

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Date:** 11 February 2021

**To:** Interested Parties

**SWRCB FA No.:** D17-02022

**From:** Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency

**RE:** Potable Water System Improvements and Consolidation of Water Systems

### Project Location and Description

The Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency (BDVWA) encompasses the unincorporated communities in San Bernardino County known as Flamingo Heights, Landers, and Johnson Valley. Landers is the largest of these communities, including 2,982 residents, and at an approximate average elevation of 3,084 feet above sea level (asl).

Water service is provided to approximately 2,000 active residential customers, 460 inactive customers, and 102 bulk-hauling customers within its fifty-two (52) square-mile service area, located in the eastern desert area of San Bernardino County. BDVWA operates three (isolated) separate water systems made up of nine groundwater wells in the Ames-Means Valley Groundwater Basin and one well in the Johnson Valley Groundwater Basin, including the Goat Mountain (GM) system.

Hi-Desert Water District (HDWD) currently has approximately over 10,000 active service connections. With a total service area of 57-square miles, the District operates 16 storage tanks, 13 wells, and maintains over 297 miles of pipeline. It provides potable water services to the Town of Yucca Valley and a portion unincorporated San Bernardino County with an approximate average elevation of elevation 3,369 feet asl. Yucca Valley is the primary community in the HDWD service area and has a population of 21,748 (2017).

The Potable Water System Improvements and Consolidation of Water Systems project (Project) consists of the system consolidation of the BDVWA and GM water systems, interconnections with HDWD, and pipelines, wells, and associated infrastructure. The Project is proposed by BDVWA and benefits the communities served by BDVWA and HDWD. BDVWA anticipates receiving funding assistance to implement the Project from the Division of Financial Assistance of the State Water Resources Control Board and/or the United States Department of Agriculture.

### Declaration

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency has determined that the above project, with mitigation measures, would have no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the requirement of an environmental impact report. The determination is based on the attached Draft Initial Study and the following findings:

1. The Project will not degrade environmental quality, substantially reduce habitat, cause a wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, reduce the number or restrict the range of special-status species, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory.
2. The Project does not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.

3. The Project will not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
4. The Project will not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
5. No substantial evidence exists that the Project will have a negative or adverse effect on the environment.
6. The Project incorporates all applicable mitigation measures or environmental commitments identified in the Draft Initial Study (attached).
7. This draft Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the lead agency.

### **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

A draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) was prepared for the project and made part of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration to address and mitigate potential impacts to biological and cultural resources.

### **Document Review and Availability**

The public comment period will be until 5:00 pm on 20 April 2021. Due to Covid precautions, the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are available only online using this link: <https://bdvwa.org/board-and-governance/public-works-projects/>.

Submit comments to:

by mail,  
 Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency  
 622 South Jemez Trail  
 Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
 Attn: Marina D. West, PG, General Manager

by email,  
[info@bdvwa.org](mailto:info@bdvwa.org)  
 Please include “BDVWA CEQA Review  
 Comment” in the Subject line

### **Public Workshops**

Public workshops will be held as part of Board of Directors meetings on March 9th and April 13th 2021. During this presentation, the proposed project and the anticipated mitigation measures to address potential impacts will be presented.

### **Public Hearing**

On 11 May 2021 the Board of Directors of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed Potable Water System Improvements and Consolidation of Water Systems for the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency and the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The hearing will be held at 6:00 pm at the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency’s office, located at 622 South Jemez Trail, Yucca Valley CA 92284. Public and board wishing to participate remotely due to Covid precautions, please contact Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency for teleconference links.

<https://bdvwa.org/board-and-governance/public-works-projects/>

Please note that all requirements of the Brown Act requiring the physical presence of the board or staff have been waived per Executive Order N-29-20.