

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY
FOR THE REVIEW OF THE
DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
PROPOSED MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Merced Irrigation District (MID), as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, announces the availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed Merced Irrigation District Water Resources Management Plan (Proposed Program). This notice is provided pursuant to noticing requirements found in Public Resources Code Sec. 21092 and the State CEQA Guidelines (Guidelines Sec. 15807).

PROJECT LOCATION: MID is located in eastern Merced County in the northeastern portion of the San Joaquin Valley. The MID service area consists of approximately 166,000 acres and encompasses the cities of Merced, Atwater, and Livingston. The Program Area includes the MID service area and areas outside of the MID service area where capital improvements are planned as part of the Proposed Program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Program includes the following projects or actions: 1) System Improvements – various projects to allow for full implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and modernization of the system; 2) Class II to Class I Conversion – one-time opportunity for water users in the District’s El Nido area to convert from Class II to Class I for a fee; and 3) Water transfers – transfers of water when District water is available and when the Board of Directors determines it is in the best interests of the District.

PROJECT IMPACTS: The Proposed Program would not have any significant impacts on the environment after mitigation measures are implemented. The Proposed Program would ensure the continued protection of MID’s water rights in a financially sound manner to support the region’s agricultural economy while promoting the sustainable management of its groundwater resources.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Draft PEIR will be available for a 45-day public review period from March 10, 2020, to April 23, 2020. Written comments on the Draft PEIR should be addressed to Merced Irrigation District, Attn: Bryan Kelly, P.O. Box 2288, Merced, CA 95344. Comments must be received in writing at the above address no later than April 23, 2020. Comments received will be addressed, and the responses to comments will be included as part of the record.

A copy of the Draft PEIR is available at the following location:

Merced Irrigation District
744 W. 20th Street
Merced, CA 95340

After comments have been received on the Draft PEIR, a public hearing will be held on May 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. during the regular meeting of the Merced Irrigation District Board of Directors in the City of Merced, City Council Chambers, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, California.