

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Water Reduction Program Agreement Between the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation, Individual Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

September 20, 2024

As lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District is providing this Notice of Availability that it has released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to assess the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Water Reduction Program Agreement Between the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation (SRSCNC), Individual Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation; proposed project). The project is located on contract areas within the Counties of Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Sutter, Colusa, Yolo, and Sacramento in the Sacramento Valley.

Under the proposed project, the SRSCNC and individual members of the SRSC would enter into an Agreement with Reclamation to forego a larger percentage of their contract supply in specified drought years under two phases. In addition, the SRSC would engage in drought-resiliency projects to address potential water loss and strengthen the resilience of the SRSC's water system and long-term water delivery capabilities. The purpose of the proposed project is to approve and facilitate reduced water contract supply to the SRSC during specified drought years to address water shortages at Shasta Lake. Reduced SRSC contract supply allows for Reclamation to respond to shortages in water supplies due to very dry hydrologic conditions, climatic variability, climate change, and regulatory requirements.

The DEIR describes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project as well as required mitigation measures. There are properties within the SRSC service area that require cleanup consistent with Section 65962.5 of the Government Code although the proposed project would not result in impacts related to these sites. The proposed project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to biological resources.

The 45-day public review and comment period starts September 20, 2024, and ends November 4, 2024. The DEIR is available online at <https://www.gcid.net/> and the State Clearinghouse website at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2024050834>. A physical copy of this document can be requested by email at ceqapubliccomments@gcid.net or phone at 530-934-8881. Please submit your comments by postal mail to Jeff Sutton, General Manager, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, P.O. Box 150, Willows, California 95988 or electronically to ceqapubliccomments@gcid.net. Comment letters must be postmarked by November 4, 2024, or transmitted electronically by midnight on November 4, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Sutton by email at ceqapubliccomments@gcid.net or phone at 530-934-8881.