

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL STUDY FOR THE SUTTER BYPASS PUMPING PLANT REHABILITATION PROJECT

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has directed the preparation of an initial study (IS) for the Sutter Bypass Pumping Plant Rehabilitation Project (proposed project) and intends to adopt a proposed mitigated negative declaration (MND) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. DWR is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project.

Project Location: Along the landside of the East Levee of the Sutter Bypass in Sutter County, California, at Pumping Plant Nos. 1, 2, and 3, at Levee Miles 19.3, 11, and 3.5, respectively.

Project Description: The proposed project consists of retrofitting maintenance structures at three separate pumping plants along the East Levee of the Sutter Bypass in Sutter County. These plants, originally built and operated by DWR since 1924 in accordance with Water Code Section 8361, convey drainage from Yuba City and surrounding lands into the Sutter Bypass. In 1936, DWR constructed new pumping plants adjacent to the original pumping plants, which have been abandoned and are used only for their gravity-draining function. Construction work would occur in two phases: one phase focused on the gravity drain system at each pumping plant, and the other focused on the pumping plants' intake basins. Proposed project activities include:

- Geotechnical investigations to support the final design (preconstruction)
- Demolition of the abandoned control buildings at Pumping Plant Nos. 1 and 2 to allow access to the gravity drainpipe inlets (Phase 1)
- Extension of the gravity pipes, replacement of the damaged trash rack systems of the gravity drain pipes, weir/stop log structures, and an automated screw gate system at all three pumping plants (Phase 1)
- Levee reconstruction and partial filling of the old sump basin at Pumping Plant No. 3 (Phase 1)
- Construction of new weir/stop log structures at the inlet of each pumping plant to enable future inspection and maintenance of the pumping plant trash racks and inlet basins (Phase 2)

Project construction would occur over two construction seasons, each beginning no earlier than May 1 and ending before October 2. If work were to occur outside this period, it would be subject to the constraints identified in Mitigation Measure BIO-16 to reduce project impacts on giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), which is federally listed and State-listed as threatened.

Environmental Review Process: DWR has directed the preparation of an IS/MND on the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The IS/MND describes the proposed project and provides an assessment of the proposed project's potentially significant adverse impacts on the physical environment. The IS found that the proposed project would not have any significant adverse effects on the environment after adoption and implementation of mitigation measures.

Public Review Period: The IS/MND is being circulated for public review and comment for a review period of 30 days from release of the document to the State Clearinghouse, starting on January 30, 2020. Written comments must be submitted to and received at the following address no later than close of business (**5:00 p.m.**) on **February 29, 2020:**

Mitra Emami
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Flood Management
3110 El Camino Avenue, Room 140
Sacramento, CA 95821

Email: Mitra.Emami@water.ca.gov
Fax: (916) 574-0331