

Notice of Intention to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration / Notice of Availability

Notice is Hereby Given: The City of Firebaugh (City) is the Lead Agency on the below-described project and has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration on the proposed Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study (Project), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The complete Project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The MND has concluded that, with mitigation, no significant environmental impacts will occur as a result of the Project.

Project Title: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City of Firebaugh Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study

Project Location: The Project site consists of three separate areas along the San Joaquin River within the City limits of Firebaugh. Area 1 is at the southeast edge of the City, north of North Helm Canal Road, and just north of the existing wastewater treatment plant; Area 2 is at a sharp northward bend in the San Joaquin River, just north of the intersection of 9th Street and Q Street; and Area 3 includes two discrete areas, one at the northern terminus of Vasquez Drive, east of Hazel M. Bailey Primary School, and one just north of the school and east of Dunkle Park; additional levee segments (i.e. at the Firebaugh rodeo grounds) could be added in the future, depending on the results of a flood elevation modeling study.

Project Description: The Firebaugh Flood Risk Deduction Project will occur in three areas. In Area 1, about 1.1 miles of new levee will be built, the existing levee might be breached and possibly removed within the space contained by the new levee, and that space could be restored or otherwise enhanced to provide riparian woodland habitat in the new floodplain. In Area 2, a severely eroded riverbank will be reinforced to protect adjacent City infrastructure from flooding by the San Joaquin River. In Area 3, a new levee will be built around the existing water treatment plant infrastructure to protect it against flooding. In addition, the existing levee might be enhanced at other areas such as the Firebaugh rodeo grounds, although those plans are contingent on the results of a flood modeling study. Final design of the flood protection measures will be determined following this feasibility analysis.

Document Availability and Public Review Timeline: The City invites you to provide comment and/or attend the City Council meeting. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response to the MND must be sent at the earliest possible date *but not later than 30 days* after receipt of this notice. The review period for the MND will be from November 18, 2020 to December 18, 2020. Copies of the MND can be reviewed at the City of Firebaugh, 1133 P Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622.

Please send your comments to Ben Gallegos, City Manager at the address shown above or by email: bgallegos@firebaugh.org.

City Council Consideration: The Firebaugh City Council intends to consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration on:

Date: Monday, December 21, 2020
Time: On or after 6:00 p.m.
Location: Andrew Firebaugh Community Center
1655 13th Street
Firebaugh, CA 93622