



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EIR FOR PUBLIC REVIEW and NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) has released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the **Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project**. MRWPCA is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The State Clearinghouse number for the project is SCH#2013051094.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project (GWR Project) would divert new source waters to the MRWPCA Regional Treatment Plant for two purposes: 1) to create purified recycled water for recharge of the Seaside Groundwater Basin to replace 3,500 acre-feet per year of CalAm's current water supplies, enabling CalAm to reduce its diversions from the Carmel River by the same amount, and 2) to provide additional recycled water to growers within the existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project service area for crop irrigation. Water sources proposed to be recycled, treated and reused by the GWR Project include municipal wastewater, City of Salinas industrial wastewater, City of Salinas and City of Monterey urban stormwater runoff, and surface water diversions from the Blanco Drain, Reclamation Ditch and Tembladero Slough. Purified water from a new Advanced Water Treatment Facility at the Regional Treatment Plant would be conveyed through a new Product Water Conveyance pipeline and booster pump station to new Injection Well Facilities in the City of Seaside for recharge to the Seaside Basin. CalAm would extract water from its existing wells, and would deliver the water to its customers via two new pipelines and its existing distribution system. Recycled water produced for crop irrigation would be distributed through the existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project system. The GWR Project is being proposed by the MRWPCA in partnership with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD).

PROJECT LOCATION: The GWR Project would be located within northern Monterey County and would include new facilities located within unincorporated areas of the Salinas Valley and within the cities of Salinas, Marina, Seaside, Monterey, and Pacific Grove, and within former Fort Ord areas in Seaside and Marina. See attached figure.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS: Significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project are anticipated in the following areas: aesthetics; air quality; biological resources (fisheries); biological resources (terrestrial); cultural and paleontological resources; energy; geology/soils/seismicity; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality (surface water); land use and agricultural resources; noise; public services (solid waste); and traffic and transportation. Significant cumulative effects are anticipated in the following areas: air quality, biological resources (marine) and surface water quality (marine).

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: Some components of the Proposed Project would be located on a hazardous waste site enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code: the entire former Fort Ord Military Base, including the Seaside Munitions Response Area (Site #39), is designated by the U.S. EPA as a Superfund National Priority List (NPL) site.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR runs for 45 days, beginning April 22, 2015 and ending June 5, 2015. A copy of the Draft EIR is available for review during normal business hours at the MRWPCA Administrative Office, 5 Harris Court, Bldg. D, Monterey, CA 93940. The Draft EIR is also available online at the GWR Project website at: www.purewatermonterey.org. The Draft EIR may also be viewed at the following locations:

Seaside Public Library
Marina Public Library
Salinas Public Libraries

Castroville Public Library
Monterey Public Library
Carmel Valley Public Library

Harrison Memorial Library
(Carmel)

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Two public meetings have been scheduled during the Draft EIR public review period to share information on the GWR Project and the Draft EIR. Spanish translation will be available, and both venues are accessible under the Americans with Disabilities (ADA). The date and location of the meetings are listed below:

- Seaside: May 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Avenue, Seaside, CA 93955
- Salinas: May 21, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Hartnell College, Room B-208 (Student Services Building), 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, CA 93901

Comments on the Draft EIR must be submitted in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2015 to the mailing address, fax number, or email address listed below:

By Mail:

Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Administration Office
ATTN: Bob Holden, Principal Engineer
5 Harris Ct., Bldg D
Monterey, CA 93940

By Email: gwr@mrwpc.com

By Fax: 831-372-6178 (please also send a physical copy of the correspondence to ensure receipt)