NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Notice is hereby given that the public agency named below has completed an Initial Study of the following described project at the following location:

Lead Agency:	Desert Water Agency
Project Name:	Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility
Project Description:	The proposed Project consists of Desert Water Agency's (DWA's) approval of an amended exchange agreement to facilitate the continued operation and maintenance of the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (MCGRF), including a potential increase in quantities of water delivered to the MCGRF for replenishment of groundwater in the Mission Creek Subbasin (MCSB). The amended exchange agreement would increase the annual State Water Project (SWP) Table A allocation, shared between DWA and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), from a total of 194,100 AF to a proposed 244,100 AF per year. The SWP Table A water is exchanged for a like amount of water from the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). The increased allocation will potentially result in an increase in CRA water deliveries to the MCGRF of up to a theoretical maximum of 5,000 AF per year over a long-term average. The actual quantity of water delivered to the MCGRF in any given year will continue to vary depending on available SWP water and CRA water supplies and the applicable terms of the amended exchange agreement and be proportional to groundwater pumping in the MCSB per the DWA and CVWD water management agreement. The proposed Project will provide for ongoing management of the MCSB as a sustainable source of water supply for the Coachella Valley region. All Project activities would occur within the existing operational framework and physical footprint of the MCGRF and its existing facilities. The Project does not include any construction or installation of new facilities. A more detailed description of the Project is included in the Initial Study prepared for the Project, which is available for review at the location cited below.
Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	The Project is located adjacent to Mission Creek at Worsley Road (near the Colorado River Aqueduct, or CRA); in Section 21, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, San Bernardino Meridian, in the City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California, as depicted on **Figures 1 through 3** included in the Project Initial Study. The Project facilities are surrounded by undeveloped desert landscape, approximately 0.5 mile east of State Route 62.

This Initial Study was completed in accordance with the Lead Agency's Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act. This Initial Study was undertaken for the purpose of deciding whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment. On the basis of such Initial Study, the Lead Agency's Staff has concluded that the project, as mitigated, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and has therefore prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Initial Study reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.

☐ The Project site IS on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5.

☒ **The Project site IS NOT on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5.**

Copies of the Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file and are available for public review at the Lead Agency's office, located at:

Desert Water Agency
1200 South Gene Autry Trail
Palm Springs, CA 92264

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Project Initial Study can be obtained in electronic format by visiting https://www.dwa.org/imported-water, or accessing the public CEQAnet Web Portal at https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/.

Lead Agency office address: 1200 South Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Lead Agency mailing address: PO Box 1710, Palm Springs, CA 92263

Comments will be received from October 8, 2026 to November 9, 2026.

Any person wishing to comment on this matter must submit such comments, in writing, to the Lead Agency on or prior to **November 9, 2026**. Comments of all Responsible Agencies are also requested.

The Lead Agency will consider the project and the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration at a regular meeting of its Board of Directors to be announced at a future date. Board meeting agendas are available on DWA's website at https://www.dwa.org/board-meetings-agendas

If the Lead Agency finds that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, it may adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration. This means that the Lead Agency may proceed to consider the project without the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.