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AMIE X. ESPINOZA
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BY PS DEPUTY

NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

August 14, 2023

Notice of Intent to Adopt the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Groundwater Banking Partnership Project

The North Kern Water Storage District (District) has completed preparation of an Initial Study/proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Groundwater Banking Partnership Project (Project) and intends to adopt the MND as part of project review.

The IS/MND is now available for a 30-day public review and comment period from **August 14 to September 15, 2023**.

You may obtain a copy of the IS/MND at 33380 Cawelo Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93308 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM (except holidays). The IS/MND may also be reviewed at: <https://www.northkernwsd.com/projects/>

The proposed Project would include agreements made between the District and its groundwater banking partners to recharge the partners' water within the District's existing spreading grounds/recharge basins during wet- and moderately-wet years. These additional recharge volumes would increase the importation of water supplies for groundwater banking ("banked water"), which some portion would be returned to groundwater banking partners at a later time by proposed Project facilities. Proposed Project facilities would include: nine high-quality wells, with an average pumping capacity of 5.5 cubic feet per second; a total of 8.92 miles of pipeline; one existing well tie-in; and two discharge points to the Friant Kern Canal (FKC). The proposed Project facilities would be constructed and operated in two areas of the District's service area, referred to as Project Area 1 and Project Area 2.

Project Area 1 is located in the Rosedale United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle Township 28S Range 26E, Sections 20, 21, 28 and 29. Project Area 1 would contain a total of five new wells, 3.66 miles of pipeline with one proposed tie-in to an existing District well, and one discharge into the FKC at MP 140.54. Project Area 2 is in the Famoso and Wasco USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles Township 27S Range 25E, Sections 2, 3 and 4. Project Area 1 would contain a total of four new wells, 5.26 miles of pipeline, and one discharge into the FKC at MP 131.13.

Implementation of the proposed Project would improve District infrastructure and flexibility to allow for the return of previously banked water to District banking partners via the FKC.

All comments regarding the IS/MND should be received **NO LATER THAN 4:00 p.m. on September 15, 2023**. Written comments should be submitted to:

David Hampton, General Manager
North Kern Water Storage District
33380 Cawelo Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308
Tel: (661) 393-2696
dhampton@northkernwsd.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Hampton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Hampton
General Manager
North Kern Water Storage District