

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Date: February 20, 2026

To: Interested Parties

SWRCB Work Plan No. 6227

Re: Juniper-Riviera County Water District Improvement Project

Project Location and Description

The Juniper-Riviera County Water District (JRCWD) is a potable water system located in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County (SBC) in southeast Apple Valley. The JRCWD water system was formed in 1976 and has three wells, three storage tanks, distribution piping, pump stations, and appurtenances.

Water service is provided to approximately 280 metered residential service connections with no industrial or commercial service connections. JRCWD is located three miles south of State Route (SR) 18 between the Town of Apple Valley and the community of Lucerne Valley.

The JRCWD Improvement Project (Project) consists of improvements for the current JRCWD water system including water quality, distribution system, and minor infrastructure definitions for water sources and storage. The Project also proposes the installation of a new well, two new storage tanks, distribution and transmission pipelines, and isolation valves and the rehabilitation of existing wells and storage tanks. The Project is proposed by JRCWD and benefits the residents served by the JRCWD. JRCWD anticipates receiving funding assistance to implement the Project from the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and/or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development.

Declaration

The Juniper-Riviera County Water District has determined that the above project, with mitigation measures, would have no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the requirements of an environmental impact report. The determination is based on the attached initial study and following findings:

1. The Project will not decrease the environmental quality, substantially reduce habitat, cause a wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, reduce the number or restrict the range of special-status species, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory.
2. The Project does not have potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
3. The Project will not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
4. The Project will not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

5. The Project incorporates all applicable mitigation measures or environmental commitments identified in the Draft Initial Study.
6. This draft Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgement of the lead agency.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

A draft Mitigation and Monitoring and Report Program (MMRP) was prepared for the project and made part of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration to address and mitigate potential impacts to biological and cultural resources.

Document Review and Availability

The public comment period will be until 5pm on April 6, 2026.

The document can be reviewed at the following location during regular business hours:

Juniper-Riviera County Water District
25715 Santa Rosa Road
Apple Valley, CA 92308

The document is available online at: <https://www.jrcwd.org>

Submit comments to:

By mail: Juniper-Riviera County Water District
Attn: Cherie Casey
P.O. Box 618
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

By email: ccasey@jrcwd.org

Please include “JRCWD Improvement Project - CEQA Review Comments” in the subject line.

Public Presentation

On March 19, 2026, the Board of Directors of the Juniper-Riviera County Water District will host a public presentation regarding the proposed project, the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the Mitigation Negative Declaration, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program). The presentation will be held as part of a JRCWD regular Board of Directors meeting.