NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

LEAD AGENCY/PROJECT APPLICANT: DUDLEY RIDGE WATER DISTRICT
8501 Brimhall Road
Building 200, Suite 202
Bakersfield, California 93312
(661) 633-9022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD; Lead Agency) has prepared a Draft Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS-ND) for the project listed below pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State 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 October 28, 2026 and concluding on November 30, 2026. All written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 30, 2026.

Project Title: Westside Agriculture LLC-California Department of Water Resources Water Transfer Agreement

Project Location and Project Description:
The proposed Project involves implementation of agreements which would allow for a multi-year water transfer (i) between Dudley Ridge, on behalf of Westside Agriculture, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the purposes of the Instream Flow Water Purchase Program, and (ii) between Dudley Ridge, on behalf of Westside Agriculture, Kings County and DWR for water supply for Kettleman City Community Services District (KCCSD). On an annual basis, DWR establishes an allocation percentage for SWP Table A Water. On an annual basis, Westside Agriculture would transfer water to DWR, Kings County, or both, based on the percentage SWP Table A Allocation of that particular year. Over the lifetime of the WPP Transfer Agreement, Westside Agriculture would transfer a total of 43,800 acre-feet of water to DWR. Transfers to DWR under the WPP Transfer Agreement are anticipated to occur over the course of 15 years but may extend past 15 years until the entire 43,800 acre-feet transfer volume is transferred to DWR. Westside Agriculture would transfer up to 25 acre-feet per year to Kings County (for KCCSD) in years when Kings County's final Table A allocation is less than or equal to 25 percent. No physical infrastructure upgrades would be required to implement this transfer agreement because the SWP facilities operated and maintained by DWR currently exist and are in regular use for delivery of SWP supplies. The transfer agreement would not increase the total amount of SWP water DWR makes available to SWP contractors. 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 State CEQA Guidelines, the Draft IS-ND is available for public review for 30 days from October 28, 2026 to November 30, 2026 online at https://www.dudleyridgewd.org/ or at the DRWD office (8501 Brimhall Road Building 200, Suite 202 Bakersfield, CA 93312) during normal business hours. Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 30, 2026 to:

Dudley Ridge Water District
Atten: Jamie Marquez, Water Resources Manager

8501 Brimhall Road
Building 200, Suite 202
Bakersfield, CA 93312
Or by email to: jmarquez@westsidewa.org