

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE WESTWARD HO SEWER SIPHON REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

PROJECT TITLE: Westward Ho Sewer Siphon Replacement Project

LEAD AGENCIES: Valley Sanitary District

PROJECT LOCATION: The project alignment is located within existing public right of way (ROW) of Westward Ho Drive on the west end and terminates on the Indio Water Authority (IWA) Plant No. 4 site located proximal to the western termination of Avenue 46 on the east end. The distance is approximately 1,130 feet. The Westward Ho Siphon Replacement Project would replace an existing sewer siphon (pipeline) that has been structurally compromised from erosion within the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC). See Figure 1 – Vicinity Map.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Westward Ho Siphon Replacement Project would install a new sewer line between Westward Ho Drive on the west end and Indio Water Authority (IWA) property on the east end, a total distance of approximately 1,130 feet. The proposed project would replace the existing siphon by connecting a new pipeline segment to the existing pipeline at connection points within Westward Ho Drive on the west side and within the IWA Plant No. 4 property on the east side of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC). The new segment would be installed approximately 50 feet under the CVSC (at its deepest point) using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to avoid direct impacts to the channel and impacts to the pipeline from future storm events.

An entrance pit approximately 4 feet in depth would be excavated within the disturbed dirt area just south of the water reservoir on the IWA Plant No. 4 property on the east side of the CVSC. The equipment and materials will be staged at this location and on the Westward Ho Drive side of the alignment to assemble the completed pipe connection. The HDD operation will advance the drill head under the CVSC while pulling the new pipeline segment behind it. A bentonite clay drilling slurry will be used to lubricate and support the tunnel as well as transport drilling spoils to the surface for disposal. A larger pit approximately 6 feet in depth will be excavated in Westward-Ho Drive at the existing pipeline. Two additional pits approximately 20 feet in depth will be constructed to allow installation of new manholes on either side of the CSWC. The new pipeline segment will be connected to the existing siphon pipeline. Both pits will be backfilled and the surface restored to existing conditions.

This project is being proposed by VSD to replace a compromised pipeline segment. This will avoid potential failure of the existing siphon and resultant sewage spills within the CVSC. The siphon will not increase the capacity of the system or require improvements above ground. All work would occur underground. Construction is expected to begin in early Winter 2023 and take approximately three months to complete.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: The Project site is not located on known listed toxic sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

PROJECT CONTACT: Ron Buchwald, PE, District Engineer
Phone: (760) 238-5400
Email: rbuchwald@valley-sanitary.org

PUBLIC REVIEW AND WRITTEN COMMENTS: The review period for submitting written comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15105 commences on October 12, 2022, and will close on November 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding the project or Mitigated Negative Declaration, please contact Ron Buchwald by e-mail or

phone as indicated above.

Written comments should be addressed to: Ron Buchwald, PE, District Engineer
Valley Sanitary District
45500 Van Buren
Indio, CA 92201
rbuchwald@valley-sanitary.org

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at the Valley Sanitary District, 45500 Van Buren, Indio, CA 92201 and may also be accessed on the District's website at: <http://www.valley-sanitary.org>.

PUBLIC HEARING: The proposed Project, including Mitigated Negative Declaration, will be reviewed and considered for approval at a Valley Sanitary District Board Meeting to be held on December 13, 2022.



Figure 1 — Vicinity Map - Project Site