

## SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CANYON TUNNEL PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (District) plans to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Canyon Tunnel Project (Project). The public hearing will be held at the District Office, located at 11011 E. Highway 120, Manteca, CA 95336, on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

The Project consists of a new water conveyance tunnel (approximately 12,000 lineal feet) to bypass approximately 12,250 lineal feet of existing canal, referred to as the Joint Supply Canal (JSC). The purpose of the Project is to improve long-term reliability of this critical water supply system because existing canal segments along this bypass reach are extremely vulnerable to catastrophic failure, primarily due to unstable rock slopes that are present along the canyon wall above the JSC. The work would include temporary construction access, laydown, and staging areas; permanent downstream tunnel portal and tie-in to the existing canal; over two miles of new tunnel; permanent upstream tunnel portal and tie-in to either the existing Goodwin Reservoir; and permanent access improvements leading to the existing Goodwin Dam right abutment.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration 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 Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file and available for public review upon written notice to 11011 E. Highway 120, Manteca, CA 95336. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on January 25, 2023, and end on February 23, 2023. Comments should be in writing and addressed to Briza Sholars at Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group at 455 W. Fir Ave, Clovis CA 93611, or at [bsholars@ppeng.com](mailto:bsholars@ppeng.com).

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