

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED PARADISE IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER SYSTEM RECOVERY AND RESERVOIR B REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Paradise Irrigation District
6332 Clark Road, Paradise, CA 95969

Introduction

This Notice of Intent serves as public notice that Paradise Irrigation District (PID) has prepared an Initial Study and proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Reservoir B replacement element of the PID Water System Recovery and Reservoir B Replacement Project (proposed project). A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared because no substantial evidence exists that the proposed project may have a significant environmental effect that cannot be fully mitigated to a less-than-significant level. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration does not signify approval or disapproval of this project by PID's decision-making body. The PID will consider the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process to determine whether the proposed project would have a heretofore unidentified significant impact on the environment.

Project Location

The project would be in PIDs service area in the town of Paradise, Butte County, California. The water system recovery elements would be constructed throughout Paradise, while the Reservoir B replacement element would be located at PIDs existing facility between Skyway Road and Paradise Memorial Trail in Paradise (Figure 1). Paradise is located approximately 12 road miles northeast of Highway 99 and the city of Chico in Butte County, California. The water distribution system replacement element is shown on the *Paradise East, Paradise West, Cherokee, and Hamlin Canyon, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles*, Township 22N, Range 3E, Sections 1-3, 9-16, 20-29, and 33-36; Township 22N R4E, Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, and 30; Township 23N, Range 3E, Section 36; and Township 23N, Range 4E, Section 31. The Reservoir B replacement element is shown on the *Paradise East, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle*, Township 22N, Range 3E, Sections 1 and 12 (Figure 2).

Project Description

The initial Reservoir B Replacement Project, approved by adoption of a CEQA MND in October 2018 (State Clearinghouse Number 2018082044), included three main project elements: Reservoir B replacement, the Zone A pump station, and the Zone A transmission main. On November 8, 2018, the Camp Fire devastated Paradise and surrounding areas. Conditions changed by the fire have altered the Reservoir B project needs; therefore, the project has been amended as follows:

- Remove the Zone A pump station from the original project
- Remove the Zone A transmission main from the original project
- Downsize the recommended Reservoir B total volume to 3 million gallons
- The project will include two 1.5-million-gallon bolted steel tanks instead of two 2.3-million-gallon steel tanks.

Prior to the Camp Fire, the distribution system supplied potable water to 10,507 connections serving a population of approximately 26,000. Approximately 1,500 structures survived the fire and the post-fire estimate of customer connections as of December 2020 is 2,936 connections. The project would replace

key components of the water storage and distribution system to serve the connections in the rebuilt community. The project would consist of the following elements:

Reservoir B Replacement Element

- Reservoir B replacement

Water Distribution System Replacement Element

- Almond Street main replacement
- Service lateral replacement
- Meter replacement
- Main replacement and repair

Construction of the project would begin upon receipt of all necessary preconstruction authorizations, including completion of CEQA documentation and receipt of any regulatory permits determined to be required. The proposed project element construction schedule would be as follows:

- Reservoir B replacement element - anticipated to begin in July 2021 with completion in January 2022
- Almond Street main replacement - anticipated to begin in April 2021 with completion in May 2022
- Service lateral replacement - anticipated to begin in 2022 with completion in 2031
- Meter replacement - begin in March 2021 and complete in March 2022
- Main replacement - anticipated to begin in 2022 with completion in 2031

Review Period

As mandated by Public Resources Code § 21091, the minimum public review period for this Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is 30 days. The document has been sent to the State Clearinghouse. This document is open to public review and comment from Tuesday, September 7, 2021, through Thursday, October 7, 2021. **Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, Thursday, October 7, 2021.** Any comments on the document may be presented in writing to:

Paradise Irrigation District
Attn: Tom Land, Interim District Manager
6332 Clark Road
Paradise, CA 95969
Phone: (530) 624-2939

Document Availability

Copies of the Public Draft Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting technical studies are available for review at the following location:

Paradise Irrigation District
6332 Clark Road
Paradise, CA 95969