



Agenda Item 3.2

Consideration and Action on a Resolution No. 2015-11-19; Approving an Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (NO. 584, SCH # 2006061140) and Final Environmental Impact Report (NO. 589, SCH # 2003021141) for the Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir Project and Approving the Trampas Dam and Reservoir

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Public Comment

- Public comment letter from the Department of Transportation received on November 2nd. (Attached)

Response Letter

- Santa Margarita Water District response letter. (Attached)

REVISION of RESOLUTION 2015-11-01

- The correct Resolution number is 2015-11-01. (2015-11-19 and 2015-08-19 are typos.)
- The revision of Resolution 2015-11-01 is as follows on page 3 (attached in redline) of the Resolution:

Original:

WHEREAS, District staff acknowledges that no public comments were received on the Addendum; and

Revised:

WHEREAS, District staff acknowledges that one public comment letter was received from the California Department of Transportation on the Addendum; and

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12

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*Serious Drought.
Serious drought.
Help save water!*

November 2, 2015

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

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2003021141
IGR Log #: 1210-O
SR- 241

Dear Mr. Bunts,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the **Addendum to FEIR Nos 584 and 589, Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir Project**. The project proposes to reconstruct the existing Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir from its current use as a retention facility for tailings from the sand mining operation to a reservoir for storage of 5,000 acre-feet of recycled water. Both FEIR 584 and FEIR 589 address the anticipated development in the Project study area; therefore, an addendum to these FEIRs was prepared to analyze the potential differences between the impacts evaluated in FEIR 584 and FEIR 589 and those that would be associated with the development of the Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir Project. SMWD determined that none of the triggers that require a new environmental document exist. The project site is located on Trampas Canyon Road in unincorporated County of Orange. The nearest state route to the project is SR-241.

Caltrans is a commenting agency on this project and has the following comment:

To minimize traffic impacts on SR-241, it is recommended that project related trips take place during off peak hours of 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM to 5:30 AM.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "Maureen El Harake".

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

**Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir Project
Responses to Comments
November 4, 2015**

The Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) proposes to acquire and reconstruct the existing Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir for seasonal storage of recycled water storage, thereby increasing the SMWD's storage capacity to meet long-term needs. The Project would involve reconstruction of the existing dam and additional grading activities to allow for 5,000 acre-feet (af) of recycled water storage. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), SMWD prepared an Addendum to *The Ranch Plan Final Program Environmental Impact Report* (EIR) No. 589 (State Clearinghouse No. 2003021141) and FEIR 584 (State Clearinghouse No. 2006061140), which was the CEQA portion of the Joint Programmatic EIR/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the Southern Subregion Natural Community Conservation Plan/Master Streambed Alteration Agreement/Habitat Conservation Plan. The SMWD was identified as a Responsible Agency pursuant to Section 15381 of the State CEQA Guidelines for both EIRs and projects.

CEQA does not require a public review period for an Addendum; however, at the request of State Water Resources Control Board, the District staff circulated the Addendum to the State Clearinghouse for a non-mandatory 15-day public review period beginning October 16, 2015 and ending November 2, 2015. One comment, from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) was received during the public review period. The comment and a response to the comment are provided below. The letter is also attached.

**Response to Comment from
The California Department of Transportation
November 2, 2015**

Comment: To minimize traffic impacts on State Route (SR) 241, it is recommended that project related trips take place during off peak hours of 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM to 5:30 AM.

Response: The request to minimize traffic on SR-241 is noted. As discussed in the Addendum (Section 4.16, response to question a), the long-term operation of the Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir Project would generate a minimal amount of traffic. It is estimated that there would be approximately three daily visits by SMWD staff to monitor the operations. Both the SMWD District Headquarters (located at 26111 Antonio Parkway, Rancho Santa Margarita, California) and the Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir are located south of the terminus of SR-241, so it is not anticipated that trips would use SR-241 to access the facility. The limited number of trips would not result in any traffic impacts on the roadway network.

Construction-related trips are also anticipated to be limited. As indicated in Section 4.16 of the Addendum (response to question a), the Project would not require hauling of import and export materials to and from the site; therefore, the number of construction-related vehicle trips would be limited to trucks hauling supplies to the site and workers commuting to and from the site. These trips would be limited in length and duration and would occur throughout the day, thus limiting the impacts during peak hours. It should also be noted, that SR-241 south of Antonio Parkway operates at level of service A. The 2014 Caltrans traffic counts identifies an average annual daily traffic of 16,000 vehicles. (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/safesr/trafdata/index.htm>; accessed November 4, 2015).

WHEREAS, District staff acknowledges that ~~no-one~~ public comment letter was ~~were~~ received from the California Department of Transportation on the Addendum; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has reviewed the Addendum, in conjunction with EIR No. 584 and EIR No. 589, prior to taking action on the Proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Margarita Water District as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. State CEQA Guidelines section 15164 requires lead agencies to prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions to the project are necessary, but none of the conditions requiring preparation of a subsequent EIR are present. The District has reviewed and considered EIR No. 584, EIR No. 589, and the Addendum and finds that these documents taken together contain a complete and accurate reporting of any potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project. The District further finds that the Addendum has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The District further finds and determines that the Addendum reflects the District's independent judgment.

Section 3. Based on the substantial evidence set forth in the record, including but not limited to EIR No. 584, EIR No. 589, and the Addendum, the District finds that an addendum is the appropriate document for disclosing the changes to the planned recycled water reservoir, and that none of the conditions under State CEQA Guidelines section 15162 requiring subsequent environmental review have occurred, because:

- (a) The Proposed Project does not constitute a substantial change that would require major revisions of EIR No. 584 and EIR No. 589 due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Facts supporting this conclusion include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - The impact assessment in both EIR No. 584 and EIR No. 589 (together, "the EIRs") made assumptions regarding the size, location, and extent of habitat removal and species impacts as part of the evaluation of the Ranch Plan Planned Community and the covered District infrastructure improvements; however, it was acknowledged that the precise location of such improvements may shift to address engineering constraints, to minimize impacts, or to address other factors that could not have been known until more detailed plans were developed.
 - By using and reconstructing the existing Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir in the Proposed Project, the overall amount of grading required to construct the