



**Notice of Intent to Adopt
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
For the Municipal Groundwater Improvement Project**

The City of Modesto (City) is publishing this Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Municipal Groundwater Improvement Project (Project) for a 30-day public review and comment period in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This document analyzes potential impacts to natural resources and the surrounding community in response to implementation of the Project.

The proposed Project would implement the Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Implementation Concept Proposal submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (FAAST No. 48098). The Project would construct five Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) basins and associated irrigation water conveyance in the City and County areas. Irrigation water conveyance would include construction of above ground and/or subterranean pipelines, Modesto Irrigation District canal turnouts, outfall structures, and pump stations to transport irrigation water to the MAR basins. The Project is intended to address non-point source groundwater contamination from arsenic, nitrate, and uranium in the aquifers underlying the City of Modesto water service areas. The Project consists primarily of: (1) modification of City of Modesto water supply well field pumping operations, i.e., wellfield optimization, to reduce contaminant levels in raw pumped groundwater; and (2) construction of MAR basins to increase the volume (i.e., recharge) of uncontaminated water within the aquifer system.

Reference hard copies of the IS/MND are available for viewing at the following locations. Modesto City Hall: 1010 Tenth Street, Utilities Department on the fourth floor, Modesto, CA 95354, and Stanislaus County Library: 1500 I St, Modesto, CA 95354. Modesto City Hall hours are Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Stanislaus County Library is open Mon-Sat with hours available at <https://www.stanislauslibrary.org/>.

The IS/MND is also available on the City's website at: <https://modestogov.com/847/Water-Plans-Reports>. If you are unable to access the internet and would prefer to view the IS/MND electronically, please contact Jim Alves at jalves@modestogov.com or 209-571-5557. The required 30-day public review period for the IS/MND will extend from September 18, 2023 to October 17, 2023. Anyone interested in commenting on the document should submit a written statement to the City of Modesto, Utilities Department, 1010 10th Street, Ste 4600, Modesto, CA, 95354, Attention: Jim Alves, Senior Civil Engineer or by email to jalves@modestogov.com by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 17, 2023.