

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR
CLEAN WATER ACT 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
BEFORE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

A request for water quality certification (certification) for the Merced River Agricultural Diversion and Fish Habitat Enhancement Project was filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Certifications are issued under section 401 of the Clean Water Act. California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, requires the Executive Director of the State Water Board to provide public notice of an application for certification at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application. The typical notice period may be shortened in an emergency.

Written questions and/or comments regarding the application should be directed to Bryan Muro:

By email:

Bryan.Muro@Waterboards.ca.gov

or

By mail:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program
Attn: Bryan Muro
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RECEIVED:	April 24, 2023
PROJECT:	Merced River Agricultural Diversion and Fish Habitat Enhancement Project
APPLICANT:	Merced Irrigation District
CONTACT:	Michael Morris
COUNTY:	Merced County
PUBLIC NOTICE:	May 24, 2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Merced Irrigation District is proposing to implement diversion modifications to three of seven agricultural diversions within the Lower Merced River (LMR) to eliminate negative effects of facilities on salmonids in Merced County, California. The three diversions (Cuneo, Cowell 1, and Cowell 2) will be redesigned to address issues with improperly functioning fish screens, poor diversion sitting, and configurations. The Project aims to increase quantity and quality of spawning, incubation, and rearing habitats to increase salmonid survival and reduce entrainment while improving water diversion efficiency and reliability along the LMR below the Croker-Huffman Diversion Dam near Snelling, California. Project construction is limited to relocating diversion entrances, replacing fish screens, and improving in and off-channel habitat. Habitat improvements include salmonid spawning gravel augmentation and reducing the size of predator holding habitats. Spawning riffles will be implemented to replace the need for temporary in-channel berms when the new Project facilities are completed.