

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PILOT PROJECT TRANSFER OF WATER BY OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO BANTA-CARBONA IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) plan to adopt a draft initial study/negative declaration for the **Pilot Project Transfer of Water by Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District to Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (Project)**.

The Project will be on the agenda of the public OID Board of Directors meeting on July 11, 2023, at 9:00 am at the OID Office, 1205 East F Street, Oakdale, CA. The Project will also be considered at the public SSJID Board of Directors meeting on July 11, 2023 at 9:00 am at the SSJID Office, 11011 Highway 120, Manteca, CA.

The Project proposes to transfer up to 10,000 acre-feet of surplus surface water during the 2023 irrigation season from OID and SSJID to the Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (BCID). The term of the agreement may start as soon as July and end by November 1, 2023. The transferred water would be used for agricultural irrigation, either within the BCID service area or delivered by BCID through the Delta-Mendota Canal to other nearby irrigation districts. Existing diversion and conveyance facilities are in place and no new construction is required as a result of the Project. The Project will provide a surface water source to BCID and other irrigation districts in lieu of groundwater, and will not increase the total water use. The Project site consists of land within the BCID service area and other agricultural irrigation districts primarily located within the western San Joaquin Valley. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study has been prepared, describing the degree of possible environmental impacts of the proposed Project. OID and SSJID have assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed action and have determined that they will be less than significant. Copies of the Initial Study and proposed negative declaration are on file and available for public review at the OID Office, and at www.oakdaleirrigation.com. The public review period during which OID and SSJID will receive comments on the proposed negative declaration will begin on May 10, 2023 and end on June 9, 2023. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Scot Moody, OID General Manager, at either smoody@oakdaleirrigation.com, or 1205 East F Street, Oakdale, CA 95361.