

PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SUN PACIFIC FARMING RECHARGE FACILITY PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Porterville Irrigation District (PID) plans to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Sun Pacific Farming Recharge Facility. The public hearing will be held by the District's Board of Directors on Tuesday October 13, 2020 at 9:00 am, at the District Office, 22086 Ave 160, Porterville, CA 93257. The proposed Project is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley of California, in Porterville in Tulare County. The proposed Project will consist of recharge water banking facilities being constructed at two sites located near the city of Porterville. The Falconer site is located approximately 0.4-miles west of the city and the Los Robles site located approximately 1.3-miles northwest of the city.

Falconer East Banking Site: The Project includes construction of approximately 78-acres of enhanced levees at the existing temporary recharge basins and construction of associated facilities on the former Falconer property, east of the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC). The Falconer APE currently includes temporary recharge basins, three existing irrigation wells, and a temporary turnout from the FKC consisting of seven diesel suction pumps and appurtenant water pipelines. The Project specifically includes construction of:

- *78 acres of recharge basins to replace the existing temporary basins;*
- *3,600 linear feet of 15" pipelines, controls, and a check structure; and*
- *An overflow monitoring and alarm system to prevent overfilling of the recharge basins.*

Los Robles Water Bank: The Project area includes approximately 47 acres of existing recharge basins on the Los Robles property, along the Porter Slough Ditch, west of Los Robles Ave. The Project would use existing wells in the area to recover banked water back into local conveyances. The Project includes construction of a turn-out from the Porter Slough Ditch and new pipelines. The Los Robles property includes two existing turnouts from Ditch #2 to the existing irrigation system and wells and four existing irrigation wells. The Project specifically includes construction of:

- *A pump station and/or gravity turnout from the Porter Slough Ditch;*
- *Pipeline from the existing Ditch #2 turnout to the recharge basins;*
- *Pipelines, controls, and a check structure to enable delivery of recovered water back into the Porter Slough Ditch and Ditch #2 (total of 2,200 linear feet of 15" diameter pipe); and*
- *An overflow monitoring and alarm system to prevent overfilling of the recharge basins.*

Falconer Site: Avenue 152 runs along the south boundary of Area of Potential Effect (APE) with the Friant-Kern Canal on the west and the Tule River to the east with agricultural plots on all sides. T 21S, R27E, Section 30, SE ¼, T 21S R27E, Section 29, SW ¼. The APE is approximately 92 acres.

Los Robles site: The north, south, east and west, and south sides of the APE borders along agricultural farmland plots. Avenue 168 runs along a portion of the APE to the east. Road 208 is approximately 0.60-miles west of APE. Highway 65 is approximately 2.5-miles east. T 21S, R27E, Section 18, E ½. The APE is approximately 53 acres.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared, describing the degree of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The District has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed project and has determined that they will be less than significant with mitigation. Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file and available for public review at the District Office, 22086 Ave 160, Porterville, CA 93257. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on September 14th and end on October 13th, 2020. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Briza Sholars at Provost & Pritchard, 286 West Cromwell Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711, or at bsholars@ppeng.com.

The site has been reviewed in accordance with Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not listed as hazardous waste or materials site.