

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION TO
SATISFY CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACCELERATED DROUGHT
RESPONSE PROJECT**

Date: February 20, 2025

Based upon the conclusions set forth in the Initial Study, the CEQA Lead Agency finds that the proposed Project, which includes mitigation measures designed to minimize environmental impacts, would not result in significant adverse impacts on the environment. The CEQA Lead Agency has prepared this Notice of Intent to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15072.

Title: Accelerated Drought Response Project

State Clearinghouse Number:

Project Description: The San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) proposes to expand the West Hills Water Treatment Plant (WHWTP) near the City of Hollister, construct five Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells, and install new pipelines for recharge water transmission from the City of Hollister to the proposed ASR wells and recovery water from ASR wells to the City's distribution system. The proposed Project would have the capacity to inject, store, and recover up to 2,700 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water.

Project Location: Hollister, San Benito County

Lead Agency: San Benito County Water District

Public Review Period: February 21, 2025 through March 24, 2025

Available Material: A copy of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is available on CEQAnet, under SCH#

Contact for Public Comments: Written comments on the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to Dana Jacobson, General Manager, San Benito County Water District, 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, CA 95023, djacobson@sbcwd.com.