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Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Date: April 20, 2018

To: Public Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

From: Placer County Water Agency

Subject: Notice of Public Review and Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended, this notice is to advise recipients that the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA or Agency) has prepared an Initial Study (IS) to evaluate the environmental effects of the Middle Fork American River Weather Modification Project (Project or Proposed Project). PCWA staff has: (1) concluded that the Proposed Project would not result in a significant effect on the environment; and (2) prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) for the Proposed Project outlined below. Staff anticipates recommending to the Agency Board of Directors that it approve the Initial Study and adopt a Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project. In accordance with Section 15072 of the CEQA Guidelines, PCWA has prepared this Notice of Intent (NOI) to provide responsible agencies and other interested parties with notice of the availability of the Draft IS/ND and to solicit comments regarding the Proposed Project.

Project Title: Middle Fork American River Weather Modification Project

Project Location: Upper Middle Fork American River and Rubicon River Watersheds

Project Description: PCWA proposes to implement the Proposed Project, which is the seasonal implementation of an aerial cloud seeding program for the MFP watershed using aircraft equipped with focused silver iodide dispersal technology. The Project would not result in any ground disturbing activities and is strictly designed to augment the natural rate of snowfall that occurs in orographic clouds as they develop and progress over the headwaters that drain into PCWA's primary storage reservoirs, Hell Hole and French Meadows. The incremental increases in snowpack and subsequent runoff resulting from the Project would improve PCWA's reservoir storage volumes and operational flexibility in drier water years while reducing potential impacts to local water supplies during prolonged periods of drought. Cloud seeding suspension criteria would be implemented in wet years to ensure the incremental runoff generated by the Project would be within the historical range of hydrologic variability for the target watersheds.

Public Review Period: The 30 day public review period for this IS/ND begins on April 23, 2018 and ends May 22, 2018. A copy of the IS/ND is available for public review at the following locations:

- PCWA's website, <https://pcwa.net/about-pcwa/environmental-planning>
- Placer County Water Agency Business Center at 144 Ferguson Road in Auburn
- Auburn Branch of the Placer County Library at 350 Nevada Street in Auburn

Contact: Please send your comments on this environmental document to: Placer County Water Agency, Attention: Benjamin Barker, P.O. Box 6570, Auburn, CA 95604, Phone: (530) 823-4886 or email to bbarker@pcwa.net.

Public Hearing: A public hearing on this Proposed Project is scheduled for June 21, 2018 at 2:00 PM which will be held in the American River Room at the Placer County Water Agency, 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California. The environmental analysis conducted in the IS/ND will be considered at that time by the PCWA Board.