

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

**NOTICE OF DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY
AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for Westlands Water District (WWD) Agricultural Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program (Ag-ASR Program) and is available for public review and comment. The document can be reviewed at the WWD, 3130 W. Fresno Street, Fresno, California.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: August 30, 2019 through September 30, 2019. Please send all comments to Russ Freeman, WWD, P.O. Box 6056 or 3130 W. Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93703-6056, or on the WWD website at <https://wwd.ca.gov/news-and-reports/environmental-docs/>.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: The Ag-ASR Program will be implemented within WWD's service area which includes 1,000 square miles of prime farmland on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley within Fresno County and the northern portion of Kings County. With the Ag-ASR Program, surface water from existing sources will be recharged into groundwater aquifers during times when surplus or supplemental surface water is available, and later extracted by landowners for irrigation when it is needed. The Ag-ASR Program includes the incremental additions of about 20 well conversions per year for recharge with a conservatively high target of 400 operational Ag-ASR wells over the next 15 to 20 years. Most infrastructure is already in place.

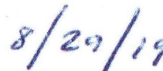
INITIAL STUDY: An Initial Study was prepared to determine if the proposed Ag-ASR Program would result in significant adverse impacts on the environment. That document concluded that while several potential adverse environmental impacts could result from the Ag-ASR Program, measures could be used to effectively mitigate these impacts. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate for the Ag-ASR Program.

TO REVIEW DOCUMENT: Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration can be reviewed at the WWD, 3130 W. Fresno Street, Fresno, California, or on the WWD website at <https://wwd.ca.gov/news-and-reports/environmental-docs/>. All written comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration must be submitted no later than the September 30, 2019 deadline.

PUBLIC HEARING: The WWD Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing to receive oral comments at a special meeting on October 3, 2019, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The Board will consider adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration at the special meeting on October 3, 2019, immediately following the hearing.



Russ Freeman
Westlands Water District



Date