

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A RECIRCULATED DRAFT
SUBSEQUENT EIR FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
Chino Basin Watermaster Optimum Basin Management Program Update**

To: California Office of Planning and Research
Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Federal Agencies
Other Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Recirculated Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for Public Review

Project: Chino Basin Optimum Basin Management Program Update (OBMPU) (State Clearinghouse #2020020183)

Lead Agency: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Project Proponent: Chino Basin Watermaster

Date: September 27, 2023

Notice is Hereby Given that the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) as the Lead Agency has prepared a Recirculated Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (RDSEIR), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines.

IEUA prepared the 2020 draft Subsequent EIR (SEIR) to the previously certified programmatic EIR for the 2000 OBMP as the CEQA document for the Chino Basin Watermaster Optimum Basin Management Program Update (2020 OBMPU) and circulated it for public review from March 27, 2020 to May 11, 2020. The 2020 draft SEIR was finalized, and responses to comments were sent to agencies and entities that commented on it and the Project. However, the Project was removed from the IEUA Board of Directors' July 15, 2020 Agenda, and the Final SEIR ultimately was not certified in part, as a result of comments received both during the initial public review period (March 27, 2020 to May 11, 2020) and the day of the IEUA Board of Directors monthly Board Meeting.

Pursuant to Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Lead Agency is required to recirculate an EIR when significant new information is added to the EIR after public notice is given of the availability of a draft EIR for public review but before the lead agency certifies it. The RDSEIR modified the Project Description to include new input from Stakeholders received in late 2022 as a result of Watermaster workshops intended to obtain Stakeholder feedback on the OBMPU. This led to a revision of the Project Description to include a more specific number of facilities proposed under the OBMPU, which led to the determination that a revised Draft SEIR should be prepared. CEQA requires recirculation of an EIR when the lead agency adds "significant new information" to an EIR regarding changes to the project description or the environmental setting after public notice is given of the availability of a draft EIR for public review (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15087) but before EIR certification. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5[a]). Thus, IEUA has prepared the RDSEIR to analyze environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Project based on changes made to the Project after the original Draft SEIR's circulation in 2020.

Project Location: The proposed OBMPU would occur within the Chino Basin. The Chino Basin consists of about 235-square miles of the upper Santa Ana River watershed. The Chino Basin is bounded:

- on the north by the San Gabriel Mountains and the Cucamonga Basin;
- on the east by the Rialto-Colton Basin, Jurupa Hills, and the Pedley Hills;
- on the south by the La Sierra Hills and the Temescal Basin; and
- on the west by the Chino Hills, Puente Hills, and the Spadra, Pomona, and Claremont Basins.

The Chino Basin is mapped within the USGS – Corona North, Cucamonga Peak, Devore, Fontana, Guasti, Mount Baldy, Ontario, Prado Dam, Riverside West and San Dimas Quadrangles, 7.5 Minute Series topographic maps. The center of the Chino Basin is located near the intersection of Haven Avenue and Mission Boulevard at Longitude 34.038040N, and Latitude 117.575954W.

Project Description: The proposed OBMPU continues the Optimum Basin Management Program's (OBMP) nine Program Elements, and describes facility improvements needed to meet the OBMPU's long-term planning objectives over a 20-year planning horizon. The nine PEs defined in the 2000 OBMP included:

- PE 1 – Develop and Implement Comprehensive Monitoring Program.
- PE 2 – Develop and Implement Comprehensive Recharge Program.
- PE 3 – Develop and Implement a Water Supply Plan for Impaired Areas.
- PE 4 – Develop and Implement Comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan for Management Zone 1.
- PE 5 – Develop and Implement Regional Supplemental Water Program.
- PE 6 – Develop and Implement Cooperative Programs with the Regional Board and Other Agencies to Improve Basin Management.
- PE 7 – Develop and Implement Salt Management Plan.
- PE 8 – Develop and Implement Groundwater Storage Management Program.
- PE 9 – Develop and Implement Storage and Recovery Programs.

Project Description Changes from the Previous NOP: The OBMPU Project Description was revised to include any new projects or to omit any irrelevant or completed projects by Stakeholders of the Chino Basin. Projects proposed by Stakeholders were added and categorized by the Program Element within which a proposed project fit. The following is a general description of the changes to the Project Description that have been made:

- The Project Description has been modified to consider the addition of 28 new wells, for a total of 206 new wells of various types considered by the overall Program.
- The Project Description has been modified to consider the addition of 70,600 LF of pipeline, for a total of 620,600 LF of new pipeline of various types considered by the overall Program.
- The number of booster pump stations has been quantified at up to 18 booster pump stations with capacities of up to 10,000 gpm considered by the overall Program.
- The number of reservoirs has been quantified at 14 water storage reservoirs with an average storage capacity of 5 MG considered by the overall Program.
- The maximum storage space (safe storage capacity) of the Chino Basin has been modified from between 700,000 af and 1,000,000 af to between 700,000 af and 900,000 af going forward.
- The new advanced water treatment plant has been modified to a more specific 9,000 afy advanced water purification facility, inclusive of the anticipated appurtenances required to develop such a facility.
- The new groundwater treatment facilities at or near well sites and at regionally located sites has been quantified at 20 new groundwater treatment facilities at or near well sites, and 4 new groundwater treatment facilities at regionally located sites.

Scope of the Recirculated Subsequent Environmental Impact Report: As the Project Description may lead to clarifications and revisions to the environmental analysis included in the previously circulated EIR, the IEUA has elected to recirculate each of the issues analyzed in the original Draft SEIR as permitted by CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5. These include the following CEQA Guidelines Appendix G topics: air quality, biology, cultural resources, energy, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. Additionally, in conjunction with the draft SEIR, the Initial Study that was prepared and circulated along with the NOP for the 2020 OBMPU on February 10, 2020 has been modified to reflect any pertinent changes resulting from the revisions to the Project Description attached as part of the RDSEIR. The RDSEIR also reviews alternatives, cumulative impacts, and topical issues. The environmental baseline for the CEQA analysis is February 10, 2020. Anticipated significant environmental

effects under this RDSEIR include significant impacts to Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems.

Review Period and Comments: Only new comments submitted on the recirculated portions of the RDSEIR will be considered by IEUA. In accordance with CEQA, comments on the OBMPU RDSEIR must be received by IEUA no later than 45 days after publication of this notice. The review period for the OBMPU RDSEIR is from September 27, 2023 to November 13, 2023. We request that comments on the OBMPU RDSEIR be received no later than November 13, 2023. Electronic copies of the entire OBMPU RDSEIR can be accessed on the IEUA's website at: <https://www.ieua.org/obmpu-ceqa/>. All documents incorporated by reference in the EIR are available at IEUA's Headquarters or online at: <https://www.ieua.org/read-our-reports/other-reports/>.

Please include a return address and contact name with your comments and send them via mail or email to the address shown below:

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