



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
700 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project

DATE: December 14, 2022

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

PROJECT TITLE: Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has prepared a Draft Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the Project listed above pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. Anyone desiring to comment on the Draft IS-MND may do so in writing within the public review period from Wednesday, December 14, 2022, through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. In addition to making the Draft IS-MND available for public review, the document is being sent to responsible, trustee, and interested agencies as part of the review process required under CEQA (Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15072 of the California Code of Regulations).

PROJECT LOCATION:

The proposed Project is located at Copper Basin Reservoir in the Colorado Desert, approximately 5 miles west of Parker Dam and the border between California and Arizona within unincorporated San Bernardino County. Land use surrounding the proposed Project site is undeveloped open space. Figure 1 provides an overview of the Project's regional location.

The entirety of the Project Area is owned by Metropolitan. The Project Area is not included on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (hazardous waste facilities).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed Project would rehabilitate the slide gate valve and replace the discharge valve within the Copper Basin Dam valve house; install new conduit and electrical components within the valve house; install three new concrete pads and electrical components 250 feet southwest of the Copper Basin Dam; install and anchor-in-place approximately 250 feet of above-ground electrical conduit from the new concrete pads to Copper Basin Dam; replace the ladder on the dam face; install a new catwalk and stairs immediately downstream of and adjacent to the valve house; remove and reconstruct two existing concrete weirs approximately 125 feet downstream of Copper Basin Dam; and install electrical conduit and instrumentation from the two weirs along the catwalk to the valve house. Project staging is proposed at three existing staging/operations areas along the west side of the reservoir.

The proposed Project would improve approximately 1.66 miles of the existing dirt access road around the perimeter of Copper Basin Reservoir to facilitate safe access to the base of Copper Basin Dam. Improvements to this existing dirt access road include re-grading the road; paving steep segments of road and installing metal beam guard railing for safety; constructing Arizona crossings at drainage crossing locations; installing v-ditches and riprap outlet structures along the access road to control runoff; and installing vehicle turn out areas and safety signs.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared for the Project. The Initial Study describes the environmental impacts of the proposed Project and concludes that, with the implementation of mitigation measures for biological resources, the proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Based on this assessment, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/REVIEW:

In accordance with Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines, hard copies of the Draft IS-MND are available for public review from Wednesday, December 14, 2022, through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

A copy of the Draft IS-MND will also be posted on Metropolitan’s website at: www.mwdh2o.com/CEQA

Please contact Daniel Cardoza via telephone at the number below or email at EP@mwdh2o.com to make arrangements for viewing the document at Metropolitan’s office or to request a hard copy of the Draft IS-MND if you are not able to access the document online or at the location listed above.

When submitting written comments to Metropolitan, please provide the name and email address of a contact person. All Comments and questions regarding the Project should be directed to:

Mr. Daniel Cardoza
Environmental Planning Section
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054
(213) 217-5602

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to: EP@mwdh2o.com

Reference: “Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project Draft IS-MND” in the subject line.

Metropolitan will notify commenters of the date, time and place of the public meeting at which Metropolitan’s Board of Directors will consider the proposed Project and IS-MND, including comments received during the public review period. This information will also be posted on the website referenced above. Information on how to access the meeting will be found in the meeting agenda published at the following website 72 hours in advance of the meeting - <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Figure 1. Project Location

