

FROM: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

SUBJECT: Notice of Virtual Public Scoping Meetings and project open house for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), SCH # 2017082020

PROJECT: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

BACKGROUND:

Valley Water published a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project EIR in 2017 and solicited public comments at that time. Please visit www.valleywater.org/pachecoexpansion and click on the "Reports & Documents" tab to view this document.

Valley Water is acting as lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for preparation of the EIR. Responsible agencies under CEQA would also utilize the EIR in support of their discretionary actions, including funding by the California Water Commission and for water rights actions by the State Water Resources Control Board.

PURPOSE OF SCOPING MEETINGS:

The purpose of the virtual scoping meetings is to update the public and agencies on progress made on the project planning and environmental review. In addition, these virtual events will allow for solicitation of additional questions and written comments from the public and agencies on the scope and content of the EIR, consistent with Pub. Res. Code Section 21083.9(a)(2).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project includes expansion of Pacheco Reservoir through the construction and operation of a new dam, pump station, conveyance facilities, State Route 152 access and road improvements, utility improvements/relocations, and related miscellaneous infrastructure. The new dam and expanded reservoir would be constructed on the North Fork of Pacheco Creek, upstream from the existing North Fork Dam. The proposed total storage for the expanded reservoir is up to 140,000 acre-feet. Water would be collected in the new reservoir during the winter months from runoff of the local watershed area and augmented with existing Central Valley Water Project supplies from the Pacheco Conduit.

The Project would provide local, regional and statewide water supply reliability, water quality, and environmental benefits. These benefits include:

- Improved municipal and industrial water supply reliability, including during drought periods and emergencies such as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta outages and reduced San Luis Reservoir water quality ("low point") problems;
- Ecosystem improvements in Pacheco Creek for the federally threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead;
- Improved water quality for the Central Valley Project San Felipe Division; and
- Increased water supplies for the Refuge Water Supply Program to support wetland-dependent wildlife populations.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project area is primarily located within unincorporated Santa Clara County, approximately 17 miles northeast of Gilroy and 0.4 miles north of State Route 152. However, a new power transmission line/upgrade would extend from the new dam site into Merced County in the vicinity of the San Luis Reservoir. Pacheco Reservoir is situated on the North Fork of Pacheco Creek.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Valley Water will hold two Virtual Public Scoping Meetings and Project Open House to allow individuals and agencies to learn more about the project and to comment on the scope and content of the EIR. The meetings will occur at the following dates and times:



Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, from 1 to 3:00 p.m.

Please visit the URL below to join the webinar:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/91921107970>

Dial-in +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 919 2110 7970



Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Please visit the URL below to join the webinar:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98088128557>

Dial-in +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 980 8812 8557

The project open house portion of these virtual meetings will

include an opportunity to participate in a robust discussion, where staff will answer questions and provide more project details. A list of all questions and answers shared during the virtual meetings will be posted on the project webpage at www.valleywater.org/pachecoexpansion. Valley Water will stream the meetings on Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/SCVWD. Video recordings of the meetings will also be posted on the project web page.

The presentation on the project scope and content of the EIR is available to be viewed in advance of the scheduled virtual meetings, on the project web page at www.valleywater.org/pachecoexpansion.

HOW TO COMMENT:

Written comments regarding the scope and content of the EIR will be accepted through **March 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.** They can also be submitted electronically to PachecoExpansion@valleywater.org or mailed to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attn: Todd Sexauer
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

If you have any questions concerning these upcoming virtual public scoping meetings and project open house, please contact **Mark Gomez** at **408-630-2985** or email mgomez@valleywater.org.