

**ADDENDUM 4
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
MISSION TRAILS FRS II, PIPELINE TUNNEL, AND
VENT DEMOLITION PROJECT
(SCH No. 2005041025)**

Prepared for:

San Diego County Water Authority

4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, California 92123
Contact: Summer Adleberg

Prepared by:

DUDEK

2280 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92106
Contact: Alex Hardy

JANUARY 2022

Table of Contents

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	III
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 PROJECT CHANGES, CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCE, OR NEW INFORMATION	3
2.1 Previously Approved Project	3
2.2 Project Changes.....	3
2.3 Standard Specifications, Project Design Features, and Mitigation Measures	4
3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	5
3.1 Land Use	5
3.2 Aesthetics/Visual Quality	5
3.3 Traffic/Circulation.....	5
3.4 Air Quality.....	5
3.5 Noise and Vibration	5
3.6 Recreation.....	6
3.7 Water Resources	6
3.8 Biological Resources	6
3.9 Cultural Resources	6
3.10 Geology and Soils	6
3.11 Paleontological Resources.....	7
3.12 Public Safety and Hazardous Materials.....	7
3.13 Utilities and Public Services.....	7
3.14 Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	7
4 FINDINGS.....	9
5 DETERMINATION REGARDING FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW	11

SDCWA Project No.	C0603	SDCWA Project Name	Mission Trails FRS II Project
SDCWA ENV No.	E2017-02	SDCWA Contract ID/Task No.	061904/02
Associated Permits	2810-2011-001-05; TE03216A-0; SPL-2019-00526-PJB; 1600-2019-0130-R5		

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FCF	flow control facility
MTRP	Mission Trails Regional Park
NCCP/HCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan
ROW	right-of-way
Second Aqueduct	Second San Diego Aqueduct
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan
Water Authority	San Diego County Water Authority

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

1 Introduction

This document is Addendum 4 to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Mission Trails FRS II, Pipeline Tunnel, and Vent Demolition Project (EIR) (SCH No. 2005041025), prepared by the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) pursuant to Section 15164 of the California Government Code (California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines). The Water Authority is implementing a multi-component project to increase water storage capacity and upgrade operational capabilities of the Second San Diego Aqueduct (Second Aqueduct). The project is located in Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) in the northeastern portion of the City of San Diego, just south of State Route 52. The project was originally planned to feature four main components, as analyzed in the EIR:

1. construction of an up to 18-million-gallon, belowground flow regulatory structure (FRS II) for Pipelines 3 and 4, an aboveground access/control building, and inlet and outlet piping;
2. construction of new inlet/outlet pipeline sections (pipeline tunnels) to connect the FRS II to Pipelines 3 and 4, replacement of approximately 5,000 feet of existing Pipelines 3 and 4 with a single 96-inch welded steel pipeline, and construction of associated shafts and portals;
3. removal of existing aboveground vents and blow-off valve structures, which are generally referred to as “appurtenances,” located along the affected reach of Pipelines 3 and 4 and replacement of some of the vents with smaller structures that are less visually obtrusive; and
4. construction of a stabilized crossing of the San Diego River to enable safe access for construction and maintenance vehicles working on the proposed facilities.

The Water Authority Board of Directors certified the EIR on August 24, 2006, and permits were issued for the project after EIR certification. Work began on the pipeline tunnel portion of the project in October 2008, including the new inlet/outlet pipeline construction, the new river crossing, and the pipeline interconnect reconfiguration. Work on these portions of the project was complete in 2011. Due to economic conditions at the time of implementation, related uncertainty of the scale of future demand, and shifting priority to other projects, the Water Authority decided to delay construction of the following components: FRS II reservoir, access/control building, on-site pipeline, and appurtenance demolition/replacement. The Water Authority prepared Addendum 1 to the EIR dated February 24, 2009, to document the project changes.

After several years of additional planning and analysis, the Water Authority reduced the size of the planned FRS II and completed final design. In July 2019, the Water Authority prepared Addendum 2 to the EIR to document minor project design refinements, including reducing the FRS II size and storage capacity, relocating a planned flow control facility (FCF) along the Water Authority right-of-way (ROW) in MTRP that was previously planned for location farther downstream, and installing additional electrical conduit along the Water Authority ROW to reach the FCF. Addendum 2 concluded the project refinements would not result in new impacts or increase the severity of previously identified impacts. Construction of the remaining and modified project components began in December 2020 and is ongoing at the time of writing.

During construction of the remaining project components, the Water Authority determined that the corridor of vegetation clearing necessary to install the electrical conduit would need to be wider than was analyzed in Addendum 2, 40 feet instead of 5 feet, as a result of constructability concerns with the original narrower corridor. The Water Authority also determined the conduit alignment could be moved to the eastern side of the Second Aqueduct ROW instead of the western side, as previously assumed and analyzed in Addendum 2. Finally, the Water Authority identified a reduction in construction work area at the site of the FRS II tank installation. The Water Authority

prepared Addendum 3 to the EIR in February 2021 to analyze the impacts of these changes relative to what was published in the EIR and Addendum 2. Addendum 3 concluded the project refinements would not result in result in new impacts or increase the severity of previously identified impacts.

Addendum 2 identified an estimated construction duration of 18 months for the project's second phase. With work beginning in December 2020, an 18-month duration would have put project completion in June 2021. Coordination between the Water Authority and their construction contractor have identified the need to extend the contract period of performance by 12 months, with the project anticipated to be completed in June 2022. The Water Authority and the contractor have also determined that periods of Saturday work may be needed to meet certain project milestone dates, whereas work up until now has only occurred Monday through Friday, in accordance with contract specifications. In authorizing Saturday work, the Water Authority realized a discrepancy between the EIR and Addendum 2 regarding anticipated work schedule that the Water Authority seeks to correct for disclosure purposes. The EIR indicates construction would occur Monday through Saturday and Addendum 2 suggests a Monday through Friday schedule.

The Water Authority has prepared this fourth addendum to the EIR to acknowledge the extended time period and their authorization of Saturday work, and to consider their compatibility with the environmental impact review presented in the EIR. The work extension and associated environmental impacts do not constitute "substantial changes...which will require major revisions of the previous EIR." Saturday work was always anticipated in the EIR, so the Water Authority's approval of this construction contract change does not affect the EIR. The Water Authority is not required to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Government Code (CEQA Guidelines) to address this change in project circumstances. Water Authority environmental specialists have determined that an addendum to the EIR is the appropriate CEQA document to address the project change presented by the extended duration of project construction.

2 Project Changes, Changed Circumstance, or New Information

2.1 Previously Approved Project

The Mission Trails FRS II and FCF project is located along a segment of the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct within the northwestern portion of MTRP, just east of the City of San Diego community of Tierrasanta. State Route 52 is just north of the northern project boundary and Mission Gorge Road forms the southern project boundary. Interstate 15 is 2.8 miles to the west. The project proposes construction of an underground water storage reservoir; tunnel pipelines connecting the reservoir to the Second Aqueduct pipes; an FCF to meter water deliveries to the City of San Diego; an emergency overflow pipe and outfall for the FRS II reservoir; electrical conduit to power the FRS II and FCF; and demolition and abandonment of aboveground structures associated with aqueduct pipes that are being replaced by the tunnel pipeline. The project is being implemented pursuant to the Water Authority’s Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) and authorizations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for impacts on jurisdictional waters. This EIR Addendum does not address any physical changes in project features, as described in in the 2006 EIR, Addendum 2, and Addendum 3.

2.2 Project Changes

The Water Authority plans to extend the project’s construction period by 12 months—from 18 months, as stated in EIR Addendum 2, to 30 months. The current construction work areas, including the FRS II tank site, the north tunnel connection, the south tunnel connection, the FCF, and the field office complex at the end of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, would remain subject to continued disturbance and construction activity beyond the duration anticipated in EIR Addendum 2. Post-construction habitat restoration would be delayed until the end of the extended period; however, site stabilization to prevent erosion would be required for all inactive sites, in conformance with the project’s Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Trails within MTRP that have been closed to ensure public safety and efficient construction access would remain closed for the extended period.

The Water Authority is also amending their construction contract to allow certain activity to occur on Saturday, rather than limiting work to Monday through Friday, as is currently allowed by the contract documents. Addition of Saturday workdays is necessary to meet certain milestones in the project schedule. The Water Authority intends to limit the types of activity that may occur on Saturdays, prohibiting material hauling and operating or moving heavy equipment. Public trails that are currently closed on weekdays but open on weekends will remain open during these Saturday workdays. Adding Saturday work is a change in how the project is being implemented, but is not a change in comparison to the project analyzed in the EIR. All references to project workdays in the EIR’s project description cite Monday through Saturday as the anticipated timeframe, including the initial reference in Section 2.4.1 of the EIR, which states “the general working time would be 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.” Similarly, impact analysis sections for Traffic/Circulation and Noise and Vibration reference this Monday through Saturday timeframe. The Addendum 2 project description references a Monday through Friday work schedule. These references are text errors in the document and were not intended to signify a change in the project analyzed in Addendum 2 pursuant to CEQA. The text errors also do not affect the environmental commitments made in the

original EIR or subsequent addendums. The proposed change in the contractor’s weekly work schedule does not warrant environmental impact analysis in Addendum 4, but the Water Authority is correcting the record here for purposes of disclosure.

2.3 Standard Specifications, Project Design Features, and Mitigation Measures

The measures included in the EIR and updated in Addendum 2 would apply to the revised project, and no changes to these measures are addressed in this addendum.

3 Environmental Assessment

This section presents a discussion of how the proposed minor changes to the project affect the analysis and impact conclusions of the environmental issues analyzed in the EIR and addenda.

3.1 Land Use

The construction period extension would not affect the physical location of project impacts. Therefore, the change in the project would have no bearing on previous land use analysis and would not result in any changes to land use impacts compared with those described in the EIR.

3.2 Aesthetics/Visual Quality

The project changes would extend the duration that construction would be visible from trails within the MTRP and certain residences just west of MTRP. These impacts would remain temporary and less than significant. The extension would not increase the scope and scale of construction, and no newly visible construction is proposed during the extended construction period. No additional structures would be built during the extended construction period and additional lighting would not be installed beyond that identified in the EIR. Therefore, there are no considerable changes in the project's aesthetics/visual quality impacts.

3.3 Traffic/Circulation

The project changes would extend the duration that worker vehicles and equipment/materials deliveries would occur at the project's access points. The extended duration would not increase the intensity of construction traffic, and may even serve to slightly reduce daily traffic intensity because certain trips would be spread out over a longer period. The significant impacts identified in the EIR were associated with materials hauling during the excavation phase, which is related to a completed phase of the project and is unaffected by the change in project duration. Therefore, there are no considerable changes in the project's traffic/circulation impacts.

3.4 Air Quality

The project changes would extend the duration that construction vehicles and equipment are operating on site, resulting in an increased duration of construction-related emissions. However, as with traffic impacts described above in Section 3.3, this change would not increase the intensity of emissions and may even reduce daily emissions. Therefore, there are no considerable changes in the project's air quality impacts.

3.5 Noise and Vibration

The project changes would extend the duration that construction noise is received by park users and residences near the project site. This change would not increase the intensity of noise received by these receptors. The significant noise impacts identified in the EIR were associated with nighttime work planned at the project's north tunnel connection site. The duration and intensity of this noise is unaffected by the project changes addressed in this addendum. Therefore, there are no considerable changes in the project's noise and vibration impacts.

3.6 Recreation

The construction period extension would extend the duration that park users would experience closures of public trails and utility access roads that are used as trails, as discussed as an impact of the project in the 2006 EIR. The extended duration of closures would not increase the number of trail closures, and many more trails throughout the park would continue to be unaffected by the project and remain available to the public through the duration of the project. This project change would not increase the severity of an impact identified in the 2006 EIR to the extent that new mitigation would be required; therefore, this change does not constitute significant new information pursuant to Section 15088.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

3.7 Water Resources

The construction period extension would not result in any new impacts relative to water resources. The project would continue to be required to comply with the General Construction Stormwater Permit and provisions of the project-specific SWPPP prepared by the Water Authority's contractor, which would be in effect for a longer duration and would be terminated once stabilization has been achieved at the end of the construction term.

3.8 Biological Resources

The construction period extension would not result in additional project impact areas entailing new vegetation clearing or disturbance of new ground beyond that discussed in the 2006 EIR and subsequent addendums. The extension means prolonging the presence of project-related disturbance, meaning wildlife would be exposed to indirect impacts associated with construction activity for a longer period, and that habitat restoration would be delayed. The project change would not increase the severity of an impact identified in the EIR to the extent that new mitigation would be required.

3.9 Cultural Resources

The construction period extension would not result in additional project impact areas entailing disturbance of new ground beyond that discussed in the EIR and subsequent addendums. Therefore, the project change would have no bearing on the project's cultural resources impacts.

3.10 Geology and Soils

The construction period extension would not result in additional project impact areas entailing disturbance of new ground beyond that discussed in the EIR and subsequent addendums. Therefore, the project change would have no bearing on the project's geology and soils impacts.

3.11 Paleontological Resources

The construction period extension would not result in additional project impact areas entailing disturbance of new ground beyond that discussed in the EIR and subsequent addendums. Therefore, the project change would have no bearing on the project's paleontological resources impacts.

3.12 Public Safety and Hazardous Materials

The changes in the project would have no bearing on public safety and hazardous materials analysis or conclusions in the EIR. The extended duration would mean use, transport, and disposal of common hazardous materials associated with construction activity occurring for a longer period, but continued abidance by applicable regulations would ensure there would be no increase in impacts compared to what was identified in the EIR or subsequent addendums.

3.13 Utilities and Public Services

The changes in the project would have no bearing on utilities and public services analysis or conclusions in the EIR or subsequent addendums. The extended construction duration would not interrupt service, create the need for additional capacity, or decrease the level of service of public services in the project area.

3.14 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

See discussion above in Section 3.4, Air Quality. The changes in the project would have a similar effect relative to greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in a prolonged temporary emission of greenhouse gases, but not to the extent that the project would result in a new significant impact.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

4 Findings

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Do the project changes, changes in circumstances and/or new information considered fall within a CEQA exemption and/or NEPA exclusion? (If [] yes, set forth the exemption(s) and/or exclusion(s) below.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| For all of the project changes, changes in circumstances, and/or new information that are not covered by an exemption or exclusion, complete the following based upon the factual information set forth above: | | |
| B. If your assessment included review of project changes or changes in circumstances under which the project will be undertaken, complete the following: | | |
| B-1. Is the project change or change in circumstance substantial? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| B-2. Does the project change or change in circumstance involve new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| B-3. Will the project change or change in circumstance require major revisions to the project EIR due to new or more severe impacts identified in Paragraph B.2 above? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C. If your assessment involved evaluation of new information (i.e., facts, calculations, study results, laws, regulations, etc. that were unknown or unavailable at the time the project EIR was certified and approved), complete the following: | | |
| C-1. Does the new information reveal significant effects not discussed in the project EIR? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C-2. Does the new information reveal that significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the project EIR? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C-3. Does the new information reveal that mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C-4. Does the new information reveal that mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR and that substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| D. For all project changes, changes in circumstances, and new information considered, complete the following: | | |
| D-1. Are there other project changes, changes in circumstances under which the project will be undertaken, or new information not included in this assessment that concern the project components or resources considered in this assessment? (If the answer is yes, describe the other project changes, changes in circumstances and/or new information below.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| D-2. If the answer to the question above was "yes", when considered in conjunction with other project changes, changes in circumstances under which the project will be undertaken and new information, does the information considered in this assessment reveal cumulatively significant impacts or impacts substantially more severe than those considered in the project EIR? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Signature

Kelley Gage
Director of Water Resources
San Diego County Water Authority

August 24, 2006
Date of Final EIR Certification

January , 2022
Date of EIR Addendum

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

5 Determination Regarding Further Environmental Review

The Water Authority's decision to prepare this Addendum to the Mission Trails FRS II, Pipeline Tunnel, and Vent Demolition Project EIR is made pursuant to Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, which "provides clear authority for an addendum as a way of making minor corrections in EIRs and negative declarations without recirculating the EIR or negative declaration." Specifically, CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (a) states:

The lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

The revised project would not result in the need for substantial changes to the EIR, as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (a); therefore, this Addendum is the proper procedure for documenting these changes and achieving CEQA compliance for the changes in the project.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK