

MOJAVE WATER AGENCY NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is the Lead Agency and has prepared an Initial Study (IS) with the intent to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) for the Proposed Multi-Year Water Transfer to Kern County Water Agency and Dudley Ridge Water District (proposed project).

In the effort to recapture a portion of fixed costs paid for delivery of California State Water Project (SWP) water, MWA has negotiated a multi-year transfer of a portion of its allocated SWP Table A water above its total annual water demand to the following five water districts: Berrenda Mesa Water District (BMWD), Belridge Water Storage District (BWSD), Lost Hills Water District (LHWD), Wheeler Ridge–Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWS), and Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD), collectively referred to as the Westside Districts. All of the Westside Districts, except DRWD, are Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) Member Units; along with MWA, both KCWA and DRWD are SWP Contractors. The proposed project would be based on MWA transferring a minimum quantity of SWP Table A water to the Westside Districts based on the annual allocations from DWR and additional SWP Table A water to the Westside Districts if MWA has additional SWP Table A water to transfer and Westside Districts request delivery of all or a portion of the additional water. The proposed project would commence in 2021 after the provisions of the SWP Contract Article 56 have been executed between DWR and the Contractors, CEQA has been complied with, an agreement between MWA and the Westside has been executed, and all other regulatory approvals have been obtained. The proposed project would terminate in 2035. The proposed project would use existing facilities to transfer water to existing service areas and would not construct new or alter existing facilities or result in ground disturbance. Copies of the IS/ND can be viewed on the MWA website address: <http://www.mojavewater.org/environmental-compliance.html>.

ANY INTERESTED PERSON may comment on the IS/ND for the proposed project. Comments must be in writing and received by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time on March 26, 2021, which is 30 days after publication of this notice on February 24, 2021. Please send your written comments to: Adnan Anabtawi, Mojave Water Agency, 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley CA 92307 or by e-mail to: AAanabtawi@MojaveWater.org.