



**Otay Water District**  
2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard  
Spring Valley, CA 91978  
Tel: (619) 670-2222

# **DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

## **CAMPO ROAD SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Otay Water District (District) has prepared an environmental Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration to address the proposed construction and operation of its proposed Campo Road Sewer Replacement Project (herein referred to as “proposed project” or “project”). The District completed two studies to review the existing sewer system, and determined that the existing 10-inch sewer pipeline within and south of Campo Road between Avocado Boulevard and Singer Lane is undersized to handle current sewer flows. To accommodate current and future flows, the District is proposing to install an approximately 8,360-foot-long, 8- to 15-inch gravity sewer main to replace the existing 9,225-foot-long, 10-inch sewer main. The eastern terminus of the proposed pipeline would be located at the intersection of Avocado Boulevard/Rancho San Diego Village shopping center driveway. The pipeline would traverse southeast through the shopping center parallel to the existing pipe. At the southeastern end of the Rancho San Diego Village shopping center, the proposed alignment would proceed east across Via Mercado. East of Via Mercado, the alignment would continue south and cross under the right-of-way of Campo Road via horizontal auger boring. The alignment would then continue along the southern side of Campo Road in a southeasterly direction until the intersection of Campo Road/Jamacha Boulevard. At this intersection, the alignment would cross under this intersection to the northern side of Campo Road via horizontal auger boring. On the northern side, it would continue east along Campo Road to Jamacha Road, and then follow Jamacha Road for approximately 300 feet. The alignment would turn south and cross Jamacha Road into the Rancho San Diego Towne Center, where it would connect to the existing 27-inch sewer main within the shopping center’s parking lot. The 27-inch sewer main connects to additional pipelines at the intersection of Campo Road/Singer Lane near the Steele Canyon Lift Station. Existing sewer laterals stemming from the existing pipe would be reconnected to the proposed pipeline. All proposed pipelines would be made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

The proposed pipeline would be placed underground at approximate depths between 15 and 29 feet. The District anticipates that the proposed pipeline would be located within trenches with shoring approximately five to seven feet wide. Horizontal auger boring would be conducted in the locations where the pipeline would cross under Campo Road (at Jamacha Boulevard and near Via Mercado). The jacking shafts would be approximately 45 feet long by 12 feet wide and the receiving shafts would be approximately 10 feet by 10 feet in area. Following installation of this portion of pipeline, the jacking and receiving pits would be filled in and re-compacted to their existing contours. Spoil material from tunnel construction would be hauled to an approved off-site location.

The existing 10-inch sewer pipeline would be abandoned in place, except for a 210-foot-long section of aboveground pipeline and seven supporting pillars that would be removed. The sewer main pillars would be cut at the ground surface, with the exception of the second northernmost pillar, which would be cut above the existing ground level in order to avoid potential impacts to jurisdictional areas. The

foundations of the pillars would be abandoned in place to avoid disturbing the existing vegetation. In locations where the new alignment departs from the 10-inch pipe alignment, the manholes on the existing alignment would be abandoned per the Water Agencies' Standards (WAS) Standard Drawings for Sewer Facilities (Drawing No. SM-08). This would include removal of the manhole and cone, plugging the sewer pipe, and backfilling the manhole with sand. Pipe removal and manhole capping would be completed by hand or with small equipment so as not to impact the surrounding sensitive habitat.

Construction activities are expected to begin in fall 2016 and be completed by early 2018.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

The attached Initial Study was prepared to assess the potential effects of the proposed project on the environment and the potential significance of those effects. Based on the Initial Study, the proposed project would have less-than-significant or no impacts in the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

The Initial Study indicates that the proposed project would have potentially significant impacts in the areas of:

- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Noise

Each identified impact can be mitigated to avoid the impact or reduce it to a less than significant level. If the proposed project is approved and constructed, the District will implement the following mitigation measures:

### **Biological Resources**

The following mitigation measures would reduce impacts to biological resources to less than significant levels:

**BIO-1** Temporary orange construction fencing shall be installed adjacent to the access road where Otay tarplant occurs and the contractors shall be informed regarding no-entry areas. The temporary construction fencing and contractor education shall occur prior to grubbing, clearing, and/or grading. A qualified biologist shall verify the location of the temporary fencing prior to construction activities within areas containing Otay tarplant. In addition, a biological monitor shall be present during construction activities within 25 feet of areas containing Otay tarplant to ensure that this species is not impacted. The fencing shall be removed upon completion of construction of the project.

**BIO-2** To ensure compliance with the MBTA, clearing of vegetation shall occur outside of the breeding season of most avian species (February 1 through September 15). Clearing during the breeding

season of MBTA-covered species (migratory birds that are native to the United States or its territories) could occur if it is determined that no nesting birds (or birds displaying breeding or nesting behavior) are present within 3 days prior to clearing. A pre-construction survey shall be conducted to determine if breeding or nesting avian species occurs within areas directly affected by vegetation removal or indirectly affected by noise. If any of these birds are observed nesting or displaying breeding/nesting behavior within the area, construction in the area shall be postponed until (1) the nest is abandoned or the young have fledged or (2) after September 15. The no-work buffer zone placed around the nest shall be determined by a qualified biologist at the time of discovery, and will vary based on site conditions and the type of work to be conducted. A qualified biologist shall monitor vegetation removal if conducted during the breeding season.

**BIO-3** No grubbing, clearing, or grading shall occur during the gnatcatcher breeding season (February 15 through August 15) within 500 feet of occupied Diegan coastal sage scrub in the central portion of the proposed pipeline alignment (south of the intersection of Campo Road/Jamacha Boulevard). As such, all project plans shall state the same.

If project construction would occur during the gnatcatcher breeding season in the central portion of the alignment and/or raptor breeding season, pre-construction surveys shall be conducted within three days prior to construction activities to determine if these species occur within the areas indirectly impacted by noise. If there are no gnatcatchers or raptors nesting (includes nest building or other breeding/nesting behavior) within this area, construction shall be allowed to proceed. However, if any gnatcatcher or raptors are observed nesting or displaying breeding/nesting behavior within the area, construction shall be postponed until (1) all nesting (or breeding/nesting behavior) has ceased or until after August 15; or (2) a temporary noise barrier or berm shall be constructed at the edge of the impact footprint to reduce noise levels below 60 dB  $L_{EQ}$  or ambient (if ambient is greater than 60 dB  $L_{EQ}$ ). Alternatively, construction equipment could be modified and/or the duration of construction equipment operation could be controlled to keep noise levels below 60 dB  $L_{EQ}$  or ambient in lieu of or in concert with a wall or other sound attenuation barrier.

**BIO-4** No clearing, grubbing, grading, or other construction activities shall occur within 300 feet of occupied least Bell's vireo habitat between March 15 to September 15, the breeding season of the least Bell's vireo. If construction activities must occur during the least Bell's vireo breeding season, nest surveys shall be conducted within 300 feet of all proposed activities. If active nests are encountered and construction activities must occur during the least Bell's vireo breeding season, noise levels from human activities at the nest shall be restricted to less than 60 dB  $L_{EQ}$  or the ambient noise level plus 3 dB (perceptible change threshold), whichever is greater. Noise levels shall be monitored, and monitoring reports shall be provided to the District to be included in the annual reports.

**BIO-5** Impacts to Diegan coastal sage scrub (including disturbed) shall be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio. Therefore, required mitigation would be 0.3 acre. The District shall debit credits from its San Miguel Habitat Management Area.

In addition, in order to avoid impacts to adjacent sensitive habitat during construction, such habitat interfaces shall require temporary orange construction fencing that clearly delineates the edge of the approved limits of work and environmentally sensitive areas beyond. A biologist shall ensure that the fencing is properly installed prior to construction, and maintained for the duration of construction activity. The fencing shall be installed in a manner that does not impact habitats to be avoided. A biological monitor shall be present during construction activities

adjacent to sensitive habitat. The fencing shall be removed upon completion of construction of the project.

## **Cultural Resources**

The following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to cultural resources to less than significant levels:

**CUL-1** Trenching will be monitored by an archaeologist and a Native American monitor. Trenching below depths at which cultural material would reasonably be expected to occur will not require monitoring, but monitors should be present to observe trenching, grading, and other ground-disturbing activities in the upper few feet (as determined by the archaeologist) of soil. If cultural material is encountered, monitors will have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect work while the cultural material is documented and assessed. If significant deposits are found, additional data recovery will be conducted, as necessary, to adequately mitigate project impacts. Cultural material recovered will be curated at the San Diego Archaeological Center or other appropriate facility meeting federal curatorial standards.

## **Noise**

Potential impacts associated with construction noise would be mitigated to less than significant levels by implementation of the following measure:

**NOI-1** Trenching construction activities involving a dump truck and an excavator may generate significant noise impacts to sensitive habitat if operated within 210 feet of the habitat. If a dump truck and an excavator are operated within this distance during the breeding seasons of coastal California gnatcatcher (February 15 to August 31) or least Bell's vireo (March 15 to September 15), a temporary noise barrier between the construction equipment and the sensitive habitat shall be used to reduce noise impacts to baseline noise levels of 65.6 dBA  $L_{EQ}$ .

An 8-foot high temporary noise barrier meeting the specifications listed below (or of a STC 19 rating or better) would attenuate noise at the sensitive habitat to less baseline noise levels of 65.6 dBA  $L_{EQ}$ . The sound attenuation fence or wall must be solid. It can be constructed of masonry, wood, plastic, fiberglass, steel, or a combination of those materials, as long as there are no cracks or gaps, through or below the wall. Any seams or cracks must be filled or caulked. If wood is used, it can be tongue and groove and must be at least 3/4-inch total thickness or have a density of at least 3½ pounds per square foot.

**NOI-2** Construction activities for the western jacking pit involving a dump truck and an excavator may generate significant noise impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher habitat if operated within 210 feet of the sensitive habitat. Due to the close distance to sensitive habitat that a dump truck and excavator would have to operate for the western jacking pit, barrier mitigation to reduce noise impacts to sensitive habitat to less than significant levels would be infeasible. Therefore, if western jacking pit activities would occur during the breeding season for the coastal California gnatcatcher (February 15 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a study confirming the absence of coastal California gnatcatchers within 250 feet of the construction activities prior to start of work or, if work has already begun, prior to the breeding season. If coastal California gnatcatchers are found to be present, construction activities shall cease until the close of the breeding season.

**NOI-3** Eastern jacking pit construction activities involving a dump truck and an excavator may generate significant noise impacts to sensitive habitat if operated within 210 feet of the habitat. If a dump truck and an excavator are operated within this distance during the breeding seasons of coastal California gnatcatcher (February 15 to August 31) or least Bell's vireo (March 15 to September 15), a temporary noise barrier between the construction equipment and the sensitive habitat shall be used to reduce noise impacts to existing ambient noise levels (65.6 dBA  $L_{EQ}$ ).

An 8-foot high barrier meeting a STC 19 rating or better would attenuate noise at the sensitive habitat to less than baseline noise levels of 65.6 dBA  $L_{EQ}$ . The sound attenuation fence or wall must be solid. It can be constructed of masonry, wood, plastic, fiberglass, steel, or a combination of those materials, as long as there are no cracks or gaps, through or below the wall. Any seams or cracks must be filled or caulked. If wood is used, it can be tongue and groove and must be at least 3/4-inch total thickness or have a density of at least 3½ pounds per square foot.

**NOI-4** Tunnel boring activities at the western jacking pit involving a generator may create significant noise impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher habitat if operated within 80 feet of the sensitive habitat. Due to the close distance that a generator would have to operate for tunnel boring construction activities, barrier mitigation to reduce noise impacts to sensitive habitat to less than significant levels would be infeasible. Therefore, if tunnel boring at the western jacking pit would occur during the breeding season for the coastal California gnatcatcher (February 15 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a study confirming the absence of coastal California gnatcatchers within 250 feet of tunneling construction work prior to start of work or, if work has already begun, prior to the breeding season. If coastal California gnatcatchers are found to be present, construction activities shall cease until the close of the breeding season.

**NOI-5** Dump trucks and front-end loaders shall not operate within 145 feet of the edge of occupied coastal California gnatcatcher habitat during the breeding season (February 15 to August 31).

**NOI-6** Due to the close distance that a jackhammer, an air compressor, and a skid steer would have to operate to remove each manhole's concrete dome, barrier mitigation to reduce noise levels to avoid impacts to sensitive habitat would be infeasible. Therefore, manhole removal activities shall not occur during the breeding seasons for the coastal California gnatcatcher (February 15 to August 31) or least Bell's vireo (March 15 to September 15).

**NOI-7** Due to the close distance to sensitive habitat that a crane would operate to remove the elevated pipeline, barrier mitigation to reduce noise levels to avoid impacts to sensitive habitat would be infeasible. Therefore, operation of a crane to remove the elevated pipeline shall not occur during the breeding seasons for the coastal California gnatcatcher (February 15 to August 31) or least Bell's vireo (March 15 to September 15).

## **Summary**

In light of the analysis in the Initial Study, and the mitigation measures identified therein (and listed above) for inclusion in the proposed project, the District finds that the Campo Road Sewer Replacement Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.