

Notice of Intent to Adopt a
Mitigated Negative Declaration



In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.), an Initial Study (IS) of the Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project (Project) was prepared to evaluate environmental impacts. Based on the IS, it has been determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate level of review. This Notice of Intent to adopt an MND for this Project has been prepared on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15072.

Project Title: Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Project Description: To assist with the design and construction of Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, up to 149 subsurface exploratory borings (to include 119 initial borings and 30 supplemental borings with a total temporary disturbed area of 0.19 acre) are proposed to obtain essential information on subsurface geologic and geotechnical conditions. In addition, a total of 32 test pits (i.e., 0.29 acre total temporary disturbed area) are proposed as part of the Project to explore a potential borrow area for dam core zone material for the design and construction of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. The Project also proposes two types of linear surface geotechnical investigations within the Project study area to include seismic refraction and electrical resistivity. One 1,520 foot long electrical resistivity survey would be performed across the valley bottom within the upstream portion of the proposed dam. In addition, nineteen seismic-refraction lines totaling approximately 16,890 linear feet are proposed at multiple locations.

Project Location: The proposed project is located within, adjacent to, and in the vicinity of the existing Pacheco Reservoir, and along State Route 152 (SR-152) from Kaiser-Aetna Road to the site entrance located approximately one mile east of Kaiser-Aetna Road on the north side of SR-152. Pacheco Reservoir is located along North Fork Pacheco Creek and behind North Fork Dam (near 37.05022, -121.291754), roughly equidistant between the cities of Gilroy and Los Banos. The existing reservoir is located approximately one-half mile north of SR-152 in eastern Santa Clara County, California.

Public Review: The Draft IS/MND will be available for public review from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** weekdays at the Valley Water Headquarters Building (5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118) starting **June 17, 2024**. Copies of the Draft IS/MND will also be available at the *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library* reference desk located at *150 E San Fernando St, San Jose, CA 95112*; and at the *Gilroy Library* reference desk located at *350 W. Sixth Street, Gilroy, CA 95020*. The Draft IS/MND can also be accessed online at: <https://www.valleywater.org/public-review-documents>. The public comment period on the Draft IS/MND closes at 5 p.m. on **July 19, 2024**.

Contact: Comments on the Draft IS/MND should be submitted via mail or electronically, by **5 p.m. on July 19, 2024**, to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attention: Todd Sexauer
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

For further information please contact **Todd Sexauer** at **(408) 630-3149**, or by email at Tsexauer@valleywater.org.