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PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: October 10, 2017

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

Subject: **Public Comment Period Extension** for the Tulare Lake Storage and Floodwater Project EIR

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Semitropic Improvement District of the Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic), as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), that the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Tulare Lake Storage and Floodwater Project is extended from October 13, 2017 to November 13, 2017 at 5pm. The DEIR was released for public review on August 14, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of CEQA.

Project Title: Tulare Lake Storage and Floodwater Protection Project (Project)

State Clearing House Number: 2016121060

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Location: The Project site is located east of Interstate 5 and State Highway 41, near Kettleman City, in Kings County, California, north of the Kings-Kern County line, and generally within the area of the Tulare Lake bed on reclaimed lands currently used for dry grazing and cultivated agriculture (primarily almond orchards and alfalfa).

Project Description: The purpose of the proposed DEIR is to analyze potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed Tulare Lake Storage and Floodwater Protection Project (Project).

The Project would provide local, regional, and statewide public benefits to meet California's water storage and supply challenges by improving the management of floodwaters from the South Fork of the Kings River. The Project would also allow for possible management or regulation of other waters, including flood flows from streams tributary to the Tulare Lake region (which principally include the Kaweah and Tule Rivers) and regional and statewide water supplies, including high flows from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). The Project would manage available waters by developing new surface water storage and conveyance facilities and utilizing existing facilities and groundwater conjunctive use capacity south of the Delta to provide for storage of floodwaters and surplus surface waters for beneficial uses. Water storage would be created by the construction of a leveed impoundment on approximately 19,700 gross acres within the dry Tulare Lake bed. Of the approximately 19,700 gross acres, approximately 12,000 net acres would be developed into a single surface storage reservoir with multiple interior storage cells with levees six to eight feet in height, resulting in a total storage capacity of approximately 15,000 to 30,000 acre-feet, respectively.

Available waters, including floodwaters having the potential to damage nearby prime agricultural lands and local communities, would be re-routed and diverted and conveyed to and through the proposed Project storage reservoir (Kettleman Reservoir), constructed in the dry Tulare Lake bed, through a combination of new and existing channels and canals; however, some improvements to existing conveyance facilities may be necessary. Depending on the location, canal-side pumping plants may be required to pump water from the conveyance canals into the reservoir. The proposed Project would include a new conveyance facility (the Kettleman Canal) and pumping plant (Kettleman Pumping Plant

#1) to convey water from the existing South Fork Canal to the Kettleman Reservoir and/or the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The proposed Project would also include a second new conveyance facility, referred to as the Aqueduct Intertie, to convey water in both directions between the storage reservoir and the Aqueduct. The Aqueduct Intertie would have a capacity of up to approximately 2,100 cubic feet per second and would consist of a pumping plant (Kettleman Pumping Plant #2), up to three 144-inch inside-diameter pipelines between the pumping plant and the Aqueduct, and turn-in/turn-out structures on the east side of the Aqueduct.

Water stored in and conveyed through the Project reservoir would ultimately be transported, as capacity is available, into the California Aqueduct, principally for delivery to the Semitropic service area to meet water needs of existing irrigated lands. Water diverted from the Aqueduct would be delivered to meet direct demands or stored underground by use of existing groundwater storage facilities and, to a lesser extent, surface storage facilities accessible from the Aqueduct, including in-lieu and direct recharge facilities of the Semitropic Groundwater Bank in Kern County. Stored (banked) water would be recovered through extraction and/or by way of exchange, and delivered to primarily meet the demands of existing irrigated lands in Kings and Kern Counties. The Kings River floodwaters proposed to be diverted by the Project have generally historically escaped from, and have not been stored or beneficially used within, the Kings River service area.

Public Comment Period: The Public Comment Period, which was previously scheduled to end on October 13, 2017 is hereby extended to **November 13, 2017, 5:00 pm**. Mailed comments must be post-marked or received no later than **November 13, 2017**.

Reviewing Locations: Copies of the Draft EIR are available for review at the following location(s):

Semitropic Water Storage District
1101 Central Avenue
PO Box 8043
Wasco, CA 93280

**Kettleman City Branch of the Kings
County Library**
104 Becky Please Street
Kettleman City, CA 93239

The Draft EIR can also be accessed on the Semitropic website at www.semitropic.com. CDs may be purchased for \$3.00 upon request at the Semitropic's office. Documents referenced in the DEIR will be available upon request to Semitropic.

Where to Send Comments: Submit all written comments to:

Isela Medina, Staff Engineer
Semitropic Water Storage District
P.O. Box 8043,
1101 Central Avenue,
Wasco, CA 93280
Email: imedina@semitropic.com
Phone: 661-758-5113

Please include a return address and contact name with your written comments. Comments can also be sent via email.

Following the close of the public review period for the Draft EIR, Semitropic will prepare a Final EIR, incorporating all comments received during the public comment period and appropriate responses to comments, for consideration by the Semitropic's Board of Directors. As required by CEQA, proposed written responses to public agency comments submitted will be available to commenting public agencies at least 10 days prior to certification.