

# **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

OAK FLAT WATER DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 1596  
Patterson, California 95363

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Oak Flat Water District (OFWD; Lead Agency) has prepared a Recirculated Draft Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS-ND) for the Project listed below pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15000 et seq. Anyone desiring to comment on the IS-ND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period commencing **May 1, 2026** and concluding on **June 1, 2026**. All written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **June 1, 2026**.

**Lead Agency:** OFWD (209) 892-4470

**Project Applicant:** Homer LLC (661) 371-7222

**Project Title:** Oak Flat Water District Multi-Year Water Banking and Transfer Program

## **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 Table A entitlement, along with other State Water Project supplies made available by OFWD through its Water Supply Contract with the California Department of Water Resources (OFWD Supplies) for irrigation purposes. Beltran has authorized a third-party developer to construct and operate a solar project on a 700-acre property (Beltran property) where Beltran most recently utilized its OFWD Supplies. The solar facility is currently operational, and 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. The development of solar on the Beltran property has temporarily eliminated the need to utilize its OFWD Supplies for agricultural purposes on the Beltran property during the solar project's operational life.

## **Project Location and Project Description:**

The Project involves a Multi-Year Water Purchase Option Agreement (Agreement) between OFWD, Beltran Farms, Inc. (Beltran), and Homer LLC (Homer; Project Applicant), whereby Beltran assigns to Homer 100 percent or up to 1,858 AFY, of the OFWD Supplies available to the Beltran Property for a period of 30 years, or up to 55,740 AF during the term of the Agreement. Under the terms of the Agreement, Homer may use the assigned OFWD Supplies both within and outside of OFWD's service area, limited to only areas within the SWP Place of Use. The purpose of the Project is to provide Homer with flexibility to deliver the OFWD Supplies assigned to Homer under the Agreement outside of OFWD to meet the needs of various water management programs and partners. Through the Project, Home may utilize OFWD supplies for its own uses on Homer properties or sell and deliver its OFWD supplies to water transfer partners. To allow for greater management flexibility and timing of deliveries, Homer may temporarily store OFWD supplies in the Semitropic SWRU groundwater banking program (using existing capacity rights) prior to recovering the water for use by

Homer or its water transfer partners. Potential water transfer partners are located across California. Water transferred under this agreement may be delivered inside or outside of Kern County to Homer's water transfer partners.

The Project would not change the State Water Project water entitlement for OFWD or increase Beltran's maximum entitlement of State Water Project supplies from OFWD. As such, the Project would not increase the total quantity of State Water Project water supplies to be diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta or delivered to OFWD. All of the Project water deliveries would be within the existing capacities of existing water infrastructure. No new facilities or capacity would need to be constructed to operate the Project because storage and conveyance facilities currently exist and are operational. Likewise, all deliveries to Homer's water management partners would be within the operational limits of facilities and projects established by previously 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. Water transferred under the Project would be used to offset existing demands and would not be used to support new, previously unplanned development. .

**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 **May 1, 2026** to **June 1, 2026** at the OFWD office (17840 Ward Avenue, Patterson, California 95363) during normal business hours. Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on **June 1, 2026** to:

Oak Flat Water District  
Atten: Anthea G. Hansen, General Manager  
P.O Box 1596  
Patterson, California 95363  
Or by email to: [ahansen@delpuertowd.org](mailto:ahansen@delpuertowd.org)