



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE Availability of Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

Date: June 24, 2015
Case No.: 2015-004827ENV
Project Title: **Alameda Creek Recapture Project**
Location: The Sunol Valley in unincorporated Alameda County, west of Calaveras Road and south of Interstate 680. Proposed facilities would be constructed within and adjacent to a quarry pit in the Surface Mining Permit 24 (SMP-24) area and at the existing Hetch Hetchy Water and Power Calaveras Substation site.
Zoning: Water Management
Block/Lot: N/A
Project Sponsor: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
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A notice of preparation (NOP) of an environmental impact report (EIR) has been prepared by the San Francisco Planning Department in connection with this project. The NOP is available for public review and comment on the Planning Department's SFPUC Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (<http://www.sf-planning.org/puccases>). CDs and paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco. Referenced materials are available for review by appointment at the Planning Department's office on the fourth floor of 1650 Mission Street. (Call (415) 558-6378).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is proposing the Alameda Creek Recapture Project (ACRP or proposed project) on SFPUC Alameda watershed lands in unincorporated Alameda County approximately 0.5-mile south of the Interstate 680 (I-680)/State Route 84 (SR 84) interchange and west of Calaveras Road. The primary goal of the proposed project is the downstream recapture of an annual average of up to 9,820 acre-feet per year (ac ft/yr) (or 3,200 million gallons per year [mgal/yr]) of water that the SFPUC will release from Calaveras Reservoir or bypass around the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam, pursuant to the Calaveras Dam Replacement project's in-stream flow schedules that will be implemented as

part of the future operations plan for Calaveras Reservoir.¹ The SFPUC would operate the ACRP to recapture an amount of water equivalent to that which is released and/or bypassed by collecting Alameda Creek water that naturally infiltrates into a quarry pit, Pit F2, in the Sunol Valley approximately 6 miles downstream of Calaveras Reservoir. In doing so, the ACRP would allow the SFPUC to maintain its historic water diversions from the Alameda watershed system and avoid the loss of yield to the regional water system that will occur if the water is not recaptured.

Proposed project components for recapture of the water from Pit F2 include pumps mounted on barges, pipelines extending from the pumps to shore; a new pipeline connecting to the existing Sunol Pump Station Pipeline; throttling valves; flow meter; electrical control building; electrical transformer, and approximately 1,600 feet of overhead power lines extending from HHWP Calaveras Electrical Substation to the new electrical control building. The proposed pumps in Pit F2 would be used to pump the recaptured water from the quarry pit directly to either the SVWTP or San Antonio Reservoir. SFPUC facility operators would utilize existing facilities and infrastructure in the Alameda watershed to support ACRP operations. No work would occur in the bed, bank, or channel of Alameda Creek.

The proposed project is a component of the SFPUC's Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), which includes facility improvement projects designed to: (1) maintain high-quality water; (2) reduce vulnerability to earthquakes; (3) increase delivery reliability and improve the ability to maintain the system; (4) meet customer purchase requests in nondrought and drought periods; (5) enhance sustainability in all system activities; and (6) achieve a cost-effective, fully operational system. Implementation of this project would contribute to meeting the overall WSIP goals and objectives.^{2,3}

The Planning Department has determined that an EIR must be prepared for the proposed project prior to any final decision regarding whether to approve the project. The purpose of the EIR is to provide information about potential significant physical environmental effects of the proposed project, to identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and to describe and analyze possible alternatives to the proposed project. Preparation of an NOP or EIR does not indicate a decision by the City to approve or to disapprove the project. However, prior to making any such decision, the decision makers must review and consider the information contained in the EIR.

The Planning Department will hold a **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** at **Sunol Glen School located at 11601 Main Street, Sunol**. The SFPUC will provide an informational open house from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** prior to the formal scoping meeting. Meeting location access and restrooms are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a language interpreter or to accommodate persons with disabilities at the scoping meeting, please contact the staff contact listed

¹ The in-stream flow schedules are required by the Calaveras Dam Replacement project's California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement (CDFG, 2011) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (NMFS, 2011).

² San Francisco Planning Department, 2008. *Final Program Environmental Impact Report on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Water System Improvement Program*. San Francisco Planning Department File No. 2005.0159E, State Clearinghouse No. 2005092026. Certified October 30, 2008.

³ The Alameda Creek Recapture project is listed in the WSIP Program Environmental Impact Report under its former title, the Alameda Creek Fishery Enhancement project.

above at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to receive oral comments to assist the Planning Department in reviewing the scope and content of the environmental impact analysis and information to be contained in the EIR for the project. Written comments will also be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on July 27, 2015. Written comments should be sent to Sarah B. Jones, San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 or sent by email to Sarah.B.Jones@sfgov.org.

If you work for an agency that is a Responsible or a Trustee Agency, we need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering a permit or other approval for this project. We will also need the name of the contact person for your agency. If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, please contact **Steven Smith** at (415) 558-6373.

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Commission or the Department. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the Department's website or in other public documents.