



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 North Ventura Avenue
Oak View, California 93022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD and CEQA Lead Agency) has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the project listed below pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Res. Code §21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 Calif. Code of Regs., §15000 et seq.). Anyone desiring to comment on the IS-MND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period commencing October 22, 2021 through November 24, 2021. The document is available for public review at: www.casitaswater.org

Project Title: Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility (Facility) Annual Maintenance and Repair Program

Project Location: The Robles Facility is located on the Ventura River near the City of Ojai, two miles downstream of Matilija Dam in unincorporated Ventura County.

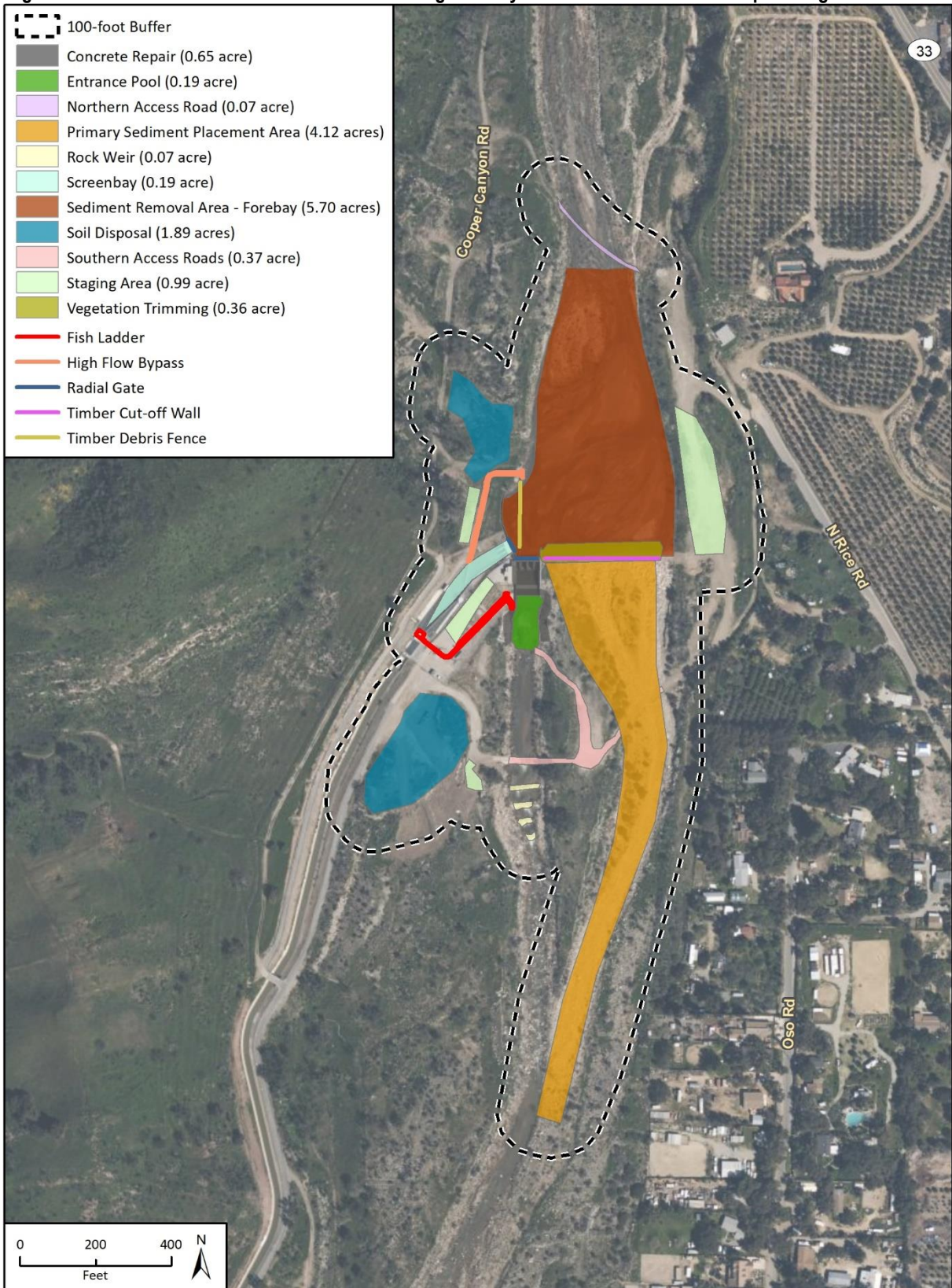
Brief Project Description: The proposed project is for the continued maintenance and repair of the existing Robles Facility. Typical maintenance activities include sediment/debris removal; vegetation control; repair and maintenance of the radial gates (at the entrance to the headworks and spillway) and other facility control gates; instrumentation; and road maintenance. Repair activities also include concrete work within the existing footprint of the Facility and replacement of wood timbers (timber cut-off wall and debris fence). The Facility maintenance and repair activities occur in and around the Ventura River where such activities are regulated by several state and federal agencies. The modification to the bed, bank, and/or vegetation in a natural drainage is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code. Activities that result in the discharge of dredged or fill material in watercourses are also regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Issuance of a 404 permit also requires a 401 Water Quality Certification by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Maintenance and repair activities conform to those described in the existing Biological Opinion (BO) issued to CMWD by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in 2003 for affects to steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*) from the construction and operation of the Facility. In addition, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a BO to Casitas in October 2019 for the Robles Diversion Forebay Restoration Project and its effects on California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). Maintenance and repair activities conform to those described in the USFWS BO. In 2003, CMWD acquired agreements and permits from CDFW, USACE, Los Angeles RWQCB, and USFWS for construction of the Robles Diversion Fish Passage Facility; however, the permits issued did not cover maintenance of the Facility, and CMWD acquires agreements and permits on an as-needed basis for individual maintenance activities to the Facility. With the proposed project, CMWD is seeking permits with a duration of 10 years or more to include all regulated activities, include a streamlined administrative approval process, and to provide predictability and certainty on environmental protection measures.

Public Meeting: The CMWD Board of Directors may consider the Robles Facility Annual Maintenance and Repair Program at a Board of Directors meeting scheduled for December 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via conference call due to COVID-19. Please check the Board Meeting agenda prior to the meeting to confirm the hearing date and attendance details: <https://www.casitaswater.org/about-us/board-of-directors>

30-Day Document Review: The document is available for review online at: www.casitaswater.org. A hard copy can be made available for review at the District office. If a hard copy review is required, please contact Kelley Dyer at the email address provided below.

Contact Person: Written comments may be submitted to:
Kelley Dyer, Assistant General Manager
1055 North Ventura Avenue. Oak View, California 93022
Email: kdyer@casitaswater.com

Figure 1 Location - Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility Annual Maintenance and Repair Program



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Fig 2 Project Location Map 20200407