

Notice of Determination

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170
Sacramento, CA 95821
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21108.

State Clearinghouse Number (SCH No.): 2017051054

Project Title: Minor Alteration No. WA2025076 – Owens Creek MID Stream Gauging Station Project

Project Applicant: Merced Irrigation District, 744 W 20th Street, Merced, CA 95340; Michael Morris; Project Manager; (209) 354-2882; mmorris@mercedid.org

Lead Agency: Merced Irrigation District, 744 W 20th Street, Merced, CA 95340, Bryan Kelly, Deputy General Manager; (209) 722-5761; bkelly@mercedid.org

Project Location: The project is located on the right bank of Owens Creek, directly to the west of where South Quinley Avenue crosses over Owens Creek in Merced County (37.232342°N, 120.597813°W).

Project Description: Approval of Minor Alteration No. WA2025076, under California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Article 3, Section 6, for work within an adopted plan of flood control: To repair an existing stream gauge by reconstructing the 3-foot-deep footings by patching the concrete or replacing them in-kind, excavating a 10-foot-wide trench to remove the leader pipe and replacing it in-kind then backfilling the trench with the excavated soils, replacing the existing geotextile fabric, and placing new rip-rap that will be embedded into the channel so that the cross-sectional geometry of Owens Creek in this section remains the same. The rip-rap and geotextile fabric will extend from the channel toe to the top of bank and cover an area approximately 20 feet wide by 25 feet long, to a depth of approximately 12 inches. The proposed work will be conducted when the area is dry or does not contain flowing water. No creek diversions will be implemented. If needed, MID will use a small sump pump to remove any residual pools of standing water. Maintenance work will also include clearing trash, sediment, vegetation, debris, fallen trees and overgrown brush that are currently obstructing flow 200 feet upstream and 200 feet downstream of the stream gauge station. All vegetation removed from the clearing of the channel will be completely disposed of outside of the floodway and/or burned. The stream gauge station was originally constructed around 1930, prior to the Board recognizing Owens Creek as an Adopted Plan of Flood Control.

This is to advise that the Board, as the **Responsible Agency**, approved the above-described project on 3/19/2026 and made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project [will / will not] have a significant effect on the environment (This determination is limited to effects within the Board’s authorization jurisdiction as a responsible agency).
2. [An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) / A Mitigated Negative Declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional mitigation measures [were / were not] made a condition of the Board’s approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan [was / was not] adopted by the Board for this project
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [was / was not] adopted by the Board for this project.
6. Findings [were / were not] made by the Board pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

Responsible Agency Statement: The Programmatic EIR and associated documents, prepared by the lead agency for the project, is available to the general public at the lead agency’s office listed above. The Board’s administrative record related to the Board authorization is available for public review at the Board’s office.

<i>Chris Lief</i>		3/19/2026
Signature	Chris Lief, Executive Officer	Date