

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency is circulating the McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture Expansion Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for public comment.

Project Location: The project is located in unincorporated agricultural lands in Fresno County, approximately 20 miles southwest of Fresno, and south of Kerman (please see attached figure). A primary intersection in the proposed project area is found at Mountain View Ave. and Jameson Ave.

Project Description: The McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture Expansion Project is located in Fresno County and the Kings Subbasin, northeast of Helm, south of Kerman, and southwest of Fresno. It is intended to build upon existing infrastructure to divert available flood water and stormwater flows from the Kings River that are intended to be released downstream of the James Weir. Diverted waters will be used for direct groundwater recharge, or for distribution to participating farmlands for in lieu recharge or direct groundwater recharge, an approach termed On-Farm Recharge (OFR). Diversion occurs on the southern end of the James Bypass (or Fresno Slough), just upstream of the James Weir. The McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture Expansion Project will increase the current diversion rate from 150 cfs to 450 cfs and deliver water to an area of approximately 40,400 acres to efficiently recharge critically overdrafted groundwater aquifers in the area. This expansion will also address issues related to flood and storm flow events from the Kings River. Flood events in this area have been detrimental to downstream farmlands and communities along the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers and have caused damage in historic storm events.

Document Availability: The Initial Study/MND will be available for review on MAGSA's website beginning on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. The website can be accessed at <https://www.mcmullinarea.org/ofr/>.

Public Review Period: The 30-day public review period for the Initial Study/MND is from November 16, 2021 to December 15, 2021.

Comments: Any person who wishes to comment on MAGSA's intent to adopt the MND must submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM on December 15, 2021. Written comments may be sent to: Matt Hurley, General Manager
McMullin Area GSA
275 S. Madera Ave, Suite 301
Kerman, CA 93630

Comments may also be sent by email to comments@mcmullinarea.org or submitted directly via MAGSA's website (see URL above).

Project Impacts: Based on the findings of the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect upon the environment based on mitigating measures, which will be attached to the project as conditions of approval. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared outlining a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan to mitigate any potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

