

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
For the Jefferson Avenue Interconnection Project**

DATE: September 25, 2024

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: Western Municipal Water District

PROJECT TITLE: Jefferson Avenue Interconnection Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Western Municipal Water District (Western) has prepared a Draft Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the project listed above pursuant to the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15000 et seq. Anyone desiring to comment on the IS-MND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period from Wednesday, September 25, 2024 through 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2024.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project site is comprised of an approximately one-mile-long linear alignment located along Jefferson Avenue between Guava Street and Elm Street in the city of Murrieta, Riverside County. The project site is entirely within the public right-of-way of Jefferson Avenue, a paved road. See Figure 1 for a map of the project site. The project site does not contain hazardous waste sites identified on lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project consists of the installation of approximately one mile of an 18-inch water pipeline, two 16-inch interconnections to Rancho California Water District's (RCWD) existing 36-inch domestic water pipelines on each end of the proposed pipeline, and two interconnection vaults along with associated aboveground appurtenances, such as a water quality station, metering pedestal, blow offs, and air vacuum release valves. The project would extend service to certain developed land uses within Western's service area, specifically within Murrieta's Innovation Zone. The Innovation Zone comprises a mix of developed and undeveloped parcels, some of which currently lack municipal water service and are solely relying on private well production. The Innovation Zone is intended to accommodate a wide variety of non-residential uses and have a campus-like, mixed-use business setting, and development of this area was anticipated in the City of Murrieta's most recent General Plan Update. Although the pipeline would be installed by Western within Western's service area, the pipeline would be connected to RCWD's distribution system, and water conveyed throughout the pipeline would be supplied by RCWD, which has adequate pressure and available water supplies to serve this area. Project construction is anticipated to begin as early as January 2025 and occur over the course of 10 months.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared for the project. The Initial Study describes the environmental impacts of the project and suggests mitigation measures

where necessary to reduce impacts to cultural resources, paleontological resources, hazards and hazardous materials (emergency response), transportation (emergency access), tribal cultural resources, and wildfire (emergency response) to less-than-significant levels. The proposed mitigation measures will be implemented as part of the project to ensure the project will not generate a significant adverse impact on the environment during construction and operation. Based on this assessment, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/REVIEW:

In accordance with Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Draft IS-MND is available for public review for 30 days from September 25, 2024 to October 24, 2024 at:

- Western Municipal Water District Website (<https://westernwaterca.gov/PublicNotices>)
- Western Municipal Water District Office during normal business hours (14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, CA 92518)
- Murrieta Public Library during normal business hours (8 Town Square, Murrieta, CA 92562)

Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2024. Please address comments to:

Cesar Carrillo, P.E. Engineer
Western Municipal Water District
14205 Meridian Parkway
Riverside, CA 92518
or by email to: ccarrillo@wmwd.com

Figure 1 Project Site Map



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