



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
700 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE WESTERN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION PROGRAM (DSIPP)

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), as lead agency, prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the Western San Bernardino County Distribution System Infrastructure Protection Program (proposed program). This Notice of Availability is to inform you that the Draft PEIR is being released for a 45-day public review period. The Draft PEIR is also being sent to responsible, trustee, and interested agencies as part of the review process required under CEQA (Section 21092 of the California Public Resources Code) and the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15087 of the California Code of Regulations).

PROGRAM LOCATION: The Western San Bernardino County Operating Region comprises Metropolitan's conveyance and distribution system pipelines and appurtenant structures, right-of-way, and patrol roads within western San Bernardino County, California (see attached figure). The Western San Bernardino County Operating Region includes 74 miles of pipeline, 392 pipeline structures, and approximately 50 miles of patrol roads.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The proposed program consists of a comprehensive program to design and construct projects addressing surface infrastructure repair and protection needs, while simultaneously implementing a plan for conducting routine operations and maintenance (O&M) activities in the Western San Bernardino County Operating Region in order to ensure continued water supply reliability. The scope of the program does not include projects related to the subsurface infrastructure (i.e., pipelines). There are two components within the proposed program: Capital Investment Plan (CIP) projects and O&M activities.

The proposed CIP projects generally consist of repair, upgrade, and/or relocation of existing structures, or the installation of structures to address access or infrastructure problems that threaten system reliability. Types of CIP projects fall into three categories: patrol road improvements and paving, engineered erosion control, and slope stabilization. These projects typically require design engineering and would be conducted on a one-time basis.

Metropolitan's proposed O&M activities are conducted on a regular and ongoing basis and are intended to maintain existing structures, patrol roads, and other appurtenant pipeline structures. These activities are currently ongoing within the Western San Bernardino County Operating Region; however, an O&M Manual, which is being developed as part of this program, would establish a formalized plan that would provide a systematic and scheduled approach to these maintenance activities. O&M activities are divided into two categories: routine O&M activities and single-occurrence O&M activities. Routine O&M activities are repeated, routine activities that occur and will continue to occur at regular intervals to maintain patrol roads and other infrastructure in good condition. These activities include patrol road maintenance; patrol and inspection; routine structure maintenance, repair and replacement, including maintenance/cleanout of drainage features; facility maintenance, repair, and replacement; vegetation management/maintenance; and other activities such as pipeline shutdowns/dewatering and emergency work. Single-occurrence O&M activities would typically be conducted on a one-time basis and would include repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing structures to support the continued operation and maintenance of existing pipelines and appurtenant pipeline structures. These O&M activities are primarily limited to installation of low water crossings, including Arizona crossings, culverts, and/or bridges to reestablish and improve access along patrol roads.

DRAFT PEIR: The Draft PEIR describes the proposed program, existing environmental conditions, Metropolitan's standard measures and best management practices, potential significant impacts to relevant resource topics under CEQA (i.e., aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, public services, traffic and circulation, and utilities and service systems), mitigation measures, and a discussion of alternatives to the proposed program.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Due to the time limits mandated by state law (Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines), written comments must be received by Metropolitan no later than 45 days after the start of the review period, which **begins on May 7, 2020**, and **ends on June 20, 2020**. Comments received by close of the public review period will be considered in the Final PEIR. All comments should be submitted in writing and include contact information.

Please send comments and responses to:

Ms. Michelle Morrison
Environmental Planning Section
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
Phone: (213) 217-7906

Comments can also be submitted via email to EP@mwdh2o.com. Comments sent via email should state "Western San Bernardino County DSIPP Draft PEIR" in the subject line.

Copies of the Draft PEIR are available for public review at the following location:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Engineering Resource Center
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Please contact Ms. Michelle Morrison to make arrangements for viewing if you are not able to view a copy online or at any of the physical locations.

Additionally, copies of the Draft PEIR are available for public review at the following locations:

Norman F. Feldheim Central Library
555 West 6th Street
San Bernardino, California 92410

Fontana Lewis Library and Technology Center
8437 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, California 92335-3892

Ovitt Family Community Library
215 East C Street
Ontario, California 91764-4111

Rialto Branch Library
251 West 1st Street
Rialto, California 92376

James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library
14020 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, California 91709

Highland Sam J. Racadio Library
7863 Central Avenue
Highland, California 92346-4107

Paul A. Biane Library
12505 Cultural Center Drive
Rancho Cucamonga, California 91739

A.K. Smiley Public Library
125 West Vine Street
Redlands, California 92373

Or online at Metropolitan's website: www.mwdh2o.com/CEQA