

**Public Notice of the
Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
And Public Hearings
for the Contra Costa Water District's Alternative Intake Project**

Date: May 3, 2006

To: Responsible and Interested Parties

From: Samantha Salvia, Contra Costa Water District

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is pleased to announce the release for public review and comment of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for CCWD's Alternative Intake Project. The Draft EIR/EIS evaluates the proposed construction and operation of a new drinking water intake for CCWD in the central Delta, and alternatives. CCWD is proposing this project to protect and improve drinking water quality for its customers. The Draft EIR/EIS was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CCWD is the lead agency under CEQA; the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the lead agency under NEPA.

Project Location

The proposed project would be located in Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties. CCWD would construct and operate a new, screened water intake and pump station located along the lower third of Victoria Canal on Victoria Island in the central Delta. A pipeline would be constructed from the new intake across Victoria Island and Old River and tie into CCWD's existing Old River conveyance system on Byron Tract.

Project Description

The basic project purpose is to protect and improve the quality of water delivered to CCWD's untreated- and treated-water customers.

The Proposed Action (Alternative 1) includes a new, 250 cubic foot per second (cfs) screened water intake and pump station located along the lower third of Victoria Canal on Victoria Island in the central Delta where water quality is better than at CCWD's existing intakes. A buried pipeline would extend 12,000–14,000 feet from the new intake directly across Victoria Island and beneath Old River and tie into CCWD's existing Old River conveyance system on Byron Tract. The Proposed Action would involve adding a new point of diversion to certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by Reclamation. CCWD would not seek to increase its water rights, CVP contract amounts, or permitted Los Vaqueros Reservoir filling rates through this action. The new intake changes the location, timing, and quality of some of CCWD's diversions, but does not increase total diversions.

The Draft EIR/EIS evaluates the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action (Alternative 1) and four alternatives: the No-Action Alternative; Alternative 2, Indirect Pipeline Route; Alternative 3, Modified Operations Alternative; and Alternative 4, Desalination Alternative.

Significant Environmental Impacts

The Draft EIR/EIS identified impacts of the Proposed Action in the following areas that would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation: Delta Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; Earth Resources: Geology, Soils, and Seismicity; Local Hydrology and Water Quality; Terrestrial Biological Resources; Transportation and Circulation; Noise; Hazardous Materials; Cultural Resources; and Paleontological Resources.

The following impacts would be reduced with mitigation, but not to a less-than-significant level:

- ▶ Agriculture: permanent direct and cumulative impact of conversion of approximately 6-8 acres of Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance; and
- ▶ Air Quality: short-term direct and/or cumulative emissions of criteria air pollutants during construction.

Document Availability

Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS are available for public review at the following locations:

| Location | Address |
|-------------------------------|---|
| CCWD | 1331 Concord Ave Concord, CA 94524 |
| Antioch Public Library | 501 W. 18 th Street Antioch, CA 94509 |
| Brentwood Public Library | 751 Third Street Brentwood, CA 94513 |
| Concord Public Library | 2900 Salvio Street Concord, CA 94519 |
| Reclamation, Regional Library | 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825-1898 |

The document may also be viewed at CCWD's project website:

www.ccwater-alternativeintake.com or Reclamation's website:

www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=1818. Printed or CD copies of the

Draft EIR/EIS may be requested from CCWD by emailing alternativeintake@ccwater.com or

calling Patricia Seals at (916) 688-8208.

Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the Draft EIR/EIS begins on May 3, 2006 and closes on June 26, 2006. Please submit comments by 5:00 p.m. on June 26, 2006 to:

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Public Hearings

CCWD and Reclamation will hold three public hearings to present project information and receive comments from the public. The Antioch and Concord public hearings will be preceded by a 30-minute open house to view project information and interact with the project team. Hearing details are as follows*:

| Antioch | Sacramento | Concord |
|--|---|--|
| Tuesday, June 6, 2006 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Public Hearing Antioch Woman’s Club 509 G Street Antioch, CA | Wednesday, June 7, 2006 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Federal Building Cafeteria Conference Room C-1001 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA | Thursday, June 8, 2006 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Public Hearing CCWD Board Room 1331 Concord Ave Concord, CA |

*District facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed for you to participate, please contact the CCWD project manager as soon as possible, but preferably at least two days prior to the meeting.

Samantha Salvia
Alternative Intake Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District