

DELANO-EARLIMART IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE TURNIPSEED BASIN PHASE V EXPANSION PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District (DEID) plans to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Turnipseed Basin Phase V Expansion Project. The public hearing will be held by the District's Board of Directors on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 4:00pm, at the District Office, 14181 Avenue 24, Delano, CA 93215.

The Proposed Project involves the construction of a groundwater recharge basin facility on identified property for use in the District's efforts to sustainably manage surface water and groundwater for the benefit of District lands. The District is in the process of acquiring 153 acres of property (APNs 338-070-066, 338-270-005, and 338-270-006) at the southwest corner of Avenue 8 and Road 176 to provide for sustainable management of surface and groundwater. The proposed project property is located in southwest Tulare County, northeast of the City of Delano.

The Proposed Project includes several phases of construction, including equipment mobilization, earthwork for excavation of recharge/regulation basins, and construction of basin perimeter berms of no greater than six feet in external height. Project components could include constructing ponds/cells within the basin separated by levees, as well as performance testing and demobilization.

The District will excavate approximately 55,000 cubic yards of material from the site to form the overall basin. The basin will be further divided into approximately eight cells to increase storage over varying topography. The Project will include a settling channel on the east side and an overflow basin along its western edge. The Project may also construct a network of monitoring wells if needed to supplement existing monitoring wells used for current banking operations in proximity to the Project. The only pipelines proposed in the Project would serve to introduce water for recharge/banking via connection to existing turnouts from the Friant-Kern Canal on the east side of the Project site. The project site is currently planted in almonds and there is an equipment yard in one area of the subject property.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared, describing the degree of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The District has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed project and has determined that they will be less than significant with mitigation. Copies of the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file and available for public review at the District Office, 14181 Avenue 24, Delano, CA 93215. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on April 7, 2020 and end on May 6, 2020. Comments should be in writing, if possible, and addressed to Briza Sholars at Provost & Pritchard, 286 West Cromwell Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711, or at [bsholars@ppeng.com](mailto:bsholars@ppeng.com).

The site has been reviewed in accordance with Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not listed as hazardous waste or materials site.