

Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Environmental Scoping Meeting for Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)



Topic: Pipeline Maintenance Program (PMP)

Who: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

What: Notice of Preparation/Environmental Scoping Meeting for Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)

When: Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

Where: Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85198951440>

Project Description: The Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) owns, operates, and maintains raw, treated, and recycled water conveyance pipelines throughout Santa Clara County as well as in small portions of San Benito and Merced counties. To standardize implementation and centralize documentation of the inspections and preventative and corrective maintenance procedures, Valley Water established their existing Pipeline Maintenance Program (existing PMP), which included preparation of a procedural manual, in 2007.

To modernize the existing PMP and encompass and standardize all pipeline-related activities under a single program, Valley Water is developing an updated Pipeline Maintenance Program (updated PMP or Program) and an associated Program Manual (updated PMP Manual). The updated PMP Manual would expand upon the existing PMP Manual to include capital pipeline projects and long-range planning efforts by Valley Water; establish new workflow processes and procedures; reflect updates to Valley Water's maintenance techniques, activities, and best management practices (BMPs); and identify updated Program documentation requirements.

Because many of the activities covered in the updated PMP would be similar to those activities covered in the existing PMP, Valley Water is preparing a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the updated PMP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to inform the Board's decision on whether to approve the Program. The PMP EIR will analyze environmental effects at a program level to allow Valley Water to consider broad effects, alternatives, and program-wide mitigation measures on a program-wide basis. The PMP EIR will also analyze certain components of the Program about which more detail is known at the project level to ensure analysis of all potential impacts and reduce the likelihood of needing to prepare future additional CEQA documentation.

Valley Water will prepare a Draft SEIR, which will assess the PMP's potential to cause significant impacts on the environment. Specifically, the Draft SEIR will analyze the PMP's reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect impacts and cumulative impacts (in combination with other past, present, and planned projects) for the following resource areas: Hydrology and Water Quality, Geology and Soils, Biological Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Transportation, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy, Noise, Aesthetics, Wildfire, Land Use and Planning, Recreation, Public Services, Agriculture and Forestry. The Draft SEIR will also identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts, where appropriate.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared and will be circulated to local, state, and federal agencies responsible for Project approval, or permitting, for a 30-day review period for the purpose of defining the scope and content of the Draft SEIR. The NOP required by the State's CEQA Guidelines (CCR §15082), contains a brief description of the Project, including its goals and objectives, potential environmental impacts, and the resulting need for an EIR. It also discusses the process that will be used to determine the scope of analysis in the EIR and provides an overview of the opportunities for public participation in the review of the EIR, along with contact information. Copies of the NOP are available for review from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at Valley Water Headquarters Building (5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118) starting Monday, October 23, 2023.

Valley Water will hold an Environmental Scoping Meeting, via Zoom at the address shown below. The meeting will provide an opportunity to learn about the Project, ask questions, and provide comments about the scope and content of the information to be addressed in the EIR. If you are not able to attend the scoping meeting but would like to provide written comments for consideration in the EIR, please send comments no later than Wednesday, November 22, 2023. Comments provided by email should include the name and mailing address of the commenter in the body of the email and include "PMP SEIR Scoping Comments" in the subject line.

- November 2, 2023, at 2:30 PM, Pacific Time Zone. The SEIR Scoping Meeting is located via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85198951440>
- The NOP can also be viewed, and comments made online at: <https://www.valleywater.org/public-review-documents>
- By Postal Mail:
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Santa Clara Valley Water District,
5750 Almaden Expressway San José, CA 95118
- By E-mail: MColeman@valleywater.org
- For more information, contact **Michael F. Coleman**, Environmental Planner at **408-630-3096**.