



May 24, 2022

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

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

Rainbow Municipal Water District (District) has prepared a Draft 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 Availability (NOA) is for the District, as the Lead Agency, to solicit comments from the public regarding the 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 northern San Diego County. The District shares common boundaries with Riverside County and Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. The District's service boundaries encompass several unincorporated areas including the communities of Rainbow and Bonsall and portions of Pala and Fallbrook, as well as a small portion within the City of Oceanside.

Overview of the Proposed Project: The Project identifies an implementation plan for improvements necessary for the systems to adapt to future water and wastewater supply and demand conditions, while providing reliable service to the District's customers. The specific key objectives of the Project include implementing improvements, 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.

The Project would include improvements necessary for the systems to adapt to future water and wastewater supply and demand conditions, while providing reliable service to the District's customers, including capital improvement program (CIP) projects, other District pipeline (ODP) projects, and maintenance projects. The proposed CIP includes projects that are recommended to address existing and forecasted capacity deficiencies, improve system reliability, redundancy and operating efficiencies, and conduct strategic system maintenance and replacement programs. CIP projects include 28 water system projects and 10 sewer system projects, which include improvements associated with existing and new pump stations, lift stations, pipelines, and other water and sewer infrastructure and appurtenances. The CIP projects were chosen as the facilities that were determined to be the highest priority for replacement or rehabilitation. However, as the District's pipeline infrastructure continues to age and deteriorate, particularly for facilities that are 50 or more years old, failures or breaks could occur anywhere in the system. Therefore, this PEIR addresses on a programmatic level the totality of the District's water and sewer pipelines, including 336 miles of water pipelines and 76 miles of sewer pipelines. This PEIR also considers maintenance projects, which are minor activities that the District may undertake as part of general operations.

Potential Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project: This Draft PEIR evaluates environmental impacts of the proposed Project and suggests mitigation measures where necessary to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. Significant impacts have been identified in the Draft PEIR associated with biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation, and wildfire. However, all impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels under CEQA through implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Draft PEIR. Some components of the proposed Project have the potential be located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; implementation of mitigation identified in the Draft PEIR would address potential associated impacts. No significant, unmitigable impacts associated with implementation of the Project have been identified.

Comments: The District is soliciting comments from all CEQA responsible and trustee agencies, all other public agencies with jurisdiction by law over resources potentially affected by the proposed Project, and the public regarding the content of the Draft PEIR. Pursuant to Section 15204 of the CEQA Guidelines, in reviewing Draft EIRs, persons and public agencies should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated. The District has established a 45-day review period for this Draft PEIR from Wednesday, May 25, 2022, to Friday, July 8, 2022, compliant with the requirement of Section 21091 of the Public Resources Code. 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

Document Availability: The Draft PEIR is available electronically at: <https://www.rainbowmwd.com/engineering-services>. Paper copies of the Draft PEIR can be made available for review at the District's office lobby upon request.