

Eastern Municipal Water District

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Notice of Availability Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Date: August 24, 2026
To: State Clearinghouse; Responsible and Trustee Agencies; and Other Interested Parties
Subject: Notice of Availability of a Program Environmental Impact Report
Project: Lake Skinner Regional Water Transmission System (SCH No. 2022070445)
Lead Agency: Eastern Municipal Water District

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the proposed Lake Skinner Regional Water Transmission System Project (Project) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Public Review and Comments: EMWD is soliciting comments from the public regarding the content of the Draft PEIR. The Draft PEIR will be used by the EMWD Board of Directors when considering approval of the proposed Project. Pursuant to Section 15204 of the CEQA Guidelines, in reviewing Draft EIRs, persons and public agencies should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated. EMWD has established a 45-day review period for this Draft PEIR from August 24, 2026 to October 8, 2026 compliant with the requirement of Section 21091 of the Public Resources Code. Written comments on the Draft PEIR should be sent to Martha Vilchis at the mailing address and/or email address shown below by **5:00 p.m. on October 8, 2026**. A contact name and return address or email address should be included with your comments.

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Document Availability: The Draft PEIR is available electronically at: <https://www.emwd.org/public-noticehttps://www.emwd.org/public-notice>. Paper copies of the Draft PEIR are available for review at EMWD's office lobby located at 2270 Trumble Road, Perris, CA 92570. A paper copy of the Draft PEIR has been delivered to the French Valley Library (31526 Skyview Rd., Winchester, CA 92596).

Location of the Proposed Project: The proposed Project would be located within unincorporated areas of Riverside County, east of the cities of Menifee and Murrieta. The transmission pipelines would extend in an overall northern direction from The Metropolitan Water District of California (Metropolitan) Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant (Skinner WTP) approximately 14 miles through the southern Perris Valley area to the community of Winchester. A new booster pump station (BPS) and turnout would be sited near the intersection of Auld Road and Leon Road, near EMWD's existing EM-17 BPS and turnout and approximately two miles west of the Skinner WTP.

Overview of the Proposed Project: EMWD is proposing the Project to assist in expansion of its treated water supply portfolio to meet demands resulting from long-term projected growth. The Project includes construction and operation of three main components: (1) a new water service connection (also referred to as a turnout) to transfer treated water deliveries from Metropolitan's Skinner WTP to EMWD; (2) a new BPS that would connect to the turnout to pump water to EMWD's service area; and (3) new transmission pipelines to deliver water from Skinner WTP to EMWD's service area. Collectively, these components comprise the Project and would be sized to meet the buildout demand condition of 140 cubic feet per second (cfs) of additional treated water supplies.

The Project components would be implemented in four phases. The first phase, which would be online by 2030, includes construction of the turnout, construction of the BPS with a capacity of 40 cfs, and relining existing 49-inch and 43-inch pipeline from the BPS to Fowler Drive (approximately 3.6 miles in length). The second phase, which would be online by 2035, includes relining the existing 49-inch pipeline from Fowler Drive to Holland Road (approximately 3.2 miles in length). The third phase, which would be online by 2040, includes installation of a new 60-inch pipeline from Holland Road to Simpson Road (approximately 2.6 miles in length). The fourth phase, which would be online by 2045, includes the installation of a new 72-inch pipeline from the Skinner WTP to the turnout (approximately 2.0 miles in length), installation of new 60-inch parallel pipeline from the BPS to Fowler Drive (approximately 3.6 miles in length), and installation of new 48-inch parallel pipe from Fowler Drive to Holland Road (approximately 2.2 miles in length). Additional future improvements include increasing the flow of the pump station to 80 cfs in 2045 and 140 cfs at full buildout.

Potential Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project: This Draft PEIR evaluates environmental impacts of the proposed Project and includes mitigation measures where necessary to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. In the Draft PEIR, significant impacts that were reduced to a less than significant level with mitigation are associated with biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, geology and soils, paleontological resources, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise (operation), and transportation. The proposed Project would not be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Significant, unmitigable impacts associated with implementation of the Project have been identified in the topics of air quality, energy, greenhouse gases, and noise (nighttime construction).

Attachment: Figure 1, Project Alignment

