Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program

California Environmental Quality Act
EIR Scoping Meeting

December 7, 2016
Meeting Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
- CEQA Overview
- SARCCUP Description
- CEQA Environmental Topics
- CEQA Schedule
- Public Comments
Purpose of Meeting

- **Public Scoping**
  - This is a Scoping Meeting compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- **Initiate CEQA Process**
  - Notify public that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP).

- **Describe Project**
  - SARCCUP will provide a program that improves the watershed’s water supply resiliency and enhances the natural and built environment.
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- **Disclosure**
  - Identifies potentially significant impacts to the environment

- **Decision-Making Tool**
  - Requires public agencies to consider impacts prior to project approval

- **Reduce Impacts**
  - Identifies feasible mitigation measures and alternatives
CEQA Process for an EIR

We are here
Notice of Preparation (NOP)
(CEQA Guidelines 15082)

• An NOP is required by CEQA to announce that a lead agency is preparing an EIR for a project.
• The NOP facilitates a scoping process to gather stakeholder input on what potential impacts the EIR should consider.
• Comments from stakeholders help to focus the EIR analysis on stakeholder concerns.
SARCCUP Overview

• Watershed-scale collaborative program
• Improve water supply resiliency and reliability
• Increase available dry-year yield from local groundwater basins

• Multi-agency water management plan
  – Inland Empire Utilities Agency
  – Eastern Municipal Water District
  – Orange County Water District
  – San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
  – Western Municipal Water District
  – Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Regional Location
SARCCUP Objectives

• Utilize available storage space in local groundwater basins and capture water during wet periods
• Provide new local dry-year water supply to supplement imported water during dry periods, drought, or other emergency conditions
• Reduce water demand with removal of non-native plants and implementation of water conservation measures
• Enhance the watershed environment through restoration of riparian and Santa Ana sucker habitat, and *arundo donax* removal
SARCCUP Components – Phase I

• Conjunctive Use Program:
  – Bunker Hill Basin/San Bernardino Basin Area
  – San Jacinto Basin
  – Elsinore Valley Basin
  – Chino Basin

• Santa Ana Sucker Habitat Restoration
• Invasive Arundo Removal
• Water Use Efficiency and Conservation
Phase 1 Project Facilities
**Conjunctive Use Program – Phase I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groundwater Basin / Bank</th>
<th>Total Storage (AF)</th>
<th>Dry Year Yield (AFY)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chino</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elsinore Valley</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunker Hill/SBBA</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jacinto</td>
<td>19,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>180,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>60,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
60,000 AF storage capacity
Dry Year Yield (DYY) of 20,000 AF
Facilities include:
- 5 production wells
- Transmission pipelines
- Improvement to Redlands Pump Station
• 19,500 AF storage capacity
• 6,500 AFY DYY
• Facilities include:
  • Mountain Ave West recharge site
  • 3 production wells
  • Raw water connection pipelines

San Jacinto Basin Bank
• 4,500 AF storage capacity
• 1,500 AFY DYY
• Facilities include:
  • 2 aquifer storage & recovery wells
  • Pipelines
• 96,000 AF storage capacity
• 32,000 AF DYY
• Facilities include:
  • Recharge basins
  • Baseline Feeder extension and associated turnouts and interties
  • Turnouts on Devil Canyon-Azusa Pipeline
  • Groundwater production/extraction wells
Santa Ana Sucker Habitat Restoration

- Responsible Agency: SBVMWD
- Location: Riverside County along Santa Ana River

- Create 18,250 linear-feet new Santa Ana sucker habitat
- Install infrastructure, native plants seeding, irrigation systems, signage, fencing
Invasive Arundo Removal

• Responsible Agency: OCWD
• Location: Riverside County along Santa Ana River between Prado Basin and I-215 and 91 Freeway

• Eradicate 640 acres of invasive, exotic plant *arundo donax*
• Restore wetland habitat, specifically riparian habitat
Water Use Efficiency and Conservation

• No physical features
• Expand existing water use efficiency initiatives that received grant funding:
  – Conservation-Based Water Rates
  – Smartscape Program
Topics to be Analyzed in EIR

Direct, Indirect and Cumulative impacts to:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Agriculture & Forestry
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils & Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Traffic & Transportation
- Utilities & Energy
Topics to be Analyzed in EIR

• Growth Inducement
• Alternatives
  – No Project Alternative
  – Alternatives that lessen significant impacts while still meeting Project Objectives
CEQA Schedule – Next Steps

Scoping Period Ends
Dec. 12, 2016

Draft EIR Publication
Spring 2017

Final EIR Publication
Summer 2017
NOP Comments

• Comment period closes December 12, 2016

• Submit comments tonight or…

Email or Mail comments to:

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