



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

PROJECT TITLE: San Joaquin Reservoir Filtration Facility

LEAD AGENCY: Irvine Ranch Water District

REVIEW PERIOD: June 3, 2020 through July 2, 2020

CONTACT: Irvine Ranch Water District
Water Resources & Policy Department
Attention: Jo Ann Corey, Environmental Compliance Specialist
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, California 92618

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is the Lead Agency for the San Joaquin Reservoir Filtration Facility Project (proposed Project). Based on the information contained in the Initial Study (IS) prepared for the proposed Project, IRWD has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. IRWD is distributing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and interested groups, in accordance with CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project site is located in the City of Newport Beach and in the County of Orange. Regional access to the Project site is provided by State Route 73 (SR-73), located north of the Project site. The proposed Project would be constructed at IRWD's existing San Joaquin Reservoir (SJR) located south of Bonita Canyon Drive. The SJR is a 55-acre (ac) open recycled water reservoir (Assessor's Parcel No. 461-321-36). The proposed filtration facilities would be located on an existing concrete pad approximately 640 feet north of the SJR. Adjacent land uses include vacant land directly north of the SJR and residential uses to the east, west, and south.

The Project site is not included on any hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

IRWD is proposing to construct a new filtration facility that will improve the quality of the recycled water transmitted from the SJR by reducing algae/detritus concentrations. The new filtration facility would be constructed on an existing concrete pad that is north of the existing Flow Control Facility, which is on the north side of the SJR. The proposed filtration facility would be a single-level, above-grade structure that would total approximately 4,000 square feet. Two new filtration pumps would be installed within the filtration building to pump waste washwater from the filtration building to the southern end of the

SJR for disposal. The pumps would connect with a proposed concrete at-grade equalization basin, which will be located outside the proposed filtration building. A pipeline would be installed from the equalization basin into the southern end of the SJR to return the filter waste washwater. The new filtration facility will also include an enlarged electrical room, along with a hose, sink/wash basin, emergency shower, and eye-wash station. In addition to the new filtration facility and associated pipeline, the proposed Project includes replacing the booster pumps, located in the existing pump room of the Flow Control Facility on the southern end of the concrete pad, to accommodate the new filters. The operation of the proposed Project would be conducted remotely, and there would not be any full-time dedicated staff at the SJR site.

Development of the proposed Project would require the IRWD to approve the IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the proposed Project. The Project may require approvals, permits, or authorization from other agencies, classified as “Responsible Agencies” under CEQA.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

IRWD invites all interested parties to submit written comments on the IS/MND during the public review period. The 30-day public review period will commence on June 3, 2020, and end July 2, 2020. Any written comments on the IS/MND must be received by IRWD by 4:00 p.m. on July 2, 2020.

During the public review period, the IS/MND will be available for review at the following location:

- Online at the IRWD website: <http://www.irwd.com/doing-business/environmental-documents>

METHODS OF DELIVERING COMMENTS:

Written comments need to be received by July 2, 2020 **at 4:00 p.m.**, the close of the public review period. Written comments can be mailed or electronically submitted using the following contact information:

Irvine Ranch Water District
Water Resources & Policy Department
Attn: Jo Ann Corey, Environmental Compliance Specialist
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, California 92618
corey@irwd.com

Comments received during the public review period and responses to the comments will be included in a final environmental document. If you have any questions regarding the proposed Project, please contact Jo Ann Corey at corey@irwd.com.

PUBLIC MEETING: IRWD’s Board of Directors will consider the adoption of the IS/MND at a regularly scheduled meeting following the 30-day review period. For more information, contact the Board’s Secretary at (949) 453-5300.