

PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/INITIAL STUDY FOR THE NORTH BASIN RECHARGE PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Porterville Irrigation District (District) plans to adopt an Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) for the North Basin Recharge Project (Project). The public hearing will be held at the District Office, located at 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257, on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, at 9:00 am.

The District currently contains large areas of land that do not have access to surface water supplies. Due to this lack of infrastructure, farmers rely heavily on groundwater supplies which has led to overdraft in the area. The District and the City of Porterville need to find a way to recharge the underlying Tule Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The purpose of the Proposed Action/Project is to install a new turnout in the FKC so that surplus water, when available, could be recharged in the new recharge basin. Implementing the Project would enable the District to restore groundwater supplies by utilizing more of its Friant Division CVP water allocation rather than allowing it to leave the District. This recharge project is in response to SGMA and to help offset what is pumped in the surrounding area.

The Project proposes constructing a new turnout in the FKC, excavating an approximately five-acre basin for groundwater recharge, and connecting the FKC to the new basin with a 290-foot long, 36-inch to 48-inch diameter pipeline. The total Area of Potential Effect (APE) is 7.9 acres.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, an EA/IS has been prepared, describing the degree of potential environmental impacts of the Project. The District has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this Project and has determined that they will be less than significant with environmental commitments/ protection measures. Copies of the EA/IS are on file and available for public review upon written notice to 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, CA 93257. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed EA/IS will begin on January 26, 2024, and end on February 26, 2024. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Briza Sholars at Provost & Pritchard, 455 W. Fir Ave, Clovis CA 93611, or at bsholars@ppeng.com.

The site has been reviewed in accordance with Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not listed as a hazardous waste or materials site.