

# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

United Water Conservation District  
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200  
Oxnard, California 93030

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the United Water Conservation District (UWCD and Lead Agency) has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the project listed below pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State Guidelines §15000 et seq. Anyone desiring to comment on the IS-MND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period commencing August 27 through September 27, 2021. The document is available for public review at: <https://www.unitedwater.org/key-documents/#ceqa>.

**Project Title:** Freeman Diversion Sediment Management

**Project Location:** The project site is located at and immediately upstream of the Freeman Diversion Facility (hereafter referred to as “Facility”) in the Santa Clara River channel in unincorporated Ventura County (34-17°56’ N, 119-6°40’ W). The project site is not identified on the Cortese List (Government Code §65962.5).

**Brief Project Description:** The proposed project would provide for the continued reliable operation and maintenance of the existing Facility by conducting sediment management and associated activities necessary to maintain the capacity and function of the Facility. The proposed project is specific to upstream sediment management and associated activities that are necessary to the operation and maintenance of the Facility; the proposed project would not expand the existing purpose or function of the Facility. Proper functioning of the Facility, which is to divert water for beneficial use and provide fish passage, is dependent upon the effective management of sediment that accumulates within the channel. If sediment accumulation is allowed to progress unchecked, it will threaten further discontinuity between the Facility and the river. Therefore, United has developed the proposed project and is seeking permits and authorizations to implement the proposed project, which will provide the necessary level of sediment management to facilitate and maintain functionality of the Facility to ensure reliable diversions and fish passage functions. The project would be implemented in two separate phases, referred to as Phase 1 and Phase 2, which collectively address an approximately six-acre sediment management area within the Santa Clara River channel. Phase 1 would address an initial 1.3-acre portion of the channel, followed by Phase 2 in subsequent years, which would address the remaining 4.7-acre portion of the total six-acre sediment management area. Activities that would occur under both project phases include access and staging, site preparation, in-channel sediment management, subsequent sediment management, and Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) that are designed to avoid or minimize potential environmental impacts and are included as part of the project design.

**Public Meeting:** The UWCD Board of Directors will consider the Project at a Board of Directors meeting scheduled for October 13, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Please check the Board Meeting agenda prior to the meeting to confirm the hearing date and attendance details: <https://www.unitedwater.org/governance/>.

**30-Day Document Review:** Due to COVID-19, the UWCD offices are currently closed to the public. The document is available for review online at: <https://www.unitedwater.org/key-documents/#ceqa>. If a hard copy review is required, contact Evan Lashly at the email address provided below.

**Contact Person:** Written comments may be submitted to:

Evan Lashly, Environmental Scientist  
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