

EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Water Consultant for the Eastside Water District (EWD) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the following described project:

EWD Diffused Surface Water Program – Sand Creek Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Project

Project Description: Sand Creek is an ephemeral stream that flows seasonally in most winter periods through the EWD and across several miles of bottom lands before being truncated by the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Main Canal where it then discharges. The TID Main Canal ultimately is tributary to either the Merced River or the main stem San Joaquin River. Sand Creek would be deepened over this 280-foot reach to below the indurated sediment horizons (e.g. duripan) thereby improving the permeability of the stream bed and banks to percolate water. The watercourse would be widened over this 280-foot reach to 75 feet creating roughly a half-acre impoundment within the watercourse. Due to its ephemeral nature, the Sand Creek watercourse can be worked upon in the dry season with no incremental concern regarding sediment erosion into the creek during and after construction. The MAR Project is designed to artificially enhance percolation from the creek bed itself by slowing a small portion of the flow and exposing it with higher head to the bottom and side walls. The anticipated depth of excavation through the creek bed is on the order of 15 feet. Quantification of diversion for those periods will be estimated from antecedent diversion rates and descendant diversion rates during more quiescent flows in Sand Creek.

Project Location: The Sand Creek watershed is located between the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers, and drains an area within the EWD of approximately 8,000 acres. The MAR Project is located downstream of the juncture of Sand Creek and Montpelier Road and north on Monte Vista Avenue. The MAR Project involves widening and deepening 280 lineal feet of the engineered watercourse relatively high in the basin with over 4,956 acres of the Sand Creek watershed above the project.

Determination:

EWD has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project, as described above and analyzed in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California).

Public Review:

This Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated for over 30 days from May 26, 2016 to June 27, 2016. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 12:00 noon on June 27, 2016 to:

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Comments will be reviewed by EWD, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by EWD, which is scheduled for July 21, 2016.

This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070 of the California Administrative Code. A copy of this document may be reviewed/obtained at the Eastside Water District website located at www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com.



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