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**NOTICE OF INTENT**

**TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) (a) has concluded after preparing an Initial Study (IS) that the SWID Leonard Avenue Conveyance Improvement Project would not have a significant effect on the environment; (b) has prepared a proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and (c) anticipates recommending to the SWID Board that it approve the MND.

**PROJECT NAME:** SWID Leonard Avenue Conveyance Improvement Project

**PROJECT LOCATION & DESCRIPTION:** SWID proposes to install a new water conveyance pipe in the Kern County road right-of-way (ROW) on the north side of Merced Avenue and the west side of Leonard Avenue. The new Leonard Avenue pipeline will begin at the intersection of Magnolia Avenue and Merced Avenue, where it will connect to an existing SWID lateral. The pipeline will also connect to four existing SWID turnouts: one near the corner of Merced Avenue and Magnolia Avenue and three near the corner of Merced Avenue and Western Avenue. Additionally, a one-half mile section of existing, obsolete concrete pipe along the south side of Merced Avenue, between Magnolia Avenue and Western Avenue, will be capped and abandoned in place. The proposed project would replace aging infrastructure and during wet years, when SWID and neighboring Semitropic Water Storage District (SWSD) are often unable to immediately use the entirety of their allocated CVP water supply, SWID would be able to send excess CVP water through the new pipeline, to SWSD’s distribution system, for storage in on-farm reservoirs within SWSD. This connection would enhance water supply reliability as it allows for the delivered water to be used for irrigation during peak-demand months, or dry periods. The project is located in Kern County, northwest of Wasco, California. The project site is not present on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**DOCUMENT REVIEW & AVAILABILITY:** The 30-day public review period begins on January 29, 2020 and ends on February 27, 2020. A copy of the IS/proposed MND is available for public review at 6294 Central Valley Highway, Wasco, CA 93280, or online <http://www.swid.org/index.php/notices>.

**CONTACT:** Please send written comments to: Dana Munn, SWID, 16294 Central Valley Highway, Wasco, CA 93280, Fax: (661) 758-6167; Email: dmunn@swid.org, by no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on February 27, 2020.