



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE OTAY MESA RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM R2087, R2077, R2058 PROJECT

DATE: October 8, 2009

TO: State Clearinghouse, Trustees, Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Persons

LEAD AGENCY: OTAY WATER DISTRICT
2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard
Spring Valley, California 91978-2004

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the

This is to inform you that the Otay Water District (District) will be the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. The EIR will address the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of three Recycled Water System Transmission Pipelines (RecPL) within the South District Area.

Agencies and Trustees: The District requests the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project. Agencies may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering permits or other approvals for the Project.

Organizations and Interested Parties: The District requests your comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the Project.

Project Title: Otay Mesa Recycled Water System Capital Improvement Program R2087, R2077, R2058 Project.

Project Location: The Project includes three separate locations in the South District Area within the corporate limits of the Cities of Chula Vista and San Diego as well as the unincorporated County of San Diego (Figure 1: Project Vicinity). The three-pipeline proposed Project would extend along Wueste Road within the County of San Diego and the City of Chula Vista, along Alta Road in the City of San Diego, and along Airway/La Media Road in the City of San Diego (Figure 2: Project Location).

Project Description: As part of its adopted Capital Budget for Fiscal Years 2009–2014, the District is scheduled to implement Capital Facility Projects in accordance with the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Many of these projects consist of the construction and operation of RecPL. The three-pipeline proposed Project is within the South District area, which is comprised of the Central Area and Otay Mesa Systems, and includes the following pipelines: Wueste Road Pipeline (CIP No. R2087), Alta Road Pipeline (CIP No. R2077), and Airway/La Media Road Pipeline (CIP No. R2058).

The Project would include the improvements shown on Figure 2. Each pipeline is described below:

- **Wueste Road Pipeline (R2087)**—This portion of the Project would consist of a 24-inch-diameter 13,300-foot-long steel pipeline segment. The pipeline would be constructed within a segment of Wueste Road within the Central Area System. The pipeline would start at Olympic Parkway where it would be connected to an existing 16-inch-diameter RecPL. The pipeline would then extend south within Wueste Road along the western border of the City of San Diego Otay Water Treatment Plant and connect to an existing 30-inch-diameter RecPL just south of the plant. The construction corridor within Wueste Road would extend approximately 10 feet to the east of the paved portion of Wueste Road. The construction corridor for the portion of the project that would extend outside of Wueste Road would be approximately 50–70 feet.

As part of the Wueste Road Pipeline (R2087), a pressure-reducing station (PRS) would be constructed. The proposed PRS would be located approximately 0.5 mile northeast of Donovan State Prison along the northwestern portion of Alta Road, near the Otay Mountain Truck Trail (see Figure 2). Modifications to existing pipelines necessary to accommodate the PRS would include removal of existing butterfly valves, blowoff valves, and 30-inch steel pipelines. Additionally, two 20-foot sections of pipelines, 20 inches and 24 inches in diameter, respectively, would be installed for future use in addition to the proposed PRS.

- **Alta Road Pipeline (R2077)**—This portion of the Project would consist of a 24-inch-diameter, 11,989-foot-long PVC RecPL segment. The pipeline would be constructed along a segment of Alta Road within the Otay Mesa System, beginning at the intersection

of Calzada de la Fuente Road where it would be connected to an existing 24-inch-diameter RecPL. The pipeline would extend south within Alta Road, continue west along Otay Mesa Road, and then extend south within Sanyo Avenue where it would connect to the 16-inch-diameter RecPL proposed within Airway Road. The pipeline would be constructed within existing paved roads. The construction corridor for R2077 within Alta Road would total 40 feet, occupying 20 feet on either side of the centerline. The construction corridor within Sanyo Road would extend 10 feet west of the centerline. The construction corridor within Otay Mesa Road would extend 10 feet south of the center line.

- **Airway/La Media Road Pipeline (R2058)**—This portion of the Project would consist of a 16-inch-diameter, 12,440-foot-long PVC RecPL segment. The pipeline would utilize 2,586 feet of existing pipeline and 9,853 feet of new pipeline would be constructed as a part of the Project. The pipeline would be constructed along segments of Airway and La Media Roads within the Otay Mesa System. Airway/La Media Road Pipeline (R2058) would be divided into nine sections—four that are proposed to be constructed under this Project and five that were previously constructed by developers. The pipeline would start at the intersection of La Media and Windsock Roads and then extend south within La Media Road to Airway Road. The pipeline would continue east along Airway Road and end approximately 80 feet to the west of the Paseo de Las Americas/Airway Road intersection where it would be connected with the existing 16-inch-diameter PVC main water pipeline. The pipeline would be constructed within existing paved roads, and its construction corridor would 40 feet, extending 20 feet on either side of the centerline.

The District intends to limit construction activities to paved portions of the roads within the existing utility rights-of-way, where feasible; and construction staging areas are anticipated to be sited in existing developed areas. However, some sections of construction would extend beyond the paved areas of the road and may involve disturbance of areas adjacent to the roadway. The construction corridor for the Wueste Road Pipeline (R2087) would extend approximately 10 feet to the east of the paved portion of Wueste Road. A section of R2087 near the City of San Diego Otay Water Treatment Plant would extend outside of the roadway. In addition, the construction corridors would include a trench depth of approximately 6.5 feet. Construction would be completed using cut and cover trenching. No aboveground structures or pump stations are proposed as a part of the three-pipeline Project.

The Project schedule is based on completion of environmental review prior to sending out the construction contract for bid. The District intends to complete the environmental documentation and have the construction contract go out for bid in 2010.

Project Overview

District policy (Otay Water District Code of Ordinances, Section 12, Water Reclamation Plan and Implementing Procedures) authorizes the use of recycled water wherever it is financially and technically feasible, and when it is consistent with legal requirements; preservation of public health, safety, and welfare; and the environment. Implementation of this policy enables the District to plan, fund, and construct facilities to meet recycled water demand. The District provides recycled water to portions of its service area in fulfillment of a mandate from the State of California for water districts to develop and provide alternative water sources. Municipalities in the District's service area have required land developers to provide separate recycled water delivery systems within their subdivisions for irrigation of specific areas. The production and distribution of recycled water is encouraged by the policies of the State of California, local land use jurisdictions, local and regional water supply agencies, the District, and the federal government. The three-pipeline proposed Project is part of the District's long-range plans to develop recycled water use in order to fulfill these policies.

The Otay Water District, which is comprised of five water service areas, is responsible for delivering potable and recycled water to customers within its jurisdictional area of approximately 80,320 acres (125.2 square miles). The District is located in southwestern San Diego County, inland from the cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, and National City. The District is a member agency of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), which is a member of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California. The District receives imported potable water from the aqueduct systems owned and operated by the SDCWA and MWD of southern California.

Currently the District supplies an average of 22.4 million gallons per day (mgd) of water to approximately 143,000 individuals through five operating systems: La Presa, Hillside, Regulatory, Central Area, and Otay Mesa. In addition to supplying potable water throughout its service area, the District maintains and operates a recycled water system. Distribution of recycled water is restricted to the South District, which consists of the Central Area and Otay Mesa Systems.

In order to facilitate better use of existing water supplies, the District has been actively pursuing water recycling to maximize the use of local water. The Water Resources Master Plan (WRMP) predicts future water demands and identifies the necessary capital facilities needed to meet those demands. The WRMP established phased CIPs that will be needed to provide an adequate, reliable, flexible, and cost-effective water system.

The 2009 WRMP Update revises the District's 2002 WRMP to meet projected water market demands within the District service area and adjacent areas of influence (collectively referred to as the "WRMP planning area"). To do this, the 2009 WRMP Update identifies the necessary

potable and recycled water CIP facilities (e.g., pump stations, storage reservoirs, transmission mains, groundwater wells) and associated probable cost estimates, and develops a phased approach to implement the CIP projects during the following time frames: 2009–2016 (Phase II) and 2017–Ultimate (Phase III). The CIP projects identified in the 2009 WRMP Update will ensure an adequate, reliable, flexible, and cost-effective potable and recycled water delivery system commensurate with growth within the WRMP planning area, consistent with the San Diego Association of Government (SANDAG) forecasts through 2030.

Recycled Water System

The following is a description of the Recycled Water System identified in the WRMP. The purpose of the District's recycled water program is to reduce the demand for imported water, maximize the use of local water supplies, substitute recycled water for potable water, and provide a continuous and dependable source of supplemental water for the area. The Cooperative Agreement will assist the District with implementation of the recycled water program. The proposed Project would ultimately provide for the annual use of an estimated 9,219 acre-feet of recycled water. This Project is needed because dependable water supplies in southern California are becoming more difficult to develop and maintain as imported water sources become less reliable.

Two treatment facilities would be used to provide recycled water to the three-pipeline proposed Project: the Ralph W. Chapman Water Recycling Facility (RWCWRF), operated by the District, and the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant, operated by the City of San Diego. Both supply water for users within the District service area. The RWCWRF is owned and operated by the District, and supplies the District's recycled water system. The RWCWRF can produce approximately 1.3 mgd of recycled water daily. Recycled water is pumped southward to storage ponds in the District's Use Area, and is distributed throughout the Central Area System to a number of major developments. Current recycled water customers include residential developments and golf courses. Future recycled water markets are developments that require landscape irrigation, including parks, golf courses, street and highway landscapes, freeways, schools, office parks, commercial and industrial areas, government facilities, health care centers, multi-family residential housing, and other common areas. Presently, the District distributes recycled wastewater treated at the RWCWRF that meets California Title 22 requirements for reuse.

The District's Recycled Water CIP program is being implemented in three phases. The three-pipeline proposed Project would be implemented as a part of Phase II. Phase II provides for 12 projects in the Central Area System. The Phase II facilities would be constructed from 2009 to 2016.

The District has prepared CEQA and NEPA documents to address the WRMP and the Recycled Water Program. In 2005, a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the District's Phase II and Phase III Recycled Water CIP projects was prepared. In 2009, a Program EIR was prepared to address proposed near-term Phase II and subsequent long-term Phase III activities associated with implementation of the 2009 WRMP update. The EIR and EA evaluated potential impacts of the CIP Projects at a programmatic level, including the proposed Wueste Road, Alta Road, and the Airway/La Media Road Pipelines (proposed Project).

Potential Environmental Effects: The District has decided that it will prepare an EIR to analyze the Project because, in light of the whole record, there is substantial evidence that some aspects of the Project individually or cumulatively may cause a significant adverse or beneficial effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA, the District will "consider any direct physical changes...and reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment which may be caused by the project." It will evaluate whether any such changes that it identifies are individually or cumulatively significant.

The draft EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed Project on the environment, present feasible mitigation, and analyze potential project alternatives. In addition, the draft EIR will analyze potential cumulative and growth-inducing impacts, and provide the additional mandatory sections required by CEQA. The final EIR will include a mitigation monitoring and reporting program.

Based on the preliminary scope of the proposed Project, it appears that potentially significant impacts in several categories may occur during construction and operation of the three-pipeline proposed Project; therefore, the following technical studies will be conducted/prepared for the proposed Project: Cultural Resources Report, Biological Resources Report/Biological Assessment, Geotechnical Report, Water Quality Evaluation, Noise/Vibration Study, Traffic Impact Assessment, and Air Quality/Climate Change Analysis. The EIR will address all possible environmental effects including the following: Aesthetics, Agriculture Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Mineral Resources, Paleontological Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities.

Public Review Period: The District has issued this Notice of Preparation (NOP) for public review and comment pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15082(a). The comment period for the NOP begins on Thursday, October 8, 2009, and ends on Friday, November 6, 2009. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice (Cal. Code Reg., Title 14, § 15103). A copy of the NOP is available on the District website: www.otaywater.gov.

Public Scoping Meeting: A public scoping meeting regarding the proposed EIR will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, October 19, 2009 at the District Training Room at 2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard.

Responses and Comments: At this time, the District is soliciting comments on the NOP for this project. All comments must be postmarked by Friday, November 6, 2009. Comments may be submitted by mail, email, or fax. All comments should indicate a contact person for your agency or organization, if applicable. Please send your responses to:

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Signature:



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Date: October 8, 2009