

Tuolumne Stanislaus IRWM - Project Worksheet

Name of Project:

Reconstruction of a Potable Water Storage Tank on the Tuolumne Rancheria

Project Proponent: Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians (a federally recognized Tribe)

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Project Location:

Tuolumne Rancheria, Tuolumne County

Watershed(s) where project will be located:

Upper Tuolumne River Watershed

Theme:

This project proposes to re-construct a 350,000 gallon potable water storage tank that would provide water to approximately 150 current and proposed homes on Tuolumne tribal lands and in the surrounding area with additional potable water storage and appropriate fire flow capability to hydrants. This tank would provide additional storage for Tuolumne Utility District's (TUD) water system infrastructure during drought conditions and would provide a consistent and reliable water supply during low supply/high use periods (i.e. planned and unplanned ditch outages or fire).

Brief Project Description:

Drinking water on the Tuolumne Rancheria and associated tribal lands has been supplied by a public water system (currently TUD) since the 1970's. Much work has been done by TUD and the Tribe to continue to upgrade the infrastructure on the tribal lands over that time. Around 2007, a potable water storage tank on the Rancheria was demolished due to the tank's age and the level of maintenance required to keep the tank operational. Since that time, the tank has not been replaced. Because of this, during times of high use or low flow (i.e. drought, ditch outages, fires) TUD's water storage supply is limited on tribal lands and in the surrounding area.

This proposal is to reconstruct this potable water storage tank on the Rancheria. The new water storage tank would be somewhat larger than the previous water tank at 350,000 gallons. It is estimated that a tank of this size would provide adequate drinking water and fire flow for the Tribe and surrounding TUD customers for seven days if the

water supply were interrupted. As described below, if funded, this project could be completed within 6 months.

The goals of this project are: 1) Increase the water supply for TUD's water system to more adequately address system wide water storage needs, 2) Provide reliable and consistent drinking water to homes on tribal lands and the surrounding area during times of low water supply/high use including during droughts, ditch outages and fires.

The objectives of this project are to: 1) Re-install a 350,000 gallon drinking water tank on the Rancheria. 2) Re-connect the proposed water storage tank to TUD's current infrastructure.

Project Benefits:

Water Supply and Distribution:

Installation of the proposed water tank would increase the storage capacity of the TUD water system, avoid potential water supply disruptions and operations and maintenance costs during the annual seven day ditch outage and provide adequate fire flow to homes in the project area.

Water Quality:

N/A

Ecosystem Improvement:

N/A

Recreation and Public Access:

N/A

Power Cost Savings and Power Production:

N/A

Other:

Cost and Schedule:

All Anticipated Project Costs:

\$425,000

Potential Sources of Project Funding: *(Including internal funding.)*

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, US Environmental Protection Agency, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, Tuolumne Economic Development Authority (TEDA), Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD)

Potential Sources of Local Match:

The Tuolumne Rancheria is a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) pursuant to the 2000 census. Tuolumne City, which is adjacent to tribal lands, also is a DAC as per the 2008-2012 American Community Survey. Consequently a local match is not required.

Earliest Start Date:

Depending on funding, construction could begin as soon as September 1, 2014.

Project Schedule

Conceptual:

Begun by the Tribe and TUD in the mid-2000's

Planning:

Begun by the Tribe and TUD in the mid-2000's

Environmental:

Because this project is on Tribal Trust Land, NEPA applies. An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project property was completed in 2006, however the proposed storage tank was not identified in the study. Prior to submitting the proposal for funding, the project proponent will confirm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (lead agency) that the 2006 EA mitigations are adequate for this project or that a Categorical Exclusion will be issued for this project due to it being a reconstruction of a pre-existing tank.

Permitting:

Because the Project is on Tribal Trust lands, Federal and Tribal permitting requirements are required. No known Federal permits are required to install the water tank. Tribal permits typically require 1-2 months to obtain and would begin upon funding.

Design:

TUD has drawn up the initial grading plan. Upon funding, any needed modifications to the grading plan will be completed and the design and engineering for the tank would be finalized concurrently. This work is expected to be completed within 2 months.

Construction / Implementation:

Upon completion of the design, the tank would be ordered and a contract to install the tank would be obtained from the tank manufacturer/installer. Simultaneously the site prep work (grading, underground utilities, pad installation) would begin. Site prep is anticipated to take 6 weeks and is proposed to be completed by TEDA (the Economic Development arm of the Tribe)

Tank manufacture and shipping is expected to take 1-3 months. Installation of the tank is expected to take 4-6 weeks. TUD is expected to require 3-4 weeks to connect the tank to the water system and prepare the tank for use.

Project Timing and Phasing:

Because of the size and scope of the proposed project, it is anticipated that the project could be completed within 6 months of funding. Phasing of the construction work is not anticipated.

Completed Work:

As discussed above, the initial grading plan for the project and a NEPA EA of the project property have been completed. The 2006 EA was completed for future home development on the Rancheria however the current proposed reconstruction project was not planned at that time. It is expected that either the mitigations listed in the EA would apply to this project or a Categorical Exclusion would be issued due to this project being a replacement of a previously existing tank.

T-S IRWM Primary Objectives:

X_ Improve water supply sources and/or distribution within DAC and urban areas that have declining water quantity/quality or other water system reliability issues (e.g. fire-flow, contamination, etc.)

_ Reduce the negative impacts of storm water, urban runoff, and nuisance water.

_ Reduce contamination in groundwater, natural streams, raw water conveyance systems, and reservoirs.

X_ Improve infrastructure: to meet wastewater discharge or disposal requirements and deliver drinking water that meets drinking water standards and customer expectations.

_ Improve watershed health in support of increased water yield and ecosystem function.

_ Improve the condition and ecosystem function of meadows.

_ Assist in the protection and recovery of sensitive, special status, threatened, culturally sensitive, and endangered native aquatic and other water dependent species in the region.

_ Identify, preserve and promote the regeneration and restoration of wetlands, vernal pools, and native plant riparian habitat; and reduce invasive species.

_ Reduce the risk of localized flooding in urban areas.

_ Increase renewable energy production for water management.

X_ Improve energy efficiency and reliability of surface water conveyance systems.

_ Increase current and future water use efficiency (WUE) by both municipal (residential and commercial) and agricultural end users.

_ Develop sufficient reliable and affordable water supplies to meet regional demands of existing and projected water supply needs under a multiyear drought now and into the future.

_ Improve integrated land use and natural resource planning to support watershed management actions that restore, sustain and enhance watershed functions.

Proposition 84 Program Preferences:

_ Includes Regional Projects/Programs.

_ Integrate water management within hydrologic region.

_ Effectively resolve significant water related conflicts within or between regions.

X_ Contribute to attainment of one or more objectives to CALFED.

X_ Address critical water supply/quality needs of DAC.

_ Effectively integrate water management with land use planning.

_ Flood Management -projects that provide multiple benefits.

Proposition 84 Program Statewide Priorities:

Drought preparedness:

_ Promote water conservation, conjunctive use, reuse and recycling.

_ Improve Landscape and Agricultural Irrigation Efficiencies.

_ Achieve a Long-Term Reduction of Water Use.

_ Efficient ground water basin management.

_ Establish System Interties.

Use and reuse water more efficiently:

_ Increase urban and agricultural water use efficiency measures such as conservation and recycling.

_ Capture, store, treat and use storm water runoff (such as percolation to usable aquifers, underground storage beneath parks, small surface basins, domestic storm water capture systems or the creation of catch basis or sumps downhill of development or projects outlined in PRC §30916 - Coastal Conservancy.)

_ Incorporate and implement low impact development (LID) design features, techniques and practices to reduce or eliminate storm water runoff.

Climate change response actions:

_ Advance and expand conjunctive management of multiple water supply sources.

X_ Water management system modifications that address anticipated climate change impacts, such as rising sea level, and which may include modifications, or relocations of intakes or outfalls.

_ Establish migration corridors, re-establish stream flood-plain hydrologic continuity, re-introduce anadromous fish populations to upper watersheds, and enhance and protect upper watershed forests and meadow systems.

_ Reduce water demand and wastewater loads and may reduce energy demands & Green House Gas emissions, including water use efficiency, recycling, water system energy efficiency, and reuse of runoff.

Expand environmental stewardship:

Proposals that contain projects that practice, promote, improve and expand environmental stewardship to protect and enhance the environment by improving watersheds, floodplains and Instream functions and to sustain water and flood management ecosystems.

Practice integrated flood management:

Proposals that contain projects that practice, integrated flood management to provide multiple benefits including; better emergency preparedness and response, improved flood protection, more sustainable flood and water management systems, enhanced flood plain ecosystems and Low Impact Development techniques that store and infiltrate runoff while protecting groundwater.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality:

Protect and restore surface water and groundwater quality to safeguard public and environmental health and secure water supplies for beneficial uses.

Salt/Nutrient management planning as a component of the IRWM Plan.

Improve tribal water & natural resources:

Projects that include the development and/or implementation of Tribal consultation, collaboration, and access to funding for water programs and projects to better sustain Tribal water and natural resources.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits:

Projects that increase the participation of small and disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process.

Develop multi-benefit projects with consideration of affected disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations.

Projects that address critical water supply or water quality needs of Disadvantaged Communities within the Region.

Cal Fed Primary Objectives:

Ecosystem quality

Water supply

Water quality

Levee system integrity

Strength of Project

Purpose and Need:

As described throughout this document, the proposed project addresses a significant potable water supply need for homes on Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal lands and in the surrounding area. It also meets numerous T-S IRWMP goals as described below.

T-S IRWM Objectives: Upon funding, this project will address several important objectives of the Tribe, TUD and the T-S IRWM. Primarily, the project will improve and expand the capacity and reliability of the potable water infrastructure that supplies the Tribal lands and other surrounding TUD customers especially during drought, planned and unplanned ditch outages and fires. These improvements will further meet the reliability and quantity expectations of TUD's customers. Currently, during ditch outages, TUD's water system relies on portable pumps to provide water if there is a high demand need. The installation of the proposed water tank is expected to alleviate the need for this practice.

Prop 84 Program Preferences: If funded, this project contributes to the attainment CALFED's objective of increasing water supply and will address a critical water supply need of the Tribe which also qualifies as a DAC by providing a reliable and adequate water supply for the approximately 150 current and future homes on the tribal lands and surrounding area. The proposed storage tank will also provide TUD water managers with more options to manage water shortages in the future due to climate change or other predicted dry periods.

Prop 84 Program Priorities:

If funded, this project provides a more reliable water supply for the Tribe. The Tribe has been an active participant in the IRWM process and has and will continue to support critical water supply and water quality projects in the region. As a DAC, the Tribe would benefit greatly from the proposed project due to the lack of adequate water supply needs of the area during times of low water flow or high use. Many homes near the Rancheria would also benefit from the additional storage capacity due to TUD's water system connections.

CALFED Primary Objective: This project increases TUD's water supply capacity through increasing TUD's water storage capacity.

Integrated Elements of Project:

TUD is planning options to increase their whole water system's storage through projects such as the Phoenix Lake Project. Similarly, the proposed water tank project will add water storage capacity to TUD's system which serves tribal lands.. This project, combined with TUD's other planned projects, will continue to increase the water storage capacity of TUD's entire water system.

Existing Data and Studies:

The proposed storage tank will be installed in a similar location the previous water storage tank that was removed in the mid-2000's. The ridge top location of the tank is adjacent to existing TUD lines, upstream of a TUD cross connection feeding non-tribal homes, and will be re-connected to TUD's water system infrastructure. The proposed tank is larger than the previous tank due to design considerations taking into account current and expected home development on and off tribal lands. The proposed tank is anticipated to be able to provide seven days of water and adequate fire flow to approximately 150 current and future homes in this area.

Readiness to Proceed

As described below, several significant components of the project have begun or been completed. Due to the water tank construction expertise of TUD and TEDA, this project is proposed to be completed within as few as 6 months from the date of funding.

Status of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

CEQA is not required as the project is on Tribal Trust Lands.

Status of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

NEPA regulations apply on Tribal Trust Lands. As described above, an Environmental Assessment for developing homes on the Rancheria included the site of the proposed tank. Prior to endorsement by the T-S IRWM and submission to DWR, the project proponent will confirm with Bureau of Indian Affairs that the 2006 NEPA Environmental Assessment is adequate or that a Categorical Exclusion will be issued for the project due to the tank being a reconstruction project. The 2006 EA found that "with the incorporation of the listed mitigations, no significant impacts to the environment were to occur".

Status of local, state, and federal permitting requirements:

Tribal and Federal Permitting requirements apply on Tribal Trust Land. The project proponent is not aware of any Federal Permits required for the proposed project.

Capacity of proponent to carry out the proposed project:

Many Tribal programs and projects are currently funded by grants. As such, the Tribe is well versed in managing the fiscal, reporting and other requirements of grant funded projects. Much of the actual construction management for the project will be accomplished by the project proponent working closely with TUD and TEDA, a Tribal entity that has managed the construction of and constructed numerous facilities on and off the tribal lands and TUD staff.

Feasibility analysis for the proposed project:

Both TUD and TEDA have completed similar water tank storage tank projects within the past year. It is expected that these recent experiences will add to the feasibility of project completion.

Status of necessary engineering, designs, blueprints, and work plans:

The initial Grading Plan for the project was completed in 2009 by TUD. Subsequent discussions with TEDA and TUD staff have indicated that upon assurances of project funding, staff from both agencies are confident that the design, engineering and blueprints for the tank will be readily available.

Status of necessary authority and approvals to implement the proposed project:

The Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council (TMTC) will need to pass a resolution adopting the IRWM Plan which will be scheduled for the May TMTC meeting.

Status of matching funds for proposed project:

The Tuolumne Rancheria is a DAC pursuant to the 2000 census. Tuolumne City, which is adjacent to tribal lands, also is a DAC as per the 2008-2012 American Community Survey. As such, matching funds are not required for this project.