



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

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Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Meeting for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation and the City of Modesto have made available for public review and comment the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). The North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program would provide recycled water from the Cities of Turlock and Modesto via the Central Valley Project's Delta-Mendota Canal to Del Puerto Water District for irrigation purposes, and would further provide annual supplemental water to south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Central Valley Project Improvement Act designated wildlife refuges for wetlands.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR should be submitted on or before

[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

A meeting to receive oral or written comments will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 5 to 8 p.m. Staff will be available to take comments and answer questions

during this time.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mr. Ben Lawrence, Bureau of Reclamation, 1243 N Street, Fresno, California 93721; or via e-mail to blawrence@usbr.gov.

The public meeting will be held at Modesto City Hall, Room 2001, 1010 10th Street, Modesto, California.

The Draft EIS/EIR may be viewed at the Bureau of Reclamation's web site at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=17241, or at the following locations:

1. Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area Office, 1243 N Street, Fresno, CA 93721.
2. Natural Resources Library, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Main Interior Building, Washington, DC 20240-0001.

To request a compact disc of the Draft EIS/EIR, please contact Mr. Ben Lawrence as indicated above, or call (559) 487-5039.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ben Lawrence, Natural Resources Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, via e-mail at blawrence@usbr.gov, or at (559) 487-5039; or Mr. Scott Taylor, Repayment Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, via e-mail at staylor@usbr.gov, or at (559) 487-5504.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Del Puerto Water District (Del Puerto WD) and the Cities of Turlock and Modesto propose to implement a regional solution to address water supply shortages within Del Puerto WD's service area on the west side of the San Joaquin River in San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties. Specifically, the project proposes to deliver up to 59,000 acre-feet per year by 2045 of recycled water

produced by the cities to the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC). After introduction to the DMC, the recycled water would be conveyed to Del Puerto WD customers, to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act-designated refuges or to San Luis Reservoir for storage, depending on time of year and water demand. The Draft EIS/EIR assesses the environmental effects of four alternatives being considered, which are described below. In each case (except for the No Action Alternative), operational exchanges with the Bureau of Reclamation may be necessary in order to balance seasonal supply and demand.

Under Alternative 1, the Combined Alignment Alternative, a new pipe would be constructed to deliver treated water from Turlock's facilities to the city of Modesto's pumping plant. From there, a pipeline would be constructed to deliver the combined water from both cities west, underneath the San Joaquin River. The pipeline would end at a new discharge structure on the DMC. The DMC would then be used to convey water to downstream users.

Alternative 2, the Separate Alignment Alternative, is similar to Alternative 1, except that separate pipelines would be constructed from the Modesto and Turlock water treatment facilities. There would be two crossings underneath the San Joaquin River, and two new discharge structures on the DMC.

Under Alternative 3, the Patterson Irrigation District (PID) Conveyance Alternative, Modesto and Turlock would continue to discharge their treated water to the San Joaquin River. The water would be diverted by PID at their existing intake on the river, which would need to be expanded, delivered to the DMC by way of an expanded PID conveyance system, and discharged to the DMC by way of a new outfall structure. From

there, the water would be conveyed to downstream users. This alternative would require an expansion of PID's fish screen facility and a pipeline parallel to PID's main canal to accommodate increased water volume, but no new river crossings.

Alternative 4, the No Action Alternative, represents the state of the environment without implementation of any action alternatives. Modesto and Turlock would continue to discharge their treated municipal water to the San Joaquin River, and no additional water would be supplied to Del Puerto WD or the Central Valley Project Improvement Act refuges.

Special Assistance for Public Meetings

If special assistance is required to participate in the scoping meeting, please contact Mr. Benjamin Lawrence at (559) 487-5039, or via e-mail at blawrence@usbr.gov. Please contact Mr. Lawrence at least 10 working days prior to the meeting. A telephone device for the hearing impaired (TTY) is available at (559) 487-5933.

Public Disclosure

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: December 12, 2014.

Pablo Arroyave,
Deputy Regional Director.

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