

**RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1601
TWITCHELL ISLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022
9:00 AM
ENGINEER'S REPORT**

I. AB 360 DELTA LEVEE SUBVENTIONS PROGRAM

- A. Review levee seepage at Levee Station 610+00. District personnel along with ASTA Construction implemented a small repair and investigation of the leak on Friday, September 16th. Review the results of this effort and discuss the necessity to expand this repair further if necessary.

EXHIBIT A: KSN Inc. Daily Field Report Photos Levee Station 610+42 to 611+56 (124 ft.) 8-10 feet to competent clay soil.

II. AB 360 DELTA LEVEE SUBVENTIONS PROGRAM

- A. Review status of Department of Water Resources Special Projects PSP.

III. DISTRICTS SOLAR PROJECT

- A. Review the Environmental (CEQA) analysis from Base Camp Environmental.

EXHIBIT B: Notice of Exemption (NOE) and Project Narrative for CEQA analysis from Base Camp Environmental.

IV. DISTRICTS DRAINAGE PUMP STATIONS

- A. Review status of operations with the recently replaced Pump No 2.

Exhibit A





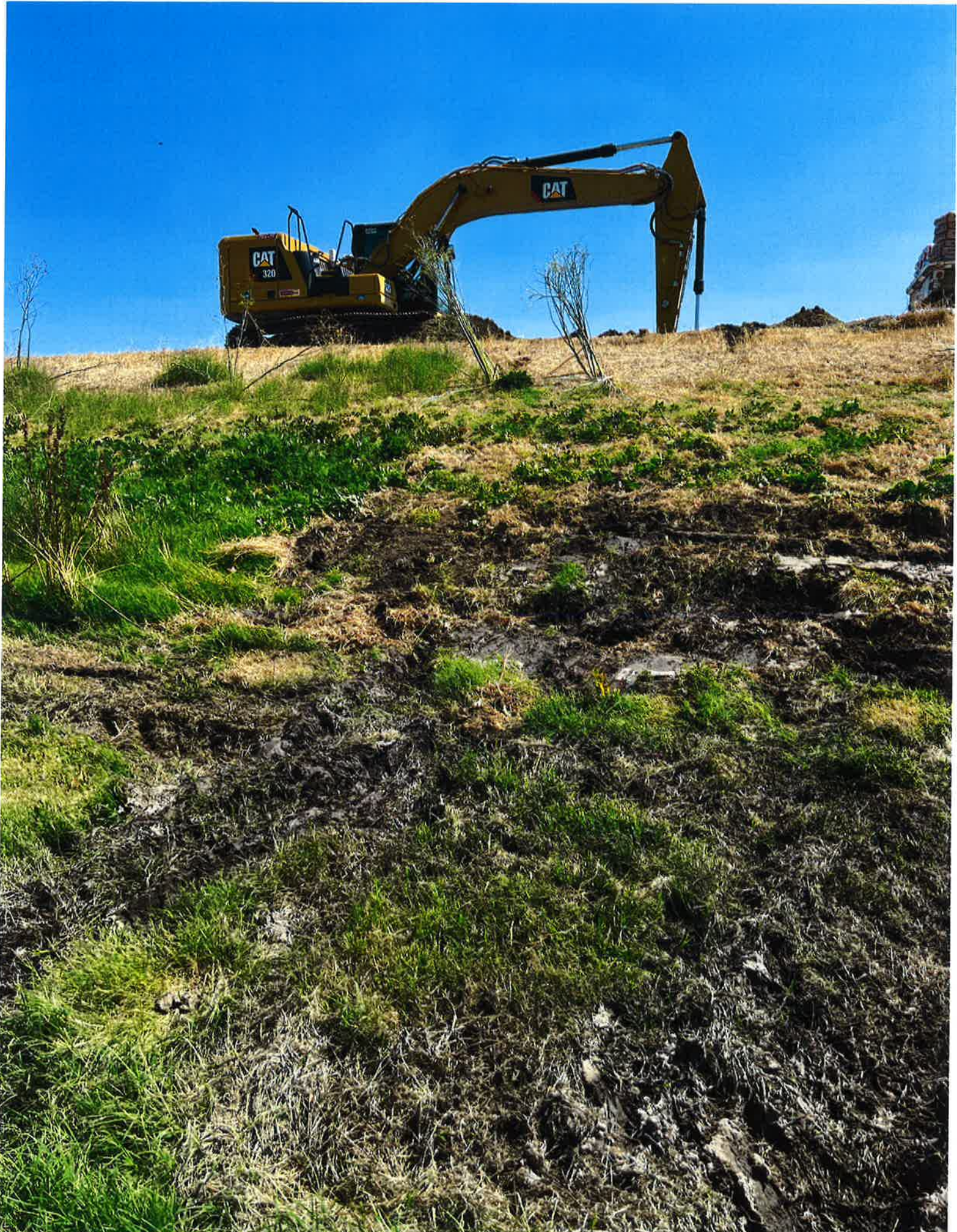






Exhibit B

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street #222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Fax 916-324-9936

From: Reclamation District 1601
2360 Twitchell Island Road
Rio Vista, CA 94571

County Clerk
County of Sacramento
8239 E Stockton Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95828

Project Title: Reclamation District 1601, Twitchell Island Solar Project

Project Location – Specific: 38° 5'48.78"N 121°39'6.33"W Twitchell Island Ferry Rd. Rio Vista, Ca.

Project Location – City: Unincorporated area near the City of Rio Vista

Project Location – County: Sacramento County

Description of Nature, Purposes and Beneficiaries of the Project:

Reclamation District 1601 proposes the installation of a 365.4 kW solar energy system on Twitchell Island near the south end of Twitchell Island Ferry Road. The project would involve 4 carport-style solar panels installed on an existing farm equipment parking area. Power generated would be exported to an existing power distribution system at the nearby drainage pump station in 3"- 4" buried conduit.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Sacramento

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Reclamation District 1601

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: 21080.35 (14 Cal. Code of Regs. §21080.35)

Reasons why project is exempt:

Reclamation District 1601 proposes the installation of a 365.4 kW solar energy system on Twitchell Island near the south end of Twitchell Island Ferry Road. The project would involve 4 carport-style solar panels installed on an existing farm equipment parking area. Power generated would be exported to an existing power distribution system at the pump station in 3"- 4" buried conduit.

The project is not consistent with the criteria for statutory exemptions set forth in Article 18. The project appears to comply with the criteria for use of Categorical Exemption Class 4, Minor Alterations of Land. The proposed solar array would be mounted on pedestals; therefore, the project would involve incidental grading of land with a slope of less than 10%. The solar array equipment would not involve more than 500

square feet of ground surface. The site not within a waterway or wetland, a designated scenic area or a designated fault or geologic hazard area.

The project would not result in significant effects related to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality as documented in Attachment A and Appendices.

The project was also examined as to its potential for significant environmental effects in the issue areas covered in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist. The project does not have potential for significant effects in any of these issue areas.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

E-Mail:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: N/A

ATTACHMENT A

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1601 SOLAR PROJECT

PROJECT NARRATIVE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR CEQA EXEMPTION

This attachment documents the Reclamation District 1601 analysis and determination that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project considered in this analysis is described in Section 2.0.

1.0 CEQA EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

A "project" as defined by CEQA, including actions undertaken, permitted, or financed by a State or local agency, requires "environmental review" which is the agency's consideration of the project's potential for significant environmental effects prior to approval. Environmental review considers the project's type and size, its environmental setting, and the resulting potential for environmental effects.

Certain projects require some consideration under CEQA but may qualify for an exemption from further CEQA review. A project may be considered exempt from CEQA if it is consistent with certain project types described by statute (Statutory Exemption), or it is consistent with more general classes of projects defined in the CEQA Guidelines (Categorical Exemption). A project may also qualify for a general rule or "common sense" exemption if the project lacks any potential to result in significant environmental effects. If a project cannot be considered exempt, more detailed analysis is required in an Initial Study or an Environmental Impact Report.

2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

Reclamation District 1601 proposes the installation of a 365.4 kW solar energy system on Twitchell Island near the south end of Twitchell Island Ferry Road. The project would involve 4 carport-style solar panels installed on an existing farm equipment parking area. Power generated would be exported to an existing power distribution system at the pump station in 3" - 4" buried conduit.

3.0 APPLICABILITY OF CEQA EXEMPTIONS TO THE PROJECT

The proposed project was reviewed with respect to each of the potential statutory exemptions defined in CEQA Guidelines Article 18 - Statutory Exemptions, and to the categorical exemption classes defined in CEQA Guidelines Article 19 - Categorical Exemptions.

The project is not consistent with the criteria for statutory exemptions set forth in Article 18. The project appears to comply with the criteria for use of Categorical Exemption Class 4, Minor Alterations of Land. The proposed solar array would be mounted on pedestals; therefore, the project would involve incidental grading of land with a slope of less than 10%. The site not within a waterway or wetland, a designated scenic area or a designated fault or geologic hazard area.

4.0 POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The potential applicability of a CEQA exemption to a project may in certain cases be limited by the project's potential to result in significant environmental effects. For the sake of full disclosure, the following sections review the potential for the project to result in significant environmental effects in the

various issue areas addressed in the CEQA Environmental Checklist. If there are “unusual circumstances” associated with any of the environmental issues discussed, they are noted.

Aesthetics

The project involves the construction of a carport-style solar array over a vacant area used for various agricultural support purposes. The project would not affect any existing scenic vistas, and the site is not visible from nearby recreational waterways. The project would not result in significant adverse aesthetic changes.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The proposed project would involve minor grading and would not cause permanent conversion, either directly or indirectly, of any prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance. There is no forest land on the project site or in the vicinity, so no conversion of forest land would occur. The project would have no impact on agriculture or forestry resources.

Air Quality

Project construction would generate limited air pollutant emissions, mainly through the transport and movement of materials and workers during construction. The project would not involve any substantial grading or soil disturbance. The project is required to comply the material transport provision of the California Vehicle Code, which would reduce dust emissions to an insignificant level. Operation of construction equipment would not involve significant long-term emissions and would cease once work is completed. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) has established screening levels for projects to determine if a project may not exceed the SMAQMD significance thresholds for construction or operational emissions. In general, for construction emissions, a project involving less than 35 acres of construction would not exceed SMAQMD construction emission thresholds unless it has certain features, none of which appear to be associated with this project. As the project is a solar array, it would have virtually no operational emissions.

Moreover, anticipated project traffic would not substantially exceed traffic generated by the previous land use on the project site and any increase in traffic would cease after completion of construction. The project would have no significant impact on air quality.

Biological Resources

The project site is a small recently graded area currently and historically used for agricultural support purposes. The National Wetland Inventory does not indicate the presence of wetlands on the site. The project would have no effect on biological resources.

Cultural Resources

Project construction work would not involve any substantial excavation or other ground disturbance; therefore, such work would have no substantial potential to unearth buried and/or previously undiscovered cultural resources. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

Energy

Project construction would comply with the applicable provisions of building codes adopted by Sacramento County at the time of project approval. This includes the California Energy Code and the California Green Building Standards Code, both of which contain energy efficiency provisions. Project construction work would be similar in character to other small solar project work; as such, solar construction is not expected to result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. The project would have no impact on energy consumption or energy efficiency plans.

Geology and Soils

The project would involve no new exposure to seismic or geologic hazards such as ground shaking, liquefaction, or unstable soils. There are no active or potentially active faults in the project vicinity. Project construction would comply with the adopted California Building Code, which contains seismic safety provisions.

Project construction would not involve substantial disturbance of soils, so there would be no impact related to soil erosion. Project construction work does not propose any excavation or other ground disturbance; therefore, such work would not unearth buried and/or previously undiscovered paleontological resources. The project would have no impact on geology and soils issues.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Project construction would generate a limited amount of greenhouse gas emissions during construction, which would cease once project work is completed. The project would have no significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The project site currently has no existing land use that involves any substantial use or storage of hazardous materials. The project would not involve substantial use or storage of hazardous materials. No hazardous material sites or areas of contamination have been recorded on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site by federal or State databases. The project site is not near any public use airports; the nearest is Rio Vista Municipal Airport more than 5 miles to the northwest. As the project site is in a developed farmland area, it is not subject to wildland fires. The project would have no impact on hazards and hazardous materials.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The project site is within a zone AE area designated within a 100-year floodplain by FEMA with a 28-foot floodplain elevation. The proposed solar array will be constructed above the existing ground above the FEMA 100-year floodplain. The project would have no impact on hydrology or water quality.

Land Use and Planning

The project site and vicinity are within the land use and planning jurisdiction of the County of Sacramento. The project is consistent with the existing Sacramento County General Plan land use designation of Agricultural/General (A/G), and it is consistent with existing zoning. In addition, the project site is already graded and used for vehicle parking; therefore, only minor alterations to an existing parking area are proposed. As such, the project is not expected to generate conflicts with policies in the County's General Plan intended to mitigate environmental effects. The project will not substantially impact or alter any land uses, nor would it conflict with relevant planning documents.

Mineral Resources

There are no known mineral resources associated with the project site, nor are there any mining or mineral resource extraction activities in the vicinity. The Division of Mines and Geology's Mineral Classification Map indicates the Twitchell Island area, including the project site, does not contain potentially valuable mineral resources. The project would have no impact on mineral resources.

Noise

The existing noise environment in the project area is primarily defined by occasional agriculture-oriented traffic on South Twitchell Island Road.

During the construction phases of the project, noise from construction activities would add to the noise environment in the immediate project vicinity. At the distance between the project and potentially noise-sensitive land uses, no significant noise effects are expected.

Population and Housing

The project would not construct housing, demolish housing, or otherwise affect the housing stock in Sacramento County. The proposed project would have no impact on population or housing.

Public Services

The project would involve no substantial demands for police, fire, schools or recreation services. There are no existing service facilities in the project vicinity.

Transportation

Project construction would involve small increases in local traffic on the lightly used roads serving the project vicinity during the construction period. Operational traffic would not substantially exceed traffic generated by the previous land use on the project site.

Tribal Cultural Resources

AB 52 requires consultation on projects with tribes that request consultation. However, this applies only to a project for which a Negative Declaration, a Mitigated Negative Declaration, or a Draft EIR is released. As the project does is considered statutorily exempt from CEQA, no AB 52 consultation is required. The project would have no impact on tribal cultural resources.

Utilities and Service Systems

The project does not require water, sewer, and storm drainage facilities. The project will augment existing electrical supply to the nearby drainage pump station.

Wildfire

As noted in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section above, the project site is in a developed farmland area; therefore, it is not subject to wildland fires. Because of this, the project would not be subject to other hazards associated with wildfires, such as pollutant concentrations, post-fire slope instability, and drainage changes. The project would have no impact related to wildfires.

Conclusion

As discussed in the above analysis, the project would not result in a significant effect on the environment and would not require any mitigation measures. As to the specific exceptions to applicability of a categorical exemption, the above analysis indicates that the project:

Would not impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(a)).

Does not involve potential for significant cumulative impacts in conjunction with successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(b)).

Does not involve any potential for significant effects under "unusual circumstances" as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(c)).

Would not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(d)).

Is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(e)).

Has no potential to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(f)).