

Eastern Municipal Water District

2270 Trumble Road

P.O. Box 8300

Perris, CA 92572-8300



Notice of Preparation

Date: April 2, 2020
To: State Clearinghouse; Responsible and Trustee Agencies; and Other Interested Parties
Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report
Project: Purified Water Replenishment Project
Lead Agency: Eastern Municipal Water District

Eastern Municipal Water District (District) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Purified Water Replenishment Project (project). The District is the Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The District invites written comments on the scope of the environmental analysis and identification of potential environmental issues to be included in the EIR.

Notice of Preparation: This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been sent to the Office of Planning and Research, responsible and trustee agencies, organizations, and interested parties, as well as adjacent property owners. The purpose of the NOP is to inform recipients that the District is beginning preparation of an EIR and to solicit information that will be helpful in the environmental review process. This notice includes information on how to provide comments to the District and a description of the project.

Comments: The District is requesting input from all CEQA responsible and trustee agencies, all other public agencies with jurisdiction by law over resources potentially affected by the proposed project, and public input regarding the scope and content of environmental information to be included in the EIR. Agency responses should identify the issues to be considered in the EIR, including significant environmental issues, alternatives, mitigation measures, and whether the responding agency will be a responsible or trustee agency, and the basis for that determination. State law mandates that responses must be sent at the earliest possible date but postmarked within 30 days from receipt of this notice; however, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may limit ability for NOP review and comment and which has resulted in the District not being able to hold a scoping meeting, responses postmarked within 60 days from receipt of this notice, or no later than June 1, 2020, will be accepted. Please send your comments to:

Eastern Municipal Water District
Attn: Joseph Broadhead
2270 Trumble Road
Perris, CA 92570

or

EMWD_comments@helixepi.com

Location of the Proposed Project: The proposed project would occur at multiple locations predominantly within the city of San Jacinto, with one location just outside the eastern city limits in unincorporated Riverside County (Figure 1). The project's proposed aboveground facilities would be located adjacent to the northern boundary of the District's existing San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility (SJVRWRF) at 770 North Sanderson Avenue and at the District's existing Alessandro Ponds site near the intersection of West Ramona Parkway and North Vernon Avenue. The project's belowground pipelines would follow a route northeast from the SJVRWRF in an unpaved roadway, northeast along North Lyon Avenue, and southeast along Ramona Expressway to the District's existing Mountain Avenue West Recharge Basin at the intersection of Ramona Expressway and East Esplanade Court (Figure 2).

Overview of the Proposed Project: The District is proposing to implement the project that would replenish the San Jacinto Upper Pressure Groundwater Management Zone aquifer with recycled water and advanced treated water to reduce reliance on imported water sources, provide improved drought resiliency, and potentially improve the quality of the groundwater basin utilized by the District's Integrated Recharge and Recovery Program (IRRP). The proposed project would include: (1) construction of Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) facilities; (2) construction of a brine management system; (3) construction of Alessandro Blending Station facilities; (4) modification of an existing 18-inch-diameter conveyance pipeline; and (5) construction of a new 36-inch-diameter conveyance pipeline.

The project's proposed AWT facilities would be constructed on an approximately 5-acre site located adjacent to the northern boundary of the existing SJVRWRF. The AWT site would include an approximately 30,300-square foot (SF) Process Control Center that would be divided into two main areas: a control area/visitor center and a process area. The control area/visitor center would include conference/meeting rooms, office space, an education room, and restrooms. The process area would house a membrane filtration (MF) facility and a high-recovery reverse osmosis (RO) facility that would be used for the advanced treatment of recycled water. Other proposed facilities at the AWT site outside of the Process Control Center building include a chemical facility, emergency generator, transformer, four new pump stations, paved access with parking, and two stormwater bioretention basins.

During operation of the AWT facilities, a portion of the tertiary treated recycled water produced at the SJVRWRF would be further treated through the new MF/RO process, which would reduce total organic carbon (TOC), total dissolved solids (TDS), and nitrogen concentrations creating advanced treated water, or what is referred to as *RO permeate*.

Concentrated brine generated during the RO process would be managed and stored using a system of five interconnected evaporation ponds that would be constructed on approximately 20 acres located north of the proposed AWT site. The ponds would be lined with a containment and monitoring system to prevent leaks and would include the use of mechanical spray evaporators to enhance natural evaporation.

Advanced treated water from the AWT site and tertiary treated recycled water from the SJVRWRF would be conveyed, via two separate pipelines, to the Alessandro Blending Station where they would be blended in-pipe before the combined flow is conveyed to the Mountain Avenue West Recharge Basin. The blending facility pipes, including the two inflow pipes, connection pipes, and one outflow pipe, would be located on a concrete equipment pad southeast of the existing pressure regulating station downstream of the Alessandro Pump Station. A pressure regulating valve would be provided at the blending facility for the option to discharge advanced treated water into the adjacent existing Alessandro Ponds forebay for operational storage.

The project would require pipelines to convey advanced treated water from the AWT site to the Alessandro Blending Station as well as blended water from the Alessandro Blending Station to the Mountain Avenue West Recharge Basin. Advanced treated water would be conveyed from the AWT site to the Alessandro Blending Station via an existing 4.1-mile (21,700-linear foot) 18-inch-diameter recycled water pipeline that extends east from the SJVRWRF to approximately the intersection of Alessandro Avenue North and Ramona Expressway. The existing cement-mortar-lined steel pipeline would be sliplined with new 16-inch-diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. Blended water from the Alessandro Blending Station would be conveyed to the Mountain Avenue West Recharge Basin via a new approximately 2.7-mile (14,200-linear foot) 36-inch-diameter HDPE pipeline that would be located within the eastern shoulder of Ramona Expressway.

At the existing Mountain Avenue West Recharge Basin, the blended water would be stored, would percolate into the belowground aquifer, and would eventually be recovered for use as potable water.

Potential Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project: In accordance with Section 15126 of the CEQA Guidelines, the EIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from the construction and operation of the project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and growth-inducing

impacts. The EIR will provide an assessment of impacts for facilities and activities associated with project implementation (CEQA Guidelines Section 15161).

The District has determined that the proposed project may have the potential to significantly impact agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources and tribal cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, hydrology and water quality, noise, and transportation. These issue areas will be evaluated in detail in the Draft EIR. It is anticipated that all other issue areas will be discussed in the *Environmental Effects Found Not to be Significant* section of the Draft EIR. The EIR will identify mitigation measures if necessary and feasible to reduce potentially significant impacts of the proposed project. The EIR will also discuss alternatives to the proposed project, including the CEQA-required “No Project” alternative.

Attachments:

Figure 1: Regional Vicinity

Figure 2: Project Location



