

Appendix M – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Table M-1: Summary Comparison of Impacts of Alternatives and Mitigation Measures

Impact Statement	Mitigation Measure (Exact Text)	Party Responsible for Implementation and Reporting	Review and Approval by:	Monitoring and Reporting Action	Implementation Schedule -Design -Pre-construction -Construction -Operation	Verification: Status/Date Completed/ Initials
Biological Resources						
BIO-5: Effects on Biological Resources due to Construction of the River Ranch Recharge Basin	<p>BIO-5a: Pre-construction Surveys and Biological Monitoring (Alternative 2). Ground disturbance associated with construction of the proposed River Ranch Recharge Basin shall be set back a minimum of 750 feet from the Fresno Slough, and construction activities shall only occur between May 1st and October 1st, within the active season for the garter snake. Surveys prior to initiation of construction-related activities shall be undertaken on the site of the proposed River Ranch Recharge Basin to determine the presence/ absence of the following species according to accepted agency protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burrowing owl • Swainson's hawk • Giant garter snake • Western pond turtle • American badger • San Joaquin kit fox • Special-status bats <p>Surveys shall cover areas of suitable habitat as defined in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Appendix H). In the event that special-status species are identified within the proposed basin site, the following would occur: 1) the appropriate agencies shall be notified; 2) the construction site shall be monitored by a qualified biologist who oversees all construction activities affecting sensitive habitat; 3) the site shall be relocated, if necessary; and/or 4) non-disturbance buffers shall be implemented. Pre-construction surveys shall conform to the appropriate CDFW- and/or USFWS-approved survey and monitoring protocols and guidelines for protection of threatened and endangered species, including but not limited to the <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance</i>. To the maximum extent feasible, the removal of trees and other potential nest or roost sites shall occur outside of the avian breeding season (i.e., February through August) and bat maternal roost seasons (i.e., March through August). Contractor education regarding sensitive species that have the potential to occur on and adjacent to the site shall also be conducted.</p>	Mendota Pool Group	County of Fresno, Westlands, USFWS, CDFW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm the location of River Ranch Recharge Basin is setback a minimum of 750 feet from the Fresno Slough. 2. Verify completion of pre-construction surveys. 3. Verify completion of contractor education/trainings on sensitive species within the area. 4. Monitor construction activities to verify construction occurs within the active season for the garter snake and, to the extent feasible, avoidance of avian breeding and bat material roost seasons. 5. Monitor construction activities to verify that measures are implemented as needed during construction. <p>Document compliance and retain in project file.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design 2. Pre-construction 3. Construction 4. Construction 5. Construction 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
	<p>BIO-5b (Alternative 2). Maintenance activities (e.g., tilling and deep ripping of the basin) for the River Ranch Recharge Basin shall only occur between May 1st and October 1st, within the active season for the giant garter snake. Prior to initiation of maintenance tilling and deep ripping, MPG shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct surveys for the giant garter snake. If a giant garter snake is found, all work that could affect the snake(s) shall cease, and USFWS shall be notified within 24 hours.</p>	Mendota Pool Group	Reclamation, Westlands, USFWS, CDFW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verify completion of pre-maintenance surveys. 2. Verify completion of maintenance activities within the active season for the garter snake. 3. Monitor maintenance activities to verify that measures are implemented as needed during maintenance. <p>Document compliance and retain in project file.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operation 2. Operation 3. Operation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Archaeological, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources						
CR-2: Effects on an Archaeological Resource	<p>CR-1: Halt Construction and Evaluate Cultural Resource (Proposed Action and Alternative 2). If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, then all work must halt within a 50-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural</p>	Mendota Pool Group	County of Fresno, Reclamation, Westlands, NAHC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm the contract documents include measures requiring appropriate handling of inadvertent discoveries. 2. Confirm that on-call archaeologist has been retained. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design 2. Pre-construction 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____

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	<p>resource, then work may resume immediately and no agency notifications are required. If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, they shall immediately notify Reclamation and applicable landowner. The agency shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Work cannot resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not eligible for the NRHP; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.</p> <p>There are numerous California State laws and codes that direct treatment of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. The laws and codes establish the procedures for protecting the human remains, and impose penalties and punishments for persons acting in violation of the legal code. Specifically, Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code deals with the discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, and directs that in such cases the coroner of the county in which the remains are discovered be contacted and further excavation or disturbance in the location of discovery be discontinued until the coroner has examined the remains and made recommendations concerning their treatment and disposition. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and if the coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American, or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, the coroner is required to contact the NAHC, by telephone, within 24 hours. Stipulations encouraging private landowners to work with the NAHC and the most likely descendant identified by the NAHC to establish and carry out appropriate treatment of the remains are established in Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code.</p>			3. If cultural resources are discovered, confirm that construction is halted and appropriate measures are taken.	3. Construction	3. _____
CR-3: Effects on Unique Paleontological resources	<p>CR-2: Halt Work and Evaluate Paleontological Resource (Alternative 2). If suspected paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work must halt within a 50-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. If the qualified paleontologist determines that the find does not represent a paleontological resource, then work may resume immediately and no agency notification is required. If the professional paleontologist determines that the find does represent a paleontological resource, they shall immediately notify Reclamation, County, and applicable landowner. The agency shall consult on a finding of importance and implement appropriate treatment measures. Fossils shall be recorded, recovered, and prepared in accordance with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Standard Guidelines. Microfossils shall also be collected via the collection of up to 6,000 pounds of matrix per fossil locality per the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Standard Guidelines as many significant vertebrate fossils and non-vertebrate paleontological indicators, such as plant seeds and shells, are too small to be readily visible and can only be recovered via bulk matrix sampling. Work cannot resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction. Upon completion of construction monitoring, a Paleontological Resources Assessment Report shall be prepared with summary findings for submittal to the US Bureau of Reclamation and the County.</p>	Mendota Pool Group	County of Fresno, Reclamation	1. Confirm that on-call paleontologist has been retained. 2. If paleontological resources are discovered, confirm that construction is halted and appropriate measures are taken.	1. Design 2. Construction	1. _____ 2. _____