



# CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

## **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration**

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION For Whale Rock Stilling Basin Dewatering and Inspection Project (City File EID-0683-2022)

The City of San Luis Obispo has completed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Whale Rock Stilling Basin Dewatering and Inspection Project. The IS/MND found the following environmental factors to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Tribal Cultural Resources.

The project is located at Whale Rock Reservoir spillway basin, near the terminus of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Cayucos, California. The project site is not included on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The proposed project includes dewatering, sediment removal, and visual inspection of the spillway basin below Whale Rock Reservoir. The City of San Luis Obispo is required by the Division of Safety of Dams to inspect the integrity of the spillway basin below Whale Rock Reservoir. In order to conduct the visual inspection, the City must first dewater the lower section of the basin, then remove accumulated sediments and vegetation from the area for an engineer to gain and see the basin bottom. The project would result in approximately 0.10-acre and 160 linear feet of temporary impacts to waters of the state and waters for the U.S. Specifically, temporary impacts are expected as a result of dewatering and excavating accumulated sediment and vegetation. No permanent impacts are proposed.

Submersible pumps will be used to dewater the area, discharging the water to the adjacent disturbed upland terraces, 50 feet or greater from the spillway and top of bank. Temporary sediment catchments and dissipation devices, such as straw bales and plastic sheeting, will be used to slow down and settle turbid water before it is allowed to run overland. Additional devices (e.g., sandbags, silt fence, straw wattle, hay bales) will be implemented to ensure no erosion or sedimentation occurs to the creek below. Once the area is dewatered, equipment such as a backhoe or skid steer and a container will be lowered down from the 13th Street/access road bridge above the spillway. Sediment and vegetation will be scooped up and placed in the container, and it will be pulled back up to the bridge and emptied onto either of the disturbed upland terraces, 50 feet or greater from the spillway and top of bank (0.85-acre area). Sediment and vegetation removed from the channel will be spread locally in the disturbed upland terrace, where the materials will not wash back into the spillway or downstream to the creek. Once the area is accessible and the concrete channel visible, an engineer or engineers will conduct the required inspection.

Reference copies of the IS/MND are available on the City's website at <https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/community-development/documents-online/environmental-review-documents>.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact Shawna Scott at [sscott@slocity.org](mailto:sscott@slocity.org) or (805) 781-7176 to arrange for an alternative means to view the study. The required **30-day** public review period for the IS/MND will extend from January 5, 2023 to February 6, 2023. Anyone interested in commenting on the document should submit a written statement to the City of San Luis Obispo, Public Utilities Department, 879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, Attention: Shawna Scott, Special Projects Manager, or by email at [sscott@slocity.org](mailto:sscott@slocity.org), by 5:00 p.m., by February 6, 2023.

The item is tentatively scheduled with the Whale Rock Commission, April 2023 (meeting date to be determined) to consider approval of the project and adoption of the IS/MND. Interested persons can access the Whale Rock Commission agenda at <https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/utilities-department/meetings-events/-toggle-all> to locate the agenda of the public hearing for this project.