



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE SLY PARK INTERTIE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (PN# 21079)

---

In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 15000 et seq., the El Dorado Irrigation District (District) will be preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its proposed Sly Park Intertie Replacement Project (proposed project). The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to provide an opportunity for the public, interested parties, and public agencies to comment on the scope and proposed content of the Draft EIR. If you are a Responsible or Trustee Agency with jurisdiction by law over natural resources held in public trust, the District needs to know what environmental information germane to your statutory responsibilities should be included in the Draft EIR.

The proposed project involves the replacement of approximately 4.5 miles of existing 22 to 30-inch diameter steel pipeline with 12 to 30-inch diameter concrete mortar steel pipeline constructed with a protective exterior coating and cathodic protection system. The new pipeline would be installed in the existing Sly Park Intertie pipeline alignment and the delivery system would be upgraded from a raw water to a treated potable water supply system. A new pump station would be constructed to allow for bidirectional flow between the District's Reservoir 1 and Reservoir A drinking water treatment plants. A complete description of the proposed project and a listing of probable environmental effects of the proposed project are provided in the NOP.

The District has determined that the proposed project may result in potentially significant environmental effects and, consequently, an EIR is required; therefore, an Initial Study has not been prepared. The Draft EIR will address the full range of potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project and feasible alternatives to the proposed project that meet CEQA requirements.

**Document Review and Availability:** The 30-day public review period begins on February 3, 2023 and ends on March 6, 2023. A copy of the NOP is available for public review at 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville, CA 95667, or online at [www.eid.org/ceqa](http://www.eid.org/ceqa).

**Public Scoping Meeting:** The District is conducting a public scoping meeting to inform interested parties about the proposed project and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR. These



comments will assist the District with identifying the range of potential alternatives, mitigation measures, and any potentially significant effects associated with the proposed project. Meeting attendants will be given the opportunity to speak and ask questions regarding the proposed project. The public scoping meeting will be held at:

Pollock Pines-Camino Community Center  
2675 Sanders Drive, Pollock Pines, CA 95726  
February 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

**Provide Comments on the Notice of Preparation:** Written and email comments must be received by **5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2023**. If you wish to comment on the contents of the proposed project's Draft EIR, please send your comments (including, if applicable, the name of a contact person in your agency) to:

El Dorado Irrigation District  
ATTN: Doug Venable, Environmental Review Analyst  
2890 Mosquito Road  
Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 642-4187

E-mail: [SlyParkIntertieNOP@eid.org](mailto:SlyParkIntertieNOP@eid.org) Comments provided by email should include the name and mailing address of the commenter in the body of the email and include "NOP Sly Park Intertie Project" in the subject line.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California law, it is the policy of the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) to offer its public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials in an appropriate alternative format; or if you require any other accommodation for this meeting, please contact the EID ADA coordinator at 530-642-4045 or e-mail at [adacoordinator@eid.org](mailto:adacoordinator@eid.org) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Advance notification within this guideline will enable the District to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility.



# El Dorado Irrigation District

---

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE **SLY PARK INTERTIE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

---

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is intended to provide sufficient information to the public, interested parties, and public agencies to enable them to make a meaningful response regarding the scope of issues which should be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1). It contains background information about the process leading up to the proposed project, a project description and location description, and the identification of probable environmental effects of the proposed Sly Park Intertie Replacement Project.

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The El Dorado Irrigation District (District) is proposing to implement the Sly Park Intertie Replacement Project (Project) to reestablish the connection between the District's two largest drinking water treatment plant facilities that together provide two-thirds of the District's water supply. The Project would enable the District to efficiently convey drinking water sourced from its existing water supplies at Jenkinson Lake and the South Fork American River watershed to areas throughout the District's service area.

The Sly Park Intertie (SPI) is an existing 22 to 30-inch diameter steel pipeline, approximately 4.5 miles in length, that extends between the District's Reservoir 1 Water Treatment Plant (Reservoir 1) and Reservoir A Water Treatment Plant (Reservoir A) and continues to the Sly Park Hills storage tank. The pipeline was originally constructed in 1978 to help alleviate severe water shortages resulting from the 1976-1977 regional drought. The original design of the pipeline conveyed raw water by gravity from Reservoir 1 to Jenkinson Lake. In 1992, the Cleveland Fire destroyed portions the Project 184 Canal system that supplies water to Reservoir 1. As a result, water could not be delivered to Reservoir 1 during the lengthy repair and reconstruction of the Canal system. In response to this emergency, a raw water pump station was constructed at Reservoir A to enable the SPI to pump raw water from Jenkinson Lake to Reservoir 1. The original SPI pipeline was installed without a protective interior coating or a cathodic protection system. Multiple pipeline assessments have determined that advanced corrosion has compromised the integrity and functionality of the pipeline. As a result, the District ceased using the SPI in 2013 due to ongoing leaks and increased maintenance costs.

---



The SPI and pump station remain critical assets for the District because they have the potential to provide operational flexibility and help alleviate impacts of water outages, drought conditions, and allow for treatment plant maintenance.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

### **Project Location**

The Project is located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the Pollock Pines community and 10 miles east of the city of Placerville, California within the Pollock Pines and Sly Park, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The northern segment of the Project area includes Reservoir 1 and is located on the north side of U.S. Highway 50 (HWY 50). The Project area continues approximately 4.5 miles south-southeast before terminating at the Sly Park Hills Tank located off Mackinaw Street approximately 0.5 miles from Reservoir A (Figure 1). The Project area elevations range between approximately 3,000 and 3,730 feet (914–1,140 meters) above mean sea level and traverses through various private property, lands owned by the District, and lands administered by the Eldorado National Forest (U.S. Forest Service).

### **Project Overview**

The District is proposing to replace approximately 4.5 miles of the existing 22-inch and 30-inch diameter steel SPI pipeline with a concrete mortar steel pipeline ranging from 12 to 30-inches in diameter and constructed with a protective exterior coating and cathodic protection system. The Project would upgrade the existing SPI primarily raw water system to a treated potable water conveyance system. Drinking water would be conveyed by gravity from Reservoir 1 to Reservoir A and a new pump station with a backup power supply generator would be constructed at the Reservoir A facility to convey drinking water in the reverse direction from Reservoir A to Reservoir 1. The SPI would extend approximately 0.5 miles from Reservoir A to the east and connect to the Sly Park Hills Tank to supply water to the Sly Park Hills community.

The Project would enable bidirectional potable water conveyance and allow the District to suspend operation at either water treatment plant for emergency or maintenance purposes and maintain supply throughout the distribution system. In the current configuration, Reservoir A cannot be taken off-line because there is no backup water system capable of supplying all customers served by Reservoir A.

Replacing the SPI would involve open-cut trenching to access and remove the existing pipeline and the installation of a new pipe within the existing alignment. The pipeline alignment is primarily cross-country traversing steep and varying terrain with dense vegetation and tree coverage. The alignment also traverses roads, established District



facilities, multiple ridges, creeks, and drainages with a cumulative elevation change of approximately 3,250 feet.

### **Project Objectives**

- Improve drinking water supply reliability by replacing the existing SPI pipeline with a bi-directional pipeline capable of conveying treated drinking water between Reservoir 1, Reservoir A, and the Sly Park Hills Tank.
- Facilitate uninterrupted drinking water supply during extended shutdowns of either the Reservoir 1 or Reservoir A treatment plants, enabling the inspection and future repairs or rehabilitation of Reservoir 1, Reservoir A, and the raw water supply tunnel/pipeline from Jenkinson Lake.
- Reduce energy use by maximizing system gravity flows and utilizing new high efficiency pumps when pumping is required.
- Improve system water quality and reduce the scale and cost of water quality treatments.

### **3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project involves the replacement of approximately 4.5 miles of 22 to 30-inch pipeline with an upgraded 12 to 30-inch cement mortar lined pipeline that will be installed with standard interior and exterior protective coatings and cathodic protection system. Replacing the SPI would involve open-cut trenching to access and remove the existing pipeline and install the new pipeline within the existing alignment. The construction corridor width would be approximately 50 feet (25 feet on either side of the current alignment). The construction corridor would be narrowed to approximately 30 feet (15 feet on either side of the current alignment) at drainage and creek crossings. A new pump station with a backup power supply generator would be constructed at Reservoir A to facilitate conveyance of drinking water from Reservoir A to Reservoir 1.

The Project includes eight proposed staging areas (totaling approximately 8.5 acres) for equipment and supplies and approximately 13 access points along existing roads for vehicles to access remote sections of the pipeline. The proposed staging areas and access points may be modified as the Project design develops and in coordination with adjacent property owners. Additional staging and access areas may be identified as the Project design is finalized. The total footprint for the Project occupies approximately 33 acres.

Typical construction would progress with vegetation clearing, excavation and removal of the existing pipeline, placement of bedding materials as required, placement of the new



sections of piping (typically 20-40 foot sections), backfilling and compaction of the trench, and restoration of the disturbed area.

The proposed pipeline replacement alignment is divided into four segments based on the equipment access and construction methods (Figure 2):

- Segment 1: Approximately 0.5 miles primarily along paved roadways from Reservoir 1 along Pony Express Trail, under HWY 50, and along Ridgeway Drive.
- Segment 2: Approximately 3 miles cross-country traversing four drainages from Ridgeway Drive to Reservoir A.
- Segment 3: Approximately 0.5 miles within the Reservoir A facility including the construction of an approximately 1,600 square foot, two-story pump station.
- Segment 4: Approximately 0.5 miles cross-country from Reservoir A to the Sly Park Hills Tank.

### **Segment 1**

This segment starts at the Reservoir 1 facility at approximately 3,730 feet above mean sea level. Connecting to the finished water supply of the treatment plant, the pipeline progresses southeast to the Sportsman Hall Pump Station, then extends approximately 1,200 feet along Pony Express Trail, 600 feet under HWY 50, and 1,000 feet along Ridgeway Drive. It is estimated that 2 trees will be removed in this segment. Work within this segment will require traffic control authorization from the El Dorado County Department of Transportation and Caltrans. Typical open cut construction includes 7-foot deep trenching with minimum 3.5-foot cover material with roadway pavement restoration.

### **Segment 2**

This segment starts at Ridgeway Drive at approximately 3,584 feet above mean sea level and extends approximately 3 miles cross-country, traversing through various private property, lands owned by the District, and lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

Construction sequencing in this segment would progress with initial vegetation removal followed by potholing to verify the location of the existing pipeline. The existing pipeline would be excavated and transported to a staging area for off-site removal. The excavated soil would be screened and utilized for pipeline bedding and trench backfill with additional backfill material imported as needed. New 24-inch pipeline would be transported from staging areas and placed in the open trench. The new pipeline trench would be backfilled and compacted. Minor adjustments to the existing pipeline alignment may be required to avoid localized unstable soil conditions.

Vegetation removal would include shrubs and trees within the construction alignment and staging areas. It is estimated that approximately 575 trees will be removed in this



segment. The majority of the trees within the alignment range from 6-inches to 20-inches in diameter at breast height (DBH). Additional tree removal may be required to accommodate equipment access and/or to ensure safety of construction personnel and equipment.

This segment contains four drainage crossings including the North Fork Weber Creek, South Fork Weber Creek, North Fork Clear Creek, and Clear Creek. The construction corridor width would be reduced from 50 feet to approximately 30 feet at these crossings and construction activities would be timed during periods of low flows. Creek flows, if present, would be bypassed during construction. Based on current available information, the District anticipates the Project would require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Typical open cut construction in this segment includes 6-foot deep trenching with minimum 3.5-foot cover material with appropriate best management practices (BMPs), erosion control measures, and/or hydroseeding applications.

Additionally, this segment includes a paved rural road section approximately 1,300 feet in length. This section would be replaced similar to methods described in Segment 1 with typical open cut construction including 7-foot deep trenching with minimum 3.5-foot cover material with roadway pavement restoration.

### **Segment 3**

This segment is located within the Reservoir A facility at an elevation of approximately 3,290 feet above mean sea level. The new pipeline would connect to the treatment plant's finished water supply, looped within the facility, connect to the new pump station, and continue to the Sly Park Hills Tank supply line. The pipeline alignment within the Reservoir A facility would be designed to avoid existing pipelines and other treatment plant facilities. Typical open cut construction includes 6-foot deep trenching with minimum 3.5-foot cover material with roadway pavement or gravel restoration.

A new two story, approximately 1,600 square foot pump station would be constructed on the west side of Reservoir A. The pump station would house three vertical turbine pumps to convey drinking water from Reservoir A to Reservoir 1 and the Sly Park Hills Tank. The building would be equipped with sound dampening features and contain a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. The pumps would be mounted on a concrete slab with fiberglass reinforced plastic sound enclosures mounted over each individual motor for additional sound attenuation. A backup power generator would be installed to provide system operation during power outages. The new pump station construction supplies and equipment would be staged within the Reservoir A facility.



## Segment 4

This segment starts at the Reservoir A facility at approximately 3,290 feet above mean sea level and extends cross-country approximately 0.5 miles to the Sly Park Hills Tank at approximately 3,680 feet above mean sea level. The District proposes to utilize a sliplining construction method in this segment and install a 12-inch pipeline inserted (slipped) inside the existing 22-inch pipeline. Sliplining is anticipated to reduce overall ground disturbance and Project costs. Final design will define what extent of the existing 22-inch SPI could be practically sliplined, and will determine which areas and bends in the existing pipeline will need to be excavated and removed to accommodate the new pipeline. Vegetation removal would be required in the areas that are utilized as entry pits for sliplining. It is estimated that approximately 40 trees will be removed in this segment. The majority of the trees within the alignment range from 6-inches to 18-inches DBH. Typical open cut construction excavation would be utilized at sliplining entry pits and bends in the pipeline that cannot accommodate sliplining. Typical open cut construction includes 6-foot deep trenching with minimum 3.5-foot cover material with BMPs, erosion control measures, and/or hydroseeding applications.

## Construction Equipment

The Project would require the use of construction equipment typically associated with pipeline replacement and pump station construction. Construction equipment utilized for Project would depend on the selected contractor's planned operations, but may include the following:

- Excavators
- Scrapers
- Bulldozers
- Graders
- Rollers
- Concrete trucks
- Asphalt trucks
- Pickup trucks
- Air compressors
- Welding equipment
- Pumps and piping
- Generators
- Back-up lighting systems
- Communications and safety equipment
- Compactors
- Conveyors
- Water trucks
- Concrete pumper
- Vehicle maintenance truck
- Erosion control materials
- Front-end loaders
- Highway trucks
- Cranes
- Miscellaneous equipment customary to the mechanical and electrical crafts, and vehicles used to deliver equipment and materials

## Operations and Maintenance

Ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) of both the replaced pipeline and new pump station would be required. Typical operations would not involve ground disturbance. Maintenance may include occasional flushing of the system through the water treatment plants and pipeline blowoffs, system inspection, repairing pipeline integrity issues, and vegetation management



along the rights-of-way. The frequency of O&M activities would depend largely on the water quality and to maintain desirable pumping efficiencies. Operational access to the new pipeline would occur within the public rights-of-way, along the permanent pipeline easement, and from existing access points. Vegetation management along the pipeline rights-of-way would consist of the removal of any woody vegetation that may conflict with pipeline integrity and access.

### **Construction Schedule**

Construction is planned to begin in 2024 and be completed in 2025.

## **4 PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

### **Preparation of Draft EIR**

Pursuant to Section 15064 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the District has determined that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment and will prepare a Draft EIR. The purpose of the Draft EIR is to disclose and discuss the potential impacts of the Project on the environment. The Draft EIR will describe existing conditions, evaluate the potential environmental effects, and consider a range of reasonable alternatives, including the no-project alternative. The Draft EIR will address direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Project. The Draft EIR will also discuss potential growth-inducing impacts and summarize any significant and unavoidable environmental effects. The Draft EIR will identify and discuss feasible mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant Project impacts.

### **Probable Environmental Effects Discussed in the Draft EIR**

Pursuant to Section 15082(a)(1)(C) of the State CEQA Guidelines, this NOP describes the probable environmental effects of the Project. For each environmental factor, a summary of environmental conditions and a brief description of the Draft EIR analysis is described.

The Draft EIR will address all environmental factors and questions that are relevant to the Project's environmental effects in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, as listed below.

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire



- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

### **Aesthetics**

The Project is located in the unincorporated area of El Dorado County within the community of Pollock Pines in an area with a range of landscapes from developed landscapes to rugged forested drainages. The Project area is within view of HWY 50, a designated scenic highway. Construction activities within the temporary construction easement would remove vegetation up to 25 feet on each side of the pipeline alignment and within the designated staging and access areas. Upon Project completion, the permanent right-of-way would be maintained by the District's ongoing right-of-way vegetation management program for the access, maintenance, and repair of the SPI and associated facilities. The Draft EIR analysis will characterize the visual setting and evaluate potential direct and indirect impacts to the surrounding aesthetic of the existing land uses, development, and natural setting. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?
- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

### **Agriculture and Forestry Resources**

The Project traverses through various private property, lands owned by the District, and lands administered by the Eldorado National Forest (U.S. Forest Service). There are no known active agriculture operations or farmlands within the SPI construction corridor, staging areas, or access points. The Draft EIR analysis will determine if the Project impacts active agriculture farmland, forest land, or conflicts with current El Dorado County zoning restrictions. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code



Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

### **Air Quality**

The Project is located within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The elevation of MCAB generally increases from west to east in the northern Sierra Nevada. El Dorado County has hilly and mountainous terrain that affects airflow patterns throughout the county. Because of their proximity to the Sacramento Valley, the MCAB and El Dorado County are prone to receiving pollutants transported from more populated and traffic-heavy areas. Project construction traffic would produce short-term local emissions. The long-term operation of the Project is likely to reduce overall emissions compared to the current configuration and operations to convey drinking water. The Draft EIR analysis will evaluate the Project impacts to the MCAB air quality plan, sensitive receptors, and other air quality factors. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- 1) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- 2) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?
- 3) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- 4) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

### **Biological Resources**

Sierran mixed conifer is the dominant vegetation community within the Project area. This community includes Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), and black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). Mixed montane chaparral occurs in areas primarily within the southern portion of the Project area on south-facing slopes along the edges of Sierran mixed conifer forest. Mixed montane chaparral is dominated by mountain whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*) and also includes coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), whiteleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*), and golden fleece (*Ericameria arborescens*). Interspersed among the Sierra mixed conifer and mixed montane chaparral habitats are openings of non-native annual grassland dominated by wild oat (*Avena fatua*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), a native perennial grass, and numerous native and nonnative forbs such as clover species (*Trifolium spp.*) and common mustard (*Brassica rapa*). There are also areas covered with dense stands of non-native invasive species, particularly



Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, and yellow star thistle. Non-native annual grasslands can be found throughout the extent of the Project area.

Two special status plant species, Sierra clarkia (*Clarkia virgata*) and yellow bur navarretia (*Navarretia prolifera*) have been observed within the Project area and the Pleasant Valley mariposa lily has a moderate potential to occur in the Project area.

A portion of the Project area is located within the designated critical habitat for the federally listed California Red-legged Frog (CRLF). Additionally, there is a known population of CRLF approximately 0.75 miles to the east of the North Fork Weber Creek crossing. The State listed and federal proposed listed Foothill Yellow-legged Frog has a moderate potential to occur near the Project as well.

The Project crosses four drainages that include the North Fork Weber Creek and South Fork Weber Creek in the South Fork American River watershed and the North Fork Clear Creek and Clear Creek in the North Fork Cosumnes River watershed. Two of these streams are intermittent (South Fork Weber Creek and Clear Creek), and two streams are perennial (North Fork Weber Creek and North Fork Clear Creek). Based on current available information, the District anticipates the Project would require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act), the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act), and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code).

The Draft EIR will evaluate impacts to special status wildlife and botanical species with potential to occur within the Project area, as well as potential impacts to habitat and aquatic resources. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?



- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

### **Cultural Resources**

The ground disturbing activities of the Project will primarily occur within the previously disturbed existing alignment of the SPI. Additional ground disturbing activities may occur at the proposed access roads and staging areas and these Project activities could impact cultural and historical resources. The Draft EIR will evaluate the Project area for impacts to cultural and historical resources. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?
- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?
- c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

### **Energy**

Pacific Gas and Electric provides power to both the Reservoir 1 and Reservoir A facilities. The upgraded design of the SPI will enable the District to supply drinking water more efficiently from both water treatment plants. The installation of the new pump station equipped with a backup power supply generator at the Reservoir A facility may require an updated power supply service. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?
- b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

### **Geology and Soils**

The Project transverses approximately 4.5 miles through several geologic formations and soil types that are not considered seismically active. There are no known active erosional or land slide features in the Project area. The SPI passes through a private property location that is the site of a shuttered sawmill that operated in the 1950s and 1960s. During the sawmill operations, sawdust and other wood by-products were deposited adjacent to the SPI alignment. The soils and slope stability of this area would be analyzed before construction activities. The existing SPI alignment would be altered if geotechnical testing indicate an excessive potential of landslide in this area. The Draft EIR will analyze the geologic hazards and soil profiles to determine the potential impacts. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:



- a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
  - i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.
  - ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?
  - iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
  - iv. Landslides?
- b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
- c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?
- d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?
- e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?
- f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

### **Greenhouse Gases**

Project construction activities and equipment would temporarily generate greenhouse gas emissions. The Draft EIR will analyze the potential impacts to greenhouse gas emissions and compliance with all applicable regulations, plans, or policies. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
- b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

### **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

Initial review of the Cortese List, including the Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database and the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database indicated that the Project area is not within an area designated to contain hazardous materials. Construction activities would include the use and transport of hazardous materials such as fuel and lubricants. The Draft EIR will analyze the Project location and activities for impacts with respect to hazards and hazardous materials. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:



- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?
- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?
- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

### **Hydrology and Water Quality**

The Project area traverses four drainages that include the North Fork Weber Creek and South Fork Weber Creek in the South Fork American River watershed and the North Fork Clear Creek and Clear Creek in the North Fork Cosumnes River watershed. The Project involves open-cut trenching across these drainages for installation of the new pipeline. Bypass systems would be utilized to dewater the construction area if water is present during the time of construction. Based on current available information, the District anticipates the Project would require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act), the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act), and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code). Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?
- b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:
  - i. result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;



- ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;
  - iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
  - iv. impede or redirect flood flows?
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?
- e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

### **Land Use and Planning**

The Project traverses through various private property, lands owned by the District, and lands administered by the Eldorado National Forest (U.S. Forest Service). The Project activities are not anticipated to impact the current land use of the El Dorado County General Plan, Placerville General Plan, or the Eldorado National Forest Land Management Plan. The Draft EIR analysis will determine if the Project would impact the existing land use, planning regulations, or policies. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Physically divide an established community?
- b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

### **Mineral Resources**

The Project would excavate the existing SPI and replace the pipeline primarily in the same location. Excavated native materials would be screened and utilized for bedding and backfill material when permissible. Trench bedding and backfill materials may be imported from local suppliers as required. The Draft EIR will analyze the potential impacts to known mineral resources in the Project area. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?
- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

### **Noise**

The Project would utilize various pieces of construction equipment that would generate localized noise and vibration. The Draft EIR will analyze the Project activities for compliance with all applicable noise ordinances and thresholds. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:



- a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
- b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

### **Population and Housing**

The Project would replace the existing pipeline and install a new pump station to accommodate bidirectional water supply between the Reservoir 1 and the Reservoir A water treatment facilities. The Project would not alter the water treatment capacity of Reservoir 1 or Reservoir A. Additionally, construction activities are not anticipated to encroach on housing localities adjacent to the SPI alignment. The Draft EIR will analyze the potential impacts to population growth and housing. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

### **Public Services**

The Project would restore the pipeline connecting the Reservoir 1 and Reservoir A facilities, allowing for increased drinking water reliability to District customers. The Draft EIR analysis will determine the impacts of the Project to public services. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following question:

- a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, parks, schools, or other public facilities.

### **Recreation**

The Project alignment passes through public lands administered by the Eldorado National Forest (U.S. Forest Service) that could be utilized for recreational activities. The District has an existing special use permit issued by the U.S. Forest Service for the maintenance and repair of the SPI and would consult with the U.S. Forest Service to determine if additional authorization is required



for construction activities associated with the Project. The Draft EIR analysis will evaluate the potential impacts of the Project on public lands and recreation facilities. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

### **Transportation**

The Project would replace the SPI pipeline within several roadways, temporarily impacting localized traffic flows and would require a traffic control system and encroachment permits from El Dorado County and Caltrans. Project activities would not alter roadway alignments and roadways will be repaired to preexisting conditions. Additionally, the Project would generate temporary construction traffic on local public roads. The Draft EIR analysis will determine the impacts of the Project on transportation and traffic. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?
- b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)?
- c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?
- d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

### **Tribal Cultural Resources**

The ground disturbing activities of the Project would occur primarily within the existing alignment of the SPI, access roads, and staging areas. The District will notify local and regional California Native American tribes and engage in consultation to help identify potential impacts to tribal cultural resources associated with the Project. The Draft EIR will evaluate the potential for the Project to affect tribal cultural resources. Mitigation measures would be coordinated with tribal representatives and imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
  - i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code



section 5020.1(k), or ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code §5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

### **Utilities and Service Systems**

The Project would restore the pipeline connecting the Reservoir 1 and Reservoir A facilities, allowing for improved drinking water supply reliability to District customers. Project activities would generate solid waste that would be disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations. The Draft EIR analysis will evaluate the potential impacts of the Project to utilities and water supply systems. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?
- c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?
- d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?
- e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

### **Wildfire**

The Project would remove vegetation along the SPI alignment corridor before the excavation of the SPI pipeline. After completion of the Project, the District would implement routine vegetation management activities along the SPI right-of-way to maintain access, perform maintenance and repairs, and provide facility protection. The District would implement a fire and emergency response plan during Project construction activities. The Draft EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of the Project to wildfire factors. Mitigation measures would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?



- b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?
- c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?
- d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

### **Mandatory Findings of Significance**

The Project would replace an existing water conveyance facility and upgrade the SPI functionality to allow for bidirectional flow of drinking water from Reservoir 1 and Reservoir A facilities. The Draft EIR will evaluate the Project activities to determine if the Project would substantially degrade or impact the environment, humans, fish, wildlife, or plant species. Mitigation measures and permitting conditions would be imposed if the Project is determined to have significant impacts considering the following questions:

- a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)
- c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

## **5 OTHER INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT EIR**

In addition to the potential significant environmental impacts of the Project and feasible mitigation measures to address those impacts, the Draft EIR will include other information required by CEQA and other applicable regulations.

### **Significant and Irreversible Environmental Changes**

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.(a), the Draft EIR will identify any significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the Project, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects.



### **Effects from Growth**

As required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.(d), the Draft EIR will evaluate any growth-inducing impacts of the Project.

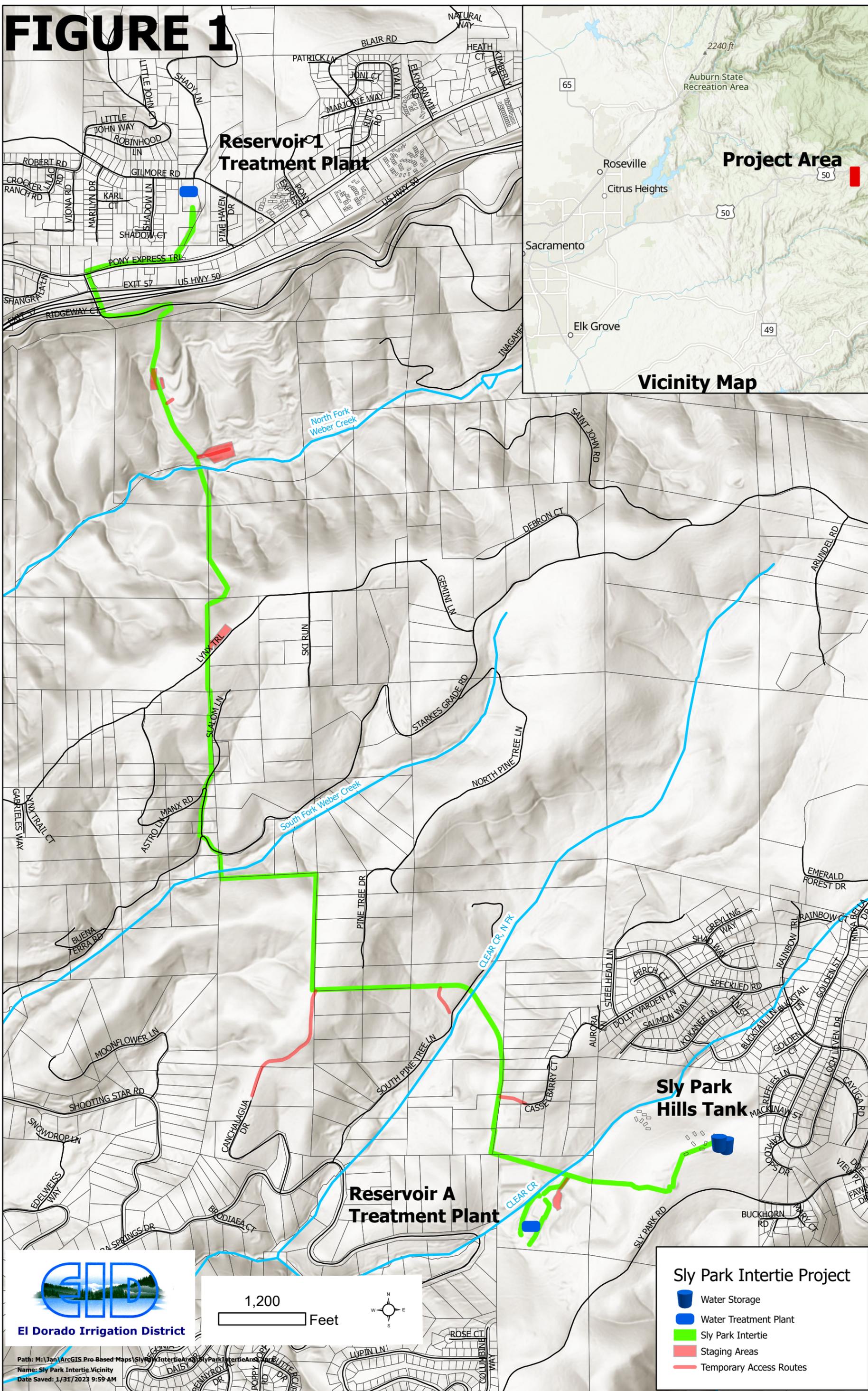
### **Alternatives Analysis**

As required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.(f), the Draft EIR will evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project that would feasibly attain most of the Project objectives and would avoid or substantially reduce a significant impact of the Project, including the no project alternative.

### **Effects Found Not to be Significant**

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15128, the Draft EIR will identify environmental impacts found not to be significant and not addressed in detail in the document. Reasons why each effect is not significant will be briefly discussed.

# FIGURE 1



**Sly Park Intertie Project**

- Water Storage
- Water Treatment Plant
- Sly Park Intertie
- Staging Areas
- Temporary Access Routes

# FIGURE 2

