



NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Name: Los Padres Dam Outlet Modifications Project

Lead Agency: Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Location: Carmel River, Monterey County, California

Review Period: 6/8/23- 7/9/23

Project Description: California American Water is proposing to modify the existing low-level regulating outlet at the Los Padres Dam and Reservoir in Monterey County, California. The proposed project is intended to accomplish the following three primary goals: 1) meet the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams mandated requirement to drain the reservoir in case of emergency; 2) supply water to the Carmel River during low-flow summer months to meet instream flow requirements and sustain aquatic organisms, including South Central California Coast Steelhead; and 3) restore water supply to the existing fish trap and ladder necessary to provide upstream fish passage to adult steelhead. Achieving these goals is essential for restoring the original purpose of the outlet and reliably achieving existing environmental mandates regarding sustaining aquatic organisms within the Carmel River and providing upstream fish passage at Los Padres Dam.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2023, with completion in late 2024. Currently, construction is anticipated to take place over the course of two seasons. Construction of the proposed project elements would require a mix of specialized marine-based and conventional terrestrial-based construction means and methods. Potential construction and their associated impact mitigation strategies are described in full in the CEQA Initial Study.

Mitigated Negative Declaration: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the District has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project. The District has determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures as noted in the Draft IS/MND.

Public Comment Period: The public and all affected agencies are hereby invited to review the Draft IS/MND and submit written comments by July 9, 2023. The Draft IS/MND is currently available for review on the District's website <https://www.mpwmd.net/regulations/public-notices/ceqa/> or in hardcopy at the District's office at 5 Harris Court, Building G (Ryan Ranch), Monterey, California 93940.

Comments should be submitted to Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer, at the address below, by email at mhamilton@mpwmd.net or by phone at (831) 242-0191.

Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
P.O. Box 85
Monterey, California 93942