

Agency: Alta Irrigation 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 proposed Project entails the construction of an approximately 40.5-acre dedicated recharge facility in Tulare County (APN 043-010-037) and the East Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Water will be delivered to the site from the adjacent Alta Irrigation District's (Alta ID) Traver Canal using Alta ID supplies which would primarily include Kings River floodwater. The site has historically been working lands and currently farmed for stone fruit. Low lying embankments less than 6-feet in height will be constructed from on-site soils for multiple recharge cells. The Project will help mitigate groundwater overdraft conditions impacted by drought and help the GSA achieve groundwater sustainability. As was realized in 2023, the Project will allow an additional diversion of 13 cfs from the Kings River during flood events, contributing to a lessening in flood damage within Tulare Lake. This Project is consistent with SWR and State actions in 2023 to help to lessen the flooding impacts in the local region as well as Tulare Lake and along the San Joaquin River.

- 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):**

Based on recent geotechnical borings and the operation of the nearby Traver Basin (just south of the Project), the site is expected to recharge ~0.75 feet per day over a recharge area of approximately 35 acres, or 26 acre-feet (AF) per day (0.75 feet/day x 35 acres = 26.25 AF/day) when operating. Floodwater on the Kings River is available about once every three years (every 2.6 years) for an average duration of approximately 100 days, which is equivalent to an average annual duration of approximately 38 days (for the 67 years of data from 1955/56 to 2022/23). Therefore, the Project is anticipated to have an average annual benefit of approximately 1,000 AF per year (38 days x 26.25 AF/day = 997 AF), or 2,625 AF during an average flood release (100 days x 26.25 AF/day = 2,625 AF). The Project will help replenish the aquifer for the benefit of the GSA as well as the disadvantaged community of Traver which is about one mile south of the

Project. As the most upstream diverter on the Kings River, the Project will help provide flood protection benefits to all users downstream.

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

- Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge. (selected option)*
- DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program.*
- Other.*

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).

Alta ID is currently self-funding the Project but is considering applying for a California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) Infrastructure State Revolving Fund Program (ISRF) loan.

7. Please provide the estimated project start date:

July 1, 2024

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

March 1, 2025

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).
- 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. Kings River Water Association Licenses 11517-11522 (selected option)

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

December 1, 2024

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

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and a Dust Control Plan (DCP) will be prepared for construction compliance.

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):

There are no anticipated water quality or other environmental impacts associated with the proposed Project. The land has been regularly maintained and certified for organic farming. The construction specifications will include standard measures to limit dust, spills from construction equipment, and movement of sediments.

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

Alta Irrigation District

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

Brian Ehlers, Consulting Engineer

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

behlers@ppeng.com / (559) 449-2700

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>):

Kings Subbasin, Latitude: 36.474755, Longitude: -119.477020

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:

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

Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Plan, revised and adopted on July 5, 2022.

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 Brian Ehlers on 6/25/2024

Name of Authorized Representative	Signature	Date
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Title	Agency
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