



May 7, 2010

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

### Recoat Mokelumne Aqueducts Phase 8 - Slough Crossings Project

**Project Title:** Recoat Mokelumne Aqueducts Phase 8 - Slough Crossings Project

**Lead Agency:** East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)

**Project Location:** The project is located at four sites: Indian Slough in Contra Costa County and Trapper Slough, Holt Bend, and Black Slough in San Joaquin County.

**Project Description:** EBMUD operates the Mokelumne Aqueducts, three large-diameter steel pipelines that transport water approximately 90 miles from the Sierra Foothills to treatment facilities and raw water reservoirs in the EBMUD service area. As the Aqueducts cross the Delta, they are elevated and subjected to the regional environment that has been characterized as moderately to extremely corrosive to ferrous metals. The Aqueducts are protected from corrosion by a coating system that requires periodic maintenance and occasional replacement. This project consists of recoating sections of the Aqueducts at the following sites: Indian Slough (span of about 350 linear feet), Trapper Slough (about 2,000 linear feet), Holt Bend (about 2,500 linear feet) and Black Slough (about 30 linear feet). The cumulative length of the pipelines to be recoated is approximately 16,400 linear feet (3.1 miles). Recoating activities include abrasive blasting to remove the existing coating system and application of the new coating system. A sealed containment structure equipped with a negative-air-pressurized-ventilation system and dust filters will be used to ensure that coating-related fugitive dust are not released into the environment.

**Project Objective:** The project objective is to prevent corrosion of the Mokelumne Aqueducts by replacing the protective coating system. The surrounding environment has degraded the existing coating system such that replacement is necessary to safeguard the structural integrity of these vital water transmission pipelines.

**Schedule:** Key milestones for project implementation are summarized as follows.

Complete environmental review	July 2010
Begin construction	April 2011
Complete construction	November 2013

**Environmental Determination:** Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study has been prepared for the project. Based on the results of that study, it has been determined that the project has the potential to generate biotic impacts related to wetlands, habitat and listed species, but implementation of mitigation measures will reduce potential impacts to a level of insignificance. Based on this assessment, the project will not generate a significant adverse impact on the environment and a proposed "Mitigated Negative Declaration" has been prepared.

**Environmental Mitigation:** The recoating activities of the Mokelumne Aqueducts have the potential for air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emission, hydrology/water quality, and noise impacts at the project sites. Incorporated as part of the project design, the containment system will be the primary method for controlling emissions and reducing potential impacts to less than significant levels. The secondary method consists of implementing standard design and construction practices through contract specifications to ensure that short-term construction-related impacts will be less than significant. The tertiary method includes avoidance and mitigation measures such as the reduction of the painting season to avoid special-status species, pre-construction surveys to identify the presence of


species, and the development of buffer zones and barriers to separate construction activities from biological resources. The combination of project design features, standard practices, and mitigation measures will ensure that potential impacts from this project will be less than significant.

**Public Comment/Review:** The Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study are available for review at:

- East Bay Municipal Utility District, 375 11th Street, Oakland CA 94607
- EBMUD website (<http://ebmud.com/>)
- EBMUD Pardee Center, 3535 Sandretto Road, Valley Springs, CA 95252
- San Joaquin County Library, Cesar Chavez Center, 605 North El Dorado Street, Stockton, CA 95202
- Contra Costa County Library, Brentwood Branch, 104 Oak Street, Brentwood, CA 94513

In accordance with Section 15073 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for public review for 30 days from May 7, 2010 through June 7, 2010. Written comments on this proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received no later than close of business, 4:30 p.m. on June 7, 2010. Please address comments to Bill E. Maggiore, Senior Engineer, East Bay Municipal Utility District, 375 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, California 94607 or email to [recoatmnd@ebmud.com](mailto:recoatmnd@ebmud.com).

Dated: 4-23-10

  
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Xavier J. Irias  
Director of Engineering and Construction