

# NORTH BAY AQUEDUCT ALTERNATE INTAKE PROJECT

## the nba aip eir process

### ABOUT THE NBA AIP EIR PROCESS

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) Alternate Intake Project (AIP), (NBA AIP or proposed project).

The EIR will evaluate the potential impacts on a wide range of environmental issue areas, including, but not limited to, terrestrial and aquatic biological resources, water quality, cultural resources, public services and utilities, air quality, climate change, and noise. Throughout the EIR process, members of the public will have the opportunity to attend public meetings, submit comments and ask questions.

The EIR will:

- Fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act
- Describe the proposed project, evaluate its environmental impacts, and identify feasible mitigation measures
- Evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that reduce or eliminate potentially significant impacts of the proposed project
- Facilitate public comment on the scope and adequacy of the environment analysis
- Inform decision-makers when considering future regulatory actions or approvals

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the EIR was published by DWR on November 24, 2009. All comments received will be considered in preparing the Draft EIR (anticipated to be released for public review in late 2011). During the public review period, agencies and the public will have an opportunity to review the Draft EIR, attend a public meeting, and provide comments on the adequacy of the analysis. At the close of the public review period, DWR will prepare written responses to all comments received and will prepare a Final EIR (anticipated to be released in late 2012). The Draft and Final EIRs will be provided to the DWR Director

for consideration in certifying the EIR and approving the NBA AIP project.

### HOW THIS EIR PROCESS RELATES TO YOU

To support the preparation of a thorough and accurate

EIR, DWR will research existing information and conduct field surveys throughout the project study area.

The purpose of these surveys is to gather environmental data to characterize existing conditions and to

form the baseline for evaluating impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed project. Some properties located near proposed project facilities may be selected for further study in order to improve the accuracy of the evaluation. In these cases, DWR representatives may seek access through the use of a Temporary Entry Permit (TEP) which gives field crews temporary access to private property in order to collect site-specific data.

If a particular parcel is chosen for further study, DWR representatives are likely to conduct one or more of the following activities: ground and aerial surveys and geotechnical, biological, geological, archaeological, botanical and hazardous materials surveys. Every effort will be made to ensure that the process goes as smoothly as possible and that minimal interruptions or other inconveniences occur to you and your property. Permit notices are expected to be mailed to select landowners by the end of September 2010. Field work is expected to begin in late 2010.

The NBA AIP proposes an alternate intake for the NBA to draw water from the Sacramento River, and by a new pipeline segment, connect it to the existing NBA near North Bay Regional Water Treatment Plant in Fairfield. The proposed alternate intake would be operated in conjunction with the existing NBA intake at Barker Slough.

The purpose of the NBA AIP is to provide long-term water quality improvements and water supply reliability for deliveries to the NBA water contractors. The project is also intended to provide operational flexibility to reduce effects on listed species and critical habitat in Barker Slough and at the location of the proposed alternative intake.

For more information about the NBA AIP and the EIR process, visit:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/engineering/Projects/Current/NBA/>

**If you have additional questions or comments, please send an email to [NBAAIP@water.ca.gov](mailto:NBAAIP@water.ca.gov).**

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EIR PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

