



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT 2023 WATER PROJECTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Ventura River Water District (District) proposes to implement water main improvements, construct new/replacement water tanks, pump and drainage improvements and new solar energy facilities to improve water supply reliability and reduce maintenance and operating costs. In addition, the District plans to annex the Tico Mutual Water Company's (Tico) potable water customers into the District's service area, providing them water for use inside their homes. After annexing, Tico will exclusively provide water for outdoor irrigation.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project is comprised of 12 work locations within District's service area, two of which are located in the City of Ojai, while the other 10 locations are in the unincorporated area of Ventura County. The proposed emergency turn-out at Ojai Terrace and the Ojai Terrace Pipe Replacement sites are located within the City of Ojai. The location of each work site is provided in Figures 2A and 2B of the Initial Study.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Ventura River Water District is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the District Manager identified below prior to the close of the public comment period on February 3, 2023. Due to the non-complex nature of this project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held.

PROJECT DETAILS: The proposed project involves:

1. Annexation of the Tico Mutual service area.
2. Water main improvements at six sites.
3. Parker Site: new water tank and a new pump station,
4. Baldwin Site: replacement/relocation of the north water tank; improvements to the pump station, construction of a standby generator sound wall; and flood/erosion protection and flood water drainage improvements.
5. New solar (photovoltaic) energy facilities at both the Parker and Baldwin sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The Ventura River Water District has prepared a Draft MND pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Issuance of a MND affirms the District's opinion that potentially significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project can be readily mitigated and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The MND prepared for the project discusses potential impacts for identified subject areas. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of MND is not attached, the Draft MND may be downloaded from the District's website: venturariverwd.com.

HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be provided to the District Manager, Bert Rapp at 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, (805) 340-7263, or at bert@venturariverwd.com, prior to the close of the public comment period on **February 3, 2023** at 5:00 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as cultural resources, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.