CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR THE SUBMISSION FOR STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY EXCEPTION FOR USE OF COPPER AND ACROLEIN PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Chowchilla Water District (District) plans to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Submission for SIP Exception for Use of Copper and Acrolein Project. The public hearing will be held by the District’s Board of Directors on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 1:30pm, at the District Office, 327 South Chowchilla Boulevard, Chowchilla Ca 93610.

The proposed project consists of the periodic application of copper and acrolein as aquatic herbicides to the irrigation and stormwater canals and ditches of the District for weed control and preventative algae maintenance as part of an aquatic pesticide application plan (APAP). The presence of emergent plants, floating or submersed plants, and/or algae in the distribution system reduces the volume of water that can be delivered and decreases the ability to accurately control water deliverables. The growth causes maintenance issues for farmers when it clogs pumps, filters, and other irrigation equipment which would discourage the use of surface water, thereby increasing demand on groundwater supplies, which is inconsistent with water conservation efforts. Without the ability to control the plant and algae growth in canals and pipelines, irrigation methods that support water conservation are less feasible. Using a preventative maintenance approach, the District would target weeds as early as possible in their lifecycle on a routine basis, thereby requiring lower concentrations of herbicide to be applied. The seasonal exception would cover intermittent, periodic discharges that would occur any time between the months of March and October during the irrigation season. These discharges would last no longer than a period of several hours out of each 14 to 21-day interval in an irrigation season, approximately six months on average. The aquatic herbicides would be applied strictly at the head/beginning of various existing irrigation and stormwater canals at strategic locations that maximize the distance from each potential natural river/slough/creek receiving point and minimize impacts on receiving waters by promoting a dilution and settling process. From a District tank trailer temporarily parked alongside the canal, the aquatic herbicides would be applied to the open canal using a tube placed beneath the water surface to prevent splash.

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, 327 South Chowchilla Boulevard, Chowchilla Ca 93610. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on November 6, 2019 and end on December 5, 2019. 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.

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