

March 12, 2019

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Jeff Pratt
Agency Director

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Christopher Cooper, Director

Transportation
David Fleisch, Director

Water & Sanitation
Michaela Brown, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

Subject: Approve the Addendum to the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project; Approve Minor Changes to and Detailed Design for the Previously Approved Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component; Authorize the Watershed Protection District (District) Director to Sign and File the Notice of Determination; Designate the Clerk of the Board as the Custodian of Records for the Proceedings in this Matter; Authorize the District Director to Take All Actions Necessary to Carry Out the Approved Project Component; Supervisorial District No. 1; WPD Zone No. 1

Recommendations:

1. Review and consider the Addendum (Exhibit 1) to the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (Final EIS/EIR) for the Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, together with the Final EIS/EIR (available at <http://matilijadam.org/reports.htm>).
2. Find that no subsequent or supplemental environmental impact report is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for minor changes to and detailed design for the previously approved Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.
3. Approve the Addendum to the Final EIS/EIR for the Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.
4. Approve the minor changes to and detailed design for the previously approved Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component of the Matilija Dam



Ecosystem Restoration Project, as described in the Addendum, Section 3.2, and Figures 1 and 2, and as set forth herein.

5. Authorize the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) Director to sign and file a Notice of Determination for the Bridge Replacement Component approved in Recommendation No. 4.
6. Designate the Clerk of the Board as the Custodian of Records for the proceedings in this matter.
7. Authorize the District Director to take all actions necessary to carry out the Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project as approved in Recommendation No. 4.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item at the present time. Full fiscal analysis will be provided when the District returns to your Board to request approval of grant and other funding methods, as well as award of the construction contract, for the Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Component.

Discussion:

On December 14, 2004, your Board certified the Final EIS/EIR for the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and approved the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (Alternative 4b., as mitigated). The Findings and Statement of Facts and Statement of Overriding Considerations were also adopted and approved by your Board on that date. These documents are available for review at <http://www.matilijadam.org/reports.htm>. The replacement of the Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge was a component of the approved Restoration Project identified at a conceptual level.

On December 11, 2018, your Board authorized the District to apply for California Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 and/or Proposition 68 Watershed Restoration Grant Funds for up to \$15,000,000 for the Matilija Dam Removal – Santa Ana Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project (Bridge Component). The application package was submitted December 13, 2018. To qualify for funding, any required CEQA documentation must be completed by March 31, 2019. The final design for the bridge project was completed in 2016, and if grants and other funds are awarded and available, construction may begin in 2020.

The 2004 EIS/EIR described the bridge replacement as a component of the overall project to be conducted prior to Matilija Dam removal. Although design and construction details



were not yet available, potential environmental impacts of bridge replacement were fully evaluated. The current bridge that crosses the Ventura River at Santa Ana Boulevard was built in 1960, and acts as a river constriction that causes sediment deposition upstream, as well as restricts fish passage and flood flows. Replacement in accordance with the detailed design would correct both issues with a higher and wider bridge design, with the capacity needed to adequately and safely convey expected increases in flows and sediment following Matilija Dam removal.

The District prepared this Addendum (Exhibit 1) to the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Final EIS/EIR, in order to address CEQA requirements for minor changes and the detailed design for the Bridge Replacement Component. One purpose of the Addendum is to analyze the minor changes and design details for the Bridge Component of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project to determine if a subsequent or supplemental EIR is required per Section 15162 or 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines. The District also included an analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to act upon as Federal Lead Agency.

Our analysis resulted in the preparation of this Addendum to the Final EIS/EIR in compliance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, because no substantial changes are proposed or have occurred which will require major revisions of the Final EIS/EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Furthermore, there is no new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the Final EIS/EIR was certified which would result in new significant effects, in substantially more severe effects, or in changes in mitigation measures.

Your Board is requested to review and consider the Addendum with the certified Final EIS/EIR, then approve the Addendum and approve the proposed minor changes and design details for the Bridge Component, as described in the Addendum.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel.

If there are any questions regarding this item, please contact me at (805) 654-2040.



Glenn Shephard, PE
Director, Watershed Protection District

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 - Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Final EIS/EIR Addendum

