

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

Notice is Hereby Given that the City of Modesto in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS) to address potential environmental effects of the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program. The DEIR/EIS will be available for public review beginning January 8, 2015.

Public Review: The DEIR/EIS and supporting documents related to this project can be reviewed at the locations listed below or online at the project website: <http://www.nvr-recycledwater.org/documents.asp>

City of Modesto, Utilities Department
1010 Tenth Street, 4th Floor
Modesto, CA 95354

Del Puerto Water District
17840 Ward Ave
Patterson, CA 95363

City of Turlock
156 S. Broadway
Turlock, CA 95380

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1243 "N" Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Background: The City of Modesto, City of Turlock, and Del Puerto Water District (DPWD) (Partner Agencies) propose to implement a regional solution to address water supply shortages in DPWD's service area on the west side of the San Joaquin River in San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties, south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). The project would deliver up to 59,000 acre feet per year (AFY) of recycled water produced by the cities of Modesto and Turlock via the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC), a feature of the Central Valley Project owned by Reclamation. Instead of discharging into the San Joaquin River, recycled water would be conveyed from Modesto and Turlock through pipelines from their wastewater treatment facilities, crossing the San Joaquin River, ending at the DMC. The recycled water would then be conveyed directly to DPWD customers. This project also proposes to provide water to Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) designated Refuges located south of the Delta to meet their need for water supply. The overall objective of the proposed project is to maximize beneficial use of a sustainable, alternative water supply within the region to address reductions in water supplies from the Central Valley Project (CVP), which will reduce the reliance on groundwater.

The Project Partners have identified two alternatives that use different pipeline alignments to convey water to the DMC. In addition the DEIR/EIS evaluates a third alternative, which would continue river discharge, and then divert and convey water to the DMC through expanded facilities owned by the Patterson Irrigation District.

The DEIR/EIS assesses potential environmental effects of the NVRWP alternatives and a No Action Alternative on resources including: aesthetics, air quality, agriculture, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services and utilities, recreation, transportation, socioeconomics, environmental justice. The DEIR/EIS found that all potentially significant impacts can be reduced to less than significant through implementation of mitigation.

For further information contact:

Ben Lawrence
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1243 "N" Street
Fresno, CA 93721
e-mail: blawrence@usbr.gov

William Wong, City of Modesto
Utilities Department
1010 Tenth Street, 4th Floor
Modesto, CA 95354
email: wwong@modestogov.com

Draft EIR/EIS Meeting

On the following date, there will be a public meeting to receive comments on the DEIR/EIS. There will be opportunity for public comment and questions. The meeting will be in an open house format and all interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Modesto City Hall, 1010 Tenth Street, Room 2001, Modesto, CA 95354

Public Comment: Comments may be provided verbally at the meeting or may be submitted in writing. Written comments must be received no later than **5:00 PM on March 9, 2015**. Please mail or deliver comments to either the City of Modesto or Bureau of Reclamation at the addresses listed above. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official public record.