NOTICE OF INTENT AND NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF A DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT SUBSIDENCE PROGRAM- GROUNDWATER SUBSIDENCE AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROJECT

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released a draft Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP)-Subsidence and Groundwater Monitoring Project (proposed Project). The draft IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to provide agencies, the public, and interested parties an opportunity to review the environmental analysis of the proposed Project.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed groundwater and subsidence monitoring stations would be located in five discontinuous areas totaling approximately 11.5 acres within the San Joaquin Field Division in Kern County (Figure 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project involves the installation of groundwater and subsidence monitoring stations that would provide real-time data to monitor groundwater levels and other spatial information as they relate to ground subsidence. The data would be used to help inform how subsidence is affecting the Aqueduct and would assist in maintaining infrastructure of the State Water Project (SWP). The proposed Project involves ground disturbance such as drilling to a maximum depth of approximately 5 to 2,800 feet below ground surface (bgs), site preparation activities such as vegetation removal and grading from the embankment road to the work area, groundwater monitoring well installations and associated equipment, extensometer installations, and global positioning system (GPS) antenna and telemetry/solar panel installations. Access to the sites would be made via the Aqueduct embankment road. Some ground improvements may be required for accessibility during wet and muddy conditions such as spreading gravel over unimproved ground surfaces.

The IS/MND assesses the proposed Project's potential significant adverse impacts on the environment. The IS/MND concludes that the proposed Project would not have any significant adverse effects on the environment after implementation of mitigation measures.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The IS/MND will be circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days starting June 21st, 2024, and concluding on August 2nd, 2024. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, any comments concerning the findings of the IS/MND must be submitted in writing and received by DWR no later than 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) on August 2nd, 2024, in order to be considered. Please include the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject. Please mail or email your written comments or questions to DWR's contact listed below:

Mail:
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AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: Hardcopies of the IS have been delivered to Beale Memorial Library, 701 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301. Once circulated, the IS/MND will be available at the following: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Engineering-And-Construction/Subsidence.

PRIVACY NOTE: All comments received will be made available for public review in their entirety, including the names and addresses of the respondents. Individual respondents may request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure. DWR will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.

SOURCE: ESRI, 2024; ESA, 2024.

California Aqueduct Subsidence Program-Subsidence and Groundwater Monitoring Project

Figure 1
Groundwater Monitoring Well Locations

ESA