



Engineering, Operations, & Technology Committee

Pure Water Southern California

Final EIR Certification / Related Actions and Approvals

Item 8-1

February 9, 2026

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Item 8-1 Final EIR Certification

Related Actions and Approvals

Subject

Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and take related CEQA actions, and approve Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) for CEQA purposes

Purpose

Provide overview of environmental review process; present Final EIR for certification; submit proposed Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for adoption; and seek approval of PWSC for CEQA purposes

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Certify the Final EIR and take related CEQA actions, and approve PWSC for CEQA purposes

Fiscal Impact – None

Pure Water Southern California Program Overview



①

Used water (wastewater) from homes, businesses, and industries in LA County



②

Cleaned at Sanitation Districts' A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility



③

Purified at Metropolitan's advanced water purification facility



④

Conveyed through over 60 miles of pipeline to groundwater basins, industries, or Metropolitan's drinking water plants



⑤

A new climate-resilient source of water for Southern California

PWSC Development Timeline

- 2010 – Pilot testing for treatment feasibility
- 2015 – Board authorized demonstration project & studies for potential regional recycled water supply program
- 2016 – Program feasibility study
- 2019 – Program conceptual study
- 2019 – Started demonstration testing
- 2020 – Board authorized initiation of environmental review



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PWSC Summary of Environmental Review



PUREWATER
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Volume 1 – Final Environmental Impact Report

JANUARY 2026
State Clearinghouse No. 2022090654
Metropolitan Report No. ER 1715-1



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

PWSC Environmental Review Process

- 2020 – Board authorization to initiate environmental review
- 2021 – Award of agreement to prepare EIR
- 2022 – Issuance of Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR
- 2025 – Circulation of Draft EIR for public review & comment
- 2026 – SB 149 certification & Final EIR completion

Public Outreach: Extensive and Inclusive Engagement

– 2022: Public Scoping Phase

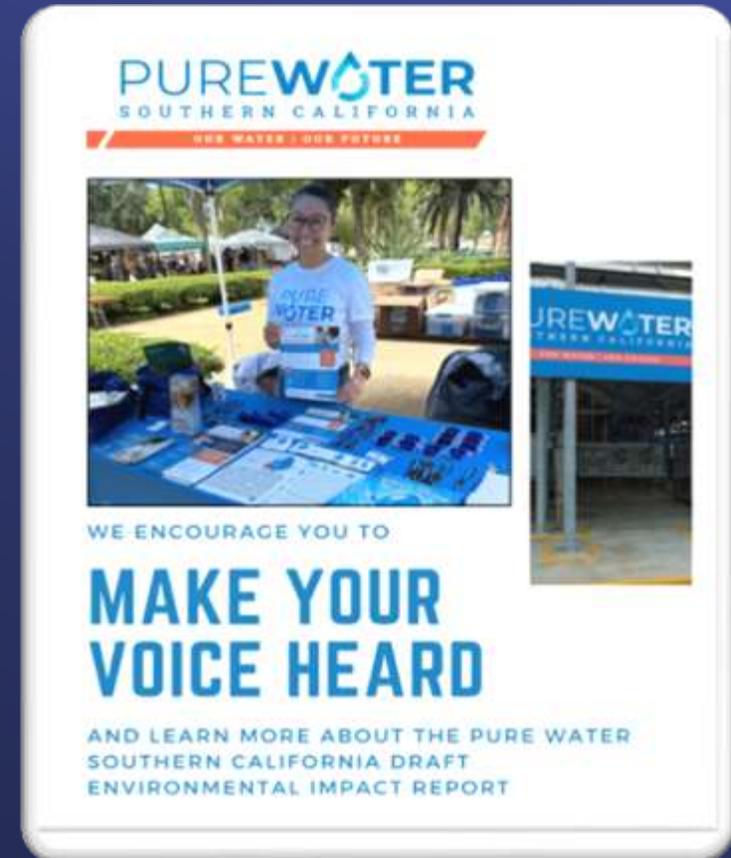
- Advertisements, direct mail, and email
- Local events, briefings, and presentations
- Accessible resources

– 2025: Draft EIR Review Support

- Advertisements, direct mail, and email
- Local events and presentations
- Accessible resources

– General Outreach

- Tours, events, conferences, meetings
- Widespread engagement



Objectives

1. Provide new high-quality local water source
2. Diversify Metropolitan's water supply portfolio and increase regional operational flexibility
3. Improve water supply and quality of local groundwater basins
4. Maximize beneficial reuse of wastewater
5. Further statewide goals of increasing use of recycled water
6. Reduce reliance on imported water supplies
7. Increase seismic resilience



Los Angeles County Department of Public Works –
Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds

Level of Analysis

— Program-level Analysis

- All components analyzed at program level
- Additional environmental review may be needed prior to construction

— Project-level Analysis

- Certain components further analyzed at project level
- Absent substantial changes, could be constructed without additional environmental review

LEVEL OF ANALYSIS	
Components	Project Level?
Joint Treatment Site <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AWP Facility• Warren Facility Improvements• Workforce Training Center	Yes Yes Yes
Backbone Conveyance System <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backbone Pipeline• Backbone Pump Stations• Service Connections	Yes Partial* No
DPR Facilities (for Weymouth or Satellite Location)	No
Recharge Facilities	No
Non-potable Water Facilities	No
Sanitation Districts Support Facilities	No

* While specific locations for the pump stations are currently not known, they are analyzed at the project level for impacts that are generally not location specific (i.e., air quality, energy, GHG & transportation).

Phasing

Phase 1

- Joint Treatment Site
- Backbone Pipeline
- Recharge Facilities

Phase 2

- Joint Treatment Site Expansion
- Full-scale DPR Facilities and Pipeline



Environmental Resource Categories

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology & Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Noise
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources

Environmental Resource Categories

- Most potential impacts would be less than significant
- The following potential construction-related impacts cannot be mitigated to less-than-significant levels:
 - Air Quality
 - Cultural Resources
 - Noise
 - Tribal Cultural Resources

EIR Alternatives

- Alternatives Screening
- Alternatives Considered
 - No Project
 - 115 MGD
 - Indirect Potable Reuse Only (90 MGD)
 - Seven-foot-diameter Pipeline
 - Northern Pipeline Re-route
 - Los Angeles River Backbone Alignment
- Best overall balance of program objectives and impacts

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

Recommended Board Actions

- Certify Final EIR for Pure Water Southern California
- Adopt Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Approve PWSC as described in Final EIR for CEQA purposes

Final EIR Certification

- Board must certify that:
 - Final EIR was completed in compliance with CEQA
 - Board has reviewed and considered information presented in the Final EIR
 - Final EIR reflects the Board's independent judgment and analysis
- Specific findings are not required for certification
- Decisionmakers may rely on executive summaries, written reports, and oral presentations

Related Documents Findings, SOC & MMRP

- **Findings of Fact:**
Documents how potentially significant environmental impacts are avoided or substantially reduced, where feasible
- **Statement of Overriding Considerations:**
Documents reasons why benefits of project outweigh any potentially significant and unavoidable impacts
- **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**
Establishes program for monitoring/enforcing implementation of mitigation measures and environmental commitments identified in Final EIR

Approval for CEQA Purposes

- Point-in-time approval that is a prerequisite to moving forward with PWSC
- Not an immediate or irrevocable commitment to fund or construct any portion of PWSC
- Board retains full discretion with respect to:
 - Funding, design, construction and operation
 - Phasing or staging
- Will return to Board for further input, direction and approvals as evaluation of PWSC proceeds

Need for Board Action

- Many aspects and details of PWSC still being developed and assessed, which will require further input and direction from the Board
 - Nature and scope of potential partnerships
 - Methodology and approach to financing
 - Role in meeting future water supply needs, as assessed under CAMP4W
- Considered deferring certification of Final EIR and/or approval of PWSC, but not recommended for several reasons

Need for Board Action (cont'd)

- Continued development and potential funding of PWSC depends, in part, on having certified Final EIR and specific, formally-approved project in place
- No reason to certify Final EIR without project approval; would not trigger 30-day statute of limitations for challenges under CEQA
- General program approval would not preclude litigation concerning adequacy of Final EIR with respect to specific PWSC components
- Certified Final EIR would serve as foundation for subsequent discretionary approvals related to PWSC; more deferential standard used to determine need for additional environmental review
- Recommended actions do not irreversibly commit Metropolitan to fund or construct PWSC or constrain Board's future decision-making authority with respect to PWSC

Board Options

- Option #1
Certify the Final EIR and take related CEQA actions as described below, and approve PWSC for CEQA purposes.
- Option #2
Do not certify the Final EIR and take related CEQA actions, and do not approve PWSC.

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

