

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO:	Recorder/County Clerk P.O. Box 1750, MS A33 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 260 San Diego, CA 92101-2422	FROM:	East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority 9300 Fanita Parkway Santee, CA 92071 Contact: Mark Niemiec Phone: 619.258.4766
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TO:	Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (If submitted to SCH):	2022040551	
Project Title: East County Advanced Water Purification Project		
Project Applicant: East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority		
Specific Project Location – Identify street address and cross street or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 ½' topographical map identified by quadrangle name): Project components are proposed within the City of Santee, City of San Diego, and unincorporated San Diego County, CA. See attached figure.		
General Project Location (City and/or County): City of Santee, City of San Diego, and unincorporated San Diego County.		
Project Description: See attached.		
Identify the person or entity undertaking the project, including any private applicant, any other person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the project, and any person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the project. East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority		

This is to advise that the (☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency) has approved the above described project on **July 21, 2022** and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project will NOT have a significant effect on the environment
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	An Environmental Impact Report was prepared and certified for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigation measures were NOT made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plan was adopted for this project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plan was NOT adopted for this project.
5. <input type="checkbox"/>	A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Statement of Overriding Considerations was NOT adopted for this project.
6. <input type="checkbox"/>	Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Findings were NOT made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
This is to certify that the Final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to General Public at:	
Custodian: Mark Niemiec	Location: East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority, 9300 Fanita Parkway, Santee, CA 92071

Date: <u>7-22-22</u>	 Signature
Date Received for Filing: _____	<u>Director of AWP</u> Title

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Project Background

The Project is a partnership between the Padre Dam Municipal Water District (District), Helix Water District, County of San Diego, and City of El Cajon for the purpose of creating a new local, sustainable, and drought-proof water supply using state-of-the-art technology. The District previously adopted the Project MND (SCH No. 2018091029), approved a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and approved the Project in 2018. In February 2020, the East County Advanced Water Purification (AWP) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) approved a resolution considering the Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), adopting the approved MMRP and approving the Project. The JPA is now implementing the Project in east San Diego County. The approved Project will recycle East San Diego County's wastewater locally, purify the water at an Advanced Water Treatment Plant, and transport the purified water to Lake Jennings for surface water augmentation. The Project is an element of the Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan approved by the District through the 2017 Program Environmental Impact Report. The District is a member of the JPA and the Administrator of the Project. The JPA is the CEQA lead agency for the Project.

The Project will capture and treat approximately 15 million gallons per day of wastewater generated within the East County area to produce an annual average of approximately 11.5 mgd of new local drinking water supply. Byproducts from the Project's solids handling and AWP facilities will include brine and centrate, collectively referred to as residuals. The approved Project includes a residuals bypass system that will convey brine from the AWP facility, and centrate from the solids dewatering process of the solids handling facility, to an existing regional sewage pipeline (the gravity line) owned and operated by the City of San Diego for treatment and disposal.

Project Modifications

In coordination with the City of San Diego, the JPA has evaluated a modification of the approved Project to construct and operate a regional brine line (RBL) to convey the residuals generated by the Project around the City of San Diego's Pure Water Program facilities. In lieu of discharging the residuals into the existing gravity line as described in the previously approved Project, the RBL would consist of a pipeline built within the existing East Mission Gorge Force Main pipeline and extending from the existing East Mission Gorge Pump Station to the City of San Diego's South Mission Valley Trunk Sewer. The JPA has evaluated other minor modifications to the approved Project to avoid existing utilities, avoid rocks and hard surfaces, minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources, accommodate alternative construction methodologies, and address new information. The Subsequent MND evaluates the environmental impacts of the Project modifications approved by the JPA.



Project Modification Areas - Package 4
Figure 1b