



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND  
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR THE  
OTAY WATER DISTRICT TRESTLE BRIDGE DEMOLITION PROJECT**

**DATE:** September 1, 2022

**TO:** State Clearinghouse; Responsible, Trustee, and Other Jurisdictional Agencies;  
and Other Interested Organizations/Individuals

**LEAD AGENCY:** Otay Water District  
2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard  
Spring Valley, California 91978-2004

Otay Water District (OWD) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Initial Study (IS) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. The Draft MND/IS addresses the potential environmental effects of the Trestle Bridge Demolition Project (Project).

**Responsible, Trustee, and Other Jurisdictional Agencies:** OWD requests input from your agency as to the content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project. Agencies may need to use the MND/IS prepared by OWD when considering permits or other approvals for the Project.

**Interested Organizations/Individuals:** OWD requests your comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the Project.

**Project Title:** Trestle Bridge Demolition Project

**Project Location:** The proposed project is located in the unincorporated community of Otay Mesa, San Diego County. The site is situated approximately 0.5 mile south of the Lower Otay Lake, northwest of the George F. Bailey Detention Facility, and north of the OWD 571-1 (Roll) Reservoir.

**Project Description:** The proposed project consists of the demolition of a steel trestle and removal of an abandoned 24-inch water pipeline in the Otay Mesa area. The pipeline was replaced by the Central Area and Otay Mesa Interconnection Pipeline in 2001. The trestle also carries an abandoned high-pressure gas line that supplied the 870-1 Pump Station, which had prevented the trestle from being demolished previously. San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) abandoned this gas line in 2017 and replaced it with a feed from the south. Since the existing water pipeline is no longer in service, the District intends to remove the trestle and pipeline to address liability concerns.

**Potential Environmental Effects:** In accordance with CEQA, the Draft MND/IS evaluates “direct physical changes... and reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment which may be caused by the project.” The Draft MND/IS also evaluates whether any such changes that it identifies are individually or cumulatively significant, and presents feasible mitigation, as necessary. The Draft MND/IS identifies potentially significant effects related to biological resources, cultural resources, and paleontological resources from Project implementation. Each of these impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance through the incorporation of mitigation measures presented in the Draft MND/IS.

**Public Review Period:** OWD has issued this Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Notice of Public Hearing for public review and comment pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15072. The comment period for the Draft MND/IS begins on September 1, 2022. Responses should be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than September 30, 2022. Electronic copies of the Draft MND/IS and appendices are available on OWD’s website: [www.otaywater.gov](http://www.otaywater.gov). Hard copies of the Draft MND/IS and appendices are available for public review at the OWD office, location listed below.

**Responses and Comments:** At this time, OWD is soliciting comments on the Draft MND/IS for this Project. All comments must be postmarked by September 30, 2022. Comments may be submitted by mail, or email. All comments should indicate a contact person for each agency or organization, if applicable. Please send your responses to:

**Otay Water District**  
**2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard**  
**Spring Valley, California 91978-2004**  
**Attention: Lisa Coburn-Boyd**  
**Fax: 619-670-8920**  
[lisa.coburn-boyd@otaywater.gov](mailto:lisa.coburn-boyd@otaywater.gov)

Following close of the public comment period, responses to comments received on the Draft MND/IS will be prepared, and, together with any corresponding revisions to the Draft MND/IS, will constitute a Final MND.

**Public Hearing:** A public hearing to consider the adoption of the Final MND is scheduled as part of OWD’s Board meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 3:30 PM. This hearing will be available virtually and in-person and will be properly noticed on OWD’s website. The Final MND will be considered and acted upon by OWD’s Board of Directors at this hearing.