



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: January 31, 2022

To: Agencies and Interested Parties

Lead Agency: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street, MS B209
Sacramento, CA 95817-1899
Contact: Kim Crawford at 916-732-5063 or
Kim.Crawford@smud.org

Subject: Sacramento Municipal Utility District *Operations, Maintenance, and New Construction Habitat Conservation Plan* Environmental Impact Report

Review Period: January 31, 2022 to March 17, 2022

In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act requirements, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) that evaluates the impacts associated with the proposed Project, which include:

- SMUD's implementation of the proposed *Operations, Maintenance, and New Construction Habitat Conservation Plan* (HCP), which provides a Conservation Strategy for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potential impacts on Covered Species resulting from SMUD's various operations, maintenance, and new construction activities (Covered Activities);
- Application for issuance and implementation of incidental take permits (ITPs) by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which authorize take of Covered Species potentially occurring during implementation of the Covered Activities. The ITPs will provide incidental take coverage for seven Covered Species—California tiger salamander, giant garter snake, slender Orcutt grass, Sacramento Orcutt grass, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp—for the next 30 years; and
- The direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect effects caused by the implementation of Covered Activities that will result from issuance of the ITPs.

SMUD's lead agency approval of the proposed Project would authorize implementation of the proposed HCP and ITPs, but would not confer or imply discretionary approval by SMUD of any specific Covered Activity. Implementation of the proposed Project, instead, will condition how SMUD implements Covered Activities when the Covered Species are or may be present.

The EIR is intended to serve as an informational document for the public agency decision makers and the general public regarding the characteristics and objectives of the proposed Project, potential environmental impacts, recommended mitigation measures and feasible alternatives to the proposed Project.

Project Location

Implementation of the proposed HCP would entail a Permit Area and Plan Area. The Permit Area is where SMUD would implement the Covered Activities described in the proposed HCP. The Permit Area consists of SMUD's service territory in Sacramento and Placer counties, SMUD's natural gas pipeline in Yolo County, and small portions in Amador and San Joaquin counties which are located adjacent to Sacramento County. The Permit Area is 577,554 acres. The Plan Area is the area within which SMUD would implement the Conservation Strategy to mitigate potential impacts on Covered Species resulting from Covered Activities. The Plan Area includes the Permit Area and conservation/mitigation banks and other HCP Plan Areas outside the Permit Area that SMUD may partner with to accomplish the HCP mitigation requirements. Figures of the Permit Area and Plan Area are available for review on SMUD's web page at: smud.org/CEQA.

Significant Environmental Effects

Impacts related to cultural and Tribal cultural resources were determined to be potentially significant and were addressed in the Draft EIR. After implementation of recommended mitigation measures, the Draft EIR concluded that impacts related to cultural and Tribal cultural resources would be less than significant.

Cortese-Listed Sites

There are 17 sites within the Permit Area that are listed on the California Department of Toxic Substance Control's Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List.

Public Meeting

A virtual public meeting will be held on February 22, 2022 to receive input from agencies and the public on the Draft EIR. During the meeting, project information can be discussed with SMUD staff and written Draft EIR comments will also be accepted via email.

- **Tuesday, February 22nd from 5:30pm to 6:30pm**
- Details for joining the meeting are available at **smud.org/CEQA**

How to View Project Documents

As lead agency for the project, SMUD is distributing the Draft EIR to interested public and regulatory authorities for review and comment. SMUD will accept public and agency comments on the Draft EIR for a 45-day period beginning **January 31, 2022 and ending March 17, 2022**. The Draft EIR is available for review on SMUD's web page at: **smud.org/CEQA**.

Hard copies may be reviewed at the following locations:

- SMUD East Campus Operations Center, 4401 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento, CA 95827
- SMUD Customer Service Center, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95817

Where to Send Your Comments

Written comments should be submitted to Kim Crawford, SMUD, 6201 S Street, MS B209, Sacramento, CA, 95817-1889 or at Kim.Crawford@smud.org **before 5 p.m., March 17, 2022**. If you have questions, please contact Kim Crawford via her email or at 916-732-5063.

If you have questions about the virtual public meeting and/or proposed Project, please email kim.crawford@smud.org or call 916-732-5063. Para obtener información sobre el proyecto propuesto en español, envíe un correo electrónico a kim.crawford@smud.org o llame al 916-732-5063.