

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE  
SCOTTS FLAT LOWER CONNECTOR TRAIL PROJECT**

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Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is the Lead Agency for the Scotts Flat Lower Connector Trail Project (Proposed Project or Project). The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Project is published and open for public review and comment from April 14, 2021 through May 14, 2021.

**Project Objectives:**

The purpose of the Scotts Flat Lower Connector Trail Project (Proposed Project or Project) is to enhance public safety and recreational opportunities on NID lands by constructing a 1.4-mile trail that will provide hikers and bikers with a means to safely cross over the Scotts Flat Powerhouse discharge channel and Deer Creek downstream of Scotts Flat Dam Spillway, as well as providing a connection to/extending the existing Scotts Flat Reservoir Trail (also called the Snow Mountain Ditch Lake Trail) and Scotts Flat Trail, located on the north side of Scotts Flat Reservoir.

**Brief Project Description:**

The need for a trail providing public access over Deer Creek was first realized in 2017, when NID temporarily fenced the spillway, which had previously been used by hikers and bikers to cross from one side of the lake to the other. In response to resulting public input, and consistent with Goal #2 of the District’s Strategic Plan (which states that stewardship of NID resources requires a collaborative and responsive relationship with the local and regional community), the District has since worked with a number of community groups, including the Bear Yuba Land Trust, the Sierra Express Bike Team, and the Bicyclists of Nevada County, to develop and evaluate trail alternatives. The resulting trail alignment, begins at the terminus of the existing Scotts Flat Reservoir Trail (just south of Scotts Flat Campground), descends approximately 0.6 mile to the proposed crossings over the discharge channel and Deer Creek, and then ascends approximately 0.8 mile to a proposed new parking lot located off an unimproved road off the Dam Road (on the southern side of the reservoir). The trail will not be open to equestrian or motorized vehicle use.

**Project Location:**

The Proposed Project is located approximately 4 miles east of Nevada City in Nevada County, California, in Section 11 of Township 16 North, Range 9 East of the Mt. Diablo Meridian and Baseline (**Map 1**). The trail would be constructed primarily on NID-owned lands, with a small section located on a privately owned, rural residential property. NID is in the process of purchasing the private property.

**Project Issues Discussed in the Document:**

Project issues discussed in the document are provided in the table below.

Aesthetics	Land Use and Planning
Agriculture and Forest Resources	Noise
Air Quality	Population and Housing
Biological Resources	Public Services
Cultural Resources	Recreation
Energy	Transportation/Traffic
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Tribal Cultural Resources
Geology and Soils	Utilities and Service Systems
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Wildfire
Hydrology and Water Quality	

With the incorporation of mitigation measures, none of these effects will be significant.

**Public Review:**

The NID Scotts Flat Lower Connector Trail Project IS/MND is published and open for review and comment from April 14, 2021 through May 14, 2021. The IS/MND is available for public review electronically only, on the NID website ([www.nidwater.com/](http://www.nidwater.com/)) (due to the COVID pandemic).

**Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2021.**

The NID encourages all commenters to submit their comments on the IS/MND in writing. All comments or questions regarding the Draft IS/MND should be addressed to:

Scotts Flat Lower Connector Trail Project  
c/o Kris Stepanian  
Nevada Irrigation District Business Center  
1036 West Main Street  
Grass Valley, California 95945  
E-mail: [stepiank@nidwater.com](mailto:stepiank@nidwater.com)

Input may also be provided at a public meeting starting at **6:00 pm on May 6, 2021** via Zoom.

The Zoom meeting can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smartphone at  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83087650938>

To join as a conference call, dial (669) 900-6833 or (346) 248-7799.

The Webinar ID is: **830 8765 0938**