

TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SHALLOW WELL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Turner Island Water District (District) plans to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the construction and operation of the Shallow Well and Water Conservation Project. The public hearing will be held by the District's Board of Directors on September 10, 2024, at the District Office, located at 11341 Erreca Road, Dos Palos, California, 93620.

The shallow well drilling portion of the Project would involve the construction and operation of two new agricultural irrigation wells screened above the Corcoran Clay so that their use could reduce the District's reliance on the lower aquifer water. Well No. 1 would be located roughly at the midway point on the eastern edge of APN 074-030-011 near the Eastside Canal. Well No. 2 would be located roughly at the southeastern corner of APN 065-050-004 near the Eastside Canal. The new wells would be drilled to a maximum depth of approximately 200 feet.

The water conservation portion of the Project would involve the modification of three existing weirs along the Mariposa Slough, and construction of two recharge basins adjacent to the Mariposa Slough. Additionally, the existing pumps at each weir would be replaced with new pumps and would be sized with a capacity of up to 35 cubic feet per second (CFS). The new pumps would return water to the head of the District's system and avoid or reduce losses in the last reach of Mariposa Slough. One recharge basin would be approximately 30 acres and would have the capacity to store up to 150 acre-feet (AF) of water. The second recharge basin would be approximately 23 acres and would have the capacity to store up to 115 AF of water. The proposed Project would allow the District to store surface water when available and delay the pumping of lower aquifer wells, thereby reducing strain on the groundwater resources from which these wells draw.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study has been prepared, describing the degree of possible environmental impacts of the proposed project. The District has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed action and has determined that they will be less than significant. Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file and available for public review at the District Office. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on August 2, 2024, and end on September 3, 2024. Turner Island Water District is holding their Board meeting and Public Hearing on the Project September 10, 2024, at the District office address noted above. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Amy Wilson, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group Senior Planner, via email at awilson@ppeng.com or 400 E. Main Street, Suite 300, Visalia, CA 93291.