



October 18, 2023

TO: Utilities Advisory Committee (UAC)

FROM: Ron Munds, General Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 4 – Water Resiliency Intertie Project Initial Study/Mitigate Negative Declaration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file report

DISCUSSION

Background

In September 2021, the Board directed staff to investigate alternative water resiliency supply projects to address the current and future water demands of the District. Since that time, staff narrowed the search down to an intertie project with Chorro Valley State Water Project. Wallace Group provided a preliminary alternative pipeline alignment technical memorandum which had three options for the pipeline routing. A preferred alignment was then identified and a detailed cost estimation for the alternative was developed by Wallace Group.

In September 2022, the Board approved moving forward with the environmental work on the preferred pipeline alignment. After a competitive solicitation process, the District contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants to perform the work. In July 2023, SWCA completed the Preliminary Environmental Constraint Analysis which did not identify any constraints that would make the project infeasible to construct. SWCA was then directed to complete the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) which is before the committee.

The IS/MND provides a detailed description, required discretionary approvals and evaluation of the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction of the proposed project. The environmental checklist and environmental evaluation include the following factors that potentially could be affected:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning Noise Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

Most identified impacts are associated with the actual construction of the project. Details for each of these along with mitigation measures can be found in Section 2 of the document.

The overarching environmental determination is, that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions and mitigation measures in the project have

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been made by or agreed to by the District. The mitigation measures can be found at the end of each factor (list of factors are above).

Next Steps

The required public comment period for the IS/MND began on September 27th and will end on October 27th. The comment period has been advertised in the Tribune and is posted on the District's website along with the complete document. After the close of the comment period, staff and SWCA will need to develop responses to the comments received and include those in the final document to be presented to the Board for certification. It is anticipated that the IS/MND will go to the Board at their December meeting. Staff will bring this item back to the UAC at the November meeting.

If the IS/MND is certified by the Board, staff will request direction from the Board to continue the project which will include looking for funding alternatives, developing a request for proposal (RFP) for design services, working with the County and the City of Morro Bay on pipeline related permits and working on securing water agreement(s) for the delivery of water to Los Osos.

Attachments

Section 1 and the Environmental Checklist and Environmental Evaluation
(The complete IS/MND can be found on the District's website at www.losososcsd.org)