

SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice of a Public Meeting

PROJECT NAME: Tunnel Stabilization and Sewer Pipeline Replacement Project (State Clearinghouse #2008031094)

PROJECT SUMMARY: The South Coast Water District (District) operates the “Beach Interceptor Sewer and Tunnel” located between Three Arch Bay and Aliso Creek Beach in the southern area of the City of Laguna Beach, Orange County, California. The approximately 6-foot wide by 5-foot high tunnel was constructed in 1954 and is approximately two miles long, extending from South La Senda Drive in Three Arch Bay north to Aliso Creek Beach. The tunnel is mostly unlined and unsupported; however, heavy timber struts and wooden lining (lagging) have been installed in several sections of the tunnel. Over the past 55 years, subsequent repairs have been made to the wooden lagging, and a relatively short segment of the tunnel was enlarged and fortified with shotcrete in 2007. The tunnel condition is deteriorating with age, and repairs are needed throughout the tunnel to prevent tunnel and sewer pipe failure and allow safe working conditions in the tunnel.

Project plans call for (a) stabilizing tunnel entry points, known as “adits” and “portals” to facilitate the safe entry and exit of personnel, (b) removing loose rock and rotten timber supports that could harm maintenance workers and crack or break the sewer line, and (c) enlarging and lining the tunnel to form a structural horseshoe shape. In addition, a new sewer pipeline would be installed in the reconditioned tunnel with the older pipeline remaining in place. Staging and work areas needed for access to the tunnel may be required at the following locations:

- Aliso Creek Beach parking area
- Beach end of Camel Point Drive
- New access shaft adjacent to South Coast Highway at one of three optional locations
- Thousand Steps Beach, Adit 16A and B via marine landing craft or existing easements

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: Notice is hereby given that the District, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Tunnel Stabilization and Sewer Pipeline Replacement Project. The DEIR will be available for public review and comment starting September 17, 2009, at the District’s office at 31592 West Street, Laguna Beach, Monday – Thursday, 7 am – 6 pm. A copy will also be available on the District’s website at www.scwd.org. The 45-day public review and comment period for the DEIR closes at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 2, 2009. Comments on the DEIR should be sent to the contact person listed below or by email to tunneleir@scwd.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING: The District will conduct a public meeting for the purpose of soliciting oral and written comments on the DEIR from interested parties and responsible or trustee agencies. The public meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 starting at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chamber at Dana Point City Hall (33282 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, California). You may also view the public meeting live and recorded from our website (www.scwd.org). Dana Point residents with Cox Cable TV may see the meeting live on Channel 30 and residents in certain south Orange County cities may see it on live on Cox Channel 855. The meetings are replayed on these two Cox channels over the following weeks.

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