

DATE: January 7, 2020

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/ PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE NORTH OF O'NEILL FOREBAY LONG-TERM EXCHANGES BETWEEN DWR AND BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has directed the preparation of this Initial Study (IS) and intends to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) for the proposed project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DWR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Location: San Joaquin County, Merced County, and Stanislaus County

Description of the Proposed Project: The Proposed Project (Project) includes the long-term exchange of water between the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to facilitate delivery of Central Valley Project (CVP) contract supply to three long-term CVP Contractors and to request a Long-Term Change in Place of Use from the State Water Resources Control Board to authorize the exchanges for up to 15 years. The Project would assist Reclamation in providing water service of up to 5,616 acre-feet per year to three CVP Contractors located south of the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant (Banks) and North of O'Neill Forebay (North of O'Neill). These CVP Contractors are collectively referred to as the North of O'Neill Contractors. The North of O'Neill Contractors include: (1) Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) which provides service to the Musco Family Olive Company, under BBID's CVP long-term water service contract, (2) the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, and (3) Del Puerto Water District to receive water using Oak Flat Water District's existing turnouts, the State Water Project turnouts, and facilities on the California Aqueduct.

Public Review Period: The Draft IS/Proposed ND is being circulated for public review and comment for a review period of 30 days starting January 10, 2020. Written comments should be submitted and received at the following address or via email no later than close of business (4:00 p.m.) on February 10, 2020:

Anna Fock or Amir Rangchi
State Water Project Analysis Office
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1620
Sacramento, California 95814

(By Email)
Anna.Fock@water.ca.gov
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Copies of the Draft IS/Proposed ND may be reviewed at 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 94326, Office 1620, during normal business hours or you may contact Anna Fock or Amir Rangchi at the above email to receive a copy. Your views and comments on how the project may affect the environment are welcomed.