
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: April 1, 2021
TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations
SUBJECT: **Hemphill Diversion Structure Project (SCH#2020090032)**

Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Hemphill Diversion Structure Project (Proposed Project). NID has prepared the Draft EIR and is requesting input as to the content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR from any interested parties. If you are an agency with statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project, the EIR has been provided to assist you with preparation of any future permits or other approvals for the Project.

NID circulated a Notice of Preparation and Draft Initial Study for the Proposed Project and held a Public Scoping Meeting in September 2020. The EIR evaluates environmental resource issues as outlined in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et sec., as amended December 28, 2018).

Lead Agency Name and Address: Nevada Irrigation District 1036 Main Street Grass Valley, CA 95945	Project Manager and Phone Number: Tonia Tabucchi Herrera, Senior Engineer (530) 273-6185
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Project Location: The Hemphill Diversion Structure is located in Placer County, just east of the City of Lincoln, within Auburn Ravine. The structure is located in Section 13, Township 12 North, and Range 6 West (Mount Diablo Base and Meridian) of the "Lincoln" 7.5-minute quadrangle. The coordinates are latitude 38.896731° and longitude -121.251885°.

Project Description: The structure diverts water from Auburn Ravine into the Hemphill Canal, located south of the ravine, for delivery to NID raw-water customers. The diversion structure is an approximately eight-foot-high concrete structure, with an approximately 40-foot-long concrete apron extending downstream. It has been operated by NID since its purchase in 1933. Hemphill Diversion has been subject to damage during high flow events, has required ongoing maintenance, and is currently in need of additional repairs. Additionally, the diversion has historically presented an impediment to the passage of migrating anadromous fish species that spawn in Auburn Ravine upstream of the diversion. NID is considering three alternatives to eliminate this impediment while still maintaining water deliveries to customers served by Hemphill Canal. These three alternatives include:

- *Alternative 1 - Riverbank Infiltration Gallery Alternative:* Includes the removal of the diversion structure, site stabilization, and construction of a subterranean riverbank infiltration structure and pipeline connection to Hemphill Canal.
- *Alternative 2 - Fish Passage Alternative:* Includes the removal of the diversion structure, site stabilization, construction of a nature-like roughen rock ramp instream fish passage, installation of a fish screen and improvements to a portion of the Hemphill Canal.

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- *Alternative 3 - Pipeline Alternative:* Includes the removal of the diversion structure, site stabilization, and installation of the majority of the pipeline within roadway right-of-way (ROW) from the NID Placer Yard facility to the Hemphill Canal near the existing diversion structure.

Each alternative is designed to allow anadromous fish to migrate past the Hemphill Diversion Structure site. NID has not yet identified a preferred alternative. While varied in their approaches to enhancing fish passage at the Hemphill Diversion site, each Project alternative would require removal of the existing diversion structure.

Draft EIR Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR will extend for 45 days **starting Thursday, April 1, 2021 and ending Monday, May 17, 2021.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, printed hard copies will not be available to the public. However, the Draft EIR can be viewed and/or downloaded at the following website:

<https://nidwater.specialdistrict.org/hemphill-diversion-structure-documents>

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the Draft EIR may be directed to Kris Stepanian at stepiank@nidwater.com or to the address shown below:

Nevada Irrigation District
cc: Kris Stepanian
1036 Main Street
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Tonia M. Tabucchi Herrera, PE

