

# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**DATE:** JULY 22, 2024

**PROJECT:** HIGH GROUNDWATER MITIGATION PROJECT

**LEAD AGENCY:** HENRY MILLER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

The Henry Miller Reclamation District (HMRD) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency. The Proposed Project will be implemented jointly by HMRD and San Luis Canal Company (SLCC).

## **CONTACT**

John Wiersma, District Manager, Henry Miller Reclamation District: 209-387-4305 or JWiersma@hmr.net

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The Proposed Project is located throughout the HMRD service area in western Merced County near Dos Palos.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

A large portion of SLCC's acreage is plagued by shallow groundwater which impacts crop growth and can restrict the planting of permanent crops. As a mechanism to mitigate for the impacts associated with this shallow groundwater, HMRD and SLCC plan to implement a two-tiered program consisting primarily of (1) elimination of seepage losses through infrastructure improvement projects including lining and piping of canals and (2) shallow groundwater pumping. For shallow groundwater pumping, the groundwater will be pumped from the upper water table through a series of existing shallow wells and conveyed through HMRD's existing water delivery system for use within the Company's service area. A like amount of SLCC's CVP water supply (up to 10,000 acre feet per year [afy]) would be made available to be transferred to San Joaquin Valley Wildlife Refuges, Tulare Lake Basin Wildlife Refuges, and other CVP contractors including but not limited to Friant Division and San Luis Unit CVP contractors, and/or all State Water Project contractors including but not limited to Kern County Water Agency, Valley Water (CVP/SWP Water), East Bay Municipal Utility District, Contra Costa Water District and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (collectively; Transfer Recipients). All transfers would be consistent with CVP Place of Use requirements.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** HMRD has prepared an Initial Study to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. HMRD has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, HMRD intends to adopt a Negative

Declaration (ND) for the Project in accordance with CEQA. HMRD will consider adopting the ND as part of its consideration of the Proposed Project at the August public board meeting.

**PUBLIC REVIEW:** A 30-day public review period will begin on July 22, 2024 and end on August 22, 2024. Any interested person or agency may comment on this matter by submitting written comments to Henry Miller Reclamation District RE: High Groundwater Mitigation Project, 11704 Henry Miller Ave., Dos Palos, CA 93620.

All comments must be in writing, must be received within the public review period, and should indicate a contact person for the agency or organization, if applicable. Responsible agencies are requested to indicate their statutory responsibilities in connection with this project when responding. Received comments will be reviewed by the HMRD Board of Directors at the board meeting scheduled on August 22, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the HMRD office located at 11704 Henry Miller Ave., Dos Palos, CA 93620.

Copies may be reviewed during business hours at the HMRD office.

Submitted by: John Wiersma, General Manager  
Henry Miller Reclamation District

Date: July 22, 2024