

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
PROPOSED INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATION NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND)**

Subject: Laguna Beach County Water District (LBCWD, Lead Agency) proposes to adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Sweany Water Line Refurbishment Project (Project) located within Crystal Cove State Park and Irvine Cove in the City of Laguna Beach, Orange County, California. This Notice of Intent to adopt an IS/MND for the Project complies with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15072 requiring public noticing of the proposed Project.

Project Description: The Project would refurbish approximately 1,850 linear feet of an existing 8-inch water pipeline within an existing 20-foot wide utility easement dedicated to operation and maintenance of the existing pipeline. Equipment staging would occur within an approximately 60 foot by 35 foot area of barren compact dirt fill on top of the buried Sweany reservoir. The Project would employ a pipeline insertion technique to reduce impacts to native sage scrub habitat. Construction would involve abandonment and replacement of an approximately 150-foot segment of existing bypass line at the reservoir; insertion of new 6-inch pipeline within the existing 8-inch pipeline at eight small excavations along the pipeline; slip line work at a private residence in Irvine Cove; and revegetation of native sage scrub habitat at areas disturbed during construction. Construction would occur over an approximately 120-day period. Construction access within the park would be limited to a 15-foot wide access path along the centerline of the pipeline, within the existing 20-foot easement. Equipment access would not require excavation or removal of root systems. However, clearing of vegetation would be necessary for equipment access within the 15-foot path. Slip line work at the residence in Irvine Cove would consist of inserting an inverted fabric inside the existing line by means of water pressure. The work would be staged and done through an access hole in the cul-de-sac at Irvine Cove Place.

Project Location: The proposed Project is located with Crystal Cove State Park and within a private property in Irvine Cove, City of Laguna Beach.

Potential Environmental Effects: In addition to informing the public of the proposed Project and its potential environmental effects, this IS/MND is intended to provide adequate environmental information to public agency decision makers so they may make an informed decision on the Project, consistent with the general responsibilities required of public agencies as outlined in Sections 15020 and 15025 of the CEQA Guidelines. Project construction and operation was assessed with respect to all environmental factors outlined in the CEQA Appendix G checklist and supplemented by the Lead Agency.

Public Review: The public review process of the IS/MND will culminate with a public hearing of the LBCWD's Board of Directors on April 30, 2015 at 5 P.M. at 306 3rd Street located at Laguna Beach, California 92651 to consider approval of a Final IS/MND and a decision on whether to approve the proposed Project. Comments from member of the public or other interested parties on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be received by the LBCWD from March 24 through April 25. Written comments should be directed to the person listed below. Copies of the initial study checklist and discussion of impacts, and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review at the address shown below and on LBCWD's website at <http://www.lbcwd.org/>.

Contact Person:

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