

# 1.0 Introduction

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## 1.1 Purpose of the Final EIR

This Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), together with the Draft EIR (DEIR) dated March 2005 (CH2M HILL 2005b), constitute the complete EIR for the East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD's) Bayside Groundwater Project (the Proposed Project). The purpose of this EIR is to analyze and disclose the effects of the Proposed Project on the physical environment, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In addition to complying with CEQA requirements for approval of the Proposed Project by the EBMUD Board, the EIR will be used to support issuance of permits by agencies with jurisdiction over certain aspects of the project.

Please refer to the DEIR (CH2M HILL 2005b) for a detailed discussion of the Proposed Project and the environmental review process. The DEIR is available online at [http://www.ebmud.com/water\\_&\\_environment/water\\_supply/current\\_projects/bayside\\_groundwater/default.htm](http://www.ebmud.com/water_&_environment/water_supply/current_projects/bayside_groundwater/default.htm).

EBMUD made the DEIR available for public review and comment for 60 days, from March 14, 2005 to May 13, 2005. The DEIR was distributed to responsible and trustee agencies and made available to members of the public at public libraries and on the internet. On March 14, 2005, EBMUD filed a Notice of Completion with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, indicating that the DEIR had been completed and was available for review.

The EBMUD Board of Directors (the Board) held an informational meeting in the project area on April 20, 2005 in San Leandro, California to receive comments on the DEIR. Written comment letters were accepted until the close of the review period on May 13, 2005. This Final EIR contains copies of the written and oral comments received on the DEIR, and EBMUD's responses to those comments pertaining to the contents of the DEIR.

The Board will exercise its independent judgment in reviewing this Final EIR for adequacy and consider it for certification pursuant to the requirements of Section 15090 of the CEQA Guidelines. If the EBMUD Board certifies the EIR, it will make findings under CEQA, and consider whether or not to approve the Proposed Project or an Alternative thereto. If the Board approves the project, EBMUD will file a Notice of Determination.

## 1.2 Report Organization of the Final EIR

### 1.2.1 Report Contents

This Final EIR is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0 Introduction
- Section 2.0 List of Commenters
- Section 3.0 Master Responses
- Section 4.0 Errata
- Section 5.0 Responses to Comments Received on DEIR
- Section 6.0 References

### 1.2.2 List of Commenters

Section 2.0 includes a complete list of state, regional and local agencies, organizations, and individual citizens that submitted comments on the DEIR.

### 1.2.3 Master Responses

About 325 individual comments, culled from 23 letters and the transcript of the public hearing, were received on the DEIR. Many of the commenters expressed similar concerns on the same issues. Thus, Master Responses were prepared in an effort to avoid redundancy in responses and to provide thorough and consistent responses to these common issues. The Master Responses are presented in Section 3.0.

The benefit of the Master Responses is that the clarifying information provided on a particular subject area can be found in one place and multiple cross-referencing between individual comments is avoided. A complete list of the Master Responses is found on the first page of Section 3.0.

### 1.2.4 Errata

Section 4.0 contains revisions to the DEIR. These are represented by redline/strikeout versions of the pages from the DEIR. Most of the errata represent minor modifications to text and figures made in response to comments received or as initiated by the preparers of the DEIR.

### 1.2.5 Comments and Individual Responses

Section 5.0, Responses to Comments Received on DEIR, contains a complete inventory of all comments received on the DEIR along with EBMUD's responses to those comments. The section is presented with each comment letter reproduced on the left-hand page and the corresponding response(s) on the facing right-hand page.

Each comment letter has been assigned a code based on the category to which a commenter belongs- agency, organization or citizen (see Section 2.0, List of Commenters, for further details regarding the commenter codes). Each specific comment is numbered sequentially within each letter; for example, the first letter received from a group or organization is designated letter G1, and the first three discrete comments within that letter are designated

comments G1-1, G1-2, and G1-3. The letter codes and comment numbers are indicated in the left side margin of each letter. Responses to each comment are labeled with the corresponding letter code and comment number on the facing right-hand page.

As described above, the Master Responses address many of the comments. Where appropriate, the response in Section 5.0 refers the reader to one or more topics in Section 3.0, Master Responses.

## **1.2.6 References**

Section 6.0 presents the list of documents referenced in the preparation of this document.