

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
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**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE
SAN JUAQUIN FIELD DIVISION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
CENTER DRAINAGE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released a draft initial study (IS) and intends to adopt a proposed mitigated negative declaration (MND) for the San Joaquin Field Division Operations and Maintenance Center Drainage Culvert Replacement Project (proposed Project). The draft IS and proposed MND have been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act to provide agencies, the public, and interested parties an opportunity to review the environmental analysis of the proposed project.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project site is at the SJFD O&M Center in southern Kern County, 23 miles south of the City of Bakersfield. The SJFD O&M Center is at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains in unincorporated Kern County, adjacently east of the California Aqueduct and west of the interchange of Interstate 5 and State Route 99. The Project site is accessed from the north via the gated entrance on South Sabodan Street just east of the SJFD O&M Center.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project would include replacement of the existing arch corrugated metal pipe culvert with a new concrete box culvert, improvements to the upstream and downstream flow channels, and improvements to the connection to an existing drainage swale.

The Project proposes a new pre-cast reinforced concrete box culvert with cast-in-place reinforced concrete headwall structures at each end of the culvert. The headwall structures would consist of one headwall, two wing walls, a foundation slab, and a cutoff wall. The Project would also include improvements within the upstream flow channel, southeast of the existing box culvert, and within the downstream flow channel, northwest of the existing box culvert.

Improvements to the upstream flow channel and downstream flow channel would consist of trapezoidal-shaped concrete liners. Additional rock slope protection would be placed to connect an existing drainage swale from the SJFD O&M Center parking lot to the downstream flow channel.

An existing gravel parking area located in the southeast portion of the SJFD O&M Center site, southeast of the southernmost building, would be used during construction as a staging area for materials and parking by construction personnel. Access to the staging area would be provided from the internal circulation road, northwest of the staging area.

The IS assesses the proposed Project's potential significant adverse impacts on the environment. The IS concludes that the proposed Project would not have any significant adverse effects on the environment after implementation of mitigation measures.

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

The IS is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days starting December 15th, 2023. Written comments should be submitted and received no later than close of business on January 16th, 2024.

Copies of the draft IS and proposed MND are available at:

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Search/Recent> or <https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices>

If you encounter problems accessing the document from DWR's website, please email accessibility@water.ca.gov. A printed copy can also be requested to view during business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the DWR office located at 3500 Industrial Boulevard, West Sacramento California 95691.

Submittal of Comments:

Please submit comments in writing or email to:

Jennifer Worsley
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715 P Street, 5th Fl. Mailbox 9
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236
Email: Jennifer.worsley@water.ca.gov

Comments are due no later than 5 p.m. local time on January 16th, 2024.

If comments are provided via email, please include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in Microsoft Word format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

PRIVACY NOTE: All comments received will be made available for public review in their entirety, including the names and addresses of the respondents. Individual respondents may request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure. DWR will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.