

**Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
Conversion of Water Supply Contracts and Renewal of Conveyance
Contracts**

To: State Clearinghouse
State Responsible Agencies
State Trustee Agencies
Other Public Agencies
Interested Persons

From: Eric Limas
Lower Tule River Irrigation District
357 E. Olive Avenue
Tipton, CA 93272

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report – Cross Valley Contractors (CVC) Conversion of Water Supply Contracts and Renewal of Conveyance Contracts Project (State Clearinghouse #2020100075)

Project Title: The Cross Valley Contractors (CVC) Conversion of Water Supply Contracts and Renewal of Conveyance Contracts

Notice is Hereby Given: The Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) is the Lead Agency on the below-described project and has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed CVC Conversion of Water Supply Contracts and Renewal of Conveyance Contracts (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The complete Project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in the Draft EIR, which is available to the public for review as identified below. The Draft EIR follows a Notice of Preparation and public scoping period that was duly noticed and conducted for the Project from October 5, 2020 to November 4, 2020. LTRID is requesting comments on the Draft EIR from agencies and interested individuals.

Project Location: The Cross-Valley Canal (CVC) is a water conveyance facility in the southern San Joaquin Valley that extends from the California Aqueduct near Tupman, east to the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) and beyond. The CVC can convey water to the CV Contractors' turnouts along the FKC, on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, or allow water to be delivered by exchange. The CV Contractors (LTRID, Pixley Irrigation District, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Tri Valley Water District, County of Tulare, County of Fresno, and Kern-Tulare Water District) are located within Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties. Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates the State Water Project (SWP), with facilities available for conveyance of Central Valley Project (CVP) Water for CV Contractors when unused capacity is present, located in Central California from Clifton Court Forebay south to the California Aqueduct's connection with the CVC.

Project Description: The proposed Project includes two components for each CV Contractor:

- The approval and execution of a contract with Reclamation that converts, pursuant to the WIIN Act, the CV Contractor's existing water supply contract for CVP water to a repayment contract authorizing prepayment of outstanding CVP construction costs; and
- The approval and execution of a contract with Reclamation and DWR that renews and updates the terms of an existing contract for the conveyance of the CV Contractor's CVP water until 2035.

The proposed conversion of the existing CVP contracts under the WIIN Act, and renewal and updating the conveyance provisions of the existing contracts into separate conveyance contracts, will allow the CV Contractors to continue receiving CVP water in the manner consistent with current and historical practices.

Significant Environmental Affects anticipated as a result of the proposed Project: None.

Document Availability and Public Review Timeline: Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response and/or comments on the Draft EIR must be sent at the earliest possible date *but not later than 45 days* after receipt of this notice. The review period for the DEIR will be from April 6, 2021 to May 21, 2021. Copies of the DEIR can be reviewed at Lower Tule River Irrigation District Offices, 357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272 or by requesting an electronic copy from LTRID at the email address below.

Please send your request for an electronic copy of the DEIR and/or comments to Eric Limas, General Manager at the address shown above or to elimas@ltrid.org. Please provide the name and return mailing address for a contact person in your agency (if applicable).

Additionally, the Draft EIR can be found for review, using the following link: www.ltrid.org

DEIR Certification: Following the public review period, the Final EIR and Responses to Comments will then be submitted to the LTRID Board of Directors at a public hearing for review and recommendation to certify the Final EIR.