

PIXLEY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Pixley Public Utility District (PPUD) plans to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Water Main Extension Project. The public hearing will be held by the District's Board of Directors on Monday, May 03, 2021 at 6:30 pm, at the District Office, 232 East Davis Avenue, Pixley, CA 93256.

The PPUD, a domestic water purveyor, proposes to construct the Water Main Extension Project (Project) to better serve the unincorporated community of Pixley, in Tulare County, California. The PPUD is the Project proponent and CEQA Lead Agency.

Currently the community is served by aging and under-sized-diameter water distribution system suffering from low water pressure issues; fire service capacity of the existing water main is limited due to the small pipeline sizes. The Project would consist of the following improvements:

- A new 12-inch diameter pipeline crossing installed in a 24-inch diameter steel casing, in accordance with Caltrans Specifications under State Route 99 (SR 99), replacing an existing 4-inch pipeline crossing. Crossing will utilize jack & bore method. The existing 4-inch pipeline will be abandoned in place.
- Interconnection of this new 12-inch undercrossing pipeline to existing distribution pipelines west of SR 99, at Main Street and East Court Avenue, utilizing open trench method.
- A new 12-inch diameter water main installed east of SR 99 in North Park Drive replacing the existing 4-inch distribution line serving existing connections in the northeast area of Pixley. Installation will utilize open trench method.
- Interconnection of the new 12-inch main east of SR 99 to existing pipelines serving the eastern area of Pixley, at North Park Drive and East Howard Avenue, utilizing open trench method.

The interconnections of the new larger diameter crossing of State Route 99 would complete a "loop" which would allow for additional potable water supply reliability and reduce pressure issues which will benefit the water service.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared, describing the degree of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The District has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed project and has determined that they will be less than significant with mitigation. Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file and available for public review at the District Office, 232 East Davis Avenue, Pixley, CA 93256. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on March 26, 2021 and end on April 26, 2021. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Amy Wilson at Provost & Pritchard, 130 North Garden Street, Visalia, CA 93291, or at awilson@ppeng.com.

The site has been reviewed in accordance with Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not listed as hazardous waste or materials site.