

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Negative Declaration has been prepared for the Westlands Water District (District) Groundwater Pumping and Conveyance Project (Project) and is available for public review and comment. The document can be reviewed at the District, located at 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, California, or online at the District's website at <https://wwd.ca.gov/news-and-reports/environmental-docs/>.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: May 21, 2020 through June 19, 2020. Please send all comments to David Vang at 3130 N. Fresno Street P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, or via email at dvang@wwd.ca.gov.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: The Project would be implemented within the District'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. Under the Project, the District would enter into a five-year Warren Act Contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to allow the District to introduce up to 30,000 AFY of local acceptable quality groundwater into the San Luis Canal (SLC) for the period 2020-2025, in years which the District's Central Valley Project (CVP) allocation is 20 percent or less. The source of the non-CVP water would be pumped groundwater from groundwater wells within the District. The groundwater would be pumped into the SLC via licensed water integration (discharge) facilities located on either side of the SLC. The amount of water from each source would vary, but the total quantity introduced under the proposed Project would not exceed a combined volume of 30,000 AF in a given year. Prior to introduction into the SLC, all wells would be tested to demonstrate compliance with the USBR's Non-Project Water Pump-in Program - 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Plan (Water Quality Monitoring Plan) standards (based off Title 22 water quality standards). Only groundwater wells that meet these water quality standards would be used for integration into the SLC. Water sourced from the Mendota Pool Inlet Canal would be tested at laterals discharging to the SLC. Water pumped and exchanged under the Project would be subject to ground subsidence and water quality monitoring and protection measures consistent with Water Quality Monitoring Plan standards and the Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

INITIAL STUDY: An Initial Study was prepared to determine if the proposed Project would result in significant adverse impacts on the environment. That document concluded that the Project would not result in any significant impacts. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Negative Declaration is appropriate for the Project.

TO REVIEW DOCUMENT: Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration can be reviewed at the District, located at 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, California, or online at the District's website at <https://wwd.ca.gov/news-and-reports/environmental-docs/>. All written comments on the proposed Negative Declaration must be submitted no later than the June 19, 2020 deadline.

PUBLIC HEARING: The District's Water Policy Committee will conduct a public hearing to receive oral comments on July 21, 2020, beginning at 11:00 am. The Board of Directors will consider adoption of the Negative Declaration following the public hearing, beginning at 1:00 pm.