

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Well 80 Walnut/Auburn Project

Date: May 28, 2021

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Persons

Lead Agency and Project Proponent: Sacramento Suburban Water District

Subject: Well 80 Walnut/Auburn Project

Review Period: May 28, 2021 – June 28, 2021

Purpose of Notice: Notice is hereby given that the Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Well 80 Walnut/Auburn Project (project).

Background: SSWD is a publicly owned and operated water utility regulated by California Division of Drinking Water and State Water Code laws. SSWD provides water to its customers from 70 operational groundwater production wells. SSWD has contractual rights to 26,064 acre-feet per year from the City of Sacramento water entitlement, and a contract to purchase up to 29,000 acre-feet of surface water per year from Placer County Water Agency. The service area of SSWD includes Arden/Arcade, Foothill Farms between I-80 and the Union Pacific Railroad; and portions of Citrus Heights, Carmichael, North Highlands, the City of Sacramento, Antelope, and McClellan Business Park (SSWD 2020). SSWD holds a water system permit administered by the California Division of Drinking Water for operation of the water supply and distribution system.

Project Location: The 1.1-acre project site is located at 5334 Walnut Avenue, in unincorporated Sacramento County. The project site is undeveloped and includes ruderal vegetation, various mature trees, and a drainage ditch at the eastern end of the parcel. The project site is bordered by Walnut Avenue to the west, an undeveloped residentially zoned parcel to the north, and developed light commercially zoned parcels to the northeast, southeast, and south. Surrounding land uses include various residential and commercial uses.

Project Description: SSWD needs to construct a new groundwater production well in its North Service Area well field as a replacement for supplies and source capacity that have been lost due to aging infrastructure and water quality impacts. Well 80 would not increase SSWD's groundwater extraction; rather, it is needed to maintain groundwater extraction capability to meet existing demand and water quality requirements as older wells reach the end of their useful life and are taken out of service.

The Well 80 Project would include: construction and operation of one groundwater well, anticipated to be capable of producing approximately 1,500 gallons per minute; construction and operation of a chlorination system for the pumped groundwater, and associated site infrastructure for general construction and maintenance activities, and access to the well and treatment facilities.

Findings: An Initial Study (IS) has been prepared to assess the project’s potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project would not result in a potentially significant impact and would not require an environmental impact report.

The project would result in no impact or less-than-significant impacts for the following issue areas:

- ▶ Aesthetics
- ▶ Agriculture and Forest Resources
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Geology / Soils
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- ▶ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Hydrology and Water Quality
- ▶ Land Use / Planning
- ▶ Mineral Resources
- ▶ Population / Housing
- ▶ Public Services
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ▶ Utilities / Service Systems; and
- ▶ Wildfire Hazard.

Potentially significant impacts were identified for biological resources, cultural resources, and noise; however, mitigation measures included in the IS/MND would reduce all impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Public Review: This IS/MND is a disclosure document that is being made available to the public for review and comment. The public comment period is 30-days from May 28, 2021 – June 28, 2021.

Hard-copy review of the IS/MND will not be provided. However, the IS/MND is available for review online:

- ▶ <https://www.sswd.org/departments/engineering/capital-improvement-program/current-projects/well-80-walnut-auburn>

In addition, the supporting documents are available upon request from SSWD.

Comments should be addressed to:

Sacramento Suburban Water District
Attn.: David Espinoza, P.E., Senior Engineer
3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95821

E-mail comments may be addressed to: despinoza@sswd.org

If you have questions regarding the IS/MND, please call David Espinoza at: (916) 679-2886. If you wish to send written comments (including via e-mail), they must be postmarked (or received via email) by **June 28, 2021**.

After public and agency comments are received and considered, SSWD may (1) adopt the MND and approve the project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) decide not to approve the project. If the MND is adopted and the project is approved, SSWD may proceed with the project.