

Notice of Availability

**Draft Environmental Impact Report
Design Level Geotechnical Investigations
for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project**

State Clearinghouse #2024060688



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.), a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project (Project) was prepared to evaluate environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and Alternatives. This Notice of Availability of a Draft EIR for this Project has been prepared on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15087.

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) are proposed to obtain essential information on subsurface geologic and geotechnical conditions. In addition, a total of 32 test pits 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.

Environmental Effects: Anticipated significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project include specified impacts in the follow resource areas: biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and wildfire. All significant effects would be mitigated below the level of significance.

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 EIR 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 José, CA 95118) starting **March 11, 2025**. Copies of the Draft EIR will also be available at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library reference desk located at 150 E San Fernando St, San José, CA 95112; and at the Gilroy Library reference desk located at 350 W. Sixth Street, Gilroy, CA 95020. The Draft EIR can also be accessed online at: valleywater.org/public-review-documents. The public comment period on the Draft EIR closes at 5 p.m. on **April 25, 2025**.

Comments: Written comments on the Draft EIR should be submitted via mail or electronically, by 5 p.m. on **April 25, 2025**, to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attention: DLGI Draft EIR Comments
5750 Almaden Expressway
San José, CA 95118

Written comments can be emailed to: DLGI@valleywater.org.

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