



May 27, 2021

To: State Clearinghouse; Responsible and Trustee Agencies; and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report – Rainbow Municipal Water District Water and Sewer Facilities Plan

Rainbow Municipal Water District (District) intends to prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the District's proposed Water and Sewer Facilities Plan (Project). The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is for the District, as the Lead Agency, to solicit input on the scope and content of the Draft PEIR.

Location of the Proposed Project: The location of the Project consists of the District's service area, which comprises a total of 82 square miles located in northwestern San Diego County. The District shares common boundaries with Riverside County, Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, the unincorporated community of Fallbrook and the city of Oceanside. The District's service boundaries encompass several unincorporated areas including the communities of Rainbow and Bonsall as well as portions of Pala and Fallbrook.

Overview of the Proposed Project: The Project identifies improvements necessary for the District's water and sewer facilities to adapt to future conditions while providing reliable and economical service to the District's customers. The specific key objectives of the Project include implementing upgrades, repairs, and replacements needed to bring existing facilities up to current design, safety, and regulatory standards; addressing system deficiencies under current demand and flow conditions; and meeting future water demand and flow conditions.

Specific construction schedules are not available for the individual improvements at the program level. Proposed improvements for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects would be implemented in two general phases: Near Term (through 2030) and Long Term (through 2040). The proposed improvements include increasing the capacity of existing deficient water mains and sewers, implementing fire flow improvements, installing new potable and sewer pipelines, constructing pump stations, and rehabilitating existing lift stations. Phasing for individual improvements could be accelerated or deferred as required to account for changes in development schedules, availability of land or rights-of-way for construction, funding limitations, and other considerations that cannot be predicted at this time. The PEIR would cover the entirety of the District's pipelines at a programmatic level.

Potential Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project: In accordance with Section 15126 of the CEQA Guidelines, the PEIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from the construction and operation of the Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and growth-inducing impacts. The EIR will provide an assessment of impacts for facilities and activities associated with Project implementation (CEQA Guidelines Section 15161).

The District has determined that the proposed Project may have the potential to significantly impact agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation, and tribal cultural resources. These issue areas will be evaluated in detail in the Draft PEIR. It is anticipated that all other issue areas will be discussed in the Environmental Effects Found Not to be Significant section of the Draft PEIR. The PEIR will identify mitigation measures if necessary and feasible to reduce potentially significant impacts of the proposed Project. The PEIR will also discuss alternatives to the proposed Project, including the CEQA-required “No Project” alternative.

Comments: The District is requesting input from all CEQA responsible and trustee agencies, all other public agencies with jurisdiction by law over resources potentially affected by the proposed Project, and public input regarding the scope and content of environmental information to be included in the PEIR. Agency responses should identify the issues to be considered in the PEIR, including significant environmental issues, alternatives, mitigation measures, and whether the responding agency will be a responsible or trustee agency, and the basis for that determination. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but postmarked within 30 days from receipt of this notice, or no later than June 25, 2021. All comments should indicate a contact person for each agency or organization, if applicable. Please submit email comments to mtamimi@rainbowmwd.com and written comments by mail to:

Rainbow Municipal Water District

Attn: Malik Tamimi
Engineering Department
3707 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Scoping Meeting: To provide the utmost safety for the public in response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Scoping Meeting for the PEIR will be held online. The meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2021 at 12:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time. There are several ways to join the meeting:

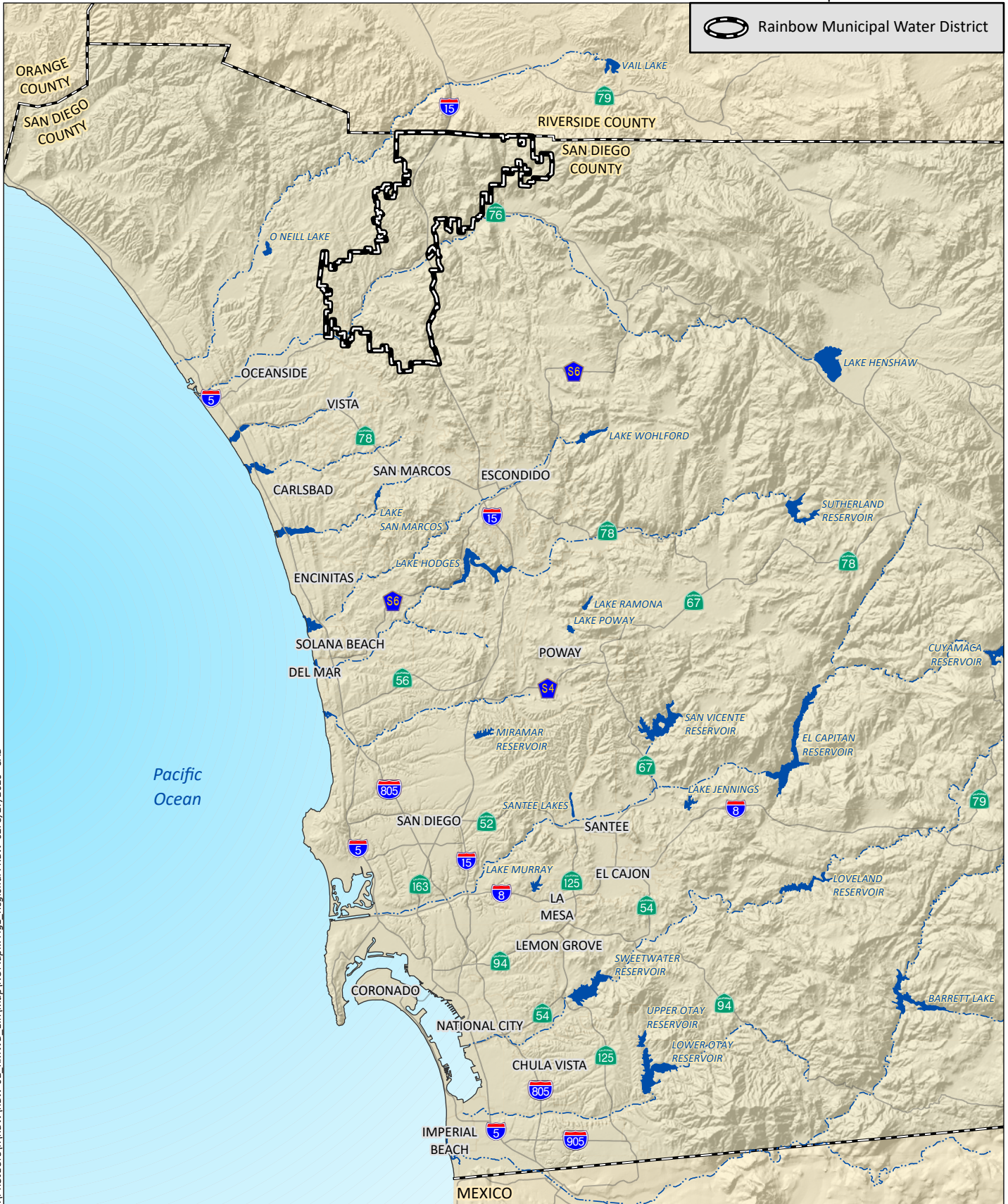
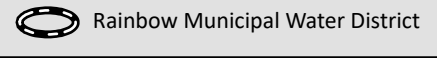
- 1) Register in advance for the scoping meeting webinar using the link below:
https://helixepi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LDNRqgRsQpWXXYeDporm2w
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing additional information about joining the webinar.
- 2) Go to www.zoom.us, Select “Join a Meeting,” and enter the following:
Webinar ID: 885 1249 8872, Passcode: 149654
- 3) Call into the meeting via telephone:
+1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592
Webinar ID: 885 1249 8872

The scoping meeting will provide an opportunity to disseminate information, identify environmental issues, and discuss the environmental process for the PEIR. Given the limitation of the meeting venue, public comments should be provided through email or through regular mail via the contact information provided above.

Attachments:

Figure 1: Regional Vicinity

Figure 2: Proposed Water and Sewer Projects

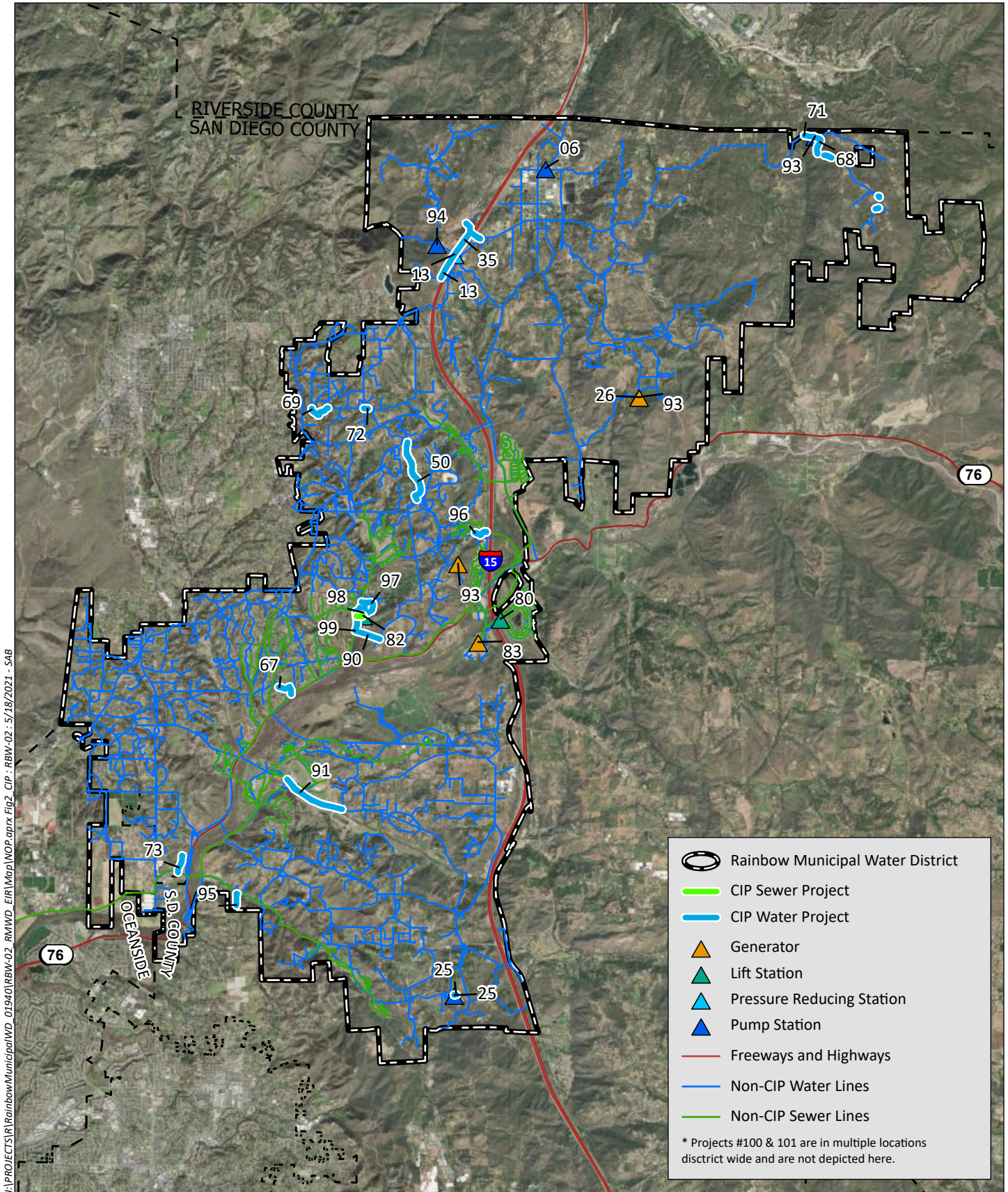


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Pacific Ocean

Source: Base Map Layers (SanGIS, 2016)





Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Water and Sewer Projects

Figure 2