

## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

DATE: June 1, 2022

Based upon the conclusions set forth in the Initial Study, the CEQA Lead Agency finds that the Turlock Irrigation District Lateral 5.5 Regulating Reservoir Project (proposed project), which includes measures and mitigations designed to minimize environmental impacts, would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment. The CEQA Lead Agency has prepared this Notice of Intent to adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15072.

**Title:** Turlock Irrigation District Lateral 5.5 Regulating Reservoir Project

**Project Description:** TID proposes to construct the Lateral 5.5 Regulating Reservoir (proposed project) on a 40-acre property it owns south of and adjacent to the Harding Drain between Central Avenue and Blaker Road. The proposed project would draw water from an existing turnout in the Harding Drain during periods when there is water in the drain and pump that water into the reservoir to be stored and later pumped into Lateral 5.5 for scheduled irrigation usage.

In addition, a pipeline for future connection to the City of Turlock's (City's or Turlock's) recycled water pipeline would allow discharge of recycled water into the Lateral 5.5 Regulating Reservoir, upon amendment of the City's wastewater NPDES permit. Currently, the City sends their treated effluent to the City of Modesto's (Modesto's) Jennings Secondary/Tertiary Treatment Facility, a large treated effluent storage reservoir used primarily for agricultural irrigation. Some of that water, along with Modesto's treated effluent, now goes to the Del Puerto Irrigation District via the Delta Mendota Canal. Both Turlock and Modesto have separate wastewater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for this operation, which have been approved previously. Therefore, Turlock's effluent has not drained to the San Joaquin River for an extensive amount of time, and diverting some of Turlock's effluent to the Lateral 5.5 Regulating Reservoir would not decrease flows to the San Joaquin River.

**Project Location:** The location of the proposed project is a 40-acre parcel (APN 058-027-020) owned by TID that lies south of and adjacent to the Harding Drain and between Central Avenue and Blaker Road in Stanislaus County.

**Project Proponent:** TID

**Lead Agency:** TID

**Public Review Period:** A 30-day public review period will begin on June 1, 2022. Written comments must be submitted to the Lead Agency no later than 5:00 PM on June 30 2022.

**Available Material:** A copy of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and supporting material are available online at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Search/Navigate/2022/6>

**Contact for Public Comments:** Written comments on the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to: Phil Govea, Turlock Irrigation District, 333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA 95381, (209) 883-3447 and pdgovea@TID.org.