

January 12, 2023

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County of San Diego

Subject: Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Crossover Pipeline Interstate 15 Bypass Project

Dear Adjacent Landowner or Interested Party:

The San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared and plans to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Crossover Pipeline Interstate 15 (I-15) Bypass Project (project). The Water Authority is hereby notifying agencies and members of the public that may be interested in the project as to the availability of the Draft MND, and the procedures for public review and comment on the document.

Project Location: The project is located within the unincorporated areas of San Diego County, north of the City of Escondido. Construction activities are anticipated to be located within a mixture of Water Authority right-of-way (ROW), County ROW, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) ROW, and private property. One potential construction laydown area is located within the City of Escondido's municipal boundaries.

Project Description: The Water Authority is proposing to implement a project, which would replace and realign an approximately 5,400-foot segment of the existing Crossover Pipeline that runs beneath and parallel to I-15. Development of the new realigned segment of pipeline would be constructed via a combination of trenching and tunnelling methods. During active construction, the affected segment of N. Centre City Parkway would be fully closed and all traffic would be detoured along Mesa Rock Road and Deer Springs Road. The section of N. Centre City Parkway where work is occurring would remain closed for the duration of work but would allow local traffic to access surrounding private properties. The proposed project would also develop new access structures to provide permanent access to this segment of the pipe for inspection and maintenance. Additional appurtenances, such as fiber optics, pull boxes, air vents, and a corrosion test system would be installed along the new segment of pipeline. The segment of existing Crossover Pipeline to be replaced would be removed or abandoned in place. New permanent easements will be requested along portions of the realigned pipeline within private property. No changes to the existing water supply would occur.

Environmental Effects: The Draft MND identifies potentially significant impacts with respect to noise, and paleontological resources. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project that either avoid or reduce project impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Availability of Document: Pursuant to CEQA requirements, a Draft MND is being made available for a public review period commencing on January 12, 2023 and ending on February 12, 2023. The Draft MND and supporting appendices are available for review at the San Diego County Water Authority's website:

<https://www.sdcwa.org/projects-programs/programs/environmental/>

Comments: The Water Authority will be accepting written comments on the Draft MND for consideration prior to adoption of the document. **Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2023** and can be submitted by mail to:

San Diego County Water Authority
Water Resources Department
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
Attn: Sean Paver

Comments will also be accepted by email. Please send them to Sean Paver at spaver@sdcwa.org, and **include "Crossover Pipeline Interstate 15 Bypass Project MND Comments" in the email subject line.**

Public Hearing: A public hearing to accept oral comments on the adequacy of the Draft MND will be held before the Water Planning and Environmental Committee at the Water Authority's Board of Director's meeting on January 26, 2023. For persons wishing to present oral comments or for information on viewing the hearing, please visit the Water Authority's website:

<https://www.sdcwa.org/about-us/board-of-directors/meetings/>

The agenda for the meeting will be available on the Water Authority's website one week prior to the scheduled hearing date, and will include instructions for viewing and submitting oral comments. A Final MND that considers all public input will be prepared for consideration by the Water Authority at a future public meeting.

Sincerely,



Sean Paver
Senior Water Resources Specialist