

BIGGS-WEST GRIDLEY WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT CEQA MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and CEQA Guidelines, the Biggs-West Gridley Water District ("BWGWD") hereby provides notice of its intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the following project:

1. **Name of Project:** Biggs-West Gridley Water District 2022 Water Transfer Program.
2. **Project Proponent and Lead Agency:** Biggs-West Gridley Water District, 1713 West Biggs Gridley Road Gridley, California 95948; principal contact – Donnie Stinnett, General Manager, (530) 846-3317.
3. **Project Description:** BWGWD proposes to sell during the 2022 irrigation season up to 18,780 acre-feet ("AF") of water to participating member districts of the State Water Contractors, Inc. or other south of Delta purchasers, including Central Valley Project contractors (collectively, "Buyers"). Buyers and others are seeking up to approximately 300,000 AF of transfer water from various willing sellers in the Sacramento Valley during the 2022 irrigation season. Purchasing this water would lessen potential water supply shortages to these parties that may occur as a result of dry hydrologic conditions and regulatory restrictions on pumping in the Delta. As a willing seller, BWGWD would make up to 18,780 AF of water available to Buyers by idling cropland (i.e., non-irrigation of farmland by voluntary participants). Water made available by crop idling within the boundaries of the BWGWD would then be retained and stored by the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") in Lake Oroville for delivery to Buyers. BWGWD's proposed transfer will comply with the most current Draft Technical Information for Preparing Water Transfer Proposals prepared by DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation dated December 2019 (Draft Technical Information), as applicable to land idling transfers.
4. **Project Location:** The project area, from which the water for this transfer will be made available, is defined by the BWGWD's legal boundaries, which encompass approximately 34,800 acres in the northern Sacramento Valley, mostly in Butte County with a small portion of that acreage in Sutter County (See attached draft IS/MND). Within the BWGWD's boundaries are approximately 31,300 irrigable acres, of which approximately 22,739 acres are dedicated primarily to the production of rice.
5. **Hazardous Waste Sites:** The project location is not identified on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5.
6. **Public Review:** A copy of the draft Initial Study and related documentation is available for public review at www.bwgwater.com and during business hours at BWGWD's office at the above address. Public comments on this proposal to adopt a negative declaration will be received by BWGWD at the above address beginning on February 24, 2022 and ending at 3:30 p.m. on March 28, 2022. Following the review and comment period, the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be on the District Board of Directors' agenda for potential adoption at a noticed regular or special meeting to be held at a later-determined date at the District's offices located at 1713 West Biggs Gridley Road, Gridley, California.

Dated: February 24, 2022

Donnie Stinnett, General Manager

Biggs-West Gridley Water District