

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: September 2, 2020 through October 1, 2020. Please send all comments to David Vang, District, P.O. Box 6056 or 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93703-6056, or on the District website at <https://wwd.ca.gov/news-and-reports/environmental-docs/>.

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 United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) would enter into a five-year Warren Act Contract with the District to allow the District to introduce up to 30,000 AFY of local acceptable quality groundwater into the 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 San Luis Canal 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 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Plan SLC Water Quality Monitoring Program 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 USBR standards and the District's Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Westside Subbasin.

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 October 1, 2020 deadline.

PUBLIC HEARING: The District's Water Policy Committee will conduct a public hearing to receive oral comments on October 20, 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.