

Topic: Pipeline Maintenance Program Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

What: Notice of Availability of Draft EIR

When: September 12, through October 28, 2024

Where: Hardcopy Version of Draft EIR: Valley Water Headquarters lobby, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118

Electronic Version of Draft EIR:
valleywater.org/public-review-documents

The Draft EIR is also available via a USB stick to use in the public computers at the following libraries or via hard copy:

- San Jose Public Library - Evergreen Branch Library, 2635 Aborn Road, San José, CA 95121
- San Jose Public Library and SJSU library - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 150 E San Fernando St, San Jose, CA 95112
- Santa Clara County Library in Los Altos, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022
- Santa Clara County Library in Los Gatos, 100 Villa Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95030
- Santa Clara County Library in Cupertino, 10800 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014
- Santa Clara County Library in Gilroy at 350 W. Sixth Street, Gilroy, CA 95020
- Santa Clara County Library in Milpitas, 60 North Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035
- Santa Clara County Library in Morgan Hill, 660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Santa Clara County Library in Saratoga, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070
- San Benito County Library in Hollister, 470 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023
- Merced County Library in Los Banos, 1312 S 7th St, Los Banos, CA 93635

Why: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), as the lead agency for the Pipeline Maintenance Program (Project), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate environmental impacts of the Project.

The program area is located within unincorporated Santa Clara, San Benito, and Merced counties and includes facilities in the following local jurisdictions: Cupertino, Campbell, Morgan Hill, Los Gatos, San Jose, Los Altos, Sunnyvale, Saratoga, Milpitas, Gilroy, and Santa Clara.

The program area is defined as all of the raw, treated, and recycled water pipelines and associated infrastructure in Valley Water's system that are covered under the program, as well as an adjacent buffer of 100 feet.

Under the existing Pipeline Maintenance Program (PMP), Valley Water routinely inspects and maintains, repairs, and/or replaces pipelines and related appurtenances on the raw, treated and recycled water systems under their jurisdiction. The existing PMP has been successfully implemented since 2007; however, maintenance processes and tracking system technology in the pipeline related industry have been updated. To modernize the existing PMP and encompass and standardize all pipeline-related activities under a single program, Valley Water is developing an updated PMP and an associated Program Manual.

The PMP is divided into the two major types of

activities, Performance of Inspections and Maintenance of Facilities, which are described in further detail below.

- Performance of Inspections:** Pipeline and facility inspections can be either external or internal (on the surface or outside of a pipeline or facility, or inside a pipeline or other facility). Inspections are needed to ensure the operability of pipelines or their associated facilities and, in many cases, to determine what type of maintenance may be needed based on conditions observed during the inspection.
- Maintenance of Facilities:** Maintenance, which includes the repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or installation of the pipeline systems and facilities, can be preventative or corrective.

The updated PMP would be expanded to include capital pipeline projects and long-range planning efforts by Valley Water; establish new workflow processes and procedures; reflect updates to Valley Water's maintenance techniques, activities, and best management practices (BMPs); and identify updated Program documentation requirements.

The proposed project would meet the following specific objectives:

- Define standard practices and procedures for maintenance activities associated with Valley Water's conveyance systems
- Enhance operational flexibility and adaptive management opportunities for evaluating and improving the maintenance activities defined in the PMP through learned experiences and successive planning over time.
- Streamline the environmental documentation and local, State, and federal permit processing where required to facilitate efficient and timely maintenance and repair of the pipeline system.

The Draft EIR identified significant environmental impacts for the following resource topics: aesthetics, biological resources (wildlife and terrestrial resources), cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, geology, and noise (and vibration). Many of these impacts were determined to be less than significant after implementing proposed mitigation measures. However, significant impacts would remain significant and unavoidable for the following resource topic: noise (and vibration).

Public Review: Valley Water has released the Draft EIR on the Project for public review beginning on Thursday **September 12, 2024**, and ending on Monday **October 28, 2024**. The Draft EIR may be reviewed at valleywater.org/public-review-documents.

The Draft EIR is also available for in-person review during normal business hours at:

- Valley Water, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118

Contact: Written comments on the Draft EIR should be submitted electronically or by mail by **5 p.m.** on Monday, **October 28, 2024**. Written comments can be emailed to PMPcomments@valleywater.org. Please include the name and mailing address of the commenter in the body of the email and add "PMP Draft EIR Comments" in the subject line. Comments by mail should be sent to:

Michael F. Coleman, AICP, Environmental Planner
 Santa Clara Valley Water District
 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

For additional information, please contact Michael Coleman at mcoleman@valleywater.org or by phone at (408) 630-3096.