



California Department of Water Resources

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

To: All Interested Parties

From: California Department of Water Resources
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1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: **Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Bridge Retrofit**
LEAD AGENCY: **California Department of Water Resources**
PROJECT AREA: **Castaic Lake State Recreation Area**
PROJECT TYPE: **High Intake Tower Bridge Retrofit**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the Lead Agency and has prepared an Initial Study (IS) with the intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Bridge Retrofit Project (project).

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located at Castaic Lake approximately 40 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles within the Sierra Pelona Mountains, north of Santa Clarita along Interstate 5. The project site is located at 34 degrees north latitude, 118 degrees west longitude, in Township 05N, Range 17W, Sections 12 and 13. The Castaic Dam high intake tower and bridge are located within the southwestern portion of the lake on Castaic Dam's right abutment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DWR is proposing to implement the project to seismically retrofit the tower bridge at Castaic Lake, the terminal reservoir of the State Water Project's West Branch located within the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. Construction would occur at the tower bridge, high tower abutment, Piers 2 through 4, and Abutment 5. The tower bridge retrofit would include installing restrainer cables to transfer longitudinal seismic forces to the adjacent spans or frames and the piers would be jacketed with carbon fiber reinforcement. Carbon fiber reinforcement is an extremely strong and light-weight, carbon fiber-reinforced plastic.

Project implementation would require the lake's surface elevation be lowered from the normal operation elevation of approximately 1,505 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to 1,380 feet amsl to access project components, such as the piers and abutment structures holding the tower bridge above water level. Construction staging areas would only be located in un-vegetated areas near the dam's right abutment. Existing paved and dirt roads would be used for hauling and transporting materials within the project area. Project construction is anticipated to take 15.5 months with the drawdown of Castaic Lake taking approximately 10 months. Construction work hours would generally range between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The IS/MND describes potentially significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and recreation. Mitigation measures have been defined to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. All other resource areas found to have no impact or to be less than significant are also described in the IS/MND.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The IS/MND will be circulated for 30-days for public review. Comments on the MND must be received between April 10, 2020 and May 10, 2020. Written comments should be sent to: Kevin Smith on behalf of the California Department of Water Resources, Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Bridge Retrofit Project, 626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90017, or email comments to: KSmith@esassoc.com.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The IS/MND may be viewed at the following locations:

- On the web: <http://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices>
- Castaic Lake Park Headquarters Office: 32132 Castaic Lake Drive, Castaic, CA 91384 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

For more information on the project, or if you would like to request a hard copy, please contact:

Kevin Smith
RE: Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Bridge Retrofit
Environmental Science Associates
626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90017
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(805) 914-1503

ADA: *For further information on accessibility, and to request materials in Braille, large print or audio cassette, or auxiliary aides and services, please call (213) 599-4300 at least one week in advance.*