A.4 For each net public benefit claimed, identify any existing environmental mitigation or compliance obligation that are accounted for in each net public benefit as of November 2016.

MBK’s analysis of the availability of water for the ecosystem benefits that will be provided by the Kern Fan Project as well as the water available for emergency water supply benefits during extended droughts and periods of Delta levee failures were modeled using CalSim II. The CalSim II modeling work incorporates existing environmental compliance obligations. For a detailed description of the approach and results of the modeling see Attachment 1 (MBK Engineers, August 10, 2017).

The frequency and magnitude of Project recharge events that will create incidental wetlands at the Phase 1 and 2 recharge ponds were also identified as a result of MBK’s modeling work that was performed using CalSim II which incorporates existing environmental compliance obligations. Future mitigation requirements for the construction and operation of the Phase 1 facilities were identified in the EIR for the Stockdale Integrated Banking Project which contemplated the Project Phase 1 site as what was called the Stockdale third site. This third site was evaluated on a programmatic level. These mitigation measures will be incorporated into a Supplemental EIR that will provide a project specific environmental review of both the construction and operation of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 facilities.

The Kern Fan Project includes the construction and operation of a new conveyance canal. The construction of the canal will require obtaining easements and habitat conservation plan (HCP) mitigation credits for approximately 100 acres within the Kern Water Bank Authority (KWBA) Permit Area. The cost of the mitigation credits needed for the proposed Project canal is included in the cost estimate for the Project that was prepared by Dee Jaspar and Associates, and therefore there is no need to reduce the expected public and non-public benefits associated with the Project.