

ROOT CREEK WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE WATER APPROPRIATIONS PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Root Creek Water District (RCWD) plans to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Water Appropriations Project. The public hearing by the District's Board of Directors will be held via conference call May 10, 2021 and agendas may be found at www.rootcreekwd.com. The Teleconference Number, Bridge, and Pin are at the top of the agenda.

The proposed project is to divert flows from Root Creek in southeastern Madera County by constructing the Root Creek Water Appropriations Project (Project). The Project includes construction of six control structures across a 3.5-mile segment of Root Creek. At each proposed control structure there will be a flashboard riser and embankments varying in height, which will include culverts and control gates intended to control the water level and flow through the embankments at a capacity of up to 550 cfs.

The project will integrate flexibility in passing large water flows due to the storm flows variation in magnitude. The project proposes six infiltration basins, which will capture storm water runoff within the Root Creek Channel. The project includes excavation within the channel to build the proposed embankments and use Root Creek's natural surface elevations as the north and south embankments. A lift station and pump will be constructed at infiltration basin 5 to take additional demand from Root Creek and into an existing basin. The project will integrate existing pipe connections to existing irrigation facilities, which include gate valves, meters, strainers, and vaults, approximately 1,585 linear feet of pipe, along with four outlet structures into the infiltration basins that will deliver water for recharge purposes when not being used to capture storm water. Fencing along with gates will surround infiltration basins 1, 2 and 3 to prevent harm to residents from Riverstone and Rolling Hills subdivisions when these areas are converted to a recreational parkway in the future. The proposed project infiltration basins will have the ability to store and reregulate storm waters, percolate storm water to the underground for increasing the local water supplies, minimize the flooding downstream of the project, and provide for catchment of silt loading that moves through the system which then deposits and accumulates downstream. Implementation of the Project would intercept a significant portion of the flows from the watershed and utilize this resource by recharging the supply to the aquifer. This linear 107-acre study area extends approximately 125 feet to either side of the creek channel.

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, 2907 S Maple Ave, Fresno, CA 93725. The public review period during which the District will receive comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will begin on February 17, 2021 and end on March 19, 2021. 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.