



**SUPPLEMENT TO THE MAY 2013 NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR THE  
MONTEREY PENINSULA GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT (PURE WATER MONTEREY) PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

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**TO:** Agencies, Interested Parties, and Members of the Public  
**DATE:** December 8, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Supplement to May 2013 Notice of Preparation of an EIR  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** Northern Monterey County, California  
**LEAD AGENCY:** Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency  
5 Harris Court, Building D  
Monterey, CA 93940

Staff contact: Mr. Bob Holden, Principal Engineer  
Phone: (831) 372-3367 Fax: (831) 372-6178  
Email: [gwr@mrwpc.com](mailto:gwr@mrwpc.com)

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The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) is the Lead Agency for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project (now called the Pure Water Monterey GWR Project). MRWPCA commenced the CEQA process for the proposed project on May 31, 2013 when a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR was circulated for a 30-day public review period (SCH# 2013051094). MRWPCA considered and incorporated comments on the May 2013 NOP, and the Draft EIR for the project is well underway. On a parallel track, as a result of ongoing engineering and technical evaluations and regional coordination efforts, MRWPCA has updated the project description.

To provide public agencies, interested parties and members of the public with an opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR related to updates to the project description, MRWPCA has decided to supplement the May 2013 NOP.

**Comment Period for Supplement to NOP**

MRWPCA invites public agencies, organizations and members of the public to submit written comments providing specific details about the scope and content of the environmental information in the EIR related to the updates to the project description. If commenting on behalf of a responsible or trustee agency, please also identify your specific areas of statutory responsibility. The public comment period on the Supplement to the NOP begins on December 10, 2014 and ends on January 8, 2015. Please send your written comments to Mr. Bob Holden at the address identified above, including your name, address, and contact information. If a response is not received from you within 30 days, the Lead

Agency will assume, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15082(b)(2) that you have no comments on the Supplement to the NOP.

### **Project Location and Background**

The Pure Water Monterey GWR Project would be located within northern Monterey County, and would include new facilities located within the unincorporated areas of the Salinas Valley and the cities of Salinas, Marina, Seaside, Monterey, and Pacific Grove. Figure 1 shows the proposed location of project facilities; locations that have been updated since publication of the May 2013 NOP are indicated by red dashed-line circles.

The Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project would create a reliable source of water supply for northern Monterey County. The project would provide purified water for recharge of the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and recycled water to augment the existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project's (CSIP) agricultural irrigation supply. The project is jointly sponsored by the MRWPCA and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (Water Management District).

The sources of water proposed to be recycled, treated and reused by the project are the same as those presented in the May 2013 NOP: municipal wastewater, industrial wastewater, urban stormwater runoff, and surface water diversions from the Blanco Drain and Reclamation Ditch. The source waters would be conveyed to the Regional Treatment Plant, which is located two miles north of the City of Marina and operated by MRWPCA.

The project objectives also have not changed. The primary objective of the project is to produce 3,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) of high quality replacement water to California American Water Company (CalAm) for delivery to its customers in the Monterey District Service area; thereby enabling CalAm to reduce its diversions from the Carmel River system by this same amount. CalAm is under a state order to secure replacement water supplies to reduce its Carmel River diversions by December 2016. CalAm also is required to reduce its pumping in the Seaside Groundwater Basin in accordance with the Watermaster's pumping mandates. Under the proposed project, highly treated water would be injected into the Seaside Basin. This highly-treated water would be produced from a new advanced water treatment facility that would be constructed at the Regional Treatment Plant and would treat the source waters identified above. The product water from the advanced treatment plant would be conveyed to and injected into the Seaside Basin via a new pipeline and new well facilities. The highly-treated water would then mix with the existing groundwater and be stored for future urban use by CalAm.

Another purpose of the project is to provide additional recycled water for crop irrigation in the CSIP area. Currently, the only sources of supply for the existing water recycling facility at the Salinas Valley Reclamation Plant (located at the Regional Treatment Plant site) are municipal wastewater and small amounts of urban dry weather runoff. Municipal wastewater flows have declined in recent years due to aggressive water conservation efforts by the MRWPCA member entities. By increasing the amount and type of source waters entering the wastewater collection system, additional recycled water can be provided for use in the CSIP area.

### **Updates to the Pure Water Monterey GWR Project Description**

As noted above, ongoing engineering and technical evaluations and regional coordination efforts have resulted in some updates to the project description since the May 2013 NOP was issued. The full original project description is included in the *"Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project*

*Environmental Impact Report Notice of Preparation*” (May 2013), and is available for review at the MRWPCA Administrative Offices (5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey, CA 93940) and on the project website: [www.purewatermonterey.org](http://www.purewatermonterey.org). Following is a description of the project description updates.

- **Source waters:** All of the source waters identified in the May 2013 NOP are still being evaluated in the EIR as potential sources for the project. Ongoing engineering studies have now identified the volume of additional recycled water that could be provided to the CSIP area from the project. As source flows for the proposed project were studied and the seasonal variability of each was understood, the stakeholder agencies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Source Waters and Water Recycling (MOU). The Parties to the MOU are the MRWPCA, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the City of Salinas, the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD), and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. The MOU is an agreement to “negotiate a Definitive Agreement to establish contractual rights and obligations of all Parties,” that would include (1) protection of MCWD’s recycled water right entitlement, (2) provision of up to 5,292 AFY of recycled water to Monterey County Water Resources Agency for the CSIP, and (3) provision of 3,500 AFY of highly treated water for injection into the Seaside Groundwater Basin and extraction by CalAm. The MOU also includes provisions for creation of a drought reserve, as discussed below. The MOU reflects the stakeholder agencies’ positions regarding the combined benefits and conditions that would be required to secure the necessary rights and agreements to use the source waters needed for the proposed project.
- **Drought reserve storage and recovery:** The proposed project now includes a drought reserve component to support crop irrigation during dry years. Under this component, an extra 200 AFY of advanced treated water would be injected in the Seaside Basin during normal and wet years, up to a total of 1,000 AF, to create a “banked reserve.” During drought years, MRWPCA would reduce the amount of water that it provides to the Seaside Groundwater Basin in order to increase production of recycled water for crop irrigation. CalAm would be able to extract the banked water in the Seaside Groundwater Basin to make up the difference to its supplies, such that its extractions and deliveries would not fall below 3,500 acre-feet per year.
- **Project facilities:** Ongoing technical and engineering evaluations have resulted in some new proposed project facilities and updates to other proposed facilities, as noted below.
  - *Optimization of recycled water production at the Salinas Valley Reclamation Project:* New improvements at the existing reclamation plant would enable it to produce more continuous flows in the winter and enhanced delivery to the CSIP area. Proposed improvements would include new sluice gates, a new pipeline between the existing inlet and outlet structures within the storage pond, chlorination basin upgrades, and a new storage pond platform. All of the modifications would occur within the existing Salinas Valley Reclamation Plant footprint. (Item #1 on Figure 1)
  - *Diversion location at Tembladero Slough.* The proposed project now includes a proposed diversion from Tembladero Slough, which is part of the Reclamation Ditch drainage system. This diversion would consist of a new intake structure on the channel bottom, which would connect to a new lift station on the channel bank via a new gravity pipeline. The new intake would be screened to prevent fish and trash from entering the new pump station. The new pump station would discharge through a new force main to the existing wet well at the MRWPCA Castroville Pump Station. The channel banks and invert near the pump station intake would be lined with concrete to prevent scouring. (Item #2 on Figure 1)

- *Removal of coastal recharge facilities as an injection location option in the Seaside Basin:* Groundwater modeling indicates that the coastal location is not feasible for injection. The proposed project now includes only the inland location for the injection facilities. Product water pipelines to that site have also been eliminated as a component of the proposed project. (Item #3 on Figure 1)
- *Inclusion of CalAm's proposed new distribution system pipelines as part of the GWR project:* Because the CalAm water supply system was initially built to deliver water from Carmel Valley to Monterey Peninsula cities, a hydraulic trough currently exists in the peninsula distribution system that prevents water delivery at adequate quantities from the Seaside Groundwater Basin to most of Monterey, and all of Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Carmel Valley, and City of Carmel areas. CalAm is proposing to construct two new pipelines, the Transfer and Monterey pipelines (located in Monterey), to bridge this trough. These pipelines are being studied in the EIR for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project proposed by CalAm. Because the pipelines are also needed to deliver the full amount of GWR water injected into the Seaside Basin to CalAm customers, they are now also included as part of the GWR project. (Item #4 on Figure 1)
- *Method of collecting and conveying agricultural wash water from the Salinas Treatment Facility:* The May 2013 NOP envisioned that agricultural washwater would be conveyed by a new pump station and pipeline to a proposed new Blanco Drain pump station, and from there to the Regional Treatment Plant. This water is now proposed to be diverted from the existing Salinas collection and treatment facilities to the existing Salinas Pump Station. The wash water would then mix with the municipal wastewater and be conveyed through the existing 36-inch diameter Salinas interceptor to the Regional Treatment Plant. (Item #5 on Figure 1)

### **Environmental Analysis**

As described within the May 2013 NOP, the EIR will assess the following issues of potential environmental effect: aesthetic resources, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrogeology and groundwater quality, hydrology and surface water quality, land use and planning, noise and vibration, population and housing, transportation and traffic, other environmental issues (e.g., public services and utilities; energy delivery systems; agricultural, mineral and forest resources). The EIR will also evaluate growth-inducing effects that could result from implementation of the project, as well as cumulative impacts and alternatives to the project.

### **Availability of Supplement to the NOP**

The Supplement to the NOP is available for a 30-day public review period beginning December 10, 2014 and ending January 8, 2015. Copies of the document are available for review at MRWPCA, 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey, CA 93940 and on the MRWPCA website at: [www.purewatermonterey.org](http://www.purewatermonterey.org). Additionally, copies of this document are available for review at the following libraries:

Seaside Public Library  
 Marina Public Library  
 Salinas Public Libraries  
 Castroville Public Library  
 Monterey Public Library  
 Carmel Valley Public Library  
 Harrison Memorial Library (Carmel)

- New and Updated Project Facilities:
1. Salinas Valley Reclamation Plant Modifications
  2. New Reclamation Ditch Source Water Diversion (Tembladero Slough at Castroville)
  3. Elimination of Coastal Recharge Facilities and Product Water Pipeline segments
  4. Inclusion of CalAm Proposed Distribution System
  5. New Agricultural Washwater Diversion, including Salinas Treatment Facility Storage and Recovery

