

## WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE LATERAL 7R PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Westlands Water District (District) plans to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the construction and operation of the Lateral 7R Pipeline Replacement Project. The public hearing will be held by the District's Board of Directors on November 19, 2024, at the District Office, 286 West Cromwell Avenue, Fresno, CA.

The Project's main objective is to replace and relocate an approximately 4.2-mile segment of the District's Lateral 7R pipeline. The existing pipe was installed in 1971 and has experienced increasing reliability concerns over the past five years. On average, this 4.2-mile section of pipe sees approximately 10 pipeline blows resulting in 30 days of service interruptions and the loss of an estimated 3,360 acre-feet (AF) of water annually. With its close proximity to I-5 and lack of a casing pipe under the traveled lanes, this existing pipe has the potential to impact vehicle travel along a critical travel corridor within the State. The new replacement pipe will be installed parallel to the existing one, but through existing dirt roads rather than through the farmed ground that the old alignment traverses. This will allow the existing line to remain in service through most of the construction and limit the service interruption for the connection to the existing pumping plants. The replacement/relocation effort will increase the reliability of the 7R pipeline and reduce potential impacts to I-5.

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 October 4, 2024, and end on November 4, 2024. Westlands Water District is holding their Board meeting November 19, 2024. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Briza Sholars, Senior Planner with Provost & Pritchard, via email at [bsholars@ppeng.com](mailto:bsholars@ppeng.com) or 455 W. Fir Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611.