

LOWER TULE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE
TULE RIVER SPILLWAY ENLARGEMENT ROAD REALIGNMENT AND RIGHT
ABUTMENT SPILLWAY CUT PROJECT
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is Hereby Given: The Lower Tule River Irrigation District (District) is the lead agency on the below-described project and has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Tule River Spillway Enlargement Road Realignment and Right Abutment Spillway Cut Project at Success Lake (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The District has determined that the Project will have a less than significant effect on the environment, with mitigation, and therefore the MND was prepared. The complete project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in the MND, which is available to the public for review.

Project Title: Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Tule River Spillway Enlargement Road Realignment and Right Abutment Spillway Cut

Project Location: Success Dam and Reservoir is located along the Tule River approximately five miles east and upstream of the City of Porterville in Tulare County. The subject roadway realignment (portion of Worth Drive / Avenue 146) is located on the southwestern side of Success Lake, in the vicinity of the existing dam and is aligned down the invert of the existing Success Lake emergency spillway.

Project Description: The District and the United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (Federal Sponsor) are proposing a spillway cut to widen the Success Dam Emergency Spillway and to realign a portion of an existing road (Worth Drive / Avenue 146) from the spillway to a bench on the right abutment of the spillway. The existing spillway has a current width of 200 feet with a public access road within the footprint. To accommodate the modified spillway, the paved access road that currently passes through the spillway would need to be relocated/realigned. The new alignment will also be useful in allowing for the use of sandbags or other temporary measures that have historically been undertaken to temporary increase the elevation of the existing spillway, and thereby increase the storage capacity of Success Reservoir for flood protection purposes. The existing USACE road through the spillway allows public access to the Rocky Hill Recreation Area and two residences when the reservoir is not at full capacity. This road is currently located between the right abutment slope of the spillway and the spillway channel. USACE is proposing to relocate the road onto a bench cut into the right abutment above the projected new gross pool level, removing the road from the spillway and avoiding most future road closures due to high water encroachment with the current maximum water elevations under the existing spillway configuration, as well as increased water elevations that could be achieved with spillway enlargement. The road would become a public access USACE road and remain open up to the 100-year event.

The spillway would be widened from 200 to 365 feet by blasting and removing the rock forming the right abutment during Project construction. A bench for the road would be blasted and excavated as part of the cut on the right abutment. Rock from the abutment would be used for the new roadbed and stockpiled for later construction phases.

Mitigation Measures: The District has incorporated into the project mitigation measures for potentially significant project impacts related to air quality, biological and cultural resources. The mitigation measures are included in the MND.

Document Availability and Public Review Timeline: The review period for the MND will be from September 25, 2019 to October 26, 2019. Copies of the MND and related project information can be reviewed at the Lower Tule River Irrigation District Office at 357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272. Electronic copies can also be requested from the District. Please submit your written comments or request for files to Eric Limas, General Manager, Lower Tule River Irrigation District, 357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272. Email: elimas@ltrid.org, Telephone: (559) 686-4716.

Public Informational Meeting: The District and USACE will hold a public informational meeting for this project. This meeting is intended to provide project information to the public and to answer questions related to the project. The public is invited to attend the informational meeting, which will occur as follows:

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2019
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall
1900 W. Olive Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

Public Adoption Hearing: The District will consider adoption of the proposed MND for this project at a public hearing before the District’s Board of Directors. The public is invited to attend the adoption hearing, which will occur as follows:

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Time: On or after 9:00 a.m.
Location: Lower Tule River Irrigation District
357 E. Olive Avenue
Tipton, CA 93272.