

Introductory Comments on the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report

CEQA Compliance

This final subsequent environmental impact report (FSEIR) for the Modesto Regional Water Treatment Plant (MRWTP) Phase Two Expansion Project (Proposed Project) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines requires that a final environmental impact report (FEIR) consist of the following components:

- The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) or a revision of the DEIR;
- Comments and recommendations received on the DEIR, either verbatim or in summary;
- A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the DEIR;
- The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental concerns raised in the review and consultation process;
- Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

The DEIR together with the responses to comments on the DEIR constitute the FEIR for the proposed project. The FEIR is an informational document prepared by the Lead Agency that must be considered by decision-makers before approving or denying the proposed project. Although a subsequent EIR was prepared for this project, the same CEQA requirements apply.

Format and Organization of the FSEIR

This FSEIR comprises three chapters containing the information required by the CEQA Guidelines, as outlined above. Chapter 1 describes the public review process for the subsequent EIR (SEIR) and provides a list of organizations, public agencies, and members of the public that commented on the SEIR, as well as a list of people involved in the preparation of the responses to comments.

Chapter 2 contains comment letters received on the draft SEIR (DSEIR), along with Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and the City of Modesto's (City's) responses to those comments. Chapter 3 presents changes made to the DSEIR in response to comments. Changes to the DSEIR are presented in errata format in Chapter 3 and are also referenced in the Chapter 2 responses.

When certified by the Lead Agency, the FSEIR will consist of the following components, as required by CEQA:

- DSEIR, published in November 2004.
- FSEIR, consisting of
 - all written comments received on the DSEIR;
 - responses to those comments; and
 - any changes or revisions to the DSEIR.

Public Review of the DSEIR

Upon completion of the DSEIR, MID and the City filed a Notice of Completion with the State Clearinghouse and issued a Notice of Availability, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15085 and 15087. The Notice of Availability provided notice of the public comment period that began on Monday, November 8, 2004, and ended on Friday, December 24, 2004. The DSEIR was submitted to the State Clearinghouse for circulation to responsible and trustee agencies. In addition, MID and the City distributed 218 copies of the DSEIR to state, regional, and local agencies, as well as individuals. MID, the City, and consultants have responded to all comments received during the public comment period.

Copies of the DSEIR are on file at the following locations:

- Modesto Irrigation District
1231 Eleventh Street
Modesto, CA 95354
- City of Modesto
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 4600
Modesto, CA 95353

Public Meeting on the DSEIR

Two public meetings were noticed in MID and the City's DSEIR Notice of Availability; the meetings were held on Wednesday, December 15, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the MID offices (address listed above). Although members

of the public were invited to voice their comments at these meetings, no one attended either meeting.

Revisions to the DSEIR

In response to comments received on the DSEIR, MID and the City deleted, added, and/or revised text, tables, and figures. The changes do not result in any new significant environmental impacts, or substantially increase the severity of any environmental impacts, or result in a feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from those previously analyzed which would clearly lessen the significant impacts of the project and which the City or MID have declined to adopt. Therefore, pursuant to Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, recirculation of the DSEIR prior to certification is not required.

Comments Received on the DSEIR

The following persons, organizations, and public agencies submitted comments on the DSEIR:

- California Department of Water Resources (November 23, 2004)
- California Department of Transportation (December 3, 2004)
- Tuolumne River Trust (December 13, 2004)
- City of Waterford (February 10, 2005)
- California State Water Resources Control Board (March 4, 2005).

Preparation of the FSEIR

The FSEIR was prepared by MID, the City of Modesto, and the following consultants. All work reflects MID and the City's independent judgment and analysis.

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