THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
700 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for the Casa Loma Siphon No. 1 and San Jacinto Pipeline Protection Project

DATE: December 22, 2025

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

PROJECT TITLE: Casa Loma Siphon No. 1 and San Jacinto Pipeline Protection Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has prepared an Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the Project listed above pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. Anyone desiring to comment on the Draft IS-MND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period from December 22, 2025 through 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2026. In addition to making the Draft IS-MND available for public review, the document is being sent to responsible, trustee, and interested agencies as part of the review process required under CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21092) and the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15072 of the California Code of Regulations).

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project site encompasses an approximately 6.7-acre area located within and adjacent to the San Jacinto River, between Soboba Road and State Street, near the city of San Jacinto in unincorporated Riverside County, California. The Project site includes portions of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 430-220-003, 430-220-008, 430-220-010, and 430-220-011. The Project site is comprised of Metropolitan-owned property and Metropolian easements. The Project site is not included on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (hazardous materials sites). The Project site is depicted on Figure 1.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

To protect Metropolitan's critical infrastructure, prevent structural damage, and ensure long-term operational reliability of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) system, Metropolitan is proposing to encase approximately 320 feet of the CRA Casa Loma Siphon No. 1 Pipeline and approximately 295 feet of the San Jacinto Pipeline. The encasement would consist of concrete poured around the existing pipelines, and both encasements would be reinforced with steel rebar placed both horizontally and vertically to ensure structural integrity. The Project would not result in the addition of new aboveground components or appurtenances.

Construction Access, Staging, and Temporary Diversion: An existing access road, as well as a potential new, unpaved access road, would provide direct access within the Project site from Soboba Road to the proposed construction areas. Staging would be located south of Soboba Road, directly to the west and east of the existing access road within the Project site (depicted as Contractors Yard in Figure 1). During construction, a temporary diversion system consisting of earthen or water-filled berms, a series of pipelines, and appurtenant components would be installed within the bed and banks of the San Jacinto River to allow for diversion of surface water flows should a precipitation event occur. This system would be removed following the completion of construction, and the natural topography of the streambed would be restored to pre-project conditions.

Operations and Maintenance: The Project would not result in changes to Metropolitan's existing operation and maintenance conditions at the Project site.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared for the Project. The Initial Study describes the environmental impacts of the proposed Project and concludes that, with implementation of mitigation measures for biological resources and tribal cultural resources, the proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Based on this assessment, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/REVIEW:

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, hard copies of the Draft IS-MND are available for public review for 30 days from Monday, December 22, 2025, through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

A copy of the Draft IS-MND will also be posted on Metropolitan's website at: www.mwdh2o.com/CEQA

Please contact Alfredo Aguirre via telephone or email at EP@mwdh2o.com to make arrangements for viewing the document at Metropolitan's office or to request a hard copy of the Draft IS-MND if you are not able to access the document online or at the location listed above.

When submitting written comments to Metropolitan, please provide the name and email address of a contact person. All comments and questions regarding the Project should be directed to:

Mr. Alfredo Aguirre
Environmental Planning Section
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054
(213) 217-6730

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to: EP@mwdh2o.com
Reference: "Casa Loma Siphon No. 1 and San Jacinto Pipeline Protection Project" in the subject line.

Metropolitan will notify commenters of the date, time and place of the public meeting at which Metropolitan's Board of Directors will consider the proposed Project and IS-MND, including comments received during the public review period. This information will also be posted on the website referenced above. Information on how to access the meeting will be found in the meeting agenda published at the following website 72 hours in advance of the meeting: https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

Figure 1 Project Site Location

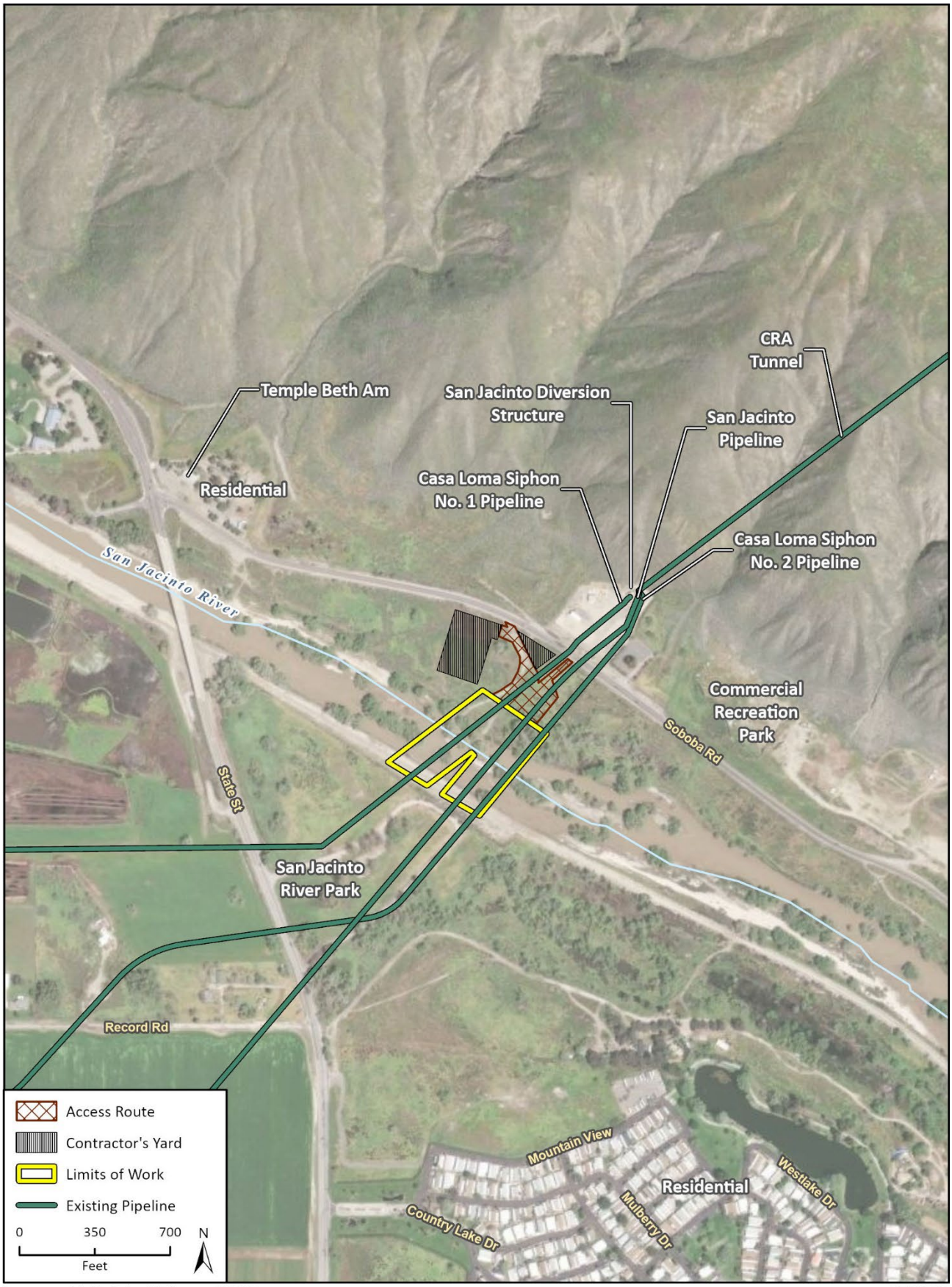

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Fig 1-2 Project Site Location