

**Agency: North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Drought Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13
Self-Certification Form**

BACKGROUND: *Consistent with the March 28, 2022 Drought Executive Order N-7-22 Action 13, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) developed this self-certification form to allow local agencies to submit their proposed recharge projects to DWR and that the project is eligible for the CEQA suspension. After reviewing the information submitted via this self-certification form, DWR will review and may concur. A list of activities eligible for the CEQA suspension is maintained on DWR's website at: <https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought>.*

INSTRUCTIONS: *Entities carrying out a proposed recharge project that may meet the objectives of Executive Order N-7-22 Action 13 should complete this self-certification form as soon as possible to initiate DWR's review and potential concurrence that the project is eligible for the CEQA suspension. Please submit one self-certification form for each individual project. For questions, please email SGMPS@water.ca.gov.*

- 1. Please provide a short description of the proposed recharge project in which you are seeking a CEQA suspension, demonstrating how it is consistent with Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13 (include historical land use and current land use on the proposed project location):**

The project includes the development of on-farm Flood MAR and small groundwater recharge sites, and recharge activity along existing North San Joaquin Water Conservation District water delivery systems. Proposed sites include Tecklenburg Recharge Site, Reynolds Paddleton Ranch Recharge Site, Lakso Recharge Site, Costa/Manassero Recharge site, and additional sites as identified through operations in 2023-2025. See attached chart with details for each recharge site location.

- 2. Please describe the anticipated benefits and the basis of those benefits from implementing the proposed recharge project (in acre-feet/year or estimated volume of water, if possible):**

Recharge rates along these systems range from 1-4 af/ac/day. District will select up to 200 acres of sites for recharge using District's existing Permit 10477 Mokelumne River right which includes an underground storage supplement to store up to 17,000 afa. District also working on a temporary application to allow diversions to recharge to occur in November 2023 if high water conditions (including Delta in excess condition) persist.

- 3. Please identify the category this proposed recharge project would fall under (multiple answer can be selected):**

Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge. (selected option).

DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program. (selected option).

Other: In Lieu Recharge.

- 4. Please identify which of the objectives the proposed recharge project meets as described in the Executive Order (multiple answers can be selected):**

Projects is on Open Lands (which are those lands that are native or largely undeveloped from agricultural or industrial practices. These lands could include flood bypasses, natural areas, wildlife preserves, or existing managed wetlands.)

Project is on Working Lands (which are those lands that have been previously developed for agricultural or other industrial practices. These lands could include active or fallowed agricultural lands, gravel and sand operations, open storage fields, or other similar working lands.) (selected option).

5. Please describe how the proposed recharge project meets the following objectives as described in the Executive Order:

Project will help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by the drought (To mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought, projects should include the replenishment of groundwater resources to the subsurface, especially shallow aquifers, for the purpose of storage, temporary or otherwise. Drought impacts to groundwater conditions would include lowering of groundwater levels that may have occurred due to lack of natural recharge or groundwater pumping that may especially impact shallow aquifers.) (selected option).

6. What funding sources are supporting the proposed recharge project? (Please list all local, state, federal, private or public funding sources):

Local: NSJWCD general funds and funds from new groundwater charge to fund SGMA activities.

State: SGMA Round 1 Grant (North System), IRWM Grant (South System).

7. Please provide the estimated project start date:

3/1/2023.

8. Please provide the estimated project end date or date project can be considered operational:

Question unclear. Projects operational in different stages between March 2023 and April 2024. Projects will continue to operate to recharge water so long as water is available and diversions are allowed under applicable water rights, including in future years.

9. Please identify if the proposed recharge project requires a new water right permit to be issued by the State Water Board under their Groundwater Storage Water Rights Permitting process. If an existing water right is being used, please provide the permit number under the 'Other' category (For more information, visit:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/groundwater_recharge/):

No new water right is needed; already have existing water rights or agreements for this proposed recharge project. (Selected option).

Need a temporary water right for this recharge project (180 days). (selected option).

Need a temporary water right for this recharge project (1 to 5 years).

Need a streamlined permit for a standard water right.

Need a standard water right for this recharge project.

Other. Temporary water right needed for new temporary permit only. (selected option).

10. When do you anticipate your proposed recharge project will be ready for construction phase (i.e. shovel ready)?

Varies between sites from 3/1/23 to 12/1/23.

11. Are there other permitting requirements necessary to carry out the proposed recharge project. If so, please describe.

Possible grading permit for basin sites. None for on-farm flooding.

12. Please describe if there are any anticipated water quality or other environmental impacts associated with the proposed recharge project (if so, please describe the mitigation measures that will be taken to remedy or offset those impacts):

None.

13. Please provide the name of the Local Agency implementing the proposed recharge project:

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District.

14. Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact First and Last Name:

Jennifer Spaletta.

15. Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact Email and Phone Number:

jennifer@spalettalaw.com, (209) 224-5568.

16. Please identify the groundwater basin in which the proposed recharge project will be located. If possible, please provide the proposed project location coordinates (latitude, longitude). (For more information, visit:

<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>):

Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin at various sites north and south of Mokelumne River.

17. Please provide the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or Alternative to a GSP that the proposed recharge project is associated:

GSA: North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA.

GSP: Eastern San Joaquin GSP.

18. Please provide any additional information you would like to include in your Self-Certification Form:

District is actively working with multiple landowners to maximize site availability.

In signing this self-certification form, I understand that the Department of Water Resources will rely on this signed certification form to determine if a concurrence with the Drought Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13 is granted for the project described and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this self-certification form may result in the invalidation of the CEQA suspension.

Furthermore, I understand that by receiving concurrence from the Department of Water Resources concerning eligibility for the CEQA suspension outlined in EO N-7-22, DWR makes no claims, promises, or guarantees about the project feasibility, benefits claimed from the completed project, adequacy of the project, potential environmental impacts of the construction activities or completed project, and expressly disclaims liability for project performance, environmental impacts during and after construction, project construction disturbances, unmitigated environmental impacts post-construction, or project failures.

Original document signed by Jennifer Spaletta on 7/26/2023

Name of Authorized Representative

Signature

Date

Title

Agency

NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
GROUNDWATER RECHARGE ACTIVITIES
EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 REQUEST FOR DWR CONCURRENCE RE CEQA SUSPENSION
All diversions from the Mokelumne River

Project	Project Type	Water Right	Point of Diversion	Conveyance	Land for Recharge	Location (Lat/Longs or crossroads)	Notes	Anticipated/Estimated Recharge Benefit (AFY or volume of water)
Miller Recharge Project	FloodMAR	Permit 10477. Diversions to underground storage	Existing South pump station. Authorized POD under Permit 10477.	Existing South System conveyance pipe and ditch system. Rented 900 gpm temp. diesel pump to get water from ditch to recharge field.	8 ac parcel in Permit 10477 authorized place of use. Historically farmed orchard, trees recently removed, awaiting replanting decisions.	38.1324257, -121.1680281	Groundwork to disc field and create berm around edges. Fill with water approx. 6-12 inches deep every other day and allow to percolate.	100 afa
Tecklenburg Recharge Project	FloodMAR	Permit 10477. Diversions to underground storage	Existing South pump station. Authorized POD under Permit 10477.	Existing South System conveyance pipe. Adding new 24-inch lateral pipe, vents and meter down existing dirt farm road to get water from existing pipeline to recharge field.	10 ac parcel in Permit 10477 authorized place of use. Historically farmed but currently fallow. Very sandy soils. Used for pilot recharge project in past.	38.1177016, -121.2153952	Groundwork to create berm around edges. Fill with water approx. 1-2 feet deep and allow to percolate. Repeat so long as water is available.	3000 afa

Reynolds Recharge Project	SGMGrant	Permit 10477. Diversions to underground storage	Existing North pump station. Authorized POD under Permit 10477. Existing pump inoperable and part of SGMA grant to update. Installed temporary floating pump with screen at same location.	Existing North System conveyance pipe. Adding new 14-inch lateral pipe, vents and meter down existing dirt farm road to get water from existing pipeline to recharge field.	Up to 80 ac in Permit 10477 authorized place of use. Historically farmed vineyard. Vineyard abandoned and half dead. Very sandy soils.	38.1624047, -121.1786471	Groundwork to create berm around edges. Fill rows with water approx. 6-inch feet deep and allow to percolate. Repeat so long as water is available.	2000 afa
Lakso Recharge Project	SGM Grant	Permit 10477. Diversions to underground storage	At existing North pump station. Authorized POD under Permit 10477. Existing pump inoperable and part of SGMA grant to update. Installed temporary floating pump with screen at same location.	Existing North System conveyance pipe. Adding new lateral pipe, vents and meter down existing dirt farm road to get water from existing pipeline to recharge field.	Up to 40 ac in Permit 10477 authorized place of use. Currently farmed vineyard. Very sandy soils.	38.1705907, -121.1807761	Groundwork to create berm around edges. Fill rows with water approx. 6-inch feet deep and allow to percolate during non-growing season (post-harvest, Oct-Feb). Repeat so long as water is available.	1500 afa
North System Phase I pipeline replacement	SGM Grant	Permit 10477 Diversions to underground storage and for irrigation use	Same as above	Replace 0.5 miles existing North System concrete pipe (currently inoperable) with new HDPE pipe and turnouts for laterals to supply irrigation	Up to 300 ac in Permit 10477 authorized place of use. Currently farmed vineyard and orchard. Very sandy soils	38.17551 , -121.18368 W	Construction in existing district rights of way or existing roads to remove old pipe and install new pipe.	600 afa

				water to 300 acres of land for in-lieu recharge and Flood MAR water to another 80 acres for direct recharge				
Locke Basin Recharge Project	Flood MAR	Permit 10477. Diversions to underground storage	Existing Locke pump station (with fish screen). Not an Authorized POD under Permit 10477, but associated with S000302	Existing conveyance pipe. Added temporary pipe to end to get water to existing basin.	Existing 1.5 ac. Storm basin owned by San Joaquin County. In close proximity to wells used to supply local community of Lockeford (DAC)	38.1659602, -121.1548234	Diverted water to basin and allowed to percolate to groundwater recharge.	50 afa
Expanded South System Flood MAR	Flood MAR	Permit 10477. Diversions to underground storage	Existing South pump station. Authorized POD under Permit 10477.	Existing South System conveyance pipe. Add laterals or temp. lay flat pipe to direct water to recharge fields. All construction in disturbed farmland or existing roadways.	Existing vineyards in authorized place of use that agree to Flood MAR post-harvest. Not all fields identified at this time.	38.12329 , -121.20585 38.12305 , -121.21982	Groundwork to create berm around edges. Fill with water approx. 6 inch deep and allow to percolate. Repeat so long as water is available.	3000 afa
Expanded Cal Fed System Flood MAR	Flood MAR	Permit 10477. Diversions to underground storage	Existing Cal-Fed pump station. Authorized POD under Permit 10477.	Existing conveyance pipe. Add laterals or temp. lay flat pipe to direct water to recharge fields. All construction in disturbed farmland or existing roadways.	Existing vineyards in authorized place of use that agree to Flood MAR post-harvest. Not all fields identified at this time.	38.1563567, -121.2160171	Groundwork to create berm around edges. Fill with water approx. 6 inch deep and allow to percolate. Repeat so long as water is available.	1000 afa

Additional Flood MAR locations near river	Flood MAR	Permit 10477 Diversions to underground storage	New temporary/mobile pumps with screens placed in river between Camanche dam and Woodbridge ID dam	Temporary connections as needed to connect into existing flood irrigation seasons of adjacent farmland	Farmland with good soils for recharge	38.1688005, -121.1674229	Divert water to farmland for Flood MAR during non-growing season when water available	1000 afa
Temporary Application to divert high flows	Both	To cover season of diversion in November that is outside Permit 10477	All of the above	All of the above	All of the above	38.1463861, -121.2070433	Work on submittal of temporary permit application to allow all of these projects to operate in November if Delta is in excess and there are still high flows in river (which is expected)	1000 afa