

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ORESTIMBA CREEK RECHARGE AND RECOVERY EXPANSION PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central California Irrigation District (District) plans to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Expansion Project (Project). The public hearing will be held during a Special Board Meeting at the District Office - located at 1335 W I Street, Los Banos, on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 8:30 am. Participation in the meeting will also be available via Go To Meeting or a phone in number, login information for the Go To Meeting and phone in number will be included in the agenda packet which will post to the District's website on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

The Project includes five main components: (1) Securing a temporary and permanent water rights from Orestimba Creek, (2) Constructing diversion facilities and pipelines between Orestimba Creek, the DMC, and the recharge ponds, (3) Constructing recharge ponds (4) Developing recovery wells and associated pipelines, and (5) Conducting geotechnical and soil investigations to help determine the final design and delineate aquatic resources. In addition to the main components, staging areas for loading, unloading, and temporary storage of equipment and materials would be delineated within the work area boundaries. Maintenance would be done semi-annually. Maintenance activities include the removal of sediment, vegetation, and other materials to improve percolation capacity.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, a Joint Environmental Assessment/ Initial Study has been prepared, describing the degree of potential environmental impacts of the Project. The District has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this Project and has determined that they will be less than significant with mitigation. Copies of the Joint Environmental Assessment/Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file and available for public review upon written notice to 1335 W I Street, Los Banos 93635. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on January 28, 2022, and end on February 28, 2022. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Benjamin Fenters at Central California Irrigation District, 1335 W I Street, Los Banos, 93635 or at bfenters@ccidwater.org.

The site has been reviewed in accordance with Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not listed as a hazardous waste or materials site.