

Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

State Clearing House # 2017082020



Who: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

Topic: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

What: Notice of Availability of Draft EIR; notice of virtual public information meeting to solicit comments on the Draft EIR

When: Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Where: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/85762031311>

US: +1 669 900 9128 Webinar ID: 857 6203 1311

Valley Water has released a Draft EIR on the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project for public review beginning on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, and ending on Friday, January 21, 2022, an excess of 60 days. The Proposed Project, primarily located in Santa Clara County, includes construction and operation of a new dam and expanded reservoir, conveyance facilities, and related miscellaneous infrastructure (such as access roads and electrical transmission lines), and decommissioning of the existing North Fork Dam. The new dam and expanded reservoir would be located on North Fork Pacheco Creek upstream from the existing North Fork Dam in southeastern Santa Clara County. The expanded reservoir would inundate the upstream portion of the existing Pacheco Reservoir as well as additional upstream areas. Water would be collected in the expanded reservoir during the winter months from North Fork Pacheco Creek watershed runoff, and as available, through Central Valley Project supplies from San Luis Reservoir via the Pacheco Conduit. The proposed facilities and expanded reservoir would be operated by Valley Water to meet Project objectives. The primary and secondary project objectives are to:

Primary Objectives

- Increase water supply reliability and system operational flexibility to help meet municipal and industrial and agricultural water demands in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties during drought periods and emergencies, or to address shortages due to regulatory and environmental restrictions.
- Increase suitable habitat in Pacheco Creek for federally threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead.

Secondary Objectives

- Improve water quality and minimize supply interruptions, when water is needed, for Santa Clara and San Benito Counties, to increase operational flexibility for south-of-Delta contractors dependent on San Luis Reservoir.
- Develop water supplies for environmental water needs at Incremental Level 4 wildlife refuges to support habitat management in the Delta watershed.

The Draft EIR identified significant impacts of the Proposed Project in 14 of 21 resource areas to include: aesthetics; agriculture and forestry; air quality; biological resources (botanical and wildlife); biological resources (fisheries); cultural resources; tribal cultural resources; geology, soils, and paleontological resources; greenhouse gas emissions; land use and planning; noise; recreation; water quality; and wildfire. The proposed project would not be located on a hazardous waste site listed under Government Code Section 65962.5.

The Draft EIR may be reviewed at valleywater.org/project-updates/a1-pacheco-reservoir-expansion-project.

The Draft EIR is also available for in-person review during normal business hours at:

- Valley Water, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando Street, San Jose, CA 95112
- Almaden Branch Library, 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120
- Vineland Branch Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95118
- Pearl Avenue Branch Library, 4270 Pearl Avenue, San Jose, CA 95136
- Edenvale Branch Library, 101 Branham Lane East, San Jose, CA 95111
- Cambrian Branch Library, 1780 Hillsdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124
- Santa Teresa Branch Library, 290 International Circle, San Jose, CA 95119
- Los Banos Branch of the Merced County Library, 1312 S 7th St, Los Banos, CA, 93635
- San Benito County Free Library, 470 5th Street, Hollister, CA 95023
- Gilroy Library, 350 W 6th Street, Gilroy, CA 95020
- Morgan Hill Library, 660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Written comments on the Draft EIR should be received by close of business day on Friday, January 21, 2022. Written comments can be emailed to PachecoExpansion@valleywater.org or submitted by mail to:

Todd Sexauer, Senior Environmental Planner

Santa Clara Valley Water District

5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

For additional information, please contact Todd Sexauer at (408) 630-3149 or email tsexauer@valleywater.org. If you have any questions concerning the virtual public information meeting, please contact Mark Gomez at (408) 630-2985 or email mgomez@valleywater.org.