



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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**DATE:** April 15, 2013

**TO:** State Clearinghouse  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
Post Office Box 3044  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, California 92512-3044

-AND-  
Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**FROM:** San Diego County Water Authority  
4677 Overland Drive  
San Diego, California 92123  
Attention: Ms. Kelley Gage, Senior Water Resources Specialist

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Diego County Water Authority's *2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan and Climate Action Plan*

The San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the *2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan* (Master Plan), and a Climate Action Plan (CAP). We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use this PEIR and subsequent tiered documents prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for individual project components.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description, locations of various facilities and resource topics to be evaluated in the PEIR are described below.

**PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD & MEETING:** The Water Authority will accept *written comments on the NOP regarding scoping of the PEIR between April 15 and May 15, 2013*. A public scoping meeting will be held on April 29, 2013 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Board Room, Water Authority, 4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please send your written responses, including the name for a contact person in your agency to:

Ms. Kelley Gage  
Senior Water Resources Specialist  
San Diego County Water Authority  
4677 Overland Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123-1233

Telephone: (858) 522-6763  
Facsimile: (858) 268-7881  
E-mail: kgage@sdcwa.org

**Project Title:** *Program Environmental Impact Report on the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan and Climate Action Plan*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Title: Ken Weinberg, Director of Water Resources  
Date: April 15, 2013

## **Project Description and Objectives**

The purpose of the *2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan* is to evaluate the Water Authority's ability to continue to meet its water supply obligations based upon current plans for water supply and facility improvements, and to recommend new facilities or improvements to existing facilities needed to meet the Water Authority's mission to provide a safe and reliable water supply for its member agencies through the 2035 planning horizon. A map of the Water Authority's service area and its member agencies is presented in Figure 1.

The Master Plan is intended to function as the roadmap for implementing the major capital improvements needed to assure delivery system reliability and serve projected water demands in the San Diego region. The Master Plan is updated every 10 years. However, for planning purposes, water supply and demand projections extend beyond this 10-year period to 2035, in conjunction with the Water Authority's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) planning horizon. Due to uncertainty about actual long-term water supply and demand conditions, planning for construction of facilities is limited to system needs within the next 10 years, while evaluation of long-range supply options extends beyond 10 years, out to 2035. The PEIR will analyze impacts only associated with the facilities being proposed for construction within the next 10 years, and will not address the long-range supply options as discussed below.

The primary goals and objectives of the 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan are to:

- Plan facilities to meet regional treated and untreated water demand and supply projections;
- Optimize the use of existing regional infrastructure;
- Protect the public's health, safety and welfare by maintaining a safe and reliable water supply;
- Plan facilities that are cost-effective; and
- Develop facility plans that are adaptive to changes in future conditions.

The Master Plan reviews the future water demands of the region under various hydrologic scenarios and analyzes different options to convey water supplies to meet member agency demands. Special emphasis has been given in the 2013 Master Plan to identify system and energy demand efficiencies that may be obtained to optimize the Water Authority's existing water supply and delivery system.

The Master Plan is predicated upon assumptions from the 2010 UWMP that the region's water users will meet State-mandated water conservation targets over the next 20 years and beyond, and that improved water conservation and efficiencies are baseline conditions. Under various future demand scenarios, additional water supplies will be needed even with these baseline conditions.

There are certain facilities required to improve the water delivery system regardless of future long-range water supply options that are being assessed in the Master Plan. Facilities that are being proposed for construction within the next 10 years are described in Table 1- Near Term Infrastructure Options, and include upgrading pump stations, adding system storage for

improved pipeline flow regulation, and pipeline interconnections, among others. The PEIR will analyze impacts only associated with the facilities being proposed for construction in the next 10 years. The facilities listed in Table 1 will utilize the PEIR for tiering if subsequent environmental review is required.

In addition to facilities identified in Table 1, long-range water supply options (new supply and/or conveyance facilities) may also be needed towards the end of the 2015-2035 Master Plan planning horizon, i.e., beyond the next 10 years. Table 2 – Long Range Supply Options, describes the water supply options that will be assessed in the Master Plan, but are not being proposed for approval of construction at this time and therefore their impacts will not be analyzed in this PEIR. The need, including timing and sizing, for these future supply options is considered speculative at this time and are still in the data collection and/or feasibility study phase. When one of the long-range supply options listed in Table 2 becomes necessary to meet future demand, project-specific analyses under CEQA and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be required. Accordingly, the long-range water supply options listed in Table 2 will not be able to utilize this PEIR for purposes of tiering for any required future environmental review under CEQA.

Figure 2 depicts the general location of both the near-term facility options and long-range water supply options that are described in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 3 describes the various studies recommended in the Master Plan that may be needed to guide long term management strategies of the regional water supply system. These future studies include a *Renewable Energy Optimization Study*, a *System Vulnerability Assessment*, and a *System Water Quality Assessment*. CEQA § 15262 specifically exempts “Feasibility and Planning Studies” from CEQA assessment. Therefore, the studies in Table 3 – while identified in the Master Plan – will not be evaluated in the PEIR, and are presented solely for disclosure.

Any identified alternatives are intended to preserve the Water Authority’s ability to respond to changed conditions in the long term without making investments in the near term that may prove unwarranted. A reasonable timeframe to consider in making future adjustments to the recommended alternative is the first 10 years of the 20-year planning horizon. This allows the Water Authority to make adjustments to its facilities and water supply plans in response to changing hydrologic, economic, social, technological, and environmental conditions.

## **Climate Action Plan**

As part of its CEQA compliance requirements and in compliance with the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), the Water Authority will prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in conjunction with, and as an element of, the Proposed Project. The CAP will be an interdisciplinary effort intended to promote, facilitate, and coordinate implementation of climate change strategies and related activities within the Water Authority. The CAP will include a greenhouse gas emissions inventory (GHG) inventory and an analysis of current practices and operations (business as usual scenario) to project GHG emissions over the lifetime of the Proposed Project (2015-2035).

The CAP will include an analysis of feasible measures that could be implemented to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and prepare for climate-change effects. The CAP will focus on both greenhouse-gas emission reductions strategies and adaptation measures developed through an iterative process with the Master Plan team to ensure the Water Authority's water supplies, infrastructure, and services will accommodate the potential impacts of climate change.

## **Potential Environmental Issues to be Considered in the PEIR**

The environmental document to satisfy CEQA requirements for the 2013 Master Plan and CAP will be a PEIR. The CEQA Guidelines (Section 15168) state that:

*A Program EIR is an EIR which may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either:*

- (1) Geographically,*
- (2) As logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions,*
- (3) In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or*
- (4) As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.*

This PEIR will identify general environmental effects of physical components identified in the Master Plan and CAP. Individual development projects in the proposed Plan area will receive project-specific environmental evaluation, as necessary, during subsequent project approval processes. It is anticipated that subsequent environmental review for individual projects will be based upon the programmatic analyses developed in this PEIR.

The PEIR will evaluate potential environmental effects that could result from construction and operation of identified facilities and alternative facilities on the following resource topics:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forest Resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

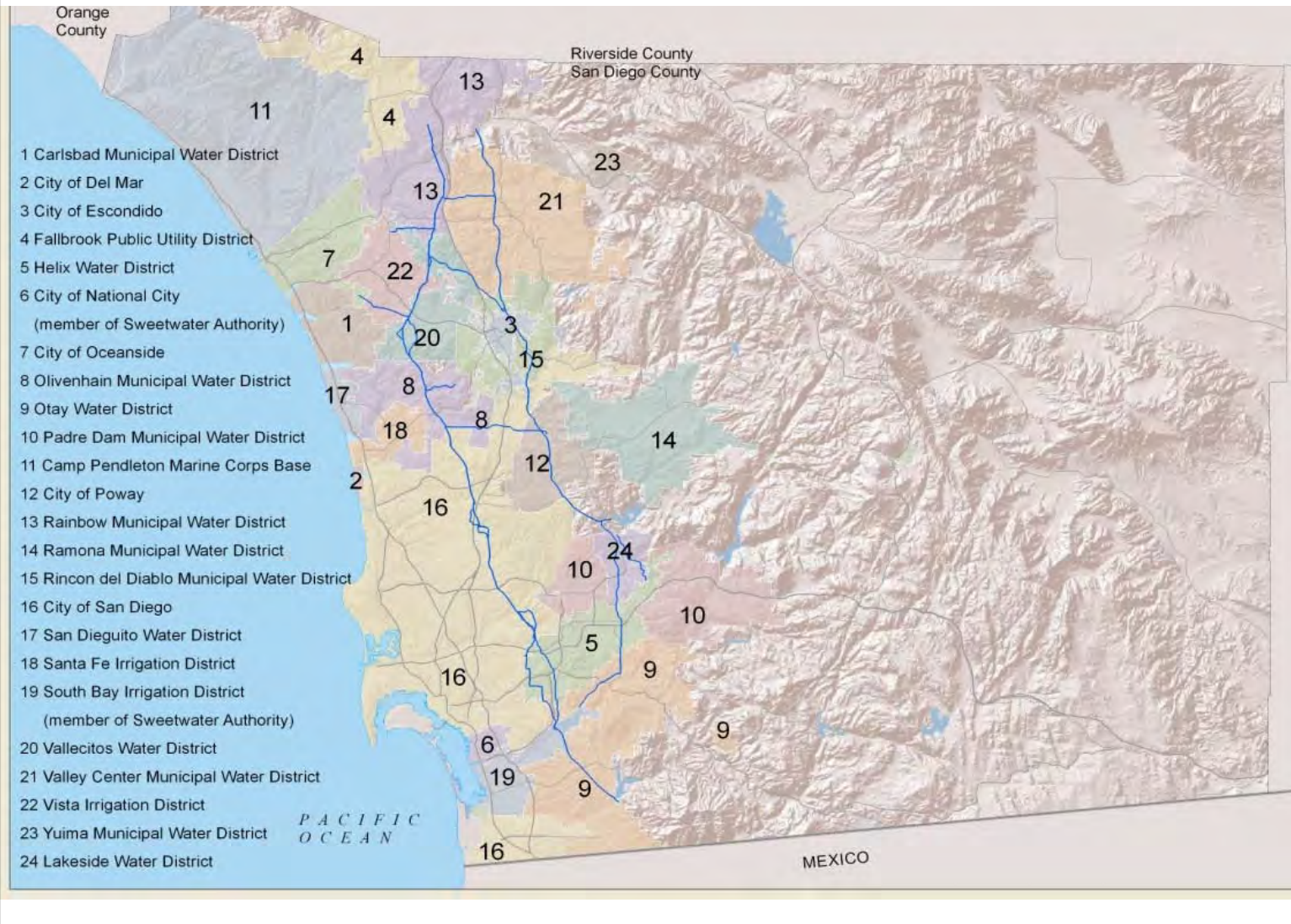
- Other CEQA mandated analyses including Alternatives, Cumulative Effects and Growth Inducement

As a Program EIR, the report does not focus on construction of a single or specific project, but instead presents reasonable assumptions about the overall type and level of activities that the Water Authority could undertake under the proposed Master Plan within an identified project area. In this PEIR, the Water Authority will fully describe all of the potentially significant physical environmental consequences of the actions and facilities under consideration. Where necessary, the analyses in the PEIR will be based on conservative assumptions that may tend to overstate project impacts. In addition, the PEIR will identify feasible mitigation measures that could be undertaken to avoid or lessen the magnitude of impacts of the actions and facilities under consideration. Finally, the Water Authority will present an evaluation of a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the actions and facilities being considered. The PEIR will also evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the CAP emissions reductions strategies.

In order to ensure the PEIR addresses all appropriate environmental concerns, this NOP is intended to seek all relevant comments pertaining to the scope of analysis that should be considered in the PEIR.

# 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan

## FIGURE 1 San Diego County Water Authority Service Area and Member Agencies



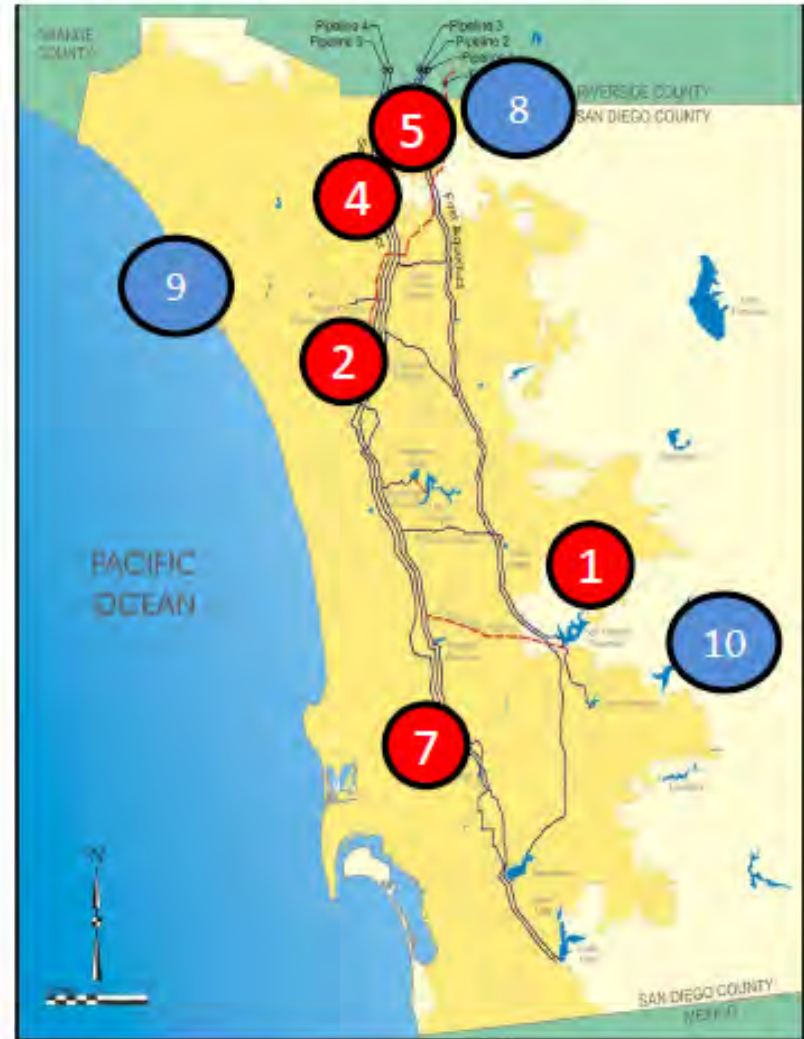
## 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan FIGURE 2 General Locations of Long-Range Supply and Near-Term Infrastructure Options

### Near-Term Infrastructure Options

1. ESP San Vicente Pump Station 3<sup>rd</sup> VFD and Power Supply
2. System Regulatory Structure
3. System Isolation Valves (Various Locations)
4. ESP North County Pump Stations
5. Pipelines P3/P4 Switch
6. Asset Management Program (Various Locations)
7. Mission Trails Flow Regulatory Structure

### Long-Range Supply Options

8. Pipeline 6
9. Camp Pendleton Desalination
10. Colorado River Conveyance



**Table 1: Near-Term Infrastructure Options  
San Diego County Water Authority  
2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan**

Near-Term Infrastructure Options (See Figure 2: General Location Near-Term Infrastructure Options)	Description	Capacity / Location / Footprint	Earliest Estimated Construction Start Date
<b>Emergency Storage Project - San Vicente 3rd Pump Drive &amp; Power</b>	Add a third Variable Frequency Drive and transformer to the existing San Vicente Pump Station. Project also includes increasing the power supply to allow continuous operation of the full pump station capacity. Options to be evaluated include a new 12kV transmission line, upgrades to existing electrical substations and onsite generation.	Increase to pump station capacity: 96 MGD (148 cfs) San Vicente PS Footprint (pump station): Work on the pump station would occur inside existing pump house structure Footprint (power facilities-onsite generation): 2-3 acres Capacity of on-site generation: 6 MW	2016
<b>System Regulatory Storage</b>	Provide additional regulatory storage at the Twin Oaks Diversion Structure Site for increased untreated water supply conveyance. The project includes a 5 to 15 MG reservoir, piping to connect to existing facilities, and a control structure to regulate flows.	5 to 15 MG 10 Acres	2016
<b>System Isolation Valves (various locations)</b>	Installation of system isolation valves installed within new cast-in-place concrete vaults at several locations.	Twin Oaks WTP, San Luis Rey River Crossing, south of Miramar vent, Lake San Marcos, Poway Slaughterhouse Facility, SR125 crossing, Otay 12 Connection perimeter) Footprint (vault structures): 20 x 20 feet	2015
<b>North County ESP Pump Station</b>	Includes a pump station and piping to connect to existing facilities to be used to send treated water north from Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant.	30.6 cfs Fallbrook, CA/Red Mountain Reservoir Vicinity; 1-2 acres	2015

<b>Near-Term Infrastructure Options</b> (See Figure 2: General Location Near-Term Infrastructure Options)	<b>Description</b>	<b>Capacity / Location / Footprint</b>	<b>Earliest Estimated Construction Start Date</b>
<b>Switch Pipelines 3 and 4 North of Twin Oaks</b>	Switches treated water capacity of Pipeline 4 (470 cfs) with the untreated water Pipeline 3 (capacity 280 cfs), reducing treated water import capacity by 190 cfs and increasing untreated water capacity by 190 cfs. The project includes connections to existing pipelines and member agency service connections. The project also requires an extension of Pipeline 6 to be performed by MWD.	190 cfs (123 MGD) of untreated water  North San Diego County	2017
<b>Asset Management Program</b>	Various actions to repair and rehabilitate existing pipelines, pipeline appurtenances, and member agency service connections. Program also includes installing cathodic protection systems and performing pipeline condition assessments.	No capacity increase. Some decreased pipeline capacity may occur from pipeline rehabilitation. Various locations within Water Authority service area. Work will be performed within existing structures and rights of way.	2015
<b>Mission Trails Projects</b>			
<b>Option 1 (Includes part of Mission Trails work already authorized)</b>	Includes a 5 to 12 MG reservoir, Mission Trails Flow Regulatory Structure connections to existing pipelines, and a control structure.	Increases capacity north of Mission Trails Flow Regulatory Structure from 220 cfs to 370 cfs. Increases capacity south of MTFRS from 70 to 140 CFS. 1-2 acres in Mission Trails for MTFRS 0.5 acre for control structure located between Lake Murray and Lower Otay.	2015
<b>Option 2</b>	Includes an intertie between existing pipelines in the vicinity of Lake Murray & Baltimore Drive.	Increases capacity to 140 cfs from 70 cfs.	2015

**Table 2: Long-Range Supply Options  
San Diego County Water Authority  
2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan**

<b>Long-Range Supply Options</b> (See Figure 2: General Location of Long-Range Supply Options)	<b>Description</b>	<b>Capacity / Location / Footprint</b>	<b>Estimated Construction Start Date</b> (earliest scenario)
<b>Pipeline 6</b>	Future project could include 11.7 miles of 108-inch diameter pipeline extending from the San Luis Rey River to TOV Diversion Structure.	500 cfs  San Luis Rey River - TOV Diversion Structure	TBD
<b>Camp Pendleton Desalination Project</b>	Future project could include a new 50 to 150 MGD Desalination Plant, seawater intake and brine discharge facilities, 19 miles of conveyance pipelines to deliver the product water to existing pipelines, and power transmission lines.	50-150 MGD Camp Pendleton	TBD
<b>Colorado River Conveyance</b>	Future project could include new canals, pipelines, tunnels, pump stations, hydroelectric generation, and transmission facilities to convey conserved Colorado River water from the western terminus of the All American Canal to the San Vicente Reservoir. Project length could vary from 83 and 92 miles depending on route selection and facility type (tunnel or pipeline).	Capacity: 280,200 AFY	TBD

**Table 3: Future Planning Studies  
San Diego County Water Authority  
2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan**

<b>Future Planning Studies</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Renewable Energy Optimization Study</b>	This study would evaluate potential opportunities for in-line hydroelectric generation and optimization of Water Authority energy use.
<b>System Vulnerability Assessment</b>	This study would evaluate key facilities that are vulnerable to natural and man-made catastrophic events and recommend structural upgrades necessary to maintain system reliability.
<b>System Water Quality Assessment</b>	This study will evaluate new facility needs and operating procedures to control nitrification.