

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
BLACK RASCAL CREEK WATERSHED, MERCED COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

ACTION: Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1500), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 650), the U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Black Rascal Creek Watershed Flood Control Project (Project), Merced County, California.

For further information on this notice you can email commentsCAwatersheds@usda.gov or you can contact Dylan Hickey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 430 G Street Davis, CA 95616, by telephone and leave a voicemail at (530) 792-5632 (Attn: Small Watershed Program Black Rascal Creek).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the Project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, the State Conservationist, Carlos Suarez, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this Project.

The Project is intended to provide flood reduction to the City of Merced and rural communities within Merced County downstream of Black Rascal Creek. The overall purpose of the Project is to temporarily detain floodwaters during periods of heavy precipitation, thereby limiting flow in the diversion channel and reducing peak diversion channel flows entering Bear Creek downstream of the Project.

The notice of a FONSI has been forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and to various federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties. The *Black Rascal Creek Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment* is available at the Merced County Public Works Office (345 West 7th Street Merced, CA 95341) or for download at <https://www.countyofmerced.com/754/Creeks>. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed through coordination with NRCS by calling (530) 792-5632 (Attn: Small Watershed Program Black Rascal Creek).

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication.

Dylan Hickey, State Environmental Compliance Coordinator
Natural Resources Conservation Service
May 15, 2025

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials.)