NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO:	**Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties**
PROJECT TITLE:	**Lake Forest Woods Sewer Improvements**
LEAD AGENCY:	**Irvine Ranch Water District**
REVIEW PERIOD:	**February 16, 2024 through March 18, 2024**
CONTACT:	**Irvine Ranch Water District**
	Water Resources & Policy Department
	Attention: Andy Uk, Environmental Compliance Analyst
	15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
	Irvine, California 92618

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is the Lead Agency for the Lake Forest Woods Sewer Improvements (proposed Project). Based on the information contained in the Initial Study (IS) prepared for the proposed Project, IRWD has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. IRWD is distributing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and interested groups, in accordance with CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project site is in The Woods community in the City of Lake Forest within the County of Orange. Regional access to the Project site is provided by State Route 241, approximately 3 miles northeast of the Project site, and by Interstate 5, 1.3 miles southwest of the Project site. The proposed improvements are within a single-family residential housing community that surrounds a reach of Upper San Diego Creek and the Glenwood Tributary. The Project site is bounded by Toledo Way to the northeast and Jeronimo Road to the southwest.

The Project site is not included on any hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) proposes to replace, relocate, and protect portions of their existing sewer facilities that are at risk of damage from erosion by the adjacent San Diego Creek and Glenwood Tributary and provide associated access improvements (proposed Project) within The Woods community in Lake Forest, California. The objective of the proposed Project is to reduce risk to infrastructure caused by scour by relocating the existing sewer facilities in the creek to areas outside the scour zone where feasible or using stream bed improvements such as new grade control structures to reduce the potential for scour and adding concrete encasement to protect new or existing sewer

facilities that cannot be relocated outside the scour zone. The proposed project would also include access improvements for ongoing maintenance of the sewer facilities. In total, IRWD would install approximately 850 feet of new sewer pipeline within Upper San Diego Creek and approximately 500 feet of new sewer pipeline in the Glenwood Tributary. In addition, IRWD proposes to install ungrouted riprap check dams and bank stabilization measures at several locations within Upper San Diego Creek and the Glenwood Tributary to reduce scour and protect existing sewer infrastructure and access roads. Riprap check dams would consist of large, ungrouted, rock riprap underlain with unwoven fabric and compacted fill.

Development of the proposed Project would require the IRWD to approve the IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the proposed Project. The Project may require approvals, permits, or authorization from other agencies, classified as "Responsible Agencies" under CEQA.

PUBLIC REVIEW:

On January 12, 2024, IRWD issued a Notice of Intent and commenced a 30-day public comment period to adopt an MND for the proposed Project. The circulation of the NOI completed its 30-day public comment period cycle on February 12, 2024. IRWD did not receive any comments that resulted in the need to revise or recirculate the document or require preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. During the review cycle, IRWD found that the MND detailed in the link below to the IRWD website was not accessible for public review for an unconfirmed duration of the public review comment review period. Therefore, IRWD has determined to recirculate the NOI for a 30-day public review period.

An additional 30-day public comment period to adopt an MND for the proposed Project would occur on February 16, 2024 to March 18, 2024.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

IRWD invites all interested parties to submit written comments on the IS/MND during the public review period. The 30-day public review period will commence on February 16, 2024, and end on March 18, 2024. Any written comments on the IS/MND must be received by IRWD by 4:00 p.m. on March 18, 2024.

During the public review period, the IS/MND will be available for review at the following locations:

- Irvine Ranch Water District
  Water Resources & Policy Department
  15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
  Irvine, California 92618

- Online at the IRWD website: http://www.irwd.com/doing-business/environmental-documents

- El Toro Branch Library
  24672 Raymond Way
  Lake Forest, California 92630

- The Foothill Ranch Branch Library
  27002 Cabriole Way
  Foothill Ranch, California 92610

If anyone has an issue with accessing the NOI and/or IS/MND documents at the above link, please contact Andy Uk, Environmental Compliance Analyst, Email: Uk@irwd.com, Phone: (949) 453-5326

METHODS OF DELIVERING COMMENTS:

Written comments need to be received by March 18, 2024 **at 4:00 p.m.,** the close of the public review period. Written comments can be mailed or electronically submitted using the following contact information:

Irvine Ranch Water District
Water Resources & Policy Department
Attn: Andy Uk, Environmental Compliance Analyst
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, California 92618
Uk@irwd.com

Comments received during the public review period and responses to the comments will be included in a final environmental document. If you have any questions regarding the proposed Project, please contact Andy Uk at Uk@irwd.com.

PUBLIC MEETING

IRWD's Board of Directors will consider the adoption of the IS/MND at a regularly scheduled meeting following the 30-day review period. For more information, contact the Board's Secretary at (949) 453-5300.