

October 15, 2021

MEMBER AGENCIES

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Municipal Water District

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City of Escondido

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City of Oceanside

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Fallbrook
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Vista Irrigation District

Yuima
Municipal Water District

OTHER
REPRESENTATIVE

County of San Diego

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the First Aqueduct Treated Water Tunnels Rehabilitation Project

Dear Adjacent Landowner or Interested Party:

The San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared and plans to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the First Aqueduct Treated Water Tunnel Rehabilitations Project (project). The Water Authority is hereby notifying agencies and members of the public that may be interested in the project as to the availability of the Draft MND, and the procedures for public review and comment on the document.

Project Location: The project is located in a rural area in unincorporated northern San Diego County, approximately 3 miles east of Interstate 15 along the alignment of the Water Authority's First San Diego Aqueduct.

Project Description: The Water Authority has determined that rehabilitation of three existing treated water tunnels is required to prevent additional structure deterioration and ensure system reliability for continued delivery of drinking water to its member agencies. The project entails maintenance, improvement, and replacement of existing First Aqueduct infrastructure, including segments of three treated water tunnels and the bifurcation structures positioned at the upstream and downstream ends of each tunnel. The project would also develop new access manways along the tunnels to improve access into the tunnels for inspection and maintenance. No changes to the existing water supply would occur.

Environmental Effects: The Draft MND identifies potentially significant impacts with respect to biological resources and noise. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project that either avoid the project's impacts or reduce them to less-than-significant levels.

Availability of Document: Pursuant to CEQA requirements, a Draft MND is being made available for a public review period commencing on October 18, 2021, and ending on November 18, 2021. The Draft MND and supporting appendices are available for review at the San Diego County Water Authority's website:

<https://www.sdewa.org/projects-programs/programs/environmental/>

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Comments: The Water Authority will be accepting written comments on the Draft MND for consideration prior to adoption of the document. **Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 18, 2021** and can be submitted by mail to:

San Diego County Water Authority
Water Resources Department
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
Attn: Sean Paver

Comments will also be accepted by email. Please send them to Sean Paver at spaver@sdewa.org, and include **“First Aqueduct Treated Water Tunnels Rehabilitation MND Comments”** in the email subject line.

Public Hearing: A public hearing to accept oral comments on the adequacy of the Draft MND will be held before the Water Planning and Environmental Committee at the Water Authority’s Board of Director’s meeting on October 28th, 2021; this hearing will occur virtually. For information on accessing the virtual hearing and for persons wishing to present oral comments, please visit the Water Authority’s website:

<https://www.sdcwa.org/about-us/board-of-directors/meetings/>

The agenda for the meeting will be available on the Water Authority’s website one week prior to the scheduled hearing date, and will include instructions for viewing and submitting oral comments. A Final MND that considers all public input will be prepared for consideration by the Water Authority at a future public meeting.

Sincerely,



Sean Paver
Senior Water Resources Specialist