# Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

*Mail to:* State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
*For Hand Delivery/Street Address:* 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**SCH #** 2002011094

**Project Title:** Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project Subsequent Environmental Impact Report

Lead Agency: Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection
Contact Person: Donna Hebert
Mailing Address: 800 S. Victoria Avenue, #1600
Phone: 805-477-1976
City: Ventura
Zip: 93009
County: Ventura

**Project Location:** County: Ventura
City/Nearest Community: City of Ojai
Cross Streets: North End: SR-33 and S. Matilija Hot Springs Rd. South End: Pacific Ocean
Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ____° ____′ ____″ N / ____° ____′ ____″ W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 33 Waterways: Matilija Creek, Ventura River
Airports: None within 2 miles Railways: _____ Schools: Ojai Unified School District

**Document Type:**

CEQA:
- [x] NOP
- [ ] Early Cons
- [ ] Neg Dec
- [ ] Mit Neg Dec
- [ ] Draft EIR
- [ ] Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) _____
- Other: _____

NEPA:
- [ ] NOI
- [ ] EA
- [ ] Draft EIS
- [ ] FONSI

Other:
- [ ] Joint Document
- [ ] Final Document
- [ ] Other: _____

**Local Action Type:**

- [ ] General Plan Update
- [ ] General Plan Amendment
- [ ] General Plan Element
- [ ] Community Plan
- [ ] Specific Plan
- [ ] Master Plan
- [ ] Planned Unit Development
- [ ] Site Plan
- [ ] Rezone
- [ ] Prezone
- [ ] Use Permit
- [ ] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
- [ ] Annexation
- [ ] Redevelopment
- [ ] Coastal Permit
- [x] Other: 65%Design Plan Approval

**Development Type:**

- [ ] Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
- [ ] Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
- [ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
- [ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
- [ ] Educational: _____
- [ ] Recreational: _____
- [ ] Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
- [ ] Transportation: Type _____
- [ ] Mining: Mineral _____
- [ ] Power: Type _____ MW _____
- [ ] Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
- [ ] Hazardous Waste: Type _____
- [ ] Other: Dam removal/ecosystem restoration

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

- [x] Aesthetic/Visual
- [x] Agricultural Land
- [x] Air Quality
- [x] Archeological/Historical
- [x] Biological Resources
- [x] Coastal Zone
- [x] Drainage/Absorption
- [ ] Economic/Jobs
- [ ] Fiscal
- [x] Flood Plain/Flooding
- [x] Forest Land/Fire Hazard
- [x] Geologic/Seismic
- [x] Minerals
- [x] Noise
- [x] Population/Housing Balance
- [x] Public Services/Facilities
- [x] Recreation/Parks
- [x] Schools/Universities
- [x] Septic Systems
- [x] Sewer Capacity
- [x] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
- [x] Solid Waste
- [x] Toxic/Hazardous
- [x] Traffic/Circulation
- [x] Vegetation
- [x] Water Quality
- [x] Water Supply/Groundwater
- [x] Wetland/Riparian
- [x] Growth Inducement
- [x] Land Use
- [x] Cumulative Effects
- [x] Other: Energy, Wildfire, Tribal Res.

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Ventura County land use and zoning designation for areas surrounding dam is Open Space

**Project Description:** *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

In October 2000, VCPWA – WP, then the Ventura County Flood Control District, initiated the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Study as a joint effort between Watershed Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a project resulting in the removal of Matilija Dam. The primary Project objectives included: aquatic and terrestrial habitat improvement, facilitating the return of a viable and abundant run of steelhead trout; and restoration of natural sediment transport processes along Matilija Creek and the Ventura River. The secondary objective was enhancement of recreational opportunities along these two waterways. The joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) certified in 2004 evaluated alternatives combining dam removal, sediment relocation, flood protection (levees), two bridge replacements, new recreation features, giant reed removal, and water supply improvements. Technical studies to refine project features continued between 2008 and 2016, resulting in a new dam removal method and reevaluation of other project components. In June 2017, VCPWA – WP received funding to implement the Matilija Dam Removal 65% Design Planning Project, comprising additional technical studies, construction design, and CEQA analyses. The VCPWA – WP has determined that preparation of a Subsequent EIR is warranted to provide a complete and objective analysis of the revised Matilija Dam removal approach. Dam removal would be accomplished by creating two 12-foot diameter orifices drilled near the dam base which would be opened in advance of a large storm event. Storm flows would then be expected to transport primarily fine-grained reservoir deposits from behind the dam downstream to Matilija Creek, the Ventura River and Pacific Ocean. After an adequate amount of sediment is flushed from behind the dam, physical dam removal would be conducted. Habitat restoration would be accomplished by managed natural recruitment and non-native plant control. Adaptive management would monitor and correct post dam removal river flow obstructions to fish passage.

*Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.*

## Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| X | Air Resources Board | X | Office of Historic Preservation |
| | Boating & Waterways, Department of | | Office of Public School Construction |
| X | California Emergency Management Agency | X | Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| X | California Highway Patrol | | Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| X | Caltrans District # 7 | | Public Utilities Commission |
| | Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | X | Regional WQCB # 4 |
| | Caltrans Planning | X | Resources Agency |
| | Central Valley Flood Protection Board | X | Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| | Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | | S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| X | Coastal Commission | | San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| | Colorado River Board | | San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| X | Conservation, Department of | | Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| | Corrections, Department of | X | State Lands Commission |
| | Delta Protection Commission | | SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| | Education, Department of | X | SWRCB: Water Quality |
| | Energy Commission | | SWRCB: Water Rights |
| X | Fish & Game Region # 5 | | Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| | Food & Agriculture, Department of | X | Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| X | Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | X | Water Resources, Department of |
| | General Services, Department of | | |
| | Health Services, Department of | S | Other: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service |
| | Housing & Community Development | S | Other: U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District |
| X | Native American Heritage Commission | | |

**Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)**

Starting Date November 20, 2023 Ending Date December 20, 2023

**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: Aspen Environmental Group
Address: 5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200
City/State/Zip: Agoura Hilla, CA 91301
Contact: Jeanne Ogar
Phone: 818-338-6716

Applicant: Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection
Address: 800 S. Victoria Avenue, #1600
City/State/Zip: Ventura, CA 93009
Phone: 805-477-1976 (Contact: Donna Hebert, Environmental Planner)

**Signature of Lead Agency Representative:** _____ **Date:** 11/3/2023

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.