

**DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE  
CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
EL CARRO WELL REPLACEMENT AND CENTRAL ZONE PIPELINE  
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**PROJECT PROPONENT:**

Carpinteria Valley Water District  
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**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The El Carro Well replacement site is located within the existing well site at El Carro Park located between Foothill Road and El Carro Lane in the City of Carpinteria. The assessor's parcel number is 004-005-004. Segment 1 of the project pipeline component is located within El Carro Park and extends from the well site to El Carro Lane adjacent to the western park boundary. Segment 2 of the pipeline extends along El Carro Lane to Linden Avenue. Segment 3 of the pipeline extends along a property line of Franklin Creek Park and up Sterling Avenue. Segment 4 of the pipeline extends along El Carro Lane between Santa Ynez Avenue and Santa Monica Creek. Segment 5 of the pipeline extends adjacent to Santa Monica Creek, along Via Real, crosses U.S. Highway 101 from Via Real at the Santa Monica exit, and extends south down Plum Street to Carpinteria Avenue. The project's regional and site locations are shown on Figure 1 (located at the end of this mitigated negative declaration [MND]).

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE:**

The replacement El Carro Well is proposed to increase the District's current groundwater production capacity by restoring lost capacity and therefore increase blending capacity to reduce the impact of Cachuma water which has high levels of disinfection byproducts. As such, the project would increase the quality of the drinking water for District customers and reduce the District's reliance on imported water. Additionally, the proposed well is proposed to enhance the reliability of the District's groundwater production capability by adding redundancy to the system.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Proposed Replacement Water Supply Well Site Improvements. The proposed well would be constructed approximately 120 feet west of the existing well, which failed in 2004, and would allow for resumption of production associated with the old well. The well will consist of an 18-inch diameter casing set in a 30-inch borehole. The annulus would be gravel packed to retain the formation sands. Total depth would be approximately 925 feet below ground surface and would be perforated to coincide with basin aquifers "A" (perforations at 275 to 340 feet) and "B" (perforations

at 840 to 905 feet). Prior to construction of the new well, the existing well will be converted into a monitoring well.

The proposed project would also include implementing several repairs and upgrades to the existing Manganese (Mn) filtration system. With treatment, the well water would meet State drinking water standards pursuant to Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR).

**Proposed Pipeline Improvements.** The Central Zone pipeline improvements portion of the project is an upgrade and optimization of the District's main Central Pressure Zone (CPZ) by replacing undersized lines, completion of water main loops and intertie to the proposed El Carro Well directly into the CPZ. One new pipeline segment and four segments of replacement pipe are proposed.

**Project Construction.** Project construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2008, with development of the proposed well. This phase is anticipated to last about one month. Upgrades of the filtration system would follow in the fall of 2008 and would last about one month. Construction would occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with the exception of drilling which would be ongoing for 24 hours per day for an estimated seven days. To minimize noise impacts during well drilling operations, a 24 foot high sound dampening curtain (soundwall) will be erected around the site. The soundwall will be removed upon completion of well construction.

Construction of each pipe segment can be done simultaneously but will likely be under one contract and done one segment at a time. The entire pipeline project will take approximately seven weeks to complete. Segment 5 will have the longest duration of four weeks in construction.

**Project Operations.** Operation of the well and filtration system is fully automatic, and would be identical to previous operations at the site. Operators would visit the site every day for 10 to 15 minutes to record water quality and equipment status. Once per quarter the monitoring well would be checked. Once per year maintenance on the system would be conducted. No new employees would be needed at the District for operation of the proposed project.

The project is defined further in the Initial Study prepared for the project.

### **PROPOSED FINDINGS:**

The Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) has prepared this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to Section 15070 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act. This Mitigated Negative Declaration documents the District's finding that there are no significantly adverse unavoidable impacts associated with the proposed project, and the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The attached Initial Study identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts for identified subject areas. Any element in the project description that is not met as described shall constitute an action not considered as part of the Initial Study for this MND. If the project description changes, the District will require a reevaluation which considers these changes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

In compliance with Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, the CVWD issued a public Notice of Intent and established a public review period from April 17, 2008 to June 4, 2008. The purpose of this review period is to accept written or oral comments on the adequacy of the information contained in the Draft MND.

Comments will be addressed in the Final MND for the project.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES:**

The following measures are incorporated into the proposed project to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

### **Aesthetics:**

- AES1** CVWD shall retain a certified arborist to advise the District and construction staff on methods to minimize damage to trees and shrubs at the El Carro and Franklin Creek Parks. The arborist shall visit the sites and consult with the District, prior to project implementation to provide recommendations to protect tree and shrub health. Avoidance shall be the preferred method of minimizing impact to trees and shrubs where feasible and not causing new or substantially more severe impacts in other environmental issue areas (e.g., traffic). Tree protection strategies may include: 1) installation of root protection zone barricades; 2) invigoration of trees prior to construction by use of a light fertilizer and water; and 3) pre-cut roots at limits of construction to prevent tearing by equipment; and 4) provide aeration of the root zone. The arborist shall also be onsite during any elements of the project that will result in impacts to trees and shrubs to ensure that construction techniques and tree protection measures implemented follow the arborist's recommendations and to provide onsite advice, if determined necessary by the consulting arborist. Pruning of any trees shall be in accordance with industry standards (International Society of Arboriculture or ANZI 133.1)
- AES2** CVWD will coordinate with the City of Carpinteria Parks and Recreation Department to develop a revegetation plan to offset damage to and or removal of trees (not currently anticipated), shrubs and other plantings within the El Carro and Franklin Creek Parks. At a minimum, any vegetation that is permanently destroyed will be replaced on a 1:1 basis (based upon a cross sectional area for trees, meaning that the trunk cross-sectional area is estimated for trees to be removed and an equivalent number of trees must be planted to provide the same cross-sectional area).

### **Air Quality:**

- AQ1** During construction, water trucks will be used to keep all unpaved areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site.
- AQ2** The amount of disturbed area will be minimized, and vehicle speeds on unpaved roads will be reduced to 15 mph or below.
- AQ3** Gravel pads will be used as needed to prevent tracking of mud onto public roads.
- AQ4** Stockpiled earth material will be watered as needed to minimize dust generation.
- AQ5** Trucks transporting earth materials will be tarped or maintain a minimum 2 foot freeboard.
- AQ6** The District will designate a person to monitor dust generation, with the power to increase watering or implement other measures to reduce off-site transport of construction-related dust. The dust monitor will be available during non-work

hours to respond to dust-related complaints. The name and phone number will be provided to the SBCAPCD.

**Cultural Resources:**

**CUL1** A professional archaeologist and Chumash representative shall be retained to monitor all project related earth disturbances within pipeline Segment 5 north of Highway 101. The following elements are also a part of this measure.

a. At the commencement of project construction, the archaeological monitor shall give all workers associated with earth-disturbing procedures an orientation regarding the probability of exposing cultural resources and directions as to what steps are to be taken if a find is encountered.

b. The archaeologist shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect project construction in the event that potentially significant cultural resources are exposed. Based on monitoring observations and the actual extent of project disturbance, the lead archaeologist shall have the authority to refine the monitoring requirements as appropriate (i.e., change to spot checks, reduce or increase the area to be monitored) in consultation with the District.

c. A monitoring report shall be prepared upon completion of construction and provided to the District and the CCIC.

**CUL2** In the event that archaeological resources are exposed during construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until a professional archaeologist has been retained to evaluate the nature and significance of the find. The District shall be notified immediately of any such find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. A Chumash representative should monitor any mitigation work associated with Native American cultural material.

**CUL3** If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The District shall be notified immediately of the find.

## **Geology:**

**GEO1** The District shall retain a registered engineering geologist to prepare a geotechnical study of the project area. Seismic and geologic hazards (including but not limited to liquefaction and expansive soils along pipe Segments 3 and 5) shall be assessed and construction recommendations provided as necessary. The recommendations (e.g., design and ground preparation methods) shall be implemented by the District. Examples of measures that may be recommended include: overexcavation and recompaction of soils; use of flexible couplings on pipe joints, removal of expansive soil and replacement with non-expansive material).

## **Hazardous Materials:**

**HAZ1** The CVWD shall update its Hazardous Materials Business Plan for the El Carro Well and submit it to the Carpinteria Summerland Fire Protection District prior to reestablishment of operations at the El Carro Well site.

**HAZ2** CVWD shall develop a Contaminated Materials Management Plan (CMMP) for the El Carro Well and Central Zone Pipeline Improvement Project prior to the implementation of the project. The CMMP shall address proper handling, temporary storage, treatment and/or disposal of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil and/or groundwater encountered during the course of planned construction of the project in compliance with applicable local, state and federal regulations.

**HAZ3** CVWD shall ensure that only Hazardous Work Operations and Emergency Response (OSHA 29 CFR, 1910.120) (HAZWOPPER) trained personnel shall work on pipeline Segment 5 at and north of U.S. Highway 101.

**HAZ4** The CVWD shall obtain encroachment permit(s) from the City of Carpinteria for work in City rights-of-way.

## **Noise:**

**NOI1** As proposed by the District, construction of the well will be conducted during the summer months when school is not in session (based upon Carpinteria Unified School District schedule which is also followed by the Howard School).

**NOI2** Nearby residents/occupants of adjacent land uses to the construction sites will be given advanced written notification of construction activity scheduling and hours of construction.

**NOI3** As proposed by the District, temporary, portable noise barriers shall be used to shield noise-producing activities during drilling operations. The barriers will be 24 feet in height and meet Sound Transmission Class 25 criteria or above. The

barriers will be used during drilling when construction activities are proposed for 24-hours per day.

- NOI4** If residents complain of inability to sleep or other loss of normal life functions during the period of nighttime construction, the District shall retain a noise monitor to measure interior noise at the residence(s) in question. Should interior noise levels be above the 45 dBA (Ldn) interior residential standard within the home, with doors and windows closed, the District shall offer to provide temporary relocation of residents during the period of night time construction activities.
- NOI5** Any stationary construction equipment will be placed within a noise reduction enclosure.
- NOI6** All construction equipment shall be in proper operating condition and fitted with standard noise reduction features (e.g., mufflers).

**Recreation:**

- REC1** The District shall coordinate with the City of Carpinteria Parks and Recreation Department to determine the acceptable limits of temporary construction easements within City recreational facilities prior to project construction. Temporary fencing or other measures determined necessary to delineate the construction and staging areas and to protect the public shall be identified and implemented prior to construction.

**Transportation:**

- T1** As a condition of awarding of a contract(s) for project construction, the contractor must agree to ensure that all project construction traffic (including construction worker trips, construction truck trips, etc.) avoid the U.S. 101 Northbound On/Off-ramps at Via Real/Santa Monica Roads during the a.m. peak period (7:00 a.m. - 9: a.m.).
- T2** The District shall obtain appropriate encroachment permits from the City of Carpinteria and California Department of Transportation as necessary.
- T3** The District shall coordinate with the County of Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transportation District prior to project construction with regard to the timing of the installation of pipeline Segment 3 so that alternative arrangements for the Seaside Shuttle stop at Franklin Creek Park can be implemented as necessary.



REGIONAL AND PROJECT LOCATIONS MAP  
 FIGURE 1