



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE
COTTONWOOD SEWER LIFT STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

DATE: September 1, 2021

TO: State Clearinghouse; Responsible, Trustee, and Other Jurisdictional Agencies;
and Other Interested Organizations/Individuals

LEAD AGENCY: Otay Water District
2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard
Spring Valley, California 91978-2096

Otay Water District (OWD) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Initial Study (IS) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. The Draft MND/IS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Cottonwood Sewer Lift Station Replacement Project (Project).

Responsible, Trustee, and Other Jurisdictional Agencies: OWD requests input from your agency as to the content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project. Agencies may need to use the MND/IS prepared by OWD when considering permits or other approvals for the Project.

Interested Organizations/Individuals: OWD requests your comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the Project.

Project Title: Cottonwood Sewer Lift Station Replacement Project

Project Location: The Project is located in the unincorporated community of Jamul in eastern San Diego County, 0.9 mile north of State Route (SR) 94 and 0.6 mile southeast of SR 54. The Project site extends north from the western terminus of Par 4 Drive, approximately 1,500 feet west of Steele Canyon Road, and is partially within an inactive area of the golf course associated with the Cottonwood Golf Club.

Project Description: The Project involves the replacement of an existing sewer lift station with a new and expanded sewer lift station on the adjacent property and the expansion an existing access road that provides access to the lift station. The proposed lift station would have a capacity of between 500 and 600 gallons per minute (gpm) and would replace the existing 400-gpm lift station. The expanded capacity would be to serve anticipated development in the area. In addition to expanding lift station capacity, the

Project would increase the overall property area to allow for storage and greater functionality.

Potential Environmental Effects: In accordance with CEQA, the Draft MND/IS evaluates “direct physical changes... and reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment which may be caused by the project.” The Draft MND/IS also evaluates whether any such changes that it identifies are individually or cumulatively significant, and presents feasible mitigation, as necessary. The Draft MND/IS identifies potentially significant effects related to biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, tribal cultural resources, and wildfire from Project implementation. Each of these impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance through the incorporation of mitigation measures presented in the Draft MND/IS.

Public Review Period: OWD has issued this Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Notice of Public Hearing for public review and comment pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15072. The comment period for the Draft MND/IS begins on September 1, 2021. Responses should be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than September 30, 2021. Electronic copies of the Draft MND/IS and appendices are available on OWD’s website: www.otaywater.gov. Hard copies of the Draft MND/IS and appendices are available for public review by appointment at the OWD office, location listed below. Please contact Ms. Lisa Coburn-Boyd at the e-mail address listed below to set up an appointment. Copies of the Draft MND/IS and appendices are also available for public review at the County of San Diego Public Library—Rancho San Diego Branch and El Cajon Branch.

Responses and Comments: At this time, OWD is soliciting comments on the Draft MND/IS for this Project. All comments must be postmarked by September 30, 2021. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, or email. All comments should indicate a contact person for each agency or organization, if applicable. Please send your responses to:

Otay Water District
2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard
Spring Valley, California 91978-2096
Attention: Lisa Coburn-Boyd
Fax: 619-670-8920
lisa.coburn-boyd@otaywater.gov

Following close of the public comment period, responses to comments received on the Draft MND/IS will be prepared, and, together with any corresponding revisions to the Draft MND/IS, will constitute a Final MND.

Public Hearing: A public hearing to consider the adoption of the Final MND is scheduled as part of OWD’s Board meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 3:30 PM. This hearing will be available virtually and will be properly noticed on OWD’s website. The Final MND will be considered and acted upon by OWD’s Board of Directors at this hearing.