VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE AB PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**Project Name**: AB Pipeline Replacement Project

**Comment Period**: October 22 to November 20, 2025

*NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Vista Irrigation District (District) has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the AB Pipeline Replacement Project (project).*

**Comments**: The District will accept written comments on the Draft MND until 5:00 p.m. on November 20, 2025. Electronic comments should be emailed to Christina Olson at colson@vidwater.org. Written comments should be labeled "AB Pipeline Replacement Project MND" and mailed to the District's office (Attn: Christina Olson), 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, CA 92081.

**Project Location**: The project site is located east of Esplendido Avenue, west of Blue Bird Canyon Road, and north of State Route 78, and would occur within City of San Marcos and unincorporated County of San Diego lands.

**Project Description**: The project consists of the replacement of an existing 1,700-linear foot (LF) pressurized potable water pipeline constructed in the late 1930s. The existing 14-inch-diameter pipeline is located primarily underground with portions located aboveground. The existing pipeline would be removed or abandoned and replaced with an 18-inch-diameter pipeline to allow for increased operational flexibility within the distribution system. Three potential project alignment options are being considered for replacing the District's existing AB pipeline and are described below. All three alignments are analyzed individually to assess the potential environmental impacts of each option; however, the Road Alternative Alignment Option is the preferred option.

Existing Alignment Option: If the Existing Alignment Option is chosen, the project would replace the existing 1,700-LF AB pipeline at its current location or abandon the pipeline and construct a new 1,700-LF pipeline adjacent to the existing alignment, within the District's existing 20-foot-wide utility easement for the AB pipeline. The existing aboveground portions of the pipeline would be removed and replaced with an entirely underground alignment.

SE10 Alternative Alignment Option: The SE10 Alternative Alignment Option would abandon the existing 1,700-LF AB pipeline and construct a new 1,800-LF pipeline north of the Existing Alignment along the northern boundary of the parcel. The SE10 Alternative Alignment Option would occur partially within a previously recorded, but not utilized, District 20-foot-wide utility easement. The eastern portions of the alignment would also be located partially within the existing San Diego County Water Authority aqueduct easement.

Road Alternative Alignment Option (Preferred): The Road Alternative Alignment Option would abandon the existing 1,700-LF AB pipeline and construct a new 1,720-LF pipeline as follows: the western 1,300-LF portion of the alignment would be within an existing dirt road immediately north and outside of any existing District utility easements, requiring the recording of a new 20-foot-wide utility easement for this reach; the eastern portion of the alignment would be located within the District's existing 20-foot-wide utility easement for the AB pipeline that crosses the San Diego County Water Authority aqueduct easement.

**Findings**: Pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and based on information contained in the Initial Study Checklist, the District has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures.

**Availability of Document**: The Draft MND is being made available for a 30-day public review period commencing on October 22, 2025, and ending on November 20, 2025. An electronic version of the Draft MND is available for download and review from the District's website at https://www.vidwater.org/publications. Further, the District's office will have a public copy available for review at 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, CA 92081.

**Public Hearings Scheduled**: It is anticipated that the District will consider this MND and all written comments received at a future public hearing. A separate public hearing notice will be made available prior to that meeting.

