

**IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 800**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTING AN INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (SCH NO. 2024101200) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE STRAWBERRY CREEK DIVERSION STRUCTURE REHABILITATION AND PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Idyllwild Water District (“District”) proposes to reconstruct/rehabilitate improvements to the existing Strawberry Creek Diversion Structure and replace a segment of associated pipeline located generally west of Tahquitz Road and within the Fern Valley Road right-of-way in the Fern Valley neighborhood of the community of Idyllwild, Riverside County, California, and

WHEREAS, under Section 21067 of the Public Resources Code, Section 15367 of the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.), and the District CEQA Guidelines, the District is the lead agency for the Project; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, the District prepared an Initial Study to determine if the Project may have a significant effect on the environment and to evaluate whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was required; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of the CEQA, the State Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines), and the District CEQA Implementation Requirements, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), SCH No. 2024101200 was prepared for the project with Mitigation measures that avoid or mitigate the potentially significant impacts to a point where no significant impacts will occur and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) was prepared for the Project attached as “EXHIBIT A” to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines section 15072, a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) was prepared and filed with the County Clerk of the County of Riverside on October 28, 2024, and the District provided and publicly posted the NOI in the manner required by CEQA on October 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the NOI commenced a 20-day public review and comment period on the Initial Study, as required by CEQA; and

WHEREAS, during the public comment period, the Initial Study and technical appendices were available for review and inspection at the Idyllwild Water District Offices, 25945 Highway 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549-0397 and online; and

WHEREAS, during the public comment period, the District consulted with and requested comments from all responsible and trustee agencies, other regulatory agencies, and others pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15073; and

WHEREAS, all adverse impacts were fully analyzed in the Initial Study; and

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WHEREAS, as contained herein, the District has endeavored in good faith to set forth the basis for its decision on the Project; and

WHEREAS, all the requirements of the CEQA have been satisfied by the District in connection with the preparation of the Initial Study, which is fully detailed so that all of the potentially significant environmental effects of the Project have been fully evaluated; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study prepared in connection with the Project fully analyzes both the feasible mitigation measures necessary to avoid or substantially lessen the Project's potential environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, all of the findings and conclusions made by the District pursuant to this Resolution are based upon the oral and written evidence presented to it as a whole and the entirety of the administrative record for the Project, which are incorporated herein by reference, not based solely on the information provided in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2024, the Board of Directors (Board) conducted a duly noticed public meeting on this Resolution, at which time all persons wishing to testify were heard and the Project was fully considered; and

WHEREAS, prior to taking action, the District has heard, been presented with, reviewed and considered all of the information and data in the administrative record, including the Initial Study, and all oral and written evidence presented to it during all meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study reflects the independent judgment of the District and is fully adequate for purposes of making decisions on the merits of the Project and

WHEREAS, no comments submitted during the public review period, or made during the public hearing conducted by the Board of Directors, and no additional information submitted to the District require substantial revisions to the MND necessitating recirculation or additional environmental review of the Project under State CEQA Guidelines section 15073.5; and

WHEREAS, all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the District, as follows:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The Board hereby finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein as substantive findings of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. Project Description. The Strawberry Creek diversion structure and pipeline have been in place for several decades and were constructed to intercept portions of creek flows and deliver them to the Idyllwild Water District system to recharge the local groundwater basins from which IWD provides domestic water service to local consumers. The existing diversion structure will be reconstructed/rehabilitated in its current location and a new underground pipeline will replace an existing above ground line

SECTION 3. Findings. The Board makes the following findings:

- a. The proposed Project is consistent and in conformity with the District's plans and policies specifically relating to the development of water supply facilities.

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- b. The subject property is and has been demonstrated to be suitable for the planned uses, in terms of access, size of parcel, relationship to similar or complementary uses, and other relevant considerations, including the surrounding land uses and public streets, and applicable policies of the District.
- c. The proposed Project is necessary and proper and is not likely to be detrimental to adjacent property or residents.

SECTION 4. Adoption of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Board hereby Adopts the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, subject to the mitigation measures set forth in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Project staff report and the attached "EXHIBIT A".

SECTION 5. Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.6, the Board hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to this Resolution as "EXHIBIT A" Implementation of the Mitigation Measures contained in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is hereby made a condition of approval of the Project. In the event of any inconsistencies between the Mitigation Measures set forth herein and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program shall control. In the event of any inconsistencies between the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and State, federal, and local laws, the State, federal, and local laws shall control.

SECTION 6. Custodian of Records. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings on which these findings are based are located at the District's office at 25945 Highway 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549-0397. Bill Rojas, the District General Manager, is the custodian of the record of proceedings.

SECTION 6. Execution of Resolution. The President of the Board signs this Resolution, and the Secretary to the Board shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

SECTION 7. Notice of Determination. District staff shall cause a Notice of Determination to be filed and posted with the County of Riverside Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days of the Board's final Project approval.

ADOPTED ON November 20, 2024.



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DR. CHARLES SCHELLY  
PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



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BILL ROJÁS  
SECRETARY

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I, Bill Rojas, Secretary of the Board of the Idyllwild Water District, hereby certify that Resolution No.800 is a full, true, and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the District Board of Directors on November 20, 2024, by the following vote:

**AYES: DIRECOTR OLSON, DIRECTOR DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT SZADABI AND PRESIDENT SCHELLY**

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Idyllwild Water District, Idyllwild, California, on November 20, 2024.

  
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BILL ROJAS  
SECRETARY

EXHIBIT A

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY

Strawberry Creek Diversion Structure Rehabilitation  
and  
Pipeline Replacement Project

CEQA  
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

**Biological Resources**

**BIO-1** Migratory Bird Treaty Act

If ground disturbance or tree or plant removal is proposed between February 1st and August 31st, a qualified avian biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within three (3) days of initiation of grading onsite, focusing on MBTA covered species. Surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified avian biologists will make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If active nests are reported, then species-specific measures shall be prepared. At a minimum, grading in the vicinity of a nest shall be postponed until the young birds have fledged. For construction that occurs between September 1st and January 31st, no pre-construction nesting bird survey is required. In the event active nests are found, exclusionary fencing shall be placed around the nests until such time as nestlings have fledged. Avoidance buffers shall be 100 to 300 feet from the nests of unlisted songbirds, and 500 feet from the nests of birds-of-prey and listed species. If nests are detected, a smaller or larger buffer may be determined by the qualified avian biologist.

**Monitoring and Reporting:**

**BIO-A** If a nesting bird survey is required, the Project biologist shall provide the District with a letter report of findings regarding the occurrence of nesting birds and any prescribed exclusionary fencing and monitoring. The report shall be attached to the grading permit for the Project.

**Responsible Parties:** Project Biologist, District Project Manager

**Schedule:** If required, prior to issuance of any permits that result in ground disturbance

**Cultural & Tribal Resources**

**CUL-1** If buried cultural materials are discovered during grubbing, grading, trenching, excavation, or any other earth-moving activities on the Project site, all work in the area must be halted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

### **Monitoring and Reporting:**

**CUL-A** A report of findings shall be filed with the City, including an itemized inventory of the identified cultural materials, and upon completion of the field and laboratory work, an analysis of any recovered artifacts.

**Responsible Parties:** Project applicant, Project archaeologist, Public Works Department, Development Services Department, City Engineer.

**Schedule:** Within 30 days of the completion of ground disturbing activities on the Project site.

### **Hydrology and Water Quality Resources**

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The planned reconstruction of the subject diversion structure and installation of a new 700-foot pipeline segment has taken into consideration the relationship to and potential impacts on the existing and long-term water quality in the creek and surrounding lands. Overall, the Project will have a significant beneficial impact on the provision of a safe, clean and dependable domestic water supply to residents in the community, providing substantial improvements to essential facilities. The following measures are set forth to ensure that Project impacts are below levels of significance.

#### **HYD-1 Project Plan Review**

Prior to finalizing the Project design and engineering plans, said plans shall be reviewed and approved by the District Engineer to ensure that these improvements do not interfere with or adversely affect creek capacity or the ability of the District to manage and maintain these facilities.

#### **HYD-2 NPDES Requirements**

The Project shall comply with the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

#### **HYD-3 General BMPs**

The implementation of BMPs during construction activities shall ensure that erosion and siltation from excavation, earthmoving and other construction activities is limited. Exposed soil from excavated areas, stockpiles, and other areas where ground cover is removed shall be stabilized by wetting or other approved means to avoid or minimize the inadvertent transport by wind or water. Temporary construction BMPs considered and incorporated into the project, as appropriate, would include:

- Soil stabilization (erosion control) techniques such as on-going site watering, soil binders, etc.;
- Sediment control methods such as detention basins, silt fences, and dust control;
- Temporary de-silting basins may be constructed incrementally along the pipeline alignment, as needed, to store construction runoff, and will be backfilled as pipeline installation progresses;
- Contractor training programs;

- Material transfer practices;
- Waste management practices such as providing designated storage areas and containers for specific waste for regular collection;
- Concrete washout slurry shall be discharged and disposed of in an approved manner;
- Work area cleaning/tracking control practices;
- Vehicle and equipment cleaning and maintenance practices; and
- Fueling practices.

**HYD-4** Petroleum BMPs

To prevent petroleum products from contaminating soils and water bodies in the creek, the following BMPs shall be implemented:

- a) Motorized construction equipment shall not be placed within or cross the creek or creek bed, with all in-creek work to be accomplished by hand and extension-supported equipment, including (if needed) pneumatic hammer hose or concrete pump hose.
- b) Construction equipment and vehicles shall be properly maintained to prevent leakage of petroleum products.
- c) Vehicle maintenance fluids and petroleum products shall be stored, and/or changed in staging areas established at least 100 feet from delineated streams and other drainages. These products must be discarded at disposal sites in accordance with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.
- d) Drip pans and tarps or other containment systems shall be used when changing oil or other vehicle/equipment fluids.
- e) Areas where discharge material, overburden, fuel, and equipment are stored shall be designed and established at least 100 vegetated (permeable) feet from the edge of delineated streams.
- f) Any contaminated soils or materials shall be disposed of off-site in proper receptacles at an approved disposal facility.
- g) All erosion control measures shall be inspected and repaired after each rainfall event that results in overland runoff. The Project contractor shall be prepared year-round to deploy and maintain erosion control BMPs associated with the Project.

**Monitoring and Reporting:**

**HYD-A** Project Plans shall be reviewed and approved by the District Engineer to ensure that these improvements do not interfere with or adversely affect creek capacity or the ability of District to manage and maintain these facilities.

**Responsible Parties:** Project Design Engineer, District Engineer

**Schedule:** Prior to finalizing the hydraulic design and engineering plans.

**HYD-B** The Project shall comply with the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

**Responsible Parties:** District Engineer, Contractor

**Schedule:** Prior to and during construction activities.

**HYD-C** Implement BMPs during construction activities by approved means to avoid or minimize the inadvertent transport by wind or water.

**Responsible Parties:** District Engineer, Contractor

**Schedule:** Prior to and during construction activities.

**HYD-D** To prevent petroleum products from contaminating soils and water bodies in the creek, the HYD-5 BMPs shall be implemented.

**Responsible Parties:** District Engineer, Contractor

**Schedule:** Prior to and during construction activities.

## Wildfire

### **Mitigation Measures:**

- WF-1** The Project contractor shall create a daily pre-task wildfire assessment tool including the following:
- Assessment and delineation of the Project work area,
  - Identification of escape routes and muster points,
  - Check and communicate short-term and long-term weather predictions for humidity levels, temperature, wind speed and direction
  - Identify vegetation types and their current condition (i.e. dry) and terrain
  - Identify proximity to closest staffed fire station and phone number for calls for assistance if needed.
- WF-2** Clear brush and other combustible materials from immediate work area and pre-wet areas where there are known potential ignition sources.
- WF-3** Ensure quick access to appropriate fire suppression hand tools and fire suppression equipment, including fire extinguishers, water trucks, and water tank trailers.
- WF-4** Perform equipment checks to reduce potential for a malfunction that could create an ignition source. Lock out faulty equipment for repair prior to use onsite.
- WF-5** Reduce run time of common ignition sources such as trucks, heavy equipment, generators and welders, using them only as much as needed to complete the job.
- WF-6** Keep construction equipment and materials on vegetated, in fire prone areas of site as little as possible. This will reduce loss if the construction storage area is affected by nearby fire. This includes removing equipment during weekends or off work hours.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

**WF-A** Prior to issuance of authorization to proceed, the Project contractor shall provide the District with a fire prevention and suppression plan that implements the elements set forth in Mitigation Measures FW-1 through 6, and any other appropriate plans to prevent and suppress the outbreak of fire at the Project site.

**Responsible Part:** Project Contractor, District

**Schedule:** Prior to issuance of authorization to proceed.