



Notice of Availability and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Title: Rim Rock Reservoir and Pump Station Project

Location: Laguna Beach, California

Contact Person: Bobby Young

Review Period: July 5, 2022 through August 5, 2022

Project Description: Laguna Beach County Water District (LBCWD) provides drinking water to approximately 18,730 people via 130 miles of water pipeline, 14 pump stations, and 21 active reservoirs with a total storage capacity of 33.5 million gallons within an 8.5 square mile area of southern Orange County, including portions of the City of Laguna Beach, Crystal Cove State Park, and the unincorporated community of Emerald Bay. LBCWD is a member agency of the Municipal Water District of Orange County and purchases approximately 3,740 acre-feet of water annually. LBCWD is committed to providing its customers and communities with water reliability, water quality, sound financial and resource management, customer service and environmental stewardship.

The proposed Project is located within the City of Laguna Beach, in southern Orange County, California (Figure 1). LBCWD proposes to construct a new 0.8 million gallon reservoir and pump station where the existing Rim Rock Reservoir is currently located. In 2018 LBCWD performed an evaluation of the condition of the existing 600,000 gallon steel tank Rim Rock Reservoir and the existing facilities at the nearby Temple Hills 600 Reservoir and pump station location, and determined that the facilities are nearing the end of their useful life and replacement is necessary. The existing reservoirs, pump station, and appurtenances would be demolished and removed and the new 0.8 million gallon reservoir and pump station would be constructed at the existing Rim Rock Reservoir location.

The facilities would be constructed to be consistent with the visual character of the neighborhood, and colors would be muted to blend in with surrounding vegetation. The existing fence and gate would be maintained during construction around the site and the property line after construction to provide security. The site would be secured with a manual lock. Native landscaping would be installed on the south side of the site and around the reservoir if disturbed during construction. The existing fence at the Rim Rock Reservoir site would be maintained to provide safety during construction. Permanent manual lighting would be installed on site.

Construction of the proposed project is expected to occur over 18 months beginning in the first quarter of 2023. Work hours would be 7:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. No night work or weekend work would occur. Deliveries and off-hauling would occur between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm to avoid school traffic and peak commute hours. After construction is complete, it is expected the pumps would operate intermittently throughout the day depending on water use. Typically the pumps would turn on and off on a daily basis, sometimes more than once per day. LBCWD operations personnel would visit the site each day to visually inspect site conditions and local facility operation. Operation of the reservoir and pump station would be remotely controlled by LBCWD.

Mitigated Negative Declaration:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, Laguna Beach County Water District has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Rim Rock Reservoir and Pump Station Project. Based on the Initial Study, the District determined that the project would not have significant impacts on environmental resources, with the implementation of mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND.

Public Comment Period:

July 5, 2022 through August 5, 2022

The public and all affected agencies are hereby invited to review the Draft IS/MND and submit written comments. The Draft IS/MND can be accessed at:

Laguna Beach Library
363 Glenneyre Street
Laguna Beach, California 92651

Laguna Beach County Water District
306 Third Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92561

A copy of the document can also be obtained via the District's website at: <http://www.lbcwd.org/>

Written comments are due by August 5, 2022 and can be sent to:

Mr. Bobby Young
Laguna Beach County Water District
306 Third Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Or via email at: BYoung@lbcwd.org