



**Board of Directors
November 20, 2019**

SUBJECT:

Approve CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Sky Canyon Sewer Main Extension Project

BACKGROUND:

The District has completed the CEQA public review of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Sky Canyon Sewer Main Extension Project (Project). The Project involves the construction of approximately 6,700 linear feet of 36-inch diameter sewer main commencing at the intersection of Winchester Road/Hunter Road and extending south to the intersection of Sky Canyon Road/Murrieta Hot Springs Road within unincorporated Riverside County (Exhibit A).

The proposed sewer pipeline will tie into an existing 36-inch diameter sewer at the northern commencement point, while the southern connection will tie into an existing 30-inch diameter sewer main. Along the alignment, the proposed sewer pipeline would be located within easements and within the Sky Canyon Drive right-of-way. The proposed sewer pipeline will provide additional wastewater conveyance capacity for projected build-out flows from anticipated development in the French Valley area of southwestern Riverside County.

The CEQA documents were prepared and processed in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Article 6, Sections 15070 to 15075. The 30-day public review period extended from August 26, 2019 to September 25, 2019. The IS/MND was made available for public viewing at EMWD's headquarters, on EMWD's website, and at local area libraries. Comment letters and EMWD's responses to all comments received are included in the Final IS/MND (Exhibit B). None of the comments received altered the significance findings made in the IS/MND distributed for public review.

Included with the Final IS/MND is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the proposed Project. Mitigation measures were identified to reduce potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels for the following issues: Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; and Geology/Soils.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL/OBJECTIVE:

Provide safe, reliable and cost-effective water supply portfolio that is sustainable and achieves

an optimum balance of water resources including imported water, surface water, groundwater, wastewater treatment, reuse and resource recovery.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

This project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and in conformance of California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070, *et seq.*, a Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was filed with the County of Riverside on August 27, 2019. Pursuant to State Guideline §15073, the IS/MND was made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning August 26, 2019 and concluded September 25, 2019. Upon adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by the EMWD Board of Directors, pursuant to State Guideline §15075, the Notice of Determination will be filed with the County of Riverside within five working days of adoption.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve adoption and authorize the following:

1. Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sky Canyon Sewer Main Extension Project;
2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for said Project; and
3. Preparation and filing of the Notice of Determination and Environmental Filing Fee for said project.

SUBMITTED BY:


Paul D. Jones II, P.E., General Manager

11/8/2019


Joe Mouawad, Assistant General Manager

11/5/2019

Attachment(s):

Exhibit A - Location Map
Exhibit B - Final IS-MND
Presentation

11/20/19 Board Meeting

Staff Contact: Joe Broadhead