

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration



Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Newman (City) will be **circulating an Initial Study** analyzing the impacts of implementing the Newman Community Conservation Area (NCCA) Master Plan, which envisions four separate but complementary projects intended for environmental and community benefit. **Based on analysis presented in the Initial Study, the City intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).**

The Initial Study review period begins on **March 18, 2021** and will conclude on **April 19, 2021**. Comments on the Initial Study may be provided via letter or email to the contact below. **The deadline for receipt of comments is 5:00 PM, April 19, 2021.**

As required by CEQA and the state's *CEQA Guidelines*, all comments received by the comment deadline will be considered by the City in making the decision about whether to adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and proceed with the NCCA projects as proposed.

Project title:	Newman Community Conservation Area Master Plan
Project location:	<p>The project site comprises two City-owned parcels (APNs 054-050-019, 054-050-020, and APN 054-05-010) immediately southeast of Canal School Road and Inyo Avenue.</p> <p>The site is zoned for agriculture and is currently in grazing use. It is not included on any of the lists cited in Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code for hazardous materials use, disposal, or contamination.</p>
Project description:	<p>The following projects are planned at the NCCA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the Newman Environmental Wetland System (NEWS) project, an approximately 21-acre constructed stormwater treatment wetland that will treat the City's currently untreated stormwater prior to discharge into the Newman Wasteway for delivery to the San Joaquin River (2) a wetland restoration project for greenhouse gas (GHG) sequestration, funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (3) the Miller Ditch Treatment Wetland (MDTW) project, planned in collaboration with UC Merced's Environmental Systems Graduate Group to treat agricultural supply and tailwater (4) the Newman Nature Park, which is being planned with community input and may include a wide range of facilities such as a community gathering plaza, outdoor classroom areas, a nature-themed play area, and native plant, rainwise garden, and low-impact development demonstration areas, as well as an unpaved trail network and interpretive signage to enable appropriate public recreational access and tie all of the projects together
Where to find the Initial Study:	<p>The Initial Study can be accessed and downloaded online at the following address: http://www.cityofnewman.com/departments/public-works/e-docs.html.</p> <p>Hard copies are also available for review in the City Manager's office, the Public Works Department, and the Community Development Department at City Hall (938 Fresno Street, Newman CA 95360). To make an appointment for hard copy review, contact Kathryn Reyes, Director of Public Works (see below). For individuals with sensory disabilities, the Initial Study can be made available in alternate formats; please call or email Kathryn Reyes if you would like to request an alternate format.</p>
Contact for comments:	<p>Kathryn Reyes, Director Department of Public Works</p> <p><u>Mail:</u> City of Newman 938 Fresno Street, PO Box 787 Newman, CA 95360</p> <p><u>Email:</u> kreyes@cityofnewman.com</p>
Attend the public meeting on the Initial Study/MND:	<p>Adoption of the MND is expected to be on the agenda for the May 11, 2021 City Council meeting.</p> <p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are being conducted via video conferencing. All members of the public are invited to participate. Video conference and teleconference information will be provided at the top of the Council meeting agenda, available here: http://www.cityofnewman.com/news-and-information/agendas.html.</p>