

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“**MSGSA**”) has prepared a Proposed Negative Declaration (ND) for the project referred to as the Sandy Mush Mutual Water Company Reservoir Storage Project (“**Project**”). The Project is located West of Highway 59, between Dickenson Ferry and McNamara roads in Merced County, California.

The Project will build a storage reservoir on approximately 30-acres of land that is currently farmed in dairy feed crops. The reservoir will store up to 750 acre feet annually of flood flows diverted from existing diversions on Mariposa and Owens Creeks. The stored water will be used for Flood-MAR and direct irrigation and benefit approximately 2,100-acres of productive farmland. The water right and diversion facilities currently exist and there will be no disturbance to the creeks or riparian habitat.

Public Review: As mandated by law, the minimum public review period for the document is thirty (30) days (ND was submitted to the State Clearing House) from May 9, 2023 to June 8, 2023. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 12:00PM NOON on June 8, 2023 to the MSGSA office, Attention: Lacey McBride, 2222 M Street, Merced, California 95340. The document is available for review at the MSGSA office at that address and online at mercedsubbasingsa.org/documents-3/.

Comments will be reviewed, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration may be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by MSGSA, which is scheduled for June 8, at 2:00 p.m. at 2222 M Street, 3rd Floor Board Room, Merced, California. This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070 of the California Administrative Code.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Lacey McBride (209) 385-7654 or lacey.mcbride@countyofmerced.com.

Date: May 9, 2023