



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 04 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Availability of Recirculated Portions of Draft Environmental Impact Report

Date: December 4, 2019
Case No.: 2015-004827ENV
Project Title: SFPUC Alameda Creek Recapture Project
Location: Alameda County on watershed lands owned by the City and County of San Francisco
Project Sponsor: Antonia Sivyer, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (415) 554-2474
Staff Contact: Chris Kern, Principal Planner – (415) 575-9037
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The San Francisco Planning Department has prepared recirculated portions of the draft environmental impact report (EIR) in connection with this project. The report is available for public review and can be accessed online at the planning department's website at: <https://sfplanning.org/environmental-review-documents>. Paper copies are also available at the: Planning Information Center at 1660 Mission Street, 1st Floor, San Francisco; San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California; and Alameda County Main Library, 2450 Stevenson Boulevard, Fremont, California. Referenced materials are available for review at the planning department's office on the fourth floor of 1650 Mission Street as part of Case File Number 2015-004827ENV.

Project Description: The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is proposing the Alameda Creek Recapture Project (ACRP) as part of improvements to its regional water system. The ACRP is a water supply project that would be located in the Sunol Valley in Alameda County on lands owned by the City and County of San Francisco and managed by the SFPUC. Under the ACRP, the SFPUC would construct pumping and associated facilities to withdraw water from Pit F2, an existing quarry pit formerly used by quarry operators located adjacent to Alameda Creek about six miles downstream of Calaveras Reservoir. No construction would occur within the Alameda Creek stream channel. The proposed project would "recapture" water that the SFPUC is required to release or bypass upstream in Alameda Creek as part of operation of the SFPUC's new Calaveras Dam. The SFPUC would pump water from Pit F2 that passively percolates or seeps into Pit F2 from Alameda Creek streamflow as augmented by the SFPUC's upstream releases and bypasses. Pumping would conform with identified operating protocols to avoid effects on Alameda Creek streamflow during the steelhead migration season. The SFPUC would convey the water pumped from Pit F2 to existing SFPUC facilities for treatment and distribution to its customers in the Bay Area for municipal use. The amount of water SFPUC would pump from Pit F2 would be limited to the portion of water that seeps into Pit F2 that is within the City and County of San Francisco's existing water rights.

During operation of the ACRP, the SFPUC would maintain the water levels in Pit F2 within a certain range to avoid effects on the adjacent shallow aquifer, thereby avoiding effects on Alameda Creek streamflow. **Nearly all pumping for the recapture operations would occur between July 1 and November 30 of each year, outside of the migration period for steelhead in Alameda Creek. Limited pumping could occur between May 1**

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and June 30, but only if conditions in Alameda Creek and water levels in Pit F2 are such that migration opportunities for steelhead would be unaffected.

Background: The San Francisco Planning Department published the Draft EIR on the ACRP on November 30, 2016, received public and agency comments over a 60-day public review period, and then published the Responses to Comments document on June 7, 2017. The San Francisco Planning Commission certified the Final EIR in June 2017. However, in response to an appeal on the certification action, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted findings in September 2017, reversing the certification of the Final EIR, and directed the planning department to provide additional information on specific topics. Specifically, the board directed the planning department to provide additional information and analysis regarding whether the ACRP would result in operational impacts on steelhead fish in the lower watershed as a result of project-induced effects on streamflow in Alameda Creek. In September 2017, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors also determined that “as to all other issues, the Board finds the Final EIR adequate, accurate, and objective, and no further analysis is required.” Consequently, the planning department is requesting that reviewers limit any new comments on the EIR to those issues addressed in the revised chapters or portions of the recirculated EIR.

Finding: The planning department has determined that recirculation of portions of the Draft EIR on the proposed project is required prior to any final decision regarding whether to approve the project. The recirculated portions of the Draft EIR address significant new information identified subsequent to publication of the Final EIR in June 2017, and it presents the revised analysis of operational impacts on steelhead. The recirculated portions of the EIR supplement the previously published Draft EIR on the ACRP, and in some cases, replace portions of it.

The planning department will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on **Thursday, January 9, 2020** after 1 p.m. at San Francisco City Hall (Room 400, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco). Call (415) 558-6422 the week of the public hearing for a recorded message giving a more specific time for the hearing. The purpose of this meeting is to receive oral comments on the recirculated portions of the Draft EIR. The planning department will also accept written comments on the recirculated portions of the Draft EIR until 5:00 p.m. on **January 21, 2020**. Written comments should be sent to Chris Kern, San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 or emailed to chris.kern@sfgov.org.

If you work for an agency that is a Responsible or a Trustee Agency, we need to know the views of your agency on the portions of the recirculated Draft EIR that are relevant to your agency’s statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering a permit or other approval for this project. We will also need the name of the contact person for your agency. If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, please contact **Chris Kern** at (415) 575-9037.

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the planning commission or the planning department. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the department’s website or in other public documents.

SFPUC Alameda Creek Recapture Project

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A Final EIR on the ACRP was published in June 2017, but the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted findings in September 2017, reversing the certification of the Final EIR, and directed the planning department to provide additional information on specific topics. Specifically, the Board directed the planning department to provide additional information and analysis regarding whether the ACRP would result in operational impacts on steelhead fish in the lower watershed as a result of project-induced effects on streamflow in Alameda Creek. In September 2017, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors also determined that “as to all other issues, the Board finds the Final EIR adequate, accurate, and objective, and no further analysis is required.”

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