



City of Riverside  
Public Utilities Department  
3750 University Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Riverside, California 92501  
[www.riversideca.gov/utilities](http://www.riversideca.gov/utilities)

June 30, 2015

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
State Clearing House No. 2009101105**

**Project:** Riverside North Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project  
Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Riverside (City), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Notice of Availability (NOA) for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Riverside North Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. The EIR has been prepared pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. Copies of available project materials may be reviewed and obtained from the City's Office at the address or website listed above.

**Project Location:** The proposed Riverside North Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project ("project") is located in the southern portion of the City of Colton and north of the City of Grand Terrace in southwestern San Bernardino County. The project site is located south of Interstate 10 and East M Street, west of Interstate 215 and the Santa Ana River, and east of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The project abuts and includes portions of the Santa Ana River as it trends south and bends westward through this part of the watershed. Roadways providing vehicular access to the project site include East Congress Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue.



**Project Description:** The proposed project is separated into five components: in-stream recharge (inflatable dam, diversion structure, and conveyance pipeline), off-stream recharge (3 to 8 recharge basins), diversion for the Riverside Canal (conveyance facilities), State Water Project pipeline (valves and connection pipeline to Riverside Canal Pipeline), and utility crossing. The in-stream recharge component will require the modification of the streambed directly upstream of the proposed inflatable dam. The purpose of the proposed project is to recharge the groundwater aquifers in the Riverside and Colton basins, improve groundwater quality of the Riverside and Colton basins, create drought storage, reduce dependence on imported water, maximize local groundwater production, maximize capture and use of local



surface water, and provide seasonal storage. For a further description of the project refer to Section 2.0, *Project Description*, of the Draft EIR.

The project requires certification of the EIR as well as various permits or approvals from the State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation), Project Partner Agreements, and Encroachment Permits from the San Bernardino Flood Control District and the City of Colton.

**Environmental Issues:** The Notice of Preparation released on October 27, 2009 determined that several issue areas may have significant impacts on the environment, which are addressed in the Draft EIR. The issues addressed include: aesthetics/light/glare, air quality/odor/climate change, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology/water quality, land use/relevant planning, noise, transportation/circulation, and water supply. The Draft EIR also evaluates cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and potential alternatives to the Project. According to the California Environmental Protection Agency's Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) list, the Project site does not contain any site enumerated under government Code Section 65962.5.

**Significant Environmental Effects:** Two air quality impacts were found to be environmentally significant. Regional construction-related emissions would exceed the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) daily emissions thresholds for NOX and PM10 after the implementation of all mitigation measures. Also, cumulative short-term, construction-related emissions would create a significant impact due to exceedances of SCAQMD thresholds for NOX and PM10 after the implementation of all proposed mitigation measures.

**Public Review Period:** The Draft EIR will be available for review during the 45-day public review period, **from June 30, 2015 to August 13, 2015.**

**Written Comments on the Draft EIR Should be addressed to:**

City of Riverside  
Public Utilities Department  
3750 University Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Riverside, California 92501  
Attn: David Garcia, Water Resources

**All comments must be received in writing at the address above no later than 5:00 PM on August 13, 2015.** Upon completion of the public review period, written responses to all significant environmental issues raised will be prepared and made available for review at least 10 days before the certification of the Final EIR. Written comments will be included as part of the public record. A hearing will be held for the certification of the EIR by the Riverside Board of Public Utilities after the completion of the Final EIR.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** The EIR is available for purchase (CD's are free) at the City Public Utilities Department, located at the address above, and may also be viewed on the City's website at <http://www.riversideca.gov/>, as well as at the City's Main Library and the City of Colton's Main Library as indicated below.



City of Riverside  
Main Branch Library  
3581 Mission Inn Avenue, 92501

City of Colton  
Main Branch Library  
656 North 9th Street  
Colton, CA 92324

Any questions or concerns regarding the Project, EIR, or public review process may be directed to David Garcia at (951) 826-5612.