Draft EIR

NEPA:

☐

NOI

Other:

☐

Joint Document

☐

Early Cons

☐

Supplement/Subsequent EIR

☐

EA

☐

Final Document

☐

Neg Dec

☐

(Prior SCH No.) _____

☐

Draft EIS

☐

Other: _____

☒

Mit Neg Dec

☐

Other: _____

☐

FONSI

Local Action Type:☐

General Plan Update

☐

Specific Plan

☐

Rezone

☐

Annexation

☐

General Plan Amendment

☐

Master Plan

☐

Prezone

☐

Redevelopment

☐

General Plan Element

☐

Planned Unit Development

☐

Use Permit

☐

Coastal Permit

☐

Community Plan

☐

Site Plan

☐

Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)

☐

Other: _____

Development Type:☐

Residential: Units _____

☐

Acres _____

☐

Office: Sq.ft. _____

☐

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐

Transportation: Type _____

☐

Commercial: Sq.ft. _____

☐

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐

Mining: Mineral _____

☐

Industrial: Sq.ft. _____

☐

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐

Power: Type Solar _____ MW0.5

☐

Educational: _____

☐

Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD

☐

Recreational: _____

☐

Hazardous Waste: Type _____

☐

Water Facilities: Type _____

☐

MGD _____

☐

Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:☐

Aesthetic/Visual

☐

Fiscal

☐

Recreation/Parks

☒

Vegetation

☐

Agricultural Land

☐

Flood Plain/Flooding

☐

Schools/Universities

☐

Water Quality

☐

Air Quality

☐

Forest Land/Fire Hazard

☐

Septic Systems

☐

Water Supply/Groundwater

☒

Archeological/Historical

☐

Geologic/Seismic

☐

Sewer Capacity

☐

Wetland/Riparian

☒

Biological Resources

☐

Minerals

☐

Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

☐

Growth Inducement

☐

Coastal Zone

☐

Noise

☐

Solid Waste

☐

Land Use

☐

Drainage/Absorption

☐

Population/Housing Balance

☐

Toxic/Hazardous

☐

Cumulative Effects

☐

Economic/Jobs

☐

Public Services/Facilities

☐

Traffic/Circulation

☐

Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Waste Water Treatment Plant, Special Plan Suburban, Residential, AG and Natural Resources, Public Agency.

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The Rio Alto Water District is proposing installation of a Photovoltaic Solar system to offset energy use for the facility. Panels will be ground-mounted in 3 locations on property currently owned by the water district.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #5R _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #1 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 7-5-18 Ending Date 9-12-18

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Skinner Water Quality</u>	Applicant: <u>Rio Alto Water District</u>
Address: <u>P.O. Box 494457</u>	Address: <u>22099 River View Drive</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Redding, Ca. 96049</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Cottonwood, Ca. 96022</u>
Contact: <u>David Skinner</u>	Phone: <u>530-347-3835</u>
Phone: <u>530-524-2633</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Date: 8/10/18

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project title: Rio Alto Water District Solar System
2. Lead agency name and address:
Rio Alto Water District 22099 River View Drive, Cottonwood, CA 96022
3. Contact person and phone number: Marth Slack
4. Project location: 22099 River View Drive, Cottonwood, CA 96022
5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Rio Alto Water District 22099 River View Drive, Cottonwood, CA 96022
6. General plan designation: Waste Water Treatment Plant 7. Zoning: Special Plan. Suburban
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
Installation of 3 ground mounted photovoltaic solar systems one at the Waste Water treatment plant
one at the office and one at well #6
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:
open land undeveloped around the Waste water treatment plant and well #6. Developed roads and Water District office for the office array
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)
Tehama County Building Department
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun? No Request Has Been Received.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Rio Alto Water District
Photovoltaic Solar Installation

Mitigated Negative Declaration

In Compliance With CEQA
Requirements

7-25-18

Mitigated Negative Declaration

Project Description

The proposed system will be ground-mounted in 3 locations on property currently owned by the water district.

The installations will consist of solar panels, situated on ground-mounted supports approximately 5-7' above existing grade. The frame and solar panels will be installed on top of the support poles. Trenching will be necessary to connect to the existing electrical systems.

Location 1: Location 1: Rio Alto Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) (APN# 009110083000)

This project area will be limited to paved or developed land with no new impacts to surrounding habitat. Work will not be conducted outside of the developed area within the WWTP.

Location 2: Rio Alto Administrative Office and Well # 5 (APN# Not Available)

This project area consists of 6-9 established oak trees that will be removed for this project. This area is mowed frequently to address fire danger. This system will be located immediately SE of the administrative facility. Trenching will be performed to connect the systems to the facility electrical systems.

Location 3: Rio Alto Well # 6 (APN# Not Available)

This system will be located immediately South of the well facility. Trenching will be performed to connect the systems to the facility electrical systems. This project area will not impact any trees during construction. The ground vegetation in the area is mowed for fire control.

Refer to Attachment A maps for system layout and overall topography.

Project Location

The proposed installation is located in Shasta County, in Lake California, Cottonwood, California.

Lat 40.354339,

Long -122.212676

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The current use of the proposed installation areas are:

Location 1: Open land undeveloped around and within the WWTP. No tree removal anticipated at this location for installation of the array.

Location 2: Developed road and administrative building. Rural residential parcels within .3 miles of proposed array installation. 6-9 trees to be removed for installation of the array.

Location 3: Open land undeveloped. No tree removal anticipated at this location for installation of the array.

Proposed Finding

The project has been evaluated for potential environmental impacts and has been deemed to have no significant impact on the environment. See the Attached Initial Study for detailed description of elements evaluated. The project will not have a significant impact on Biological or Cultural resources with mitigations incorporated, thus a Mitigated Negative Declaration is prepared.

Environmental Impact

The Rio Alto Water District solar PV system is proposed to be installed in 3 locations, on currently vacant land with low-density residential in the surrounding area, consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies, applicable zoning designation and regulations, on a project site that has no value as habitat for endangered, rare, or threatened species, and would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality or water quality. No habitat for endangered or threatened species are present within the proposed area of work.

Elements that were identified as “Less than Significant Effect with Mitigation Incorporated” include:

- 1. BIOLOGICAL (A AND D):** The project will not directly impact nesting birds because all tree and vegetation removal will be conducted outside of the bird nesting season (i.e., January 31 – September 1). In the event that the tree(s) must be removed during the breeding season (January 31 – September 1) the following mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting birds.

BIOLOGICAL: A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nest survey of all trees or other suitable nesting habitat no more than one week prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season. If an active nest more than half completed is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the Department. No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the

young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent to the Department at: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: CEQA, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA, 96001.

- 2. CULTURAL (A):** Although the results of the initial study were negative, there is always the potential to: encounter intact subsurface prehistoric and historical archaeological deposits or human remains during project construction. To ensure that accidental finds are appropriately handled, the following mitigation measure will be implemented



CULTURAL - If during construction a human burial is inadvertently discovered, construction will halt in the immediate area and the County Coroner will be contacted to determine the significance. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials. Archaeological materials can include flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, and choppers) or obsidian, chert, basalt, or quartzite tool-making debris; bone tools; culturally darkened soil (i.e., midden soil often containing heat-affected rock, ash and charcoal, shellfish remains, bones and other cultural materials); and stone-milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles and handstones). Prehistoric archaeological sites often contain human remains. Historical materials can include wood, stone, concrete, or adobe footings, walls, and other structural remains; debris-filled wells or privies; and deposits of wood, glass, ceramics, metal, and other refuse. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials or human remains and associated material.

Construction of the Rio Alto Water District solar PV system is considered a "Project" as defined by California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). Pursuant to Section 15378(a) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, (the "CEQA Guidelines"), a "Project" means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and that is (1) an activity directly undertaken by any public agency including but not limited to public works construction and related activities, clearing or grading of land, improvements to existing public structures, etc. Section 21084 of the California Public Resources Code requires Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA. The Guidelines are required to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which are exempt from the provisions of CEQA. In response to that mandate, the Secretary for Resources identified classes of projects that do not have a significant effect on the environment. Based on this determination an additional environmental impact study is not required.

Attachment A Project Maps



RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 1 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 1

 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
 APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION




RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 1 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 2

 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
--- APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION



Rio Alto Water District

RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITY AND WELL #5

 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
 APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION



RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 3 WELL #6

 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
--- APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION

Rio Alto Water District
Photovoltaic Solar Installation

Initial Impact Study

In Compliance With CEQA
Requirements

7-27-18

1.0 Project Information

This project will install 3 photovoltaic solar systems to provide for the energy uses of the Rio Alto Water District. The lead agency on this project is the Rio Alto Water District in Shasta County, Lake California, Cottonwood, California. The address of the facility is 22099 River View Drive, Cottonwood, CA 96022.

2.0 Project Description

The proposed system will be ground-mounted in 3 locations on property currently owned by the water district.

Location 1: Location 1: Rio Alto Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) (APN# 009110083000)

This project area will be limited to paved or developed land with no new impacts to surrounding habitat. Work will not be conducted outside of the developed area within the WWTP.

Location 2: Rio Alto Administrative Office and Well # 5 (APN# Not Available)

This project area consists of 6-9 established oak trees that will be removed for this project. This area is mowed frequently to address fire danger. This system will be located immediately SE of the administrative facility. Trenching will be performed to connect the systems to the facility electrical systems.

Location 3: Rio Alto Well # 6 (APN# Not Available)

This system will be located immediately South of the well facility. Trenching will be performed to connect the systems to the facility electrical systems. This project area will not impact any trees during construction. The ground vegetation in the area is mowed for fire control.

Refer to Attachment A maps for system layout and overall topography.

The installations will consist of solar panels, situated on ground-mounted supports approximately 5-7' above existing grade. The frame and solar panels will be installed on top of the support poles. Trenching will be necessary to connect to the existing electrical systems.

2.1 Project Objectives

The proposed system will provide power to the facilities to offset power use from traditional sources. This will lower overall energy impacts for the facilities and provide a sustainable energy source for the water district.

2.2 Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting

The proposed locations are situated in areas that are currently used for administration and operations of the water district. Rural residential is located within .5 miles of the administrative building location and has a well-travelled roadway adjacent to the proposed location. With the limited height of the panels, existing vegetation, and distance to residential homes, visual impacts to surrounding homes will be minimized.

The project site is currently moderately sloped with low native grasses, shrubs, and valley oak trees. Panel installation will be situated in a manner to limit the impacts to established trees and native shrubs. Approximately 6-9 native oak trees will be removed for installation of the systems.

2.3 Approval Authority

This project is under the authority and subject to approval by the Rio Alto Water District.

3.0 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This section displays each impact issue area alongside a square that may be marked to indicate that the Initial Study analysis identified an impact for the issue. The environmental factors with checked boxes are those that would be potentially affected by the project, involving at least one impact that is identified as a "Potentially Significant Impact" in the checklist analysis.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. AESTHETICS – Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES				
<p>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. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. AIR QUALITY				
<p>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:</p>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
6. 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. GREENHOUSE GASES – Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
12. NOISE – Would the project:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location those results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
17. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. – Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino*, (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors*, (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.
Revised 2016

Authority: Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21083.09

Reference: Public Resources Code sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3/ 21084.2 and 21084.3

Checklist Detail:

1. **AESTHETICS.** Would the project:

Source: 1, 2

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact: The location of the installation is within areas outside of the public view, with no scenic vista areas present.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. According to the California Department of Transportation, currently, there are no highways that are listed as scenic highway near the project area.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Less than Significant Impact: The limited tree removal does not substantially impact the site and it's surroundings. The addition of panels in the areas are consistent with the current use of the areas as commercial and waste water treatment.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less than Significant Impact. The panels will be situated in an aspect that any glare will not be directed to areas of daytime view, no substantial glare will occur during the night.

2. **AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES.** Would the project:

Source: 1, 3, 8

- 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?
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- 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))?
- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- 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 or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

a), b), c), d), e)–

No Impact. No agricultural or forest land resources are present at any of the installation locations.

3. AIR QUALITY. Would the project:
Source: 1, 4

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

a) & b) –

No Impact. The equipment and process used in tree cutting, removal, and stump grinding will produce minimal emissions and particulate matter. The amounts produced will be minor and the duration of the project will be short.

- 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)?

No Impact. No changes in air or ground activity will occur as a result of this project.

- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

No Impact. No changes in air or ground activity will occur as a result of this project.

- e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. No odors would result from tree removal other than temporary odors associated with equipment used to cut and remove trees.

4. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.**

Source: 1, 7

All project location Areas of Potential Effect (APE) were evaluated for habitat for threatened or endangered species. Evaluation of the 3 sites was completed 6-26-18, including initial review of the California Natural Diversity Database. See table 3.2.1 below for a summary of species identified as potentially within the areas of work.

- **Location 1:** Rio Alto Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) (APN# 009110083000)

This project area will be limited to paved or developed land with no new impacts to surrounding habitat. Work will not be conducted outside of the developed area within the WWTP.

There are no established vernal pools, wetlands or other habitat suitable to support amphibious or ground nesting species. Specifically, there is no habitat that will support the **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog** in or within 100 feet of the project limits.

- **Location 2:** Rio Alto Administrative Office and Well # 5 (APN# Not Available)

This project area consists of 6-9 established oak trees that will be removed for this project. The sparse trees and limited ground cover due to mowing for fire control in the area limits the viability of the area for suitable habitat. The trees to be removed do not offer suitable habitat for any listed endangered or threatened species. Specifically, the area was evaluated for habitat to support the **Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Tri-colored Blackbird, or Least Bell's Vireo.**

The ground vegetation in the area is mowed for fire control and consists of valley grasses with no established vernal pools, wetlands or other habitat suitable to support amphibious or ground nesting species. Specifically, there is no habitat that will support the **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog** in or within 100 feet from the project limits.

- **Location 3:** Rio Alto Well # 6 (APN# Not Available)

This project area will not impact any trees during construction. The ground vegetation in the area is mowed for fire control and consists of valley grasses with no established vernal pools, wetlands or other habitat suitable to support amphibious or ground nesting species. Specifically, there is no habitat that will support the **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog** in or within 100 feet from the project limits.

TABLE 3.2.1 Listed species potentially within the APE
Source (California Natural Diversity Database)

Common_Name	Fed Status	State Status	CDFWStatus
foothill yellow-legged frog	None	Candidate Threatened	SSC
golden eagle	None	None	FP ; WL
bald eagle	Delisted	Endangered	FP

osprey	None	None	WL
bank swallow	None	Threatened	-
tricolored blackbird	None	Candidate Endangered	SSC
yellow-breasted chat	None	None	SSC
yellow warbler	None	None	SSC
double-crested cormorant	None	None	WL
least Bell's vireo	Endangered	Endangered	-
steelhead - Central Valley DPS	Threatened	None	-
chinook salmon - Sacramento River winter-run ESU	Endangered	Endangered	-
valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Threatened	None	-
gray wolf	Endangered	Endangered	-
pallid bat	None	None	SSC
Townsend's big-eared bat	None	None	SSC
western red bat	None	None	SSC
western pond turtle	None	None	SSC
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	None	Endangered	-
slender Orcutt grass	Threatened	Endangered	-

CHECKLIST EVALUATION. – 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?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The project will not directly impact nesting birds because all tree and vegetation removal will be conducted outside of the bird nesting season (i.e., January 31 –September 1). In the event that the tree(s) must be removed during the breeding season (January 31 – September 1) the following mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting birds.

BIOLOGICAL: A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nest survey of all trees or other suitable nesting habitat no more than one week prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season. If an active nest more than half completed is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the Department. No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent to the Department at: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: CEQA, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA, 96001.

- 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. No native riparian trees will be removed as part of the proposed project. No other sensitive natural communities are present in the project area.

- 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?

No Impact. The proposed project will not involve the removal, filling, or hydrological interruption of federally protected wetlands.

- 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?

No Impact. The proposed project will not substantially interfere with wildlife movement or corridors. Terrestrial wildlife that currently move through the project area will continue to do so after the project is completed since the existing network of roads, buildings, and other potential movement barriers will remain unaltered from their current configuration. In addition, most of the species that likely occur in the area are generalists that are adept at moving through the current landscape. The project will not affect the ability of these species to move through the site vicinity.

The nests of native birds are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code. The project is not expected to impact nesting birds because all tree removals will be conducted outside of the bird nesting season (i.e., January 31 – September 1). In the event that the tree(s) must be removed during the breeding season (January 31 – September 1) the following mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting birds.

BIOLOGICAL: A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nest survey of all trees or other suitable nesting habitat no more than one week prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season. If an active nest more than half completed is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the Department. No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent to the Department at: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: CEQA, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA, 96001.

- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The project area is not subject to any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

- 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?

No Impact. The proposed project does not conflict with any local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans.

5. **CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

Source: 1, 10, 11

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

No Impact. The development in the area is fairly new, no observed buildings or sites within the area have been identified as potential historical resources. No California Register of Historical

Resources (California Register) listed properties are within the APE. No previous historical or archeological surveys have been conducted within the project area/APE.

- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No Impact. No recorded cultural resources or previously conducted studies are in or adjacent to the APE. The APE's ground surface has been previously disturbed with no discovery of historical or cultural resources. Adding to this, much of the APE has been upgraded over time with additional underground infrastructure work.

For these reasons, the project is not anticipated to result in either adverse effects to archaeological deposits that may qualify as historic properties under Section 106 or a significant impact to archaeological deposits that qualify as historical resources or archaeological resources under CEQA.

- c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. No paleontological resources were identified for the project site.

- d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less Than Significant Impact. Although the results of this study were negative, there is always the potential to encounter intact subsurface prehistoric and historical archaeological deposits or human remains during project construction. To ensure that accidental finds are appropriately handled, the following mitigation measure will be implemented:

CULTURAL - If during construction a human burial is inadvertently discovered, construction will halt in the immediate area and the County Coroner will be contacted to determine the significance. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials. Archaeological materials can include flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, and choppers) or obsidian, chert, basalt, or quartzite tool-making debris; bone tools; culturally darkened soil (i.e., midden soil often containing heat-affected rock, ash and charcoal, shellfish remains, bones and other cultural materials); and stone-milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles and handstones). Prehistoric archaeological sites often contain human remains. Historical materials can include wood, stone, concrete, or adobe footings, walls, and other structural remains; debris-filled wells or privies; and deposits of wood, glass, ceramics, metal, and other refuse. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials or human remains and associated material.

6. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS.** Would the project:
Source: 12, 13

- 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.)
 - ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

iv. Landslides?

No Impact. The project area is not located within an Earthquake Fault Zone; therefore, the potential for surface rupture is considered to be low. Liquefaction hazards are unlikely at the site, as it is not associated with a Seismic Hazard Zone. The site is generally level and not subject to landslides. Only tree removal is proposed and no new buildings will be built. The likelihood of topsoil erosion or the loss of top soil is unlikely. Disturbed areas will be stabilized through a combination of replanting and mechanical means.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No Impact. The trees to be removed are on level ground. Disturbed areas will be stabilized through a combination of replanting and mechanical means. No substantial erosion or loss of topsoil is anticipated.

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?

No Impact. Landslide and liquefaction potential are addressed under item a). above.

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?

No Impact. No structures will be created as part of this project.

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?

No Impact. No septic tanks or sewer systems or alternative wastewater systems are proposed for the project.

7. **GREENHOUSE GASES.** Would the project:

Sources: 4, 8

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

No Impact: The trucks and equipment used to remove the trees and stumps will consume fossil fuels. The volume of carbon dioxide generated by this project will be insignificant.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact: The trucks and equipment used to remove the trees and stumps will consume fossil fuels. The volume of carbon dioxide generated by this project will be insignificant.

The nature of the project (tree cutting, solar installation) and its scale (i.e., small size) offer little opportunity to reduce emission through project design or operational measures. There are no available alternative technologies for this work.

8. **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** Would the project:

Source: 4, 8

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

No Impact. No hazardous materials will be transported other than the fuel and oils contained in the trucks and equipment used for the project.

- 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?

No Impact. No project elements involve equipment or activities that are likely to release hazardous materials.

- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. The project will not affect any schools. There are no schools within ¼ mile of the project locations.

- 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?

No Impact. The EnviroStor Database maintained by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the GeoTracker database of the California State Water Resources Board were reviewed as a part of this initial study. No sites were identified within 4 miles of the project sites.

- 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?

No Impact. The project site is adjacent to the Lake California Airpark. However, no change in land use or occupancies will occur as a result of this project; therefore, the project will not increase the exposure of people living or working in the project area to aviation-related hazards.

- 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?

No Impact. The project site is adjacent to the Lake California Airpark. However, no change in land use or occupancies will occur as a result of this project; therefore, the project will not increase the exposure of people living or working in the project area to aviation-related hazards.

- g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. All work will occur on water district lands and will not block public roadways or otherwise interfere or impair emergency responses or evacuations.

- 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?

No Impact. All equipment used in the tree removal will have spark arrestors. No burning of the tree debris will take place. The area is currently mowed and maintained for fire control and will continue to be maintained after the project is completed. Removal of the trees will reduce the fuel load near the Administrative building, improving defensible space and reducing wildfire risk.

9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

Source: 9, 12

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

No Impact. Soil disturbance will be minimal with the installation of the support structures and trenching for the system. As necessary, erosion control measures will be implemented. No wastes will be discharged.

- 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)?

No Impact. No new wells will be drilled. Water from existing wells will be used for compaction and dust control.

- 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?

- 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?

- 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?

c), d) & e) –

No Impact. Existing drainage will not be modified and water quality will be preserved through erosion control measures.

- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

No Impact. The project is minimal in ground disturbance and use of materials that have to potential to degrade water quality.

- 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?

No Impact. The project will not create new housing.

- h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. No structures will be created that will impeded or redirect flood flows.

- 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?

No Impact. No change to drainage patterns or flood hazard will occur.

- j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. The project area is not near a large body of water, that is under risk of a seiche, tsunami or mudflow.

10. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:
Source 3, 8

- a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The limited scope of this project will not change community cohesion in this rural area.

- 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?

No Impact. The anticipated scope is consistent with the current use of the area.

- c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) does not apply to the project location.

11. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:
Source: 12

- 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?

- 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?

- a) & b)

No Impact. The project scope will not impact mineral resource availability or recovery.

12. NOISE. Would the project:
Source: 13

- 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?
- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

a) & d) –

Less than Significant. Noise associated with tree removal and stump grinding will occur for a short duration.

- a) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- b) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

b) & c) –

No Impact. Vibrations and noise associated with stump removal will occur for a short duration. Residences in the area are widely dispersed

- 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?

No Impact. The project will not change the existing land uses, therefore, the project will not increase the exposure of people to airport-related noise.

- 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?

No Impact. The project will not change the existing land uses, therefore, the project will not increase the exposure of people to airport-related noise.

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:
Source: 1, 8

- 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)?

No Impact. The scope will not construct buildings or infrastructure that induce growth.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. No housing will be affected by the project.

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. No people will be displaced due to the project.

14. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:

Source: 1, 8

- 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:

No Impact. The project is a short-term project that would not have any impact on fire, police, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

15. RECREATION. Would the project:

Source: 1, 8

- 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?

No Impact. There are no neighborhood or regional parks associated with this project. The project area is located on water district properties.

- 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?

No Impact. This project would not facilitate construction or expansion of any facilities.

16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

Source: 1, 2, 8, 9

- a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?
- b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?
- c) Result in a change in traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?
- d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?
- e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

- f) Result in inadequate parking capacity.
- g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

a), b), c), d) e), f) & g) –

No Impact. The project activities will generate less than 10 additional vehicle trips per day on rural roads which do not have congestion issues. The project will not change the level of service, traffic pattern or design of any road. There are no parking lots in the area and no transportation plans will be affected by the project.

17. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Source: 1, 10, 11

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

No Impact: No resources or locations within or immediately adjacent to the project sites are listed or have been identified as eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources. The areas where installation will occur have all been previously developed with utilities and infrastructure work occurring without discovery of historical or cultural resources within the areas.

- b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

No Impact: The areas where installation will occur have all been previously developed with utilities and infrastructure work occurring without discovery of historical or cultural resources within the areas. No substantial evidence has been identified during previous projects.

No local tribe or native American agency has previously requested notification under AB 52 from the Rio Alto Water District as a Lead Agency. No federally recognized tribes or listed historical or cultural resources have been identified within the APE. The areas where installation will occur have all been previously developed with utilities and infrastructure work occurring without discovery of historical or cultural resources within the areas.

18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

Source: 1, 8

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

- 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?
- 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?
- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
- 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?

a), b), c), d) & e) –

No Impact. The project will not involve any additional utilization of wastewater treatment plants or wastewater run-off. No drainage facilities will be needed or built. No uses with high water demand will be created.

- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

No Impact. The waste associated with this project is minimal, consisting of product packaging and common construction waste. There will be no additional impacts to local solid waste capacity or disposal needs.

- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The waste associated with this project is minimal, consisting of product packaging and common construction waste. There will be no additional impacts to local solid waste capacity or disposal needs.

19. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Would the project:

Source: 1, 8

- 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?

No Impact. The project design will have no significant impact on these resources.

- 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.)

No Impact. The effects of the activities are localized, alternative energy generation will result

from the installation, resulting in a reduction of electrical needs in the area.

- c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No Impact. No impacts to human beings are anticipated.

4.0 Source Information

1. Personal observation or knowledge of Skinner Water Quality and Lead Agency Rio Alto Water District Staff
2. Department of Transportation Scenic Highway website
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm
3. Tehema County Website
4. California Air Resources Board & Environmental Protection Agency websites
5. EnviroStor Database maintained by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control
6. FEMA flood insurance rate map 06103C0430H
7. California Department of Fish and Game. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), Biogeographic Data Branch, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento.
8. Tehema County. GENERAL PLAN 2008-2028 (Updated March 31, 2009)
9. Department of Transportation Water Quality Planning Tool
<http://svctenvims.dot.ca.gov/wqpt/wqpt.aspx>
10. National Register of Historic Places Program
<https://www.nps.gov/nr/research/>
11. California Register of Historical Resources
http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21238
12. USDA Web Soil Survey
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>
13. State of California Department of Conservation USGS fault zoning maps



5.0 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Monitoring Plan for Rio Alto Water District Solar Installation			
Mitigation Measure	Responsibility for Implementation	Method for Compliance	Timing of Compliance
<p>BIOLOGICAL: In the event that the tree(s) must be removed during the breeding season (January 31 – September 1) the following mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting birds.</p> <p><u>Mitigation Measure BIO-1:</u> A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nest survey of all trees or other suitable nesting habitat no more than one week prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season. If an active nest more than half completed is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the Department. No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent to the Department at: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: CEQA, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA, 96001.</p>	Rio Alto Water District,	<p>Tree removal outside of nesting period;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Conduct pre-construction survey and implement appropriate mitigation</p>	7 days prior to start of work
<p>CULTURAL: If during construction a human burial is inadvertently discovered, construction will halt in the immediate area and the County Coroner will be contacted to determine the significance. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials. Archaeological materials can include flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, and choppers) or obsidian, chert, basalt, or quartzite tool-making debris; bone tools; culturally darkened soil (i.e., midden soil often containing heat-affected rock, ash and charcoal, shellfish remains, bones and other cultural materials); and stone-milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles and handstones). Prehistoric archaeological sites often contain human remains. Historical materials can include wood, stone, concrete, or adobe footings, walls, and other structural remains; debris-filled wells or privies; and deposits of wood, glass, ceramics, metal, and other refuse. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials or human remains and associated material.</p>	Rio Alto Water District	Include mitigation in bid specifications	Preparation of bid specifications

Attachment A Project Maps



RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 1 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 1

 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
 APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION



RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 1 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 2

 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
--- APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION



Rio Alto Water District

RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITY AND WELL #5

□ APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
--- APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION



RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION 3 WELL #6

 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PANELS
--- APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATION

RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 01-19

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT, TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Rio Alto Water District ("District") has proposed a project to install three solar power systems adjacent to the Rio Alto Water District Office, Well # 5, and the Waste Water Treatment Plant respectively; and

WHEREAS, the District, through its consultant Skinner Water Quality, prepared an initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Directors ("Board") has reviewed and considered the proposed initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered any and all comments received during the public review process; and

WHEREAS, all mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be incorporated into the Project to reduce the potentially significant environmental effect of the Project to a less than significant level will be implemented by the District; and

RESOLVED, the Rio Alto Water District Board of Directors finds on the basis of the whole record before it, including the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment because the mitigation measures described in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration have been made part of the Project description and agreed to by the District.

RESOLVED, the Board finds that the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration reflect the independent judgement and analysis of the District as lead agency for the project.

RESOLVED, the Board approves and adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project, and directs District staff in carrying out the Project, to implement and comply with the Mitigation Measures, which are described and referenced in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

RESOLVED, the custodian of the documents comprising the record of proceedings is the District Manager, or his/her designee, of the Rio Alto Water District, whose office is located at 22099 River View Drive, Cottonwood, Ca. 96022.

Passed and Adopted by the Rio Alto Water District Board of Directors at a Special Meeting
Held on March 5, 2019 by the following vote:

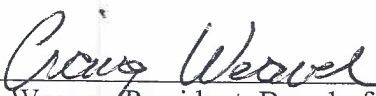
AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINING:

ABSENT:

Signed and approved by me after its passage this 5th day of March 2019.



Craig Weaver, President, Board of Directors

Attest: 

Martha Slack, General Manager

RESOLUTION NO: 2019-0410-8

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION - RE: RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Rio Alto Water District (hereafter "District") has requested funding for the "Rio Alto Water District Solar Photovoltaic System Project" (hereafter, "Project"), a project for solar photovoltaic system installations at three District-owned sites, as more fully set forth in proposed Agreement 004-18-ECD (hereafter, "004-18-ECD"); and

WHEREAS, District is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (hereafter, "CEQA") (Pub. Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15000 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, District prepared an Initial Study to determine the possible environmental impacts of the Project; and on the basis of the Initial Study, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (hereafter, "MND"); and

WHEREAS, District considered the Initial Study, MND and other related documents in the record before it, and on March 5, 2019 approved and adopted the MND; and

WHEREAS, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (hereafter, "Energy Commission") is a responsible agency and must therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, sections 15091 and 15096, subdivision (h), make certain findings prior to approval of 004-18-ECD; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Commission has reviewed and considered the Initial Study and MND and other related documents in the record before it; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Commission has no information indicating that the environmental documentation is inadequate, and has used its own independent judgment to consider the Initial Study and MND and other related documents in the record before it in deciding whether to approve 004-18-ECD.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, District has previously adopted certain mitigation measures recommended in the MND and has authority to implement the mitigation measures, or to seek any required approvals for the mitigation measures, and such measures are within the responsibility of District and that the Energy Commission finds, on the basis of the entire record before it, that the mitigation measures incorporated in the MND and mitigation measures different from, and in addition to those incorporated in the MND will collectively eliminate or mitigate the environmental impacts of the proposed project to less than significant levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Energy Commission has identified additional potentially significant impacts to biological resources and cultural resources and has also identified feasible mitigation measures different from, and in addition to, those analyzed in the Initial Study and MND within the Energy Commission's powers that would substantially lessen these potential effects to biological resources and cultural resources; these mitigation measures are: the execution by a qualified biologist of at least two pre-construction surveys for nesting birds if any construction activities will take place during the nesting season of native or migratory bird species potentially nesting within 500 feet of project work; placement of construction fencing around oak trees that are not removed to protect the trees from ground disturbance and root damage; contact of a qualified archaeologist if archaeological material is discovered during construction and the County Coroner if a human burial is discovered during construction; and implementation of a worker environmental awareness program for cultural resources discoveries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mitigation measures different from, and in addition to those incorporated in the MND will be implemented by District, and the disbursement of loan funds is conditioned on the Energy Commission's review and approval of District's implementation of these mitigation measures, as more fully set forth in 004-18-ECD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Energy Commission approves Agreement 004-18-ECD with Rio Alto Water District for \$1,590,800; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or his/her designee shall execute the same on behalf of the Energy Commission.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on April 10, 2019.

AYE: [List of Commissioners]

NAY: [List of Commissioners]

ABSENT: [List of Commissioners]

ABSTAIN: [List of Commissioners]

Cody Goldthrite,
Secretariat