

Sweetwater Authority

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

To: All Interested Parties

From: Sweetwater Authority
Erick Del Bosque
505 Garret Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: **Central-Wheeler Tank and System Improvements Project**
LEAD AGENCY: **Sweetwater Authority**
PROJECT AREA: **The Community of Sunnyside**
PROJECT TYPE: **Water Storage Reservoir**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sweetwater Authority (SWA) is the Lead Agency and has prepared an Initial Study (IS) with the intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Central-Wheeler Tank and System Improvements Project (Project).

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed Project is located near the unincorporated community of Sunnyside in San Diego County, California, just east of the unincorporated community of Bonita, approximately 9 miles east from downtown San Diego, and 6 miles northeast of downtown Chula Vista (**Figure 1**). The closest highway to the proposed Project site is State Route (SR) 125. The Sweetwater Summit Regional Park, Sweetwater Reservoir, Sweetwater Reservoir's Fishing Program, and a trail system are adjacent to or in the vicinity of the proposed Project. The Central-Wheeler Tank (CWT) would be installed within Sweetwater Reservoir property, approximately 1,260 feet northwest of the intersection of San Miguel Road and Summit Meadow Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: SWA proposes to construct a new 0.8 million gallon (MG) storage tank and associated conveyance pipelines adjacent to Sweetwater Reservoir. The 2015 Water Distribution System Master Plan evaluated SWA's transmission, pumping, storage and distribution network and made recommendations to meet anticipated demands through the year 2040. The current requirement to satisfy maximum day and fire protection water demands in the Wheeler Pressure Zone is 0.60 million gallons per day (MGD) and the projected demand is 0.84 MGD by 2040. The existing Wheeler Tank was constructed in 1952 and has an operating storage capacity of 0.36 MG, but operates at a reduced capacity of 0.25 MG since the tank does not meet structural stability requirements for seismic activity. The proposed Project would improve reliability of the water distribution system in the current Wheeler Pressure Zone and a portion of the Gravity Pressure Zone by allowing SWA to meet anticipated maximum day and fire protection demands through the year 2040. The project would involve construction of a new 0.8 MG welded steel water storage tank (Central-Wheeler Tank) near a hillside in an undeveloped portion of land owned by SWA and construction of associated water drainage and conveyance pipelines to improve reliability of water distribution within SWA's Wheeler Pressure Zone and a portion of the Gravity Pressur Zone. Project facilities would occur within public rights-of-way, within property currently owned by SWA, or easements to be acquired by SWA.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The IS/MND describes potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, noise, recreation and tribal cultural resources. Mitigation measures have been defined to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. All other resource areas found to have no impact or to be less than significant are also described in the IS/MND.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The IS/MND will be circulated for 30-days for public review. Comments on the MND must be received between January 5, 2021 and February 4, 2021. Written comments should be sent to: Erick Del Bosque at Sweetwater Authority, 505 Garret Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910, or email comments to: edelbosque@sweetwater.org.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The IS/MND may be viewed on the web at: <https://www.sweetwater.org/364/Projects-under-Public-Review>

For more information on the project, or if you would like to request a hard copy, please contact:

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