



California Department
of Water Resources

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report Perris Seepage Recovery Project (State Clearinghouse # 2019011027)

Project Title:

Perris Seepage Recovery Project

Project Location:

The proposed recovery wells and a portion of the proposed conveyance pipeline would be located on state-owned land in an unincorporated portion of western Riverside County within the Lake Perris State Recreation Area and San Jacinto Wildlife Area, just south of Perris Dam. The remaining portion of the proposed conveyance pipeline alignment and connection to the existing subterranean Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pipeline would be located within the City of Perris, just south of Ramona Expressway. The project area would be bounded by the Lake Perris Dam to the north, Bernasconi Hills to the southeast, the Lake Perris Fairgrounds to the west, and the City of Perris to the south, approximately 15 miles south of the City of Riverside. The five-acre project is located within the San Bernardino USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle. The site is within Township 5 South, Range 3 West, Section 5. The site is not a listed toxic site.

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of installing an integrated recovery well system to collect State Water Project (SWP) water that is currently seeping beneath Perris Dam. The recovery well system would include up to six water recovery wells and a conveyance pipeline connecting the wells to the CRA.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) have recorded water seeping out of the lake near the dam toe since the lake reached full pool. O&M staff have observed and documented artesian well conditions, ponding, and upwelling down-gradient from the dam. Based on the site observations and subsequent studies, DWR has determined that the local groundwater table has risen by 100 feet in some areas downstream of the dam since Lake Perris has been in use. The seepage from the lake has led to surficial nuisance water, unintended vegetation, and concerns about the dam's seismic stability during an earthquake. In addition, seepage is an unacceptable system loss, particularly during a drought and in light of projected future water needs.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impact:

The proposed project's potentially significant environmental impacts include: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology, Soils, and Seismicity, Greenhouse Gas, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resource, Utilities and Service Systems. Mitigation Measures are included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

Review:

The DEIR has a public review period of 45 days, beginning on May 7, 2021 and ending June 21, 2021. The DEIR is available at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/> by searching for State Clearinghouse No. 2019011027. The DEIR may also be viewed at <https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices>. If you encounter problems accessing the document from DWR's website, please email accessibility@water.ca.gov.

Public Meeting:

A virtual public meeting to solicit comments on topics addressed in the DEIR has been scheduled for May 14, 2021 at 11am via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted at the following link:

<https://water.ca.gov/News/Events>

Submit Comments:

Written comments on the DEIR should be received by 5pm Pacific Daylight Time on June 21, 2021, and should be sent to:

California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Jennifer Worsley
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

E-mail: Jennifer.worsley@water.ca.gov

All comments submitted, including email and the public meeting, must include the commenter's name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address and phone number.

PRIVACY NOTE: All comments received will be made available for public review in their entirety, including the names and addresses of the respondents. Individual respondents may request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure. DWR will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public meeting, or in written correspondence delivered to DWR within the review period.