

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

EAST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT WATER MAIN SEISMIC RETROFIT (PHASE 2) SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA HMGP-4558-476-029

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the East Valley Water District (Subapplicant) in San Bernardino County, California, to mitigate impacts from seismic hazards by retrofitting existing potable water mains and irrigation pipelines (Proposed Action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives considered.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce seismic hazards. The Proposed Action consists of the following: 1) retrofitting approximately 6.5 miles of potable water and irrigation pipelines using ductile iron pipes with flexible joints; 2) implementing trenchless bore and jack technology beneath Baseline Street to avoid in-channel work; 3) replacing laterals and reconnecting them to the upgraded system, while abandoning or removing existing pipelines based on diameter and composition; and 4) applying best management practices, including proper asbestos handling and disposal, traffic control measures, and stormwater pollution prevention.

The project area is depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Numbers 06071C7944H, effective date August 28, 2008; 200806071C7963H, effective date August 28, 2008; 06071C8701J, effective date September 2, 2016; and 06071C8682J, effective date September 2, 2016. The FIRMs show that approximately 243.2 acres of the Proposed Action lie within Zone X, an area with minimal flood hazard/reduced risk due to levee. Additionally, approximately 6.4 acres of the Proposed Action lie outside the regulatory floodway within Zone AE, an area with a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established. Finally, approximately 6.4 acres of the Proposed Action overlap with Zone AE regulatory floodway, which is associated with Highland/Warm Creek. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map shows riverine habitat within the project area associated with Highland/Warm Creek.

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain and riverine habitat are available for public review. Parties interested in reviewing a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the Proposed Action were considered: the No Action Alternative and Alternative 1: Harlem Springs alternate location. Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur to address the seismic vulnerability of the Subapplicant's water pipelines. This Alternative is not recommended because if no action is taken, water quality and water service would remain vulnerable to seismic events. Under Alternative 1, the project activities would occur

at Harlem Springs, along Base Line Street, and between Sterling Avenue and Victoria Avenue. Alternative 1 is not recommended as the alternative project area did not have a history of breaks and leaks similar to the Proposed Action area.

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the Proposed Action must occur within the floodplain and riverine habitat. The Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the floodplain or riverine habitat and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of seismic vulnerability and water loss. The Subapplicant has stated that the Proposed Action conforms to local floodplain standards, and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the Proposed Action.

Additional information about the Proposed Action may be requested by writing to the FEMA Region 9 Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or FEMA-R9-EHP@fema.dhs.gov. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.