

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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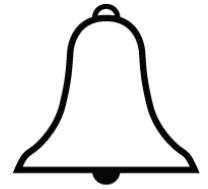
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# Santa Margarita Water District

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**To:** All Interested Parties

**From:** Santa Margarita Water District  
Don Bunts  
26111 Antonio Parkway  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

### PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME:	<b>Ranch Water Filtration Plant Project</b>
LEAD AGENCY:	<b>Santa Margarita Water District</b>
PROJECT AREA:	<b>Rancho Mission Viejo</b>
PROJECT TYPE:	<b>Water Treatment Plant</b>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) is the Lead Agency and has prepared an Initial Study (IS) with the intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Ranch Water Filtration Plant Project (Project).

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Project site is located adjacent to Chiquita Canyon, in unincorporated southern Orange County (**Figure 1**). The proposed water filtration plant (WFP) would be located on an undeveloped portion of a larger parcel that is owned by SMWD and is adjacent to the existing Chiquita Water Reclamation Plant (CWRP). The proposed Project is located approximately 1.5 miles north of Ortega Highway and 1 mile east of Antonio Parkway. The Project site is bounded by the CWRP to the north, undeveloped vegetated land to the west and east, and residential to the south. Residential uses are located approximately 500 feet away from the project site. Access to the project site is provided via an existing private ranch road, Chiquita Access Road.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed Project will construct a new WFP needed to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rules. The proposed new WFP will include prescreening, iron and manganese removal, ultraviolet disinfection (UV), microfiltration (MF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) and chloramination. The new WFP will be constructed just south of the existing CWRP facilities on the same property. The treated water will be pumped into SMWD water transmission mains located directly adjacent to the west side of the project site. The new supply will tie into the Zone II pressure zone pipeline which is a 24-inch pipeline and has the capacity to carry the WFP product water either for immediate use or to an operational reservoir for later use in the system. The waste byproduct of the water treatment processes will be conveyed to the adjacent CWRP for treatment and disposal via the existing ocean outfall.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** The IS/MND describes potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials and Wildfire. Mitigation measures

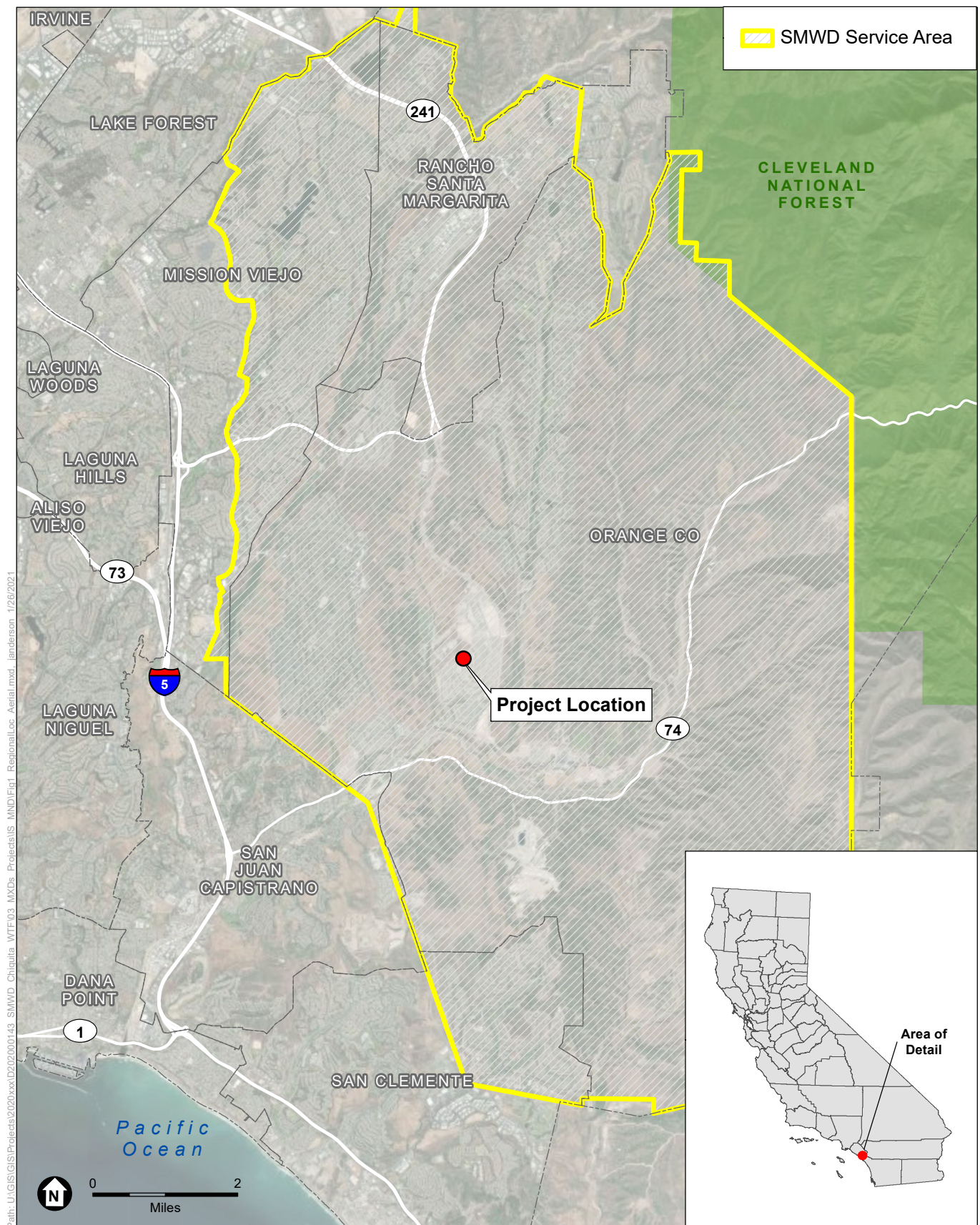
have been defined to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. All other resource areas found to have no impact or to be less than significant are also described in the IS/MND.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** The IS/MND will be circulated for 30-days for public review. Comments on the MND must be received between February 16, 2021 and March 17, 2021. Written comments should be sent to: Don Bunts at Santa Margarita Water District, 26111 Antonio Parkway, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688, or email comments to: [donb@smwd.com](mailto:donb@smwd.com).

**AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:** The IS/MND may be viewed on the web at: [www.smwd.com](http://www.smwd.com)

For more information on the project, or if you would like to request a hard copy, please contact:

Don Bunts  
RE: Chiquita Water Filtration Plant Project  
Santa Margarita Water District  
26111 Antonio Parkway  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
(949)459-6602



SOURCE: ESRI

Ranch Water Filtration Plant Project

**Figure 1**  
Regional Location