

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2023050097

Project Title: Santiago Creek Dam Improvement Project

Lead Agency: Irvine Ranch Water District

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Project Location: unincorporated Orange
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Project is located at Santiago Creek Dam at the northwest end of Irvine Lake in unincorporated Orange County, California. Santiago Creek Dam impounds Irvine Lake. Santiago Creek Dam was originally constructed in 1933 to store water in Irvine Lake for the benefit of the surrounding communities. The Project proposes to rehabilitate and replace the Santiago Creek Dam outlet tower and spillway facilities and to modify the embankment to permit operation of the facilities for a long-term water resource benefit. The Project includes construction of a new inlet/outlet works, including an inclined inlet/outlet structure, intake riser pipelines and platforms, bifurcation valve vault, emergency outlet pipeline, and emergency outlet valve vault. The existing spillway would be replaced with a new side-channel spillway, and a portion of the Irvine Lake pipeline would be upsized and relocated to belowground beneath the proposed spillway structure. The Project includes improvements to the dam crest, removing the dam face, installing a filter drain system within new embankment shell material, widening the dam crest, raising the elevation of the dam crest by up to one foot, and installing protective railings. Ancillary site improvements are also proposed for the Project, including a new inlet/outlet access roadway, spillway bridge, dam control building, and emergency access walkway and stairs. The Project also includes raising the spillway by six feet to approximately 797.9 feet, which is two feet higher than the existing maximum water storage elevation with the flashboards installed. Raising the spillway would allow the dam to impound water up to the 797.9-foot elevation contour year-round, which would allow for storage of an additional approximately 1,600 acre-feet of water. Construction work is anticipated to occur over a four-year period of time, assuming downtime associated with weather restrictions, beginning in approximately fall 2027 (exact dates subject to change).

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, paleontological resources, and hazards and hazardous materials and proposes the following mitigation measures:

Air Quality: MM AQ-1 (Construction Emission Reduction Measures).

Biological Resources: MM BIO-1A (Special Status Plants/Pre-construction Surveys); MM BIO-1B (Mud Nama/Compensatory Mitigation); MM BIO-1C (Special Status Plants/Biological Monitoring); MM BIO-2 (Crotch's Bumble Bee); MM BIO-2A (Incidental Take Permit); MM BIO-2B (Pre-construction Survey); MM BIO-2C (Biological Monitoring); MM BIO-3 (Western Spadefoot Focused Surveys); MM BIO-4 (Coastal Sage Scrub and Coastal California Gnatcatcher); MM BIO-5 (Riparian Vegetation and Jurisdictional Permitting); MM BIO-6 (Least Bell's Vireo); MM BIO-7 (Bald Eagle); MM BIO-8 (Pre-construction Bat Surveys); MM BIO-9 (Tree Survey/Replacement).

Cultural Resources: MM CR-1 (Archaeological Monitoring); MM CR-2 (Unanticipated Discoveries of Archaeological Resources).

Paleontological Resources: MM GEO-1 (Paleontological Monitoring); MM GEO-2 (Unanticipated Discoveries of Paleontological Resources).

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: MM HAZ-1 (Munitions Safety Training).

Tribal Cultural Resources: MM TCR-1 (Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation – Belardes Tribal Monitoring); MM TCR-2 (Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation Tribal Monitoring); MM TCR-3 (Protocols for Unanticipated Discoveries).

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

With respect to the proposed Project, as part of the Notice of Preparation process, a number of concerns, which have been addressed and/or resolved, were expressed. Following is a summary of concerns raised in response to the Notice of Preparation, and the section of the EIR that addresses the concern:

- Biological Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts: Impacts to special status vegetation (coastal sage scrub, riparian, woodland), jurisdictional resources (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], Regional Water Quality Control Board [RWQCB], California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]), special status plant and wildlife species (mud nama, Crotch's bumble bee, western spadefoot, least Bell's vireo, and coastal California gnatcatcher); compliance with the County of Orange Central and Coastal Subregion Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan; regulatory permitting; Biological Opinion (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) and Incidental Take Permit (CDFW); mitigation and avoidance of Project-related Biological Impacts (Section 4.3, Biological Resources)
- Consistency with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Plans and Projections (Section 4.10, Land Use and Planning)
- Tribal Cultural Resources (Section 4.15, Tribal Cultural Resources)
- Emergency and Construction Access, Traffic Operations, and Vehicle Miles Traveled (Section 4.14, Transportation)
- Cumulative Impacts (Sections 4.1 through 4.17)
- Hydrology and Hydraulics Impacts (Section 4.9, Hydrology and Water Quality)
- Impacts to Public Service Providers (Section 4.12, Public Services)
- Impacts to Parks and Recreation Facilities (Section 4.13, Recreation)
- Landfill Impacts (Section 4.16, Utilities and Service Systems)
- Wildfire Impacts (Section 4.17, Wildfire)

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Jurisdictional agencies with discretionary involvement in the Project include the following:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
- State Historic Preservation Office
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- County of Orange
- United States Army Corps of Engineers