



NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING

Date: June 23, 2020
To: State Clearinghouse, State Responsible Agencies, State Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, Interested Organizations
From: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Climate Action Plan**

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Climate Action Plan (CAP) (proposed project). This Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Scoping Meeting is being sent to responsible, trustee, and other public agencies as part of the review process under CEQA for projects of statewide, regional, or areawide significance (Sections 21080.4 and 21080.9 of the Public Resources Code).

Metropolitan is requesting input from responsible, trustee, and other public agencies, as well as interested organizations and individuals, regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft PEIR. If you are a responsible or trustee agency, you are requested to indicate your statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

The description and location of the proposed project and information on the potential environmental effects resulting from the proposed project are provided in this NOP. Due to the time limits mandated by state law (*State CEQA Guidelines* §15082 - Notice of Preparation and Determination of Scope of EIR), written comments must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than the end of the public review period, which begins June 23, 2020 and ends July 22, 2020.

Project Title: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Climate Action Plan

Applicant: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Copies of the NOP are available for public review at:

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

Additionally, a copy of the NOP is available online for public review at:

Metropolitan's website at: <http://www.mwdh2o.com/CEQA>

Written comments should be sent to the address shown below or via e-mail at EP@mwdh2o.com (reference “CAP PEIR” in the subject line) and should include the name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address, if available, of a contact person.

Ms. Malinda Stalvey, Senior Environmental Specialist
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Environmental Planning Section
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
(213) 217-5545

Please contact Malinda Stalvey via telephone or email at EP@mwdh2o.com to make arrangements for viewing or to receive a hard copy if you are not able to access the document online or view a copy at the location listed above.

All parties who have submitted their names and mailing addresses will be placed on the mailing list to receive notifications during the course of this CEQA environmental review process.

Scoping Meeting: Metropolitan will hold a virtual scoping meeting in conjunction with the NOP to present the proposed project and the PEIR process. The meeting will provide an opportunity for agency representatives and the public to assist the lead agency in determining the scope and content of the environmental analysis for the PEIR. The scoping meeting will be held online on July 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. To participate in the meeting, please register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UohxhPynTW6jwvyl_bDUkw.

The public can submit written comments via e-mail at EP@mwdh2o.com (reference “CAP PEIR Scoping” in the subject line) or can provide oral comments during the meeting.

Signature: Jennifer Harriger
Jennifer Harriger
Manager, Environmental Planning Section

Date: 6-16-2020

INTRODUCTION

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is a regional wholesaler that provides water for 26 member public agencies to deliver either directly or through their sub-agencies to nearly 19 million people, across a 5,200 square mile service area in six counties in Southern California. On average, Metropolitan moves more than 1.7 billion gallons of water daily through its distribution system, which includes an extensive water system including the Colorado River Aqueduct, 16 small hydroelectric facilities, nine reservoirs, 819 miles of large-scale pipes and five water treatment plants, four of which are among the 10 largest plants in the world. Metropolitan imports water from the California Department of Water Resources' State Water Project and the Colorado River to supplement local supplies. It also helps its member agencies develop water recycling, storage and other local resource programs to provide additional supplies and conservation programs to reduce regional demands.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Metropolitan is preparing a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to outline a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with future construction, operation, and maintenance activities. The CAP is a comprehensive roadmap that analyzes historical GHG emissions, prepares a forecast of future GHG emissions, sets a GHG reduction target for reducing emissions consistent with applicable state policies, and identifies a suite of specific reduction actions that Metropolitan can choose from to achieve the adopted target consistent with Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The CAP is a customized roadmap for making informed decisions and understanding where and how to achieve emissions reductions that conform to Metropolitan's mission/goals in a meaningful and cost-effective manner. While a CAP identifies potential projects that may be implemented to meet GHG reduction goals, no specific projects will be implemented without further CEQA review.

Emissions Inventory

Metropolitan's operations inherently result in GHG emissions. Understanding the processes that generate these emissions is essential to identifying strategies to reduce GHG emissions and achieve the identified GHG reduction target. Metropolitan's activities can be categorized into the following GHG generating sectors:

- **Water Conveyance and Treatment.** A majority of Metropolitan's emissions are a direct result of the energy consumed to pump, treat and deliver water throughout Metropolitan's extensive service area.
- **Buildings/Infrastructure.** Infrastructure including offices, facilities, control buildings, lighting, computers, air conditioners, and other equipment that is required to support the treatment and delivery of water.
- **Transportation.** This includes the transportation of employees and equipment to and from offices and worksites. Emissions stem from both Metropolitan's fleet vehicles and employee commute emissions.
- **Waste Disposal.** Waste falls into three categories: mixed solids waste, mixed recyclables, and organics. Metropolitan generates waste from various sources, ranging from employee lunches to office waste, which results in indirect GHG emissions as it decomposes in landfills.
- **Water Use.** Water sector GHG emissions by Metropolitan result from water use in facilities and irrigation.
- **Construction.** As Metropolitan's infrastructure ages, there is a continued need for construction of new facilities and infrastructure or rehabilitation of existing facilities and infrastructure. Construction activities result in direct GHG emissions from fuel combustion associated with construction equipment use and transportation of workers and materials.

The CAP will include an inventory of Metropolitan’s emissions, including an estimate of emissions associated with Metropolitan’s operations from 1990 through 2017. The inventory will describe methodologies used to calculate Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions. Scope 1 emissions include those from direct fuel combustion, including natural gas, propane, welding gasses, and gasoline and diesel used to power Metropolitan’s vehicle fleet. Scope 2 emissions include indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase and consumption of electricity. Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions resulting from employee commute, waste generation, water consumption in Metropolitan-owned buildings, and construction projects. The emissions inventory will also provide a forecast of future emissions based on current operations and construction of capital improvement projects.

GHG Reduction Target

The CAP will establish a GHG reduction target aligned with applicable state GHG reduction policies including Senate Bill 32, which establishes a statewide GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030, and Executive Order B-55-18, which sets a statewide goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. Metropolitan will measure and track its emissions inventory using:

- **Per Capita Emissions Calculation.** Per capita emissions uses Metropolitan’s calculated mass emissions and divides by the service population.
- **Carbon Budget Tracking.** Sets a carbon budget that is incrementally reduced over time to reach the adopted target.

In addition to establishing a reduction target, the CAP will provide a detailed analysis of the emissions reductions necessary for Metropolitan to achieve its target based on the emissions inventory and forecast described above.

Reduction Measures

The CAP will identify a suite of GHG emissions reduction measures that can be implemented to achieve the adopted emissions reduction target. At this time, GHG emission reduction measures are anticipated to span the following categories:

- Energy Use
- Waste
- Transportation
- Reduce Downstream Emissions
- Colorado River Aqueduct Pumping
- Off-road Construction
- Water Conservation
- Carbon Sequestration
- Conventional Treatment Plants
- Advanced Water Treatment Facilities
- New Pump Specifications
- General Engineering

It is anticipated that a majority of GHG reduction measures will be administrative in nature and, consequently, will not result in physical impacts to the environment. Nevertheless, all potential GHG reduction measures will be evaluated in the Draft PEIR.

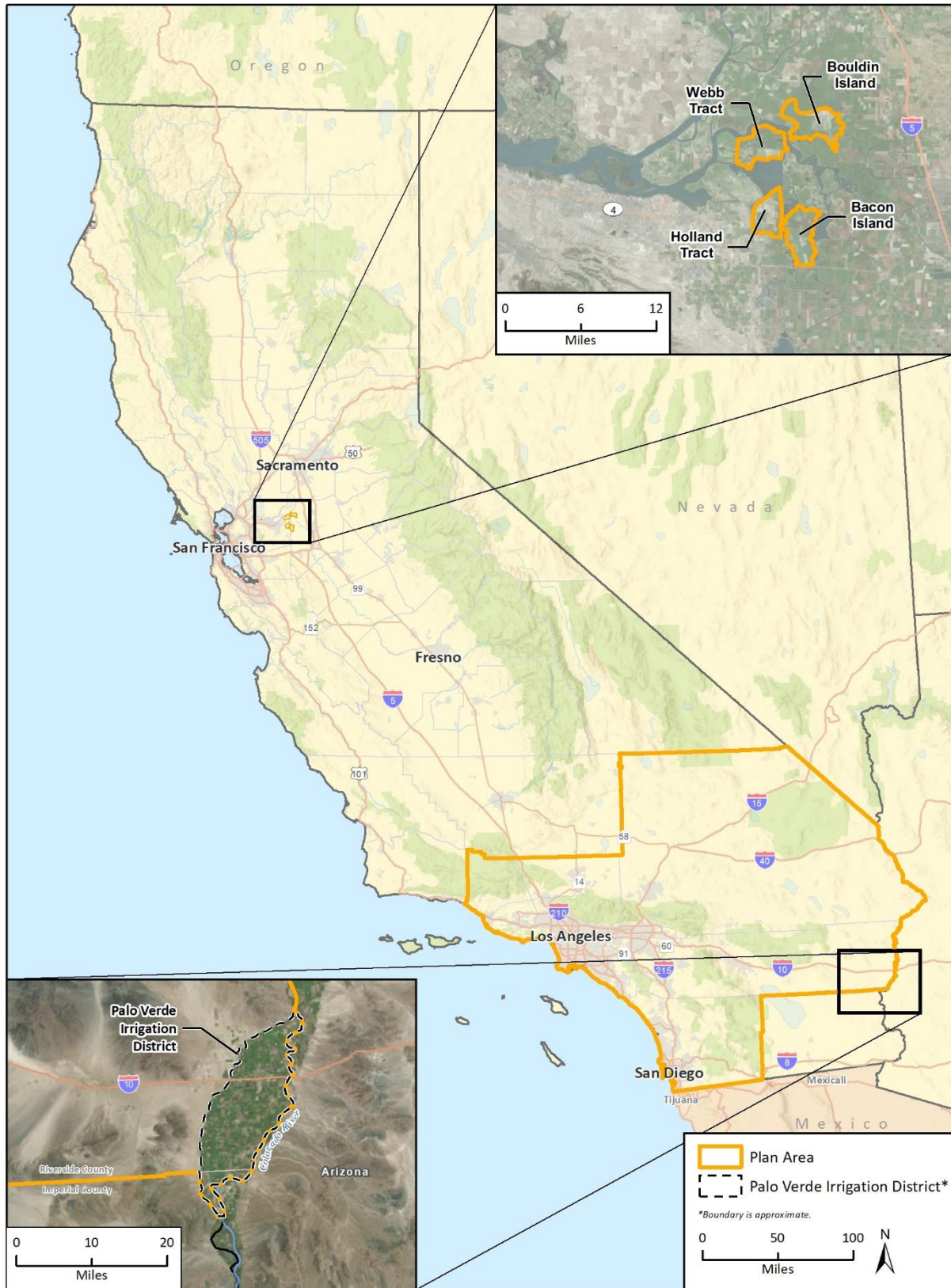
PROJECT LOCATION

The CAP will include reduction measures to reduce GHG emissions from Metropolitan’s construction, operation, and maintenance activities. It is anticipated that most reduction measures would be implemented throughout a six-county Southern California region comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties. These counties include all of Metropolitan’s service area and most of its infrastructure facilities. The CAP may also involve implementation of GHG emissions reduction measures or programs at Metropolitan land holdings in Imperial County, specifically within the Palo Verde Irrigation District; as well as land holdings in San Joaquin and Contra Costa Counties, specifically on lands commonly known as Bacon Island, Bouldin Island, Holland Tract, and Webb Tract in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region. Figure 1 shows the project location.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Draft PEIR will include an analysis of all required impact areas, as well as feasible mitigation measures and a reasonable range of alternatives to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts, if any. Environmental resource areas where it is determined that the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact will be summarized in an “Effects Found to be Less than Significant” section of the Draft PEIR.

Figure 1 Project Location



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 Additional data provided by USGS, 2017.