



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
ALAMEDA–NORTH BAY FARM ISLAND PIPELINE CROSSINGS PROJECT
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
August 20, 2015**

To Responsible Agencies and Interested Parties:

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing a project-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Alameda–North Bay Farm Island Pipeline Crossings Project. For this Notice of Preparation (NOP), EBMUD requests your input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information that should be considered or included in the EIR and that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the project. CEQA requires that your response be submitted to EBMUD at the earliest possible date, but not later than September 21, 2015. Responses to, or questions regarding, this NOP should be directed to:

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Project Purpose: The Alameda–North Bay Farm Island Pipeline Crossings Project is needed to ensure continued reliable water service to customers located in the City of Alameda (both Alameda Island and North Bay Farm Island). Water service to the City of Alameda is provided by four existing underwater pipeline crossings at three separate locations between the City of Oakland, Alameda Island, and North Bay Farm Island. Failure of one of three existing crossing locations could lead to a reduction in the level of service for existing customers and potentially reduce the available water supply to Alameda Island and North Bay Farm Island. Three new pipeline crossings are proposed to replace the existing pipeline crossings to ensure long-term reliability and redundancy of the water distribution system, meet existing and future water needs, and facilitate repair and replacement of aging infrastructure.

Project Location and Description: The project involves the construction and operation of three transmission pipelines (24-inch inner diameter) located within Alameda County in the Cities of Oakland and Alameda (see **Figure 1**). Construction of the pipelines within the streets would be by conventional open-trench construction methods; however, both horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and trenchless (bore and jack) methods would be used during construction of underwater crossings and individual road crossings when needed. In addition, the project would require temporary laydown of the three underwater crossing pipeline segments on local roads for pipeline fusion and testing before pulling them underwater (see **Figure 1**). Construction hours would typically occur between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; however, longer construction hours (up to 24 hours per day) may be required when the proposed pipelines are connected to existing

pipelines, to minimize customer water service disruption, and for portions of the HDD operations on both sides of the crossings. Each pipeline crossing is described below.

- **Crossing #1.** Crossing #1 is known as the Estuary Park-Marina Village Crossing and is approximately 2.2 miles in length. The new pipeline would connect to existing transmission pipelines in the City of Oakland, cross under the Oakland Inner Harbor, and continue in the City of Alameda to its connection point. Crossing #1 would also include abandonment and replacement of an existing pipeline (see **Figure 2**). One alternative route option for open trench construction and one alternative route option for the replacement of an existing pipeline, both in the City of Oakland, are being considered (see **Figure 2**). Construction activities would occur within existing city streets, one business park parking lot (the Telecare Corporation) and Estuary Park.
- **Crossing #2.** Crossing #2 is known as the Alameda–North Bay Farm Island Crossing and is approximately 1 mile in length. The new pipeline would connect to existing transmission pipelines in Alameda Island, cross under the San Leandro Bay Channel, and continue on North Bay Farm Island to its connection point (see **Figure 3**). Construction activities would occur within existing city streets and Towata Park.
- **Crossing #3.** Crossing #3 is known as the Derby Crossing and is approximately 1 mile in length. The new pipeline would connect to existing transmission pipelines in the City of Oakland, cross under the Tidal Canal, and continue in the City of Alameda to its connection point. Crossing #3 would also include replacing an existing pipeline (see **Figure 4**). One alternative route option for open-trench construction in the City of Alameda is being considered. Construction activities would occur within existing city streets.

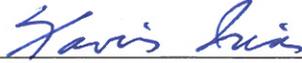
Construction of Crossing #1 is the highest priority, because it would replace the oldest and most vulnerable crossing, the existing Alice Webster Crossing. Crossing #1 is scheduled for construction over an approximate 13- to 21-month period in 2018/2019.

Crossings #2 and #3 would replace existing crossings that were constructed in the 1980s. Construction of Crossings #2 and #3 would be scheduled at a future date, after 2020 but before the existing pipelines reach the end of their useful lives. Construction of Crossing #2 and Crossing #3 would each occur over a separate approximate 9- to 17-month period.

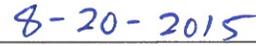
Probable Environmental Effects. Based on an Initial Study completed for the project, the environmental factors that could potentially be affected by this project (i.e., involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact") include aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy use, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and cumulative impacts.

CEQA Process. The Draft EIR is targeted for circulation in the spring of 2016, with action by EBMUD's Board of Directors anticipated in late 2016. Notice will be given of public meetings. At the end of the review and comment process, EBMUD's Board of Directors will determine

whether to certify the EIR and approve the Alameda–North Bay Farm Island Pipeline Crossings Project. Additional information about the Alameda–North Bay Farm Island Pipeline Crossings Project can be obtained from the EBMUD website (www.ebmud.com).



Xavier J. Irias
Director of Engineering and Construction
East Bay Municipal Utility District



Date

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Attachments

Figure 1 Project Location



Figure 2 Crossing #1 Alignment



Figure 3 Crossing #2 Alignment



Figure 4 Crossing #3 Alignment

