



111 E. COMMERCIAL STREET
WILLITS, CALIFORNIA 95490
(707) 459-4601 TEL
(707) 459-1562 FAX

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and Sections 15072 and 15073 of the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Willits (City) hereby gives notice that a Revised Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Revised IS/MND) is available for public review and comment. The Revised IS/MND found that the environmental effects from the proposed City of Willits Groundwater Resiliency Improvements Project (project) would be less than significant with mitigation.

PROJECT TITLE: City of Willits Groundwater Resiliency Improvements Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located northeast of the City center on City-owned parcels identified by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 007-010-01, 108-030-06, and 108-020-05 (Site). The Site is currently utilized for the Willits Groundwater System, including the Elias Replacement well, Long 20 well, and groundwater treatment plant, and is located adjacent to the City's sewer plant.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The City proposes improvements to the existing Willits Groundwater System in order to increase the City's conjunctive use capabilities and provide the City with a reliable water supply sufficient to meet community needs in the event surface water becomes untenable. Improvements would be completed in three (3) phases and would include the installation of 3,750 feet of new water line and the abandonment of 3,600 feet of existing water line within the Willits Groundwater System, the installation of a pump and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) facility to manage the Long 20 well, establishment of power to the Long 20 well pump and SCADA facility, arsenic pilot testing on the Long 20 well, and the installation of a 250,000-gallon clear well (chlorine contact tank) adjacent to the west of the groundwater treatment plant.

REVIEW PERIOD: The 30-day comment period is from September 10, 2021 to October 11, 2021. All interested persons are invited to send written comments regarding this IS/MND to the City of Willits Engineering Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, or via email at engineering@cityofwillits.org no later than 5:00 pm on October 11, 2021.

It should be noted that the City previously prepared and circulated a Draft IS/MND for the proposed project from December 29, 2020 to January 28, 2021. The City received 12 comment letters, 9 from the public comments and 3 from State Agencies. Several of the comments expressed the common theme that the Draft IS/MND should include more discussion of the project's potential impacts to groundwater resources. In response, the City revised the Draft IS/MND to include additional detail on the proposed improvements, the City's water use, the City's existing wells and monitoring practices, and the conditions of the Little Lake Valley groundwater basin.



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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY LOCATION: The Revised IS/MND is available for public review at: <https://cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering>

Additional information regarding the above noted item may be obtained by calling the City of Willits Engineering Department at (707) 459-4605 or via email: engineering@cityofwillits.org.

FINDINGS: The proposed City of Willits Groundwater Resiliency Improvements Project would result in potentially significant impacts but compliance with regulatory requirements and implementation of mitigation measures would reduce all potentially significant adverse impacts to less than significant levels.

LEAD AGENCY: City of Willits

PUBLIC HEARING: The City of Willits City Council will consider the proposed project and recommendation to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration at a future public hearing. It is anticipated that the public hearing for adoption will be held during the regularly scheduled Council meeting on November 10, 2021. The official notice will be published two weeks prior to the meeting.

s/ Brian Bender, City Manager

Posted: 09/09/21