

December 2019

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION Mokelumne Aqueduct System Routine Maintenance Project

Project Title: Mokelumne Aqueduct System Routine Maintenance Project

Lead Agency: East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)

Project Location: The Mokelumne Aqueducts originate at EBMUD's Pardee Reservoir in the Sierra Foothills and extends from the West Portal in Campo Seco for 82 miles through the Central Valley, along the Calaveras River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, to the East Portal facility in the EBMUD service area in the East Bay. From the East Portal facility there are a number of East Bay aqueducts for conveying raw water to the water treatment plants and terminal reservoirs, which span an additional 18 miles through the East Bay. The Project area includes maintenance sites along the 100-mile aqueduct system alignment and adjacent waters within the 100-foot-wide EBMUD right-of-way.

Project Description: The Project involves the routine maintenance of aqueduct system facilities at access road and aqueduct stream crossing locations. Access roads are critical to repairs, maintenance, and operations of the aqueducts and maintenance activities provide for safe travel on the access roads at stream crossings, while ensuring adequate drainage for ditches, swales and other watercourses. Routine maintenance of the access road stream crossings is ongoing due to changing conditions resulting from weather events, deterioration of culverts and normal use. Routine maintenance work is also required due to deterioration of culverts, headwalls and/or weather conditions that could affect the integrity of the aqueduct pipelines. Proposed maintenance activities include sediment and debris removal; vegetation management; maintenance and repair or replacement of culverts, roads, and other structures; and bank and levee repair and erosion protection. Routine maintenance activities occur every one to five years in the stream zones of the aqueduct system alignment depending on location and maintenance needs.

Project Objective: The Project's objective is to maintain the functional and structural integrity of EBMUD-owned aqueduct system facilities.

Schedule: Key milestones for project implementation are summarized as follows:

• Complete Environmental Review

December 2019

Begin Maintenance Work

February 2020

Environmental Determination: Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study was prepared for the Project. Based on the results of the Initial Study, it was determined that project-related maintenance work could potentially generate environmental impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, tribal cultural resources, and wildfire. In the long-term, maintenance activities would have a beneficial effect by maintaining the functional and structural integrity of EBMUD-owned facilities and would not generate significant impacts. Adherence to EBMUD Standard Practices and Procedures and implementation of mitigation measures would ensure that the Project would not generate a significant impact on the environment. Based on this assessment, a "Mitigated Negative Declaration" has been prepared.

Environmental Mitigation: All impacts will be reduced to Less than Significant levels by implementation of mitigation measures.

Public Comment/Review: The Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- East Bay Municipal Utility District, 375 11th Street, Oakland, CA 94607
- EBMUD website (www.ebmud.com/AqueductRMA)

In accordance with Section 15073 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for public review from December 13, 2019 through January 13, 2020. Written comments on this proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received no later than 4:30 pm on January 13, 2020. Please address comments to East Bay Municipal Utility District, Chris Potter, Senior Civil Engineer, 375 11th Street, Oakland, California 94607, or email to christopher.potter@ebmud.com.

12/9/19 Date Clifford C. Chan, Director of Operations and Maintenance