NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED PARADISE IRRIGATION DISTRICT ZONE A PUMP STATION, TRANSMISSION MAIN, AND RESERVOIR B REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Paradise Irrigation District
6332 Clark Road, Paradise, CA 9596

Introduction

This Notice of Intent serves as public notice that Paradise Irrigation District (PID) has prepared an Initial Study and proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Paradise Irrigation District Zone A Pump Station, Transmission Main, and Reservoir B Replacement Project (proposed project). A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared because no substantial evidence exists that the proposed project may have a significant environmental effect that cannot be fully mitigated to a less-than-significant level. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration does not signify approval or disapproval of this project by PID's decision-making body. The PID will consider the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process to determine whether the proposed project would have a heretofore unidentified significant impact on the environment.

Project Location

The project is largely linear, extending from the community of Magalia, south to the town of Paradise, Butte County, California. Paradise is located approximately 12 road miles northeast of Highway 99 and the city of Chico in Butte County, California. The project is shown on the Paradise East, California 7.5 minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle, Township 22N, Range 3E, Sections 1 and 12, Township 23N, Range 3E, Sections 25 and 36, and Township 23N, Range 4E, Section 31 (Figure 1). The proposed project occurs on private properties and PID owned parcels, and within the Caltrans right of way (ROW). Figure 2 (maps 1–5) illustrates the proposed project layout.

The 15.4-acre project area is composed of a linear alignment along paved roads and areas containing existing water treatment, storage, and distribution infrastructure including a WTP and a covered reservoir (Reservoir B). The land in the project area is largely disturbed with small areas of semi-natural habitat located near the existing WTP and adjacent to existing road corridors.

Project Description

Paradise Irrigation District (PID) operates a water treatment plant (WTP) and the accompanying distribution system for Paradise, CA. The distribution system supplies potable water to 10,507 connections, serving a population of approximately 26,000. This includes 7 distribution zones (Zones A through G) and 5 storage reservoirs (Reservoirs A through E) within PID, as well as wheeling water[1] to Del Oro Water Company. The distribution system is supplied by one gravity transmission line via Reservoir B. Zone A and Reservoir A are supplied by Reservoir B via Pump Station #2. The remaining zones and reservoirs are gravity fed from Reservoir B. Challenges to the existing system include:

1. WTP finished water hydraulics—the existing hydraulics at the WTP do not allow full use of Reservoir B, thus reducing the available storage volume from 3 million gallons (MG) to 2 MG.

[1] So named because pipelines can be laid out to connect different utility providers (like the spokes of a wheel), particularly during drought emergencies.

2. The existing 42-inch transmission main alignment has no redundancy and is a vulnerability in the ability for PID to deliver water from the WTP to the distribution system.

3. Reservoir B operability and dependability are lacking efficiency due to the nature of the earthen reservoir design.

4. Reservoir A feed reliability—the system relies on a single pump station to feed Zone A via Zone B and Reservoir B.

5. Fire flow storage—Paradise is a wildland interface and therefore requires supplementary fire flow storage in addition to 4 hours of Peak Hourly Flow/Max Day Demand storage as required by the California Code of Regulations (Title 22) storage regulations.

The following features would be included in the project to address the challenges in the existing system:

1. Install new Zone A pumps at the WTP (Zone A Pump Station) adjacent to the treated water storage tank (TWST).

    a. The new pump station would supply Zone A and the WTP water pumps, removing the restriction on the minimum water surface elevation at Reservoir B.

2. Install a new 16-inch transmission main from the WTP directly to Zone A along New Skyway (Zone A Transmission Main).

    a. The Zone A Transmission Main (ZATM) would provide potable water supply redundancy to the existing 42-inch transmission main. The 16-inch ZATM would allow Zone A to be fed independently of Reservoir B.

3. Modify Pump Station #2 with a pressure regulating valve station to allow Zone A to feed Zone B.

    a. Connecting Reservoir A to the rest of the distribution system would have a beneficial impact on overall fire storage capacity, increasing all other zone fire storage capacities by 1 MG.

4. Replace the existing Reservoir B with two 2.3 MG (each, minimum) tank reservoirs.

    a. Fire storage and predicted growth storage capacity deficiencies would be solved by upsizing Reservoir B from 3 MG to at least 4.6 MG.

    b. The operability, dependability, and sanitary issues would be solved by replacing the earthen reservoir with two tank reservoirs.

Construction of the proposed project would begin upon receipt of all necessary preconstruction authorizations, including completion of CEQA documentation and receipt of any regulatory permits determined to be required. In addition, funding source requirements will need to be met before and during project construction, as applicable. Construction is anticipated to begin in January of 2019 with completion in October of 2020.

Review Period

As mandated by Public Resources Code § 21091, the minimum public review period for this Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is 30 days. The document has been sent to the State Clearinghouse. This document is open to public review and comment from Wednesday, August 22, 2018 through Thursday, September 20, 2018. **Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, Thursday, September 20, 2018.** Any comments on the document may be presented in writing to:

Paradise Irrigation District
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Paradise, CA 95969
Phone: (530) 876-2067

Document Availability

Copies of the Public Draft Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting technical studies are available for review at the following locations:

Paradise Irrigation District
6332 Clark Road
Paradise, CA 95969

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Financial Assistance
Regional Programs Unit
1001 I Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814