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December 11, 2024

Purpose of the Notice

The purpose of this Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration is to inform agencies, the public, and other interested parties that, in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15070, the Western Canal Water District (WCWD) has prepared an Initial Study - Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Front Slide Gates Replacement project (proposed project). This NOI provides information about the project and instructions for reviewing and submitting comments on the IS/MND.

Project Location

The proposed project site is located in unincorporated, western Butte County, approximately 12 miles southwest of Chico (Assessor's Parcel Number 038-140-006-000). The existing front slide gates structure spans Little Butte Creek and impounds creek flows (when present) that are comingled with upstream inflows from the Thermalito Afterbay via the Western Main Canal.

Project Description

The proposed project includes a gate structure in the channel along the same approximate alignment as the existing structure, but with a larger footprint to accommodate the necessary civil works. The new structure would improve the reliability and efficiency of WCWD water deliveries. The new structure would contain a concrete foundation, catwalk, and several mechanically operated gates to regulate upstream water levels and downstream flowrates.

The public review period begins December 11, 2024, and ends January 10, 2025. All comments should be provided in writing and received before **5:00 p.m. on January 10, 2025**. Comments provided will be considered by the decision-making body in accordance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15074(b). The draft IS/MND is available for review at the following web address:

<http://www.westerncanal.com/fsgrp>

Please send all comments and/or inquiries by either: 1) U.S. mail; or 2) electronic mail (email) to:

Ted Trimble, General Manager, Western Canal Water District
PO Box 190
Richvale, CA 95974
Email: ted@westerncanal.com

For comments submitted via email, please include "Front Slide Gates Replacement Project" in the subject line and the name of the commenter in the body of the email.

A public hearing to adopt the IS/MND will be held at the Board of Director's meeting on January 21st, 2025 at 9:00 am. The meeting will be held at WCWD's office, located at 2003 Nelson Road, Nelson, CA 95958. Verbal comments on the IS/MND may be received in-person at this time.