



**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO
ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
THE PLUNGE CREEK CONSERVATION PROJECT**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (District) Staff prepared a Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of the below-named project.

Project Title: The Plunge Creek Conservation Project

Project Location: Within Plunge Creek, extending over a distance of approximately 1 mile along the middle section of Plunge Creek, beginning one-third of the road crossing to a point approximately half a mile from Orange Street. The Project area is located on the *Redlands* Topographic Quad (USGS 7.5"): at coordinates: northeast one-quarter of Section 21, Township 1 South, Range 3 West, Section 11.

Project Description: The proposed Project consists of the excavation of two pilot channels from the active channel of Plunge Creek, through the historic floodplain, and back to the active channel, with the primary goals of: 1) increasing the area of suitable habitat for the federally listed as endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat (SBKR) and other sensitive species; and 2) increasing groundwater recharge opportunities without increasing the risk of flooding or erosion on non-District owned or managed land. The duration of the Project is approximately one month and includes sediment removal and relocation, channel scouring, and installation of water splitters. All elements from the project are derived directly from the channel material, placed in a manner to achieve the design results. The sediment removal would consist of heavy machinery removing cobbles, sands, and other fine sediments deposited in historic floods that are currently blocking old channels. The sediment removed during this part of the project would be used to build a wall that would protect an existing mine from flooding due to the scouring events that would occur in the newly restored channel. All sediment for this wall would be sourced locally. The proposed splitters would exist to assist in directing flow, allowing for control over which channels received the scouring flow and enabling water resource controllers to keep the active Plunge Creek channels in their current state as well. The project will occur over approximately 1.7 miles of Plunge Creek. The Project will impact 8 acres temporarily and 5.9 acres permanently. Of these impacts, 0.61 acre of permanent and 0.63 acre of temporary impacts will be subject to Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code (FGC).

Environmental Review and Public Comment: The circulation of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study is to encourage written public comments. Interested persons can review the Draft IS/MND at <http://www.sbvwd.org> and at the following physical locations:

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A
Redlands, California 92373

If unavailable on the web site, the document may be obtained in electronic format by telephoning the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District at (909) 793-2503 or, or by emailing Daniel Cozad at dcozad@sbvwd.org to request a PDF version of the document.

The public comment period starts **January 15, 2018** and ends on **February 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM**. Please submit comments to:

dcozad@sbvwd.org or to:
Daniel Cozad, District Manager
San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A
Redlands, California 92373

Public Hearing: Adoption of the Final IS/MND will be considered on **February 15, 2018** during the District's regular Board. In advance of the hearing date, Staff will distribute a separate notice regarding that meeting.