



# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**DATE:** April 5, 2019

Based upon the conclusions set forth in the Initial Study, the CEQA Lead Agency finds that the proposed Project, which includes measures and mitigations designed to minimize environmental impacts, would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment. The CEQA Lead Agency has prepared this Notice of Intent to adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15072.

<b>Project Title:</b>
Mid-San Joaquin Invasive Species Removal Project
<b>Project Proponent:</b>
River Partners
<b>Lead Agency:</b>
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District
<b>Public Review Period:</b>
A 30-day public review period will begin on April 5, 2019. Written comments must be submitted to the Lead Agency no later than until 5 PM on May 6, 2019.  A public review of the project will be held on April 25, 2019 at 3800 Cornucopia Way
<b>Available Material:</b>
A copy of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and supporting material are available at the ESRCD office (3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E, Modesto, CA 95358) and Stanislaus County Clerk (1020 I St, Modesto, CA 95354). A copy of the IS/MND is available online at <a href="http://www.eaststarcd.org/Public-Postings/">http://www.eaststarcd.org/Public-Postings/</a>  A copy of the IS/MND will be posted to State Clearinghouse: <a href="http://www.ceqanet.ca.gov/">http://www.ceqanet.ca.gov/</a>
<b>Contact for Public Comments:</b>
Written comments on the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to: East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E, Modesto, CA 95358 Attn: Trina Walley, District Manager. (209) 287-3662.  Comments may also be sent by email to <a href="mailto:info@eaststarcd.org">info@eaststarcd.org</a>
<b>Project Location:</b>
The project area includes thousands of acres of private and public lands ranging from the confluence of the San Joaquin River and Merced River to the San Joaquin's confluence with the Stanislaus River. The project area includes both the main stem of the San Joaquin as well as its tributaries, including the

Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Dry Creek, and Merced Rivers. The eastern project boundary is defined by the border of Stanislaus County.

**Project Description:**

The purpose of the Project is to treat infestations of invasive plants as quickly as possible to discourage future encroachment throughout the watershed. Mapping these species on an ongoing basis will allow River Partners to identify the impact of treatment and understand the progression with which invasive plants spread across the main stem and tributaries to the San Joaquin River. Ongoing monitoring activities will identify the success of treatments, usage of treated areas by target wildlife species, and provide analysis of evapotranspiration rates that will help the conservation community to better understand the impact of invasive species on water use.

Proposed project objectives are to:

- Implement control measures for invasive non-native plants.
- Reduce invasive weed recruitment sources on the San Joaquin River, benefiting native vegetation, wildlife, water conveyance, and agriculture.
- Promote native plant species recruitment.
- Enhance and restore wildlife habitat values