

**DRAFT**

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Pursuant to Section 21000 et. Seq. of the Public Resources Code, State of California, a Negative Declaration is adopted for the following project.

1. **Project Title:** Sandy Mush Mutual Water Company Reservoir Storage Project

2. **Location and Description:**

The project is located West of Highway 59, between Dickenson Ferry and McNamara roads in Merced County, California. San Mush Mutual Water Company proposes to 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 AFY 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.

3. **Project Sponsor:** Sandy Mush Mutual Water Company  
PO Box 2657

Los Banos, CA 93635

4. **CEQA Lead Agency:** Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
2222 M. Street  
Merced, CA 95340

5. **Finding:**

Based on the attached Initial Study and consideration of comments received, it is the finding of the Board of the Merced Subbasin GSA that:

(X) The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and this NEGATIVE DECLARATION is prepared.

Date: June \_\_\_\_, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lacey McBride  
Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

6. **Impact Avoidance Measures:**

No significant adverse impacts were identified in the Initial Study; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

6. **Preparation and Public Review:**

This Negative Declaration was prepared by the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Copies may be obtained at the address listed below:

2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
Attention: Lacey McBride  
Telephone: (209) 385-7654 Extension 4405  
Email: [lacey.mcbride@countyofmerced.com](mailto:lacey.mcbride@countyofmerced.com)

Materials used in preparation of the Negative Declaration are available for review at this address during the following hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The public review period for the proposed Negative Declaration was May 9, 2023 through 12PM, noon, on June 8, 2023. Written comments are on file at the address above. No additional public review is required.