



REGIONALSAN

TAKING THE WASTE OUT OF WATER

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DATE: January 27, 2016

TO: Honorable Board of Directors
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

FROM: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

SUBJECT: **Approve the Filing of the Second Addendum to the Certified Environmental Impact Report for the EchoWater Project, Control No. 2012-70044**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) recommends that your Board take the following actions:

1. Receive comments from the public on the Second Addendum to the certified Environmental Impact Report for the EchoWater Project
2. Consider the Second Addendum to the EIR
3. Adopt the attached Resolution that approves:
 - (a) modifications identified in the Second Addendum, which will not result in any new or additional significant environmental impacts beyond those described in the certified EIR, and
 - (b) Filing the Notice of Determination of the Second Addendum to the certified EIR

BACKGROUND:

The project is located at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) site owned by Regional San.

On December 9, 2010, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a new permit for SRWTP. The new permit requires construction of several new treatment processes including: nutrient reduction, filtration, and disinfection processes. Regional San has until 2023 to plan, design, construct, and commission the new treatment processes.

On September 24, 2014, your Board certified the final EIR for the EchoWater Project.

On April 8, 2015, your Board approved the First Addendum to the certified EIR to address necessary modification of existing digested sludge pipelines and the installation of fiber optic communication cables.

On January 13, 2016, your Board received an update on the Second Addendum to the certified EIR and continued action on the Second Addendum until today's meeting.

DISCUSSION:

The EchoWater EIR included Mitigation Measure 4.4-1 to reduce project-generated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and provided for a number of GHG-reduction strategies.

One of these strategies was to provide solar panels onsite to reduce the project's overall energy consumption of non-renewable energy. Since certification of the final EIR, Regional San has decided to pursue a solar facility at SRWTP.

On August 26, 2015, your Board directed staff to begin the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process for the solar project. At that time, two options were considered to meet EchoWater mitigation:

- Preferred Option: Solar array on 17-acres in the Bufferlands on a site reserved for future dedicated land disposal unit No. 7 (L-DLD 7).
- Secondary Option: Parking lot canopies and a solar array on 12-acres in the Bufferlands on the future L-DLD 7 site.

On November 20, 2015, Regional San issued a Request for Proposals for the solar project covering both alternatives. It received eight proposals on December 22, 2015. The majority of proposals included a third option consisting of a single axis tracker array (the panel tilts to follow the sun) in the Bufferlands. While the tracker systems have a larger fenced footprint than fixed tilt, they contain less panels and reduce the overall shaded area and cost. Staff will be requesting your Board's approval of the selected alternative and the best value solar proposal for contract negotiations through a separate Board item later today.

Regional San conducted an environmental evaluation of the solar project options and determined they are consistent with the environmental analysis and mitigation outlined in the certified EIR, and therefore could be covered via an addendum to the certified EIR for CEQA compliance purposes. In order to accommodate tracker options, the footprint analyzed in the addendum was increased to 21 acres. The proposed solar project will not result in any new or significant environmental impacts beyond those described in the certified EIR. Regional San expects to implement the solar project through a private provider via a power purchase agreement.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

While there are no public notice requirements for a CEQA addendum, in early December 2015, Regional San sent an email with project information, including the date and time of your Board actions on this matter to interested environmental stakeholders. An additional email was issued to environmental stakeholders on January 7 informing them of the increased footprint. General comments received indicated a preference for solar on rooftops and not in open space. In addition, Regional San sent an update postcard to over 600 homes and businesses south of the treatment plant. No comments were received from that correspondence as of the filing of this Board letter.

The Second Addendum to the certified EIR can be viewed at Regional San's web page: <http://www.regionalsan.com/solar-energy>. A copy of the Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerk.

CONCLUSION:

Regional San recommends that your Board approve the filing of the Second Addendum to the certified EIR for the EchoWater Project, Control No. 2012-70044.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Christoph Dobson
Director of Policy and Planning

Prabhakar Somavarapu
District Engineer

CD:RR:VK:SJN

Attachments: A. Vicinity Map
 B. Resolution
 C. EIR Second Addendum

Contact for additional information: Christoph Dobson, Director of Policy and Planning, 876-6042