



Agenda Item 5.2

Consideration and Action on Adoption of Resolution No. 2015-10-04; Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Santa Margarita Water District Adopting an Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion, C-1674B

Additional information provided:

Comment letters and responses were received after the Board package posted and are attached.

Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion Mitigated Negative Declaration

5 COMMENT LETTERS AND RESPONSES

Comment Letter 1



Mayor
Bradley J. McGirr

Mayor Pro Tempore
L. Anthony Beall

Council Members
Carol Gambie
Jerry Holloway
Michael Vaughn

City Manager
Jennifer Cervantez

CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

October 1, 2015

Don Bunts, Chief Engineer
Santa Margarita Water District
PO Box 7005
Mission Viejo, CA 92690-7005

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ZONE E
RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION**

Dear Mr. Bunts:

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. The City, in coordination with Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) and the County of Orange, recently completed the Upper Oso Habitat Restoration Project which is now in the maintenance/plant establishment phase. Please remind SMWD's contractor to:

- o Be aware of the SMWD permitted waterline and irrigation system maintained by the City's contractor - Habitat Restoration Sciences, Inc. (HRS) which supplies reclaimed water to the Habitat Restoration Project
- o Utilize proper dust control methods
- o Be aware of shared use of access road off of Meadow Ridge Drive with HRS
- o Provide the City notification prior to clearing and grubbing
- o Restore any impacts to restoration irrigation system or plantings to pre-project conditions

Please keep the City informed about the status of the project by forwarding any future studies, public notices, meeting notices, and environmental review documents to the City as part of the public review process. If you have any questions, please contact me at (949) 635-1800.

Sincerely,

Nate Farnsworth
Principal Planner

cc: E. "Max" Maximous, City Engineer/Public Works Director

22112 El Paseo • Rancho Santa Margarita • California 92688-2824
Phone 949 635 1800 • Fax 949 635 1840 • www.cityofrsm.org

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**Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion Mitigated Negative Declaration

Response to Letter 1

**Nate Farnsworth,
Principal Planner
City of Rancho Santa Margarita**

- 1-1** The Santa Margarita Water District (District) is aware of the work the City and County are doing on the Upper Oso Habitat Restoration Project. The District will inform the contractor for the Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion project about the location of the water line and irrigation system maintained by the City's contractor Habitat Restoration Services (HRS). The District will also utilize proper dust control methods and be aware of the shared use of Meadow Ridge Drive with HRS. Regarding clearing and grubbing, the work areas associated with the proposed project through the City's boundaries will be limited to the District's 30-foot easement along existing pipelines. Therefore, the District does not anticipate any temporary impacts to the restoration plantings or irrigation system associated with the Upper Oso Habitat Restoration Project or City of Rancho Santa Margarita property. However, if unavoidable impacts occur to the restoration plantings or irrigation system, the District will work with HRS to restore them to pre-project conditions. Additionally, the District can provide the City notification of any clearing or grubbing in the vicinity of City property.
- 1-2** The District will keep the City informed about the status of the project, although the District will soon conclude the environmental phase of the project and no further environmental documentation regarding the proposed project is anticipated.

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**Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion Mitigated Negative Declaration

Comment Letter 2

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12
3347 MICHELSON DRIVE, SUITE 100
IRVINE, CA 92612-8894
PHONE (949) 724-2000
FAX (949) 724-2019
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



Serious Drought
Serious drought
Help save water!

October 5, 2015

Mr. Don Bunts
Rancho Santa Margarita Water District
26111 Antonio Parkway
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2015091009
IGR Log #: 4494
SR- 241

Dear Mr. Bunts,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the **Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion**. The proposed project is to construct approximately 8,000 feet or 1.5 miles of recycled water pipelines within an SMWD easement, SMWD property, and beneath existing roadways. The pipelines sizes ranges from 4 to 8 inches, depending on the location. The pipelines would require excavation depths of approximately 5.5 feet within the existing easement and road right of way. After the project is complete the maximum anticipated amount of recycled water delivered to the Hidden Ridge and Skyridge communities would be approximately 1,300 feet of a 4-inch or smaller force main for future construction of a life station to serve the Boy Scouts of America camp located on the SMWD Upper Oso Reservoir property. The project site is located at the cross streets of Meadow Ridge Drive and Chisholm Trail in the Cities of Rancho Santa Margarita, City of Mission Viejo, and unincorporated County of Orange. The nearest state route to the project is SR-241.

Caltrans is a commenting agency on this project and has no comment at this time. However, in the event of any activity in Caltrans' right of way, an encroachment permit will be required.

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to call Maryam Molavi at (949) 724-2241.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maureen El Haraque for,".

MAUREEN EL HARAQUE
Branch Chief, Regional-Community-Transit Planning
District 12

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

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**Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Response to Letter 2

**Maureen El Harake
Branch Chief,
Regional-Community-Transit Planning, District 12
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)**

- 2-1** The District thanks Caltrans for reviewing the document and acknowledges that Caltrans has no comment at this time. Should any activity occur within a Caltrans' right of way, the District will obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans.

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**Zone E Recycled Water System Expansion
Mitigated Negative Declaration**