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**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Cawelo Water District (District) (a) has concluded after preparing an Initial Study (IS) that the Landowner Groundwater Recharge and Banking Project would not have a significant effect on the environment; (b) has prepared a proposed Negative Declaration (ND) and (c) anticipates recommending to the District Board that it approve the ND.

**PROJECT NAME:** Landowner Groundwater Recharge and Banking Project

**PROJECT LOCATION & DESCRIPTION:** The proposed project is located within District boundaries, in the southern San Joaquin Valley, in Kern County, approximately 20 miles northwest of Bakersfield. The District currently owns and operates in-District groundwater recharge facilities and participates in existing groundwater banking programs, in cooperation with local and other water districts. In anticipation of potential future groundwater pumping restrictions under SGMA, the District is considering development of a local Landowner recharge and banking project to provide Landowners within the District with a direct groundwater banking opportunity. Additionally, the District may also bank District water in Landowner recharge facilities, within the project area, to support increased flexibility in meeting water demands, while protecting groundwater levels and quality within the District. Landowners would be allowed to convey Landowner owned surface water, acquired outside of the District, through existing District conveyance facilities, for groundwater recharge and later use. Additionally, where banking capacity is available, the District may also convey District surface water through the existing District conveyance system, for recharge in Landowner-owned recharge facilities.

Only surface water would be conveyed through District facilities and used for recharge and banking purposes; this may include but is not limited to, water obtained from the Kern River, Poso Creek, State Water Project (SWP) Article 21, and Friant 215 supplies. Surface water allocated to Landowners by the District as part of its normal ongoing operations, and water provided under the District's Winter Supplemental Water Project would not be used by the Landowners for recharge and banking. Water conveyed through District facilities would be of sufficient quality to meet existing standards for agricultural water use. Under the proposed project, water delivered to a recharge facility through the District's distribution system would only be used for groundwater recharge and banking for later beneficial use. Landowners would be required to coordinate with the District to schedule water deliveries through the District distribution system and would be responsible for construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of their recharge facilities. The District would not conduct any construction activities under the proposed project. The project site is not present on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**DOCUMENT REVIEW & AVAILABILITY:** The 30-day public review period begins on October 12, 2020 and ends on November 10, 2020. A copy of the IS/proposed ND is available for public review at 17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308, or online [www.cawelowd.org](http://www.cawelowd.org).

**CONTACT:** Please send written comments to: David Ansolabehere, Cawelo Water District, 17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308, Email: [dansolabehere@cawelowd.org](mailto:dansolabehere@cawelowd.org), by no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on November 10, 2020.