



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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**To:** California Office of Planning and Research, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Other Interested Parties

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

**Project Title:** Moorpark Desalter Project

**Lead Agency:** County of Ventura, Public Works Agency  
6767 Spring Road, Moorpark, CA, 93020

**Date:** November 21, 2014

**Review Period:** November 21, 2014 through December 22, 2014

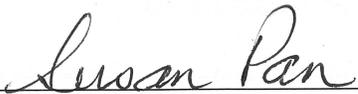
The County of Ventura Waterworks District No. 1 (Waterworks District No. 1) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Moorpark Desalter Project (Project). The purpose of this notice is to help define the scope of the EIR. The Project location, project description and purpose, and potential environmental impacts are described in the attached discussion.

If you are a Responsible or Trustee Agency, Waterworks District No. 1 is soliciting written comments as to the scope and content of the environmental information, including impacts and mitigation measures, that may be relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by Waterworks District No. 1 when considering any permit or other approval for the Project. Please provide the name and telephone number of a contact person in your agency with your response.

If you are a resident, property owner, or interested party, Waterworks District No. 1 is requesting your written comments concerning any environmental effects the Project may have on your property or your community. Please share this Notice of Preparation (NOP) with anyone else you feel may be interested in this Project. An electronic version of this NOP can be found at <http://pwa.ventura.org/water-sanitation-department/water-and-sanitation-projects>.

Waterworks District No. 1 is holding a 30-day review period in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Please submit your written comments to the undersigned at the address shown above no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 22, 2014 or email to [Susan.Pan@ventura.org](mailto:Susan.Pan@ventura.org). For further information about the Project, please contact Ms. Susan Pan at 805- 378-3025, or [Susan.Pan@ventura.org](mailto:Susan.Pan@ventura.org).

Date: 11-20-2014

  
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Susan Pan, P.E.  
Manger of Planning, Design, and Construction  
Water and Sanitation Department

## **Project Location**

Waterworks District No. 1 is proposing a groundwater treatment facility west of the City of Moorpark in the County of Ventura. The proposed Moorpark Desalter would be located east of the existing Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility (MWRF) which is located at 9550 East Los Angeles Avenue just west of Moorpark City limits along State Highway 118. The extraction wells would be located within or near an active agricultural field east of Hitch Boulevard between Los Angeles Avenue and the Arroyo Las Posas/Arroyo Simi (Figure 1).

## **Project Description**

The desalter facility would pump and treat poor quality groundwater from a shallow aquifer in the South Las Posas Basin and provide higher quality water to future users. The Project is a key element in the Northern Reach Renewable Water Management Plan which was developed as part of the Calleguas Creek Boron, Chloride, Total Dissolved Solids, and Sulfate Total Maximum Daily Load Compliance Plan. The Project would supplement imported water supplies, remove poor quality groundwater, allow higher quality storm flows to recharge the shallow unconfined groundwater basin, and improve the groundwater quality of the overall basin. Brine produced by the reverse osmosis process would be transported out of the watershed through the Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP), currently being constructed by Calleguas Municipal Water District. The SMP would convey brine from Moorpark to the ocean discharge point at Point Hueneme. The Project would include approximately twenty two extraction wells and a conveyance pipeline from the well field to the desalter facility (see Figure 1).

## **Potential Environmental Effects**

CEQA requires analysis and consideration of a project's environmental impacts. The EIR will evaluate potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the Project. The EIR will assess both short-term construction impacts as well as long-term effects associated with Project operation. Mitigation measures will be recommended where appropriate to reduce significant adverse impacts. The following sections summarize potential effects of the Project to be evaluated in the EIR.

### **Aesthetics**

Construction and operation of the desalter facility and well fields would have the potential to alter existing visual conditions and may affect public vistas and the visual character of the site and its surroundings. The EIR will assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on aesthetics and visual resources.

### **Agricultural Resources**

Development of the proposed project would include the construction of a desalter facility and the installation of wells in an existing agricultural area. Impacts associated with the implementation of the desalter facility would remove agricultural land out of product and may include the temporary cessation of agricultural production on the well sites. The EIR will evaluate impacts to the loss of agricultural lands and impacts to the adjacent farming operations.

## **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Construction of the proposed project would generate emissions from construction equipment exhaust, earth movement, construction workers' commute, and material hauling that could adversely affect regional air quality. The EIR will estimate daily exhaust and fugitive dust emissions to assess the potential short- and long-term air quality impacts. The EIR will identify sensitive receptors within the Project area that could be adversely affected by the Project construction and operation. The EIR will assess the potential impacts of the proposed project to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Biological Resources**

The operation of the Project would include the extraction of groundwater. The EIR will analyze the biological resources within Arroyo Las Posas and evaluate potential effects to these resources from extraction activities. The EIR will provide mitigation measures to ensure that groundwater extraction does not significantly affect beneficial use of local surface water. Further the project may have the potential to impact sensitive species and habitats during construction and operation. The EIR analysis will include a comprehensive list of permits required from resource agencies to implement the project.

## **Cultural Resources**

Construction of the project would require excavation that could occur in archaeologically and paleontologically sensitive areas. The EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on archaeological and paleontological resources.

## **Geology, Soils, and Seismicity**

The Project is located in a seismically active region of California. Seismic activity on local faults within the region could cause considerable ground shaking in the Project area. The EIR will evaluate potential impacts related to geology, soils, mineral resources, including seismicity of the area, potential for liquefaction and subsidence, erodibility of the site's soils, soil stability characteristics, and shrink/swell potential of site soils as applicable.

## **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

Contaminated soils and groundwater could be encountered during construction of the desalter facility and well field. The EIR will assess the potential for encountering contaminated soils and the release of hazardous materials during construction. In addition, the EIR will evaluate the potential public health concerns associated with the construction and operation and the use and storage of chemicals for the operation of the proposed project.

## **Hydrology, Water Quality and Quantity**

Construction and operation of the proposed project could affect storm water quality and drainage patterns. Further, extraction of brackish water could impact groundwater resources. The EIR will describe the Project's potential effect on the hydrology and water quality characteristics of the

project area including alteration of drainage patterns, ground water, erosion, stormwater discharges, and flooding.

## **Land Use and Planning**

Construction and operation of the desalter facility and well field could conflict with local land use ordinances. The EIR will identify potential conflicts with land use plans, policies, and regulations.

## **Noise**

Construction activities would generate short-term noise and vibration that could affect nearby sensitive receptors. Operation of the Project could generate noise that would impact nearby sensitive receptors and land uses. The EIR will identify sensitive receptors and land uses near the proposed facilities and evaluate noise impacts associated with the Project,

## **Employment, Population and Housing**

The EIR will evaluate the Project's effect on employment, population, and housing in the local area based on projections of project employment and distribution of their residences.

## **Public Services**

The EIR will evaluate the Project's potential to create an adverse impact to public services.

## **Recreation**

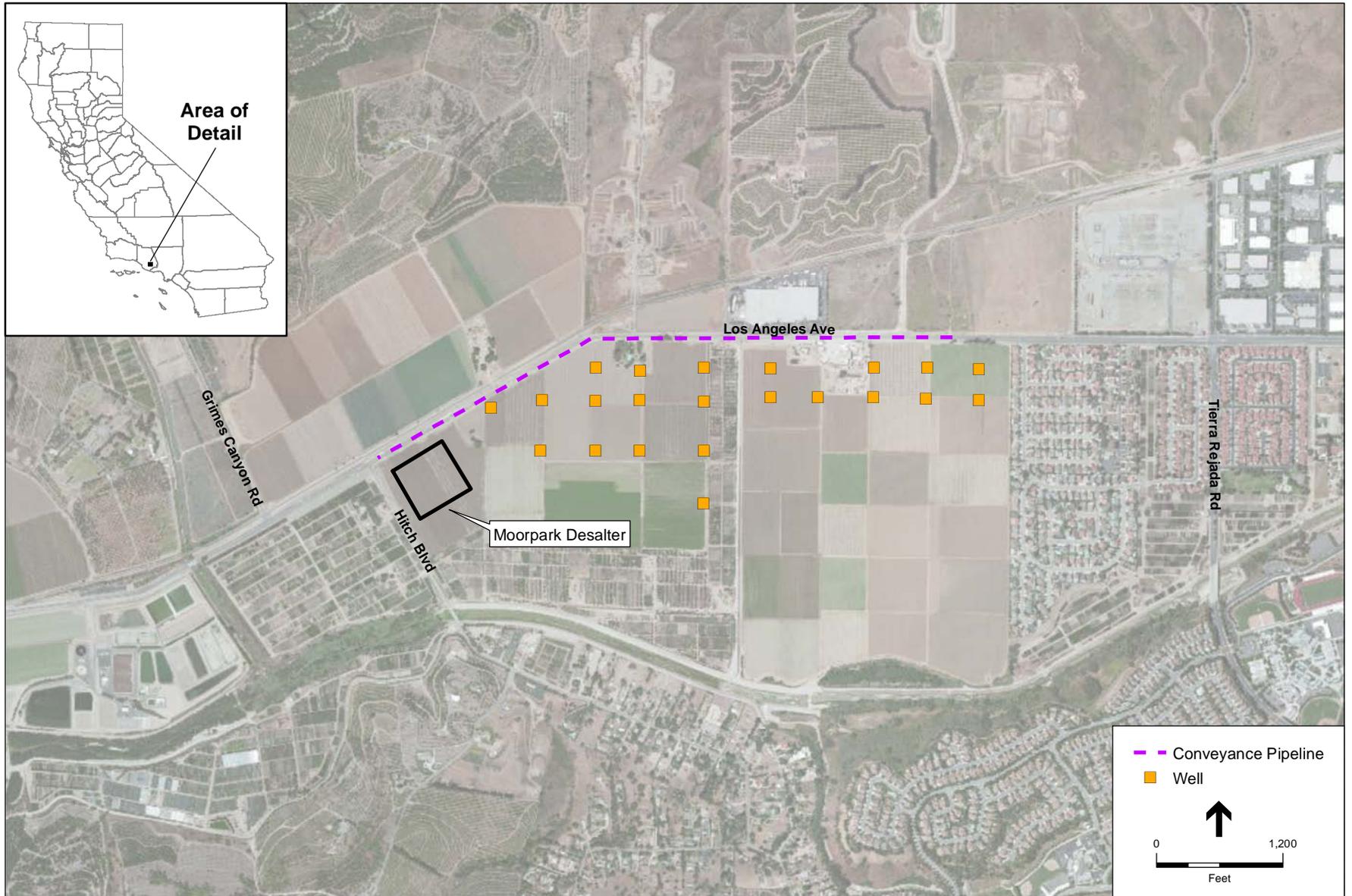
The EIR will evaluate whether the proposed project could potentially contribute to recreational impacts.

## **Transportation and Traffic**

Construction activities could temporarily impact vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The EIR will identify the potential impacts of the proposed project on traffic circulation.

## **Utilities**

The EIR will analyze the current capacity of the drainage, water, wastewater, natural gas, and electrical systems and the Project's impact on these systems, if any. The EIR will describe the existing dry utilities (gas, electric, phone, etc.) and water, wastewater, and drainage facilities within the Project vicinity. The EIR will also describe the existing facilities that serve the site.



SOURCE: Ventura County

Waterworks District No. 1 Moorpark Desalter Project . 130202

**Figure 1**  
Project Location Map