

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

### DISCRETIONARY WELL PERMITTING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Stanislaus County is implementing a Discretionary Well Permitting and Management Program pursuant to its Groundwater Ordinance (Chapter 9.37 of the Stanislaus County Code), adopted in November 2014 to promote sustainable groundwater management.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Stanislaus County has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the discretionary well permitting and management program. The Draft PEIR provides program-level analysis of the program across its implementation period through 2042, at which time all groundwater subbasins in Stanislaus County are required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to be operated sustainably. The potential impacts related to the program would primarily occur before Groundwater Sustainability Plans are adopted under the SGMA in 2020 or 2022.

Stanislaus County has issued a Draft PEIR that identifies and describes the environmental issues expected to result from implementing the program. The environmental topics addressed in the Draft PEIR are Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, and Utilities and Service Systems. While the Draft EIR identifies potentially significant adverse impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, and Noise, those impacts would be mitigated to less than significant levels. Other CEQA environmental topics were addressed in the previously issued Notice of Preparation and Initial Study.

Copies of the Draft PEIR are available for review at the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto. The Draft PEIR is also available at the Stanislaus County Library, 1500 I Street, Modesto. In addition, the documents may be downloaded from the county's groundwater resources web page at the following internet address: <http://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/>. A public workshop discussing the PEIR will occur at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau at 1201 L Street in Modesto from 1:30 to 3:00 PM on April 12, 2018.

The Draft PEIR public comment period is March 23 to May 7, 2018. Comments on the Draft PEIR must be received before 5:00 PM on May 7, 2018, to be considered in the preparation of the Final PEIR. They may be e-mailed to [wward@envres.org](mailto:wward@envres.org) or mailed to:

Walter Ward  
Stanislaus County  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C  
Modesto, CA 95358