

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION TO SATISFY CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR MERCED RIVER AND MERCED FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSINGS

Date: February 13, 2025

Based upon the conclusions set forth in the Initial Study, the CEQA Lead Agency finds that the proposed Project, which includes mitigation measures designed to minimize environmental impacts, would not result in significant adverse impacts on the environment. The CEQA Lead Agency has prepared this Notice of Intent to adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15072.

Title: Merced River Hydroelectric Project and Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project FERC Relicensing

State Clearinghouse Number: 2024051222

Project Description: Acceptance of new FERC license, continuance of Merced River Project and Merced Falls Project operations and maintenance under said license, and implementation of new license conditions.

Project Location: Merced River Watershed, Merced and Mariposa counties

Lead Agency: Merced Irrigation District

Public Review Period: February 13, 2025 through March 16, 2025

Available Material: A copy of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is available on CEQAnet, under SCH# 2024051222.

Contact for Public Comments: Written comments on the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to Bryan Kelly, Deputy General Manager of Water Resources, Merced Irrigation District, 744 W. 20th Street, Merced, CA 95340, bkelly@mercedid.org