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July 30, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that United Water Conservation District (United) has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the project listed below pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State Guidelines §15000 et seq. Anyone desiring to comment on the Draft IS-MND may do so in writing within the **30-day public review period, commencing July 30, 2024 through August 29, 2024**. The document is available for public review at: <https://www.unitedwater.org/key-documents/#ceqa-documents>.

Project Title: Groundwater Recharge Capacity Expansion Project – Ferro Recharge

Project Location: The project site is located in unincorporated Ventura County, approximately one mile north of the Oxnard city limits and three miles northeast of the Camarillo city limits (see Figure 1). The project site is located within the Oxnard Subbasin of the Santa Clara River Valley groundwater basin. The project site traverses State Route 232 (Vineyard Avenue) in an undeveloped area between properties located at 5625 Vineyard Avenue and 5721 Vineyard Avenue. The project site also includes portions of existing groundwater spreading basins maintained and operated by United, including a portion of the Noble Basin located east of Vineyard Avenue and a portion of the Ferro Basin located west of Vineyard Avenue. The project site is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Figure 1 shows the regional location of the project site, and Figure 2 shows the project site at a local scale.

Brief Project Description: United operates and maintains approximately 600 acres of groundwater recharge basins, which are used to percolate water and recharge groundwater supplies with Santa Clara River water diverted at the Freeman Diversion. In previous years when conditions were dry with less precipitation, United did not have a need for additional groundwater recharge capacity as its current basins were sufficient to recharge the allowable amount of water United is permitted to divert from the Santa Clara River. However, with wetter conditions and above average precipitation occurring over the last two years, an opportunity exists to recharge additional surface water within the allowable diversion amounts. The Noble Basin and Ferro Basin, located along Vineyard Avenue, are among the groundwater recharge basins United operates. The Ferro Basin is not currently connected to United's diversion and recharge infrastructure and, as such, cannot be used for artificial groundwater recharge. United proposes to construct an undercrossing beneath Vineyard Avenue and install pipelines to connect the Ferro Basin to the Noble Basin, which would enable the conveyance of water to the Ferro Basin for artificial groundwater recharge. United estimates connecting the basins would, on average over time, provide capacity for an additional 2,000 to 3,000 acre-feet of groundwater recharge per year. Project construction would occur over approximately six to eight months, and would start as early as July 2025; however, in the event of project delays, United would delay construction to begin as late as June 2027. Construction activities would generally occur from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; trenchless pipeline

installation may require constant (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) construction activities. The proposed pipeline would be installed via open cut trench on either side of Vineyard Avenue, and via trenchless methods underneath Vineyard Avenue in accordance with California Department of Transportation requirements. The project would also involve grading and contouring of the embankments along the pipeline alignment and in the Ferro Basin to facilitate recharge.

Public Meeting: United Board of Directors will consider the project at a Board of Directors meeting scheduled for October 9, 2024. Please check the Board Meeting agenda prior to the meeting to confirm the hearing date and attendance details:

<https://www.unitedwater.org/governance/>.

30-Day Document Review: The Draft IS-MND is available for review online at:

<https://www.unitedwater.org/key-documents/#ceqa-documents>. A copy of the Draft IS-MND is also available for review at United's office at 1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200, Oxnard, California 93030.

Contact Person and Comments: Written comments may be submitted via mail or email to Hannah Garcia-Wickstrum, Environmental Scientist. **Comments must be received by 5:00 PM on August 29, 2024.** If submitting comments via email, please include "Groundwater Recharge Capacity Expansion Project" in the subject line.

Hannah Garcia-Wickstrum, Environmental Scientist
United Water Conservation District
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200
Oxnard, California 93030
Email: hannahg@unitedwater.org or CEQA@unitedwater.org

Figure 1 Regional Project Location



★ Project Location

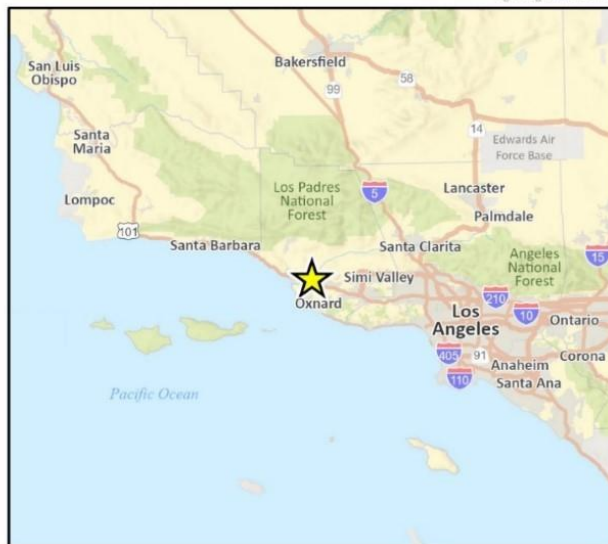


Figure 2 Project Site Location

