

P.O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 93380-1435
Administration
Telephone: 661-393-2696
Facsimile: 661-393-6884



33380 Cawelo Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9575
Water Orders and Operations
Telephone: 661-393-3361
www.northkernwsd.com

NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(Pursuant to CEQA Section 21092 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072)

FRIANT-KERN CANAL TCP MITIGATION REPLACEMENT PUMP-IN WELL PROJECT

North Kern Water Storage District (District) proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations) for the Friant-Kern Canal TCP Mitigation Replacement Pump-in Well Project (project or proposed project).

In early 2020, testing for TCP revealed that several of the district's wells exceed the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) established maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 5 parts per trillion (ppt), including six of the seven pump-in wells that connect to the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) to return previously banked water to the District's banking partners (Kern Tulare Water District, Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, and South San Joaquin Municipal Water District). Initial testing showed that TCP concentrations in these six wells range from non-detect to 140 ppt. In order to meet the District's obligations to its banking partners, the District needs to connect replacement wells so that the returned water meets Reclamation's water quality standards.

The District proposed to install two new permanent discharge points to the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) (MP 130.84L and MP 142.01L). The two new discharge points will initially be constructed using aboveground piping within the Reclamation right-of-way. During the next dewatering of the FKC, the aboveground piping will be replaced with belowground connections. Additionally, the proposed project will consist of connecting 13 existing District wells approved for pump-in to the FKC, with a total return capacity of 45 cfs. This provides the District with the capacity necessary to meet return requirements if a pump-in well needs to be taken offline in the future because it exceeds the MCL for TCP (or blended to meet the MCL prior to discharge). This capacity also accounts for seasonal drops in well production. Project construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2021 and would require approximately 5 months.

The District is the lead agency for the project, under CEQA, and has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) on the proposed project in accordance with CEQA requirements and the State CEQA Guidelines. The IS describes the proposed project and assesses the proposed project's potentially significant adverse impacts on the physical environment. It concludes that the proposed project's potentially significant or significant adverse effects on the environment can be mitigated to less-than-significant

levels; therefore, a proposed MND has been prepared. The project site is not present on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Agencies and members of the public are invited to provide written comments on the IS/MND. **The comment period is from June 15 to July 16, 2021.** The IS/MND can be reviewed at the District's office at 33380 Cawelo Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93308 or on District's web site at: <https://www.northkernwsd.com/environmental-documents/>

Comments can be sent to David Hampton at 33380 Cawelo Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93308, or email at dhampton@northkernwsd.com. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2021. For e-mailed comments, please include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word format, and include the commenter's name and U.S. Postal Service mailing address.



David Hampton
General Manager