

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT
LONG-TERM WATER SERVICE CONTRACT**

(Pursuant to CEQA Section 21092 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072)

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD), has prepared an Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the TUD Long-Term Water Service Contract (the proposed Project). Based on the results of the Initial Study, TUD determined that the proposed Project would not have significant impacts on the environment and none of the environmental resources areas identified in CEQA Appendix G would be potentially affected by the proposed Project.

Project Description:

TUD serves the agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of Tuolumne County including the Chicken Ranch Rancheria Tribe of Me-Wuk Indians (Tribe), a federally- recognized autonomous Native American Tribe of California. The proposed Project is the TUD Board of Directors' consideration and approval (a discretionary action) of a long-term water service contract with Reclamation that would allow TUD to: (1) facilitate delivery of CVP water to TUD and portions of its service area including the Chicken Ranch Tribe and growth envisioned under the Tuolumne County General Plan; and (2) increase water supply reliability in TUD's existing service area. Under the proposed Project, TUD will be entitled to use its CVP contract to divert up to 6,000 AFY of water for beneficial uses. TUD will divert and use 2,500 AFY within its existing service area, while the Tribe will have access to divert 3,500 AFY for consumptive purposes, primarily agricultural, residential, and commercial uses within its federally recognized trust boundaries.

Public Comment Period: SEPTEMBER, 11 2026 to OCTOBER 12, 2026.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TUD Board of Directors intends to adopt a CEQA Negative Declaration on OCTOBER 27, 2026 for TUD's Long-Term Water Service Contract in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

The public, all interested agencies and stakeholders are invited to review the IS/ND and submit written comments, pursuant to CEQA. The IS/ND may be accessed at this website:

<https://tudwater.com/development-services/environmental-documents/>

Written comments are due by 5 PM on OCTOBER 12, 2026 and may be sent via mail to:

Tuolumne Utilities District
Attn. Erik Johnson, District Engineer
18885 Nugget Blvd.
Sonora, CA 95370

Or via email to: ejohnson@tudwater.com

Please reference Long-Term Water Service Contract Comments in the subject line.

The proposed Project site is not present on any of the lists enumerated under section 65962.5 of the government code.
