

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Oak Flat Water District (OFWD; Lead Agency; 209-892-4470) has prepared a Draft Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS-ND) for the Oak Flat Water District Multi-Year Water Banking and Transfer Program (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15000 et seq. Homer LLC is the Project Applicant (661-371-7222). Anyone desiring to comment on the IS-ND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period commencing October 16, 2025 and concluding on November 17, 2025. All written comments must be directed to Oak Flat Water District, Atten: Anthea Hansen, General Manager, P.O Box 1596, Patterson, California 95363, or by email to: ahansen@delpuertowd.org, and received by 5:00 p.m. on November 17, 2025.

Project Background: Beltran Farms, Inc. (Beltran), located in Crows Landing, California owns land within the OFWD service area, and receives a portion of OFWD's State Water Project (SWP) Table A entitlement, along with other SWP supplies made available by OFWD through its Water Supply Contract with the California Department of Water Resources (OFWD Supplies). Beltran has authorized a third-party developer to construct and operate a solar project on a 700-acre property (Beltran property) where Beltran most currently utilized its OFWD Supplies. The environmental effects associated with the solar facility were previously evaluated pursuant to a separate environmental document (State Clearinghouse No. 2022020479) processed by the County of Stanislaus.

Project Location and Project Description: The Project involves a Multi-Year Water Purchase Option Agreement (Agreement) between OFWD, Beltran, and Homer LLC (Homer; Project Applicant), whereby Beltran assigns to Homer 100 percent of the OFWD Supplies for a period of 30 years. Homer may use the OFWD Supplies both within and outside of OFWD's service area.

The Project would not increase the total quantity of SWP water supplies to be diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta or delivered to OFWD. No new facilities or capacity would need to be constructed to operate the Project, and all deliveries to Homer's partners would be within the operational limits of facilities and projects established by already-approved CEQA documents. Because no new or upgraded physical infrastructure is required, there is no Project site that could be included on existing lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Environmental Determination: Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared, which describes the environmental impacts of the Project and concludes the Project will not generate a significant adverse impact on the environment. Based on this assessment, a Negative Declaration has been prepared.

Public Comments/Review: In accordance with Section 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Draft IS-ND is available for public review for 30 days from October 16, 2025 to November 17, 2025 at the OFWD office (17840 Ward Avenue, Patterson, California 95363) during normal business hours.