

March 28, 2018

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as co-Lead Agencies, have prepared the joint *Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project*.

California American Water Company (CalAm) submitted a permit application for the construction and operation of its proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP). The purpose of the MPWSP is to replace existing water supplies for CalAm's Monterey District service area. The MPWSP includes various proposed facilities and improvements including: a subsurface intake system; a 9.6-million-gallons-per-day reverse osmosis desalination plant; desalinated water storage and conveyance facilities; and expanded Aquifer Storage and Recovery facilities. Federal, state, and local agencies will use the Final EIR/EIS to consider related permits or other approvals.

The Final EIR/EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and six alternatives including a No Action Alternative. The Final EIR/EIS identifies Alternative 5a as the environmentally superior/environmentally preferred alternative, assuming implementation of the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project. Alternative 5a is also the NOAA-preferred alternative.

NOAA and the CPUC are not required to respond to comments received as a result of issuance of the Final EIR/EIS. However, comments received will be reviewed and considered for their impact on the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) or a Record of Decision (ROD) described in Section 1.5.4. The ROD will be made publically available after a final agency action.

The Final EIR/EIS and appendices are available for download at <https://tinyurl.com/mpwsp-feireis>. Hard copies are available for public review at the Lead Agency offices during regular business hours. CDs are available upon request by emailing MPWSP-EIR@esassoc.com. For any questions, please contact the Lead Agency representatives identified below.

Responsible Officials:

Paul E. Michel
Superintendent; NEPA Lead
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Pacific Street, Bldg 455a
Monterey, CA 93940
montereybay@noaa.gov

John Forsythe
Senior Environmental Planner; CEQA Lead
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Environmental Science Associates
550 Kearny Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94108
MPWSP-EIR@esassoc.com