

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT TEMPORARY CONSERVED WATER TRANSFER

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations) for the EID Temporary Conserved Water Transfer Project (proposed project). EID plans to transfer up to 1,800 acre-feet (AF) of its pre-1914 water right water to Westland's Water District (WWD) for use in the 2022/2023 irrigation season. The source of water for this temporary water transfer is water that has been conserved by EID from the conversion of an earthen unlined ditch (Upper Main Ditch) to a pipeline.

In the spring of 2022, EID completed construction of the Upper Main Ditch Piping Project (piping project). The piping project involved converting an earthen unlined ditch that delivered water from El Dorado Forebay to the Reservoir 1 Water Treatment Plant to a piped conveyance. By completing the piping project, EID is able to conserve an average of up to 1,800 AF annually that would have otherwise been lost through seepage and evapotranspiration from the unlined ditch. Under the proposed project, EID's diversions from the South Fork American River (SFAR) at the El Dorado Diversion Dam will not change. The same amount of water will be diverted into the El Dorado Canal and conveyed to the Forebay. However, because EID is able to meet the same customer consumptive demands as they did prior to the pipeline project with less water, that conserved water would instead be used for non-consumptive hydropower production, returned into the SFAR, and remain instream to flow into Folsom Reservoir, where the water will be re-regulated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for delivery to WWD for use in their service area south of the Delta. The actual transfer quantity of conserved water will depend on hydrologic conditions and consumptive demand patterns leading up to and during the transfer period; however, the quantity will not exceed 1,800 AF.

EID has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) on the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and EID's guidelines for CEQA compliance. The IS describes the proposed project and assesses the proposed project's potential to result in significant adverse impacts on the physical environment. It concludes that the proposed project would not have any potentially significant or significant adverse effects on the environment and, therefore, no mitigation is required or proposed and as such a Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared.

DOCUMENT REVIEW & AVAILABILITY: The 30-day public review period begins on July 11, 2022 and ends on August 9, 2022. A copy of the IS/ND is available for public review at 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville, CA 95667, or online at http://www.eid.org/regulatory/environmental-docs-ceqa-nepa-.

CONTACT: Please send written comments to: Brian Deason, EID, 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville, CA 95667; Email: 2022WaterTransfer@eid.org by no later than 5:00 pm on August 9, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING: The EID Board of Directors intends to consider adoption of the ND at its regularly scheduled board meeting on August 22, 2022 after 9:00 a.m. at EID's main headquarters building located at 2890 Mosquito Road in Placerville, CA. Board meeting schedule and agenda will be available at https://www.eid.org/about-us/board-of-directors/meetings-agendas-and-minutes.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California law, it is the policy of the El Dorado Irrigation District to offer its public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials in an appropriate alternative format; or if you require any other accommodation for this meeting, please contact the EID ADA coordinator at 530-642-4045 or e-mail at adacoordinator@eid.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Advance notification within this guideline will enable the District to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility.