

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
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Ontario, CA 91764
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Lead Agency
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
1315 Chaney Street
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2023020359

Project Title: Rice Canyon Reservoir Access Road and New Conduit Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-RIV-47128-R6)

Project Location (Riverside): The Rice Canyon Reservoir Access Road and New Conduit Project (Project) is located along Rice Canyon Creek, west of Interstate 15 and Lincoln St., east of Trabuco Peak, north of California State Route (SR) 74 Ortega Highway, and south of Bishop Canyon, in the City of Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside, State of California and is located at Latitude 33.697763 and Longitude -117.410500 within Township 6 South and Range 3 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5" Alberhill quadrangle map (Exhibit 1A and 1B). The Project site consists of Assessor Parcel Number 394-140-003.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed and issued Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-RIV-47128-R6), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

The Project is limited to access road and electrical conduit enhancements along Rice Canyon Creek. The Project will replace existing electrical conduits located within the access road, reconstruct three existing concrete low water crossings, clear nearby vegetation for improved accessibility, regrade and compact access roads, and construct earthen drainage swales for ditches present in the Project area. Additionally, the three concrete low water crossings mentioned previously will receive yearly maintenance under this Agreement and will be referred to as follows:

- Project #1 combines Crossings A and B with concrete and measures approximately 487 feet in length and 12 feet wide, with an additional 20 lb. of Class I riprap placed on the west and mid-section of Crossings A and B
- Project #2 reconstructs the damaged areas of Crossing C which measures approximately 266 feet in length and 12 feet wide, with an additional 150 lb. of Class III un-grouted riprap placed throughout Crossing C

Maintenance of the access road is limited to grading portions of the access road and/or vegetation removal at a minimum of once per year, or as needed to maintain vehicular access to the reservoir. Vegetation clearing and weed control methods consist of manual removal (e.g., chainsaw, loppers, etc.) and/or trimming/hedging to remove vegetation within the Project access road limits.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on December 9, 2024, and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.

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2. CDFW considered the **Mitigated Negative Declaration** prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:

Signature: 84F92FFEEFD24C8... Date: 12/9/2024

Kim Freeburn, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____