

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project



The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of the California American Water Company (CalAm) application (A.12-04-019) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to develop a replacement water supply for CalAm's Monterey District service area. The release of the Draft EIR starts a 60-day review and comment period. The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP) Draft EIR is available online and in public libraries. CDs are available upon request and will be available at the public meetings.

**Written comments are due by July 1, 2015.**

The Draft EIR and Appendices are available for download at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Environment/Current+Projects/esa/mpwsp/index.html>

### Project Description

The MPWSP is needed to replace existing water supplies that are constrained by legal decisions affecting the Carmel River and Seaside Groundwater Basin: State Water Resources Control Board Order No. WR 95-10 (Order 95-10) and the Monterey County Superior Court's adjudication of the Seaside Groundwater Basin.

The MPWSP is proposed to include various facilities and improvements, including: a subsurface seawater intake system located at the CEMEX property in Marina; a 9.6 million gallons per day (mgd) desalination plant located on Charles Benson Road adjacent to the Monterey County Environmental Park; approximately 18 miles of water conveyance (pipelines) and storage facilities; and improvements to the existing Seaside Groundwater Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) facilities in Seaside. Some components of the proposed project would be located on a hazardous waste site identified pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5. The entire former Fort Ord Military Base, including the Seaside Munitions Response Area, is on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Priorities List. Additional listed hazardous waste sites are located within the vicinity of project components. The Draft EIR also evaluates a MPWSP Variant, that would include a reduced-capacity (6.4-mgd) desalination plant and all other facilities included in the proposed project, plus an agreement to purchase 3,500 acre feet/year from the proposed Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) project. Note: The MRWPCA has prepared a separate and independent Draft EIR on the GWR Project.

The MPWSP Draft EIR details the proposed project facilities, evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures which, if adopted by the CPUC or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft EIR also evaluates alternatives to the proposed project, including the "No Project Alternative," as required by CEQA.

The Draft EIR identified that significant impacts may occur. However, all impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of mitigation measures, with the exception of impacts relative to noise and greenhouse gases. Further, the proposed project may result in cumulative impacts when viewed in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. All cumulative impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of mitigation measures, with the exception of cumulative impacts relative to transportation and traffic, GHG and noise and vibration (during construction), and population and housing (during operations).

### Written Public Comments

Written Public Comments will be accepted until **July 1, 2015**. In reviewing this Draft EIR, persons and public agencies should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects of the proposed project might be avoided or mitigated.

**Written comments should be addressed to:**

Andrew Barnsdale  
California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Environmental Science Associates  
550 Kearny Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94108

Comments can be sent by fax to (415) 896-0332, or by email to [MPWSP-EIR@esassoc.com](mailto:MPWSP-EIR@esassoc.com).

All written comments **received by July 1, 2015**, will be responded to in a comments-and-response document.

Copies of the report are also available for public review at the following locations:

- **California Public Utilities Commission**, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
- **Castroville Public Library**, 11160 Speegle St.
- **Marina Public Library**, 188 Seaside Ave.
- **CSU Monterey Bay Library**, 100 Campus Center, Seaside
- **Seaside Public Library**, 550 Harcourt Ave.
- **Carmel Valley Public Library**, 65 W. Carmel Valley Rd.
- **Salinas, Buena Vista Public Library**, 18250 Tara Dr.
- **Salinas John Steinbeck Library**, 350 Lincoln Ave.
- **City of Marina Community Development Department**, 209 Cypress Ave.
- **City of Seaside Community Development Division**, 440 Harcourt Ave.
- **MPWMD**, 5 Harris Court, Monterey
- **MRWPCA**, 5 Harris Court, Monterey

### Public Meetings/Reuniones Publicas

The CPUC will be holding four public meeting/open house presentations to facilitate your review of the Draft EIR:

1. **Tuesday May 26, 2015, 1:00 pm:** Marina Public Library, 188 Seaside Ave Marina, 93933
2. **Wednesday May 27, 2015, 1:30 pm:** Oldemeyer Center, Seaside Room, 986 Hilby Ave. Seaside, 93955
3. **Wednesday May 27, 2015, 6:30 pm:** Oldemeyer Center, Laguna Grande Hall, 986 Hilby Ave. Seaside, 93955
4. **Thursday May 28, 2015, 1:30 pm:** Sunset Center, Carpenter Hall, San Carlos Street, Carmel, 93921

The public meetings will include a brief presentation on the contents and conclusions of the Draft EIR. Interested parties will also be provided an opportunity to interact with technical staff and preparers of the Draft EIR. Comment forms will be available at the public meetings and reviewers are encouraged to submit written comments at anytime during the Draft EIR period, but **no later than July 1, 2015**. Written comments should be sent to the mailing address, fax number, or email address listed above.