

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

LEAD AGENCY: Merced Irrigation District
744 West 20th Street
Merced, CA 95340

PROJECT TITLE: Merced South 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project

PROJECT LOCATION: Transmission Line: Within private easements along Franklin Road, El Capitan School Road, Rice Road, Reilly Road, and McHenry Road and connecting farm roads, property lines, and irrigation canals within unincorporated portions of Merced County
Substation: Mission Avenue, City of Merced

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Merced Irrigation District (MID) proposes to build approximately 13.1 miles of double-circuit 115 kV transmission lines with double-circuit 21 kV distribution underbuild and a new 115/21 kV substation (the Lyons Substation) on the southeast side of the City of Merced. The transmission line route would connect to the existing MID 115 kV lines south of State Route (SR) 99, cross the Franklin Road overpass, run south on Franklin and El Capitan School Roads to Rice Road; turn east and follow Reilly Road, cross SR 99, and continue on McHenry Road, turn north and run along property lines to the new Lyons Substation on Mission Avenue within the City of Merced. The new Lyons Substation would occupy approximately 11.2 acres at the southeast corner of the city limits. The proposed locations for the project facilities are not on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the MID has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)/Responses to Comments for the above described project, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: MID found that the proposed project would have potentially significant impacts in the areas of aesthetic/visual resources, agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources; geology, soils, and minerals; hazards and hazardous materials, and hydrology and water quality. All potentially significant impacts, with the exception of aesthetic/visual resources and agricultural resources, would be less than significant after the incorporation of the feasible mitigation measures. The impacts to aesthetic/visual resources and agricultural resources would be significant and unavoidable, even with the application of project-specific mitigation measures.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The FEIR/Responses to Comments is electronically posted on the MID website, www.mercedid.com. A print copy of the FEIR/Responses to Comments is available for review between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at MID headquarters at the address listed above.

BOARD MEETING: The MID Board of Directors will hold a public meeting to certify the FEIR and approve the project at 10:00 am on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at the City Council Chambers, Merced Civic Center, 678 West 18th Street, Merced, CA.