

# DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SOUTH BAY AQUEDUCT IMPROVEMENT AND ENLARGEMENT PROJECT

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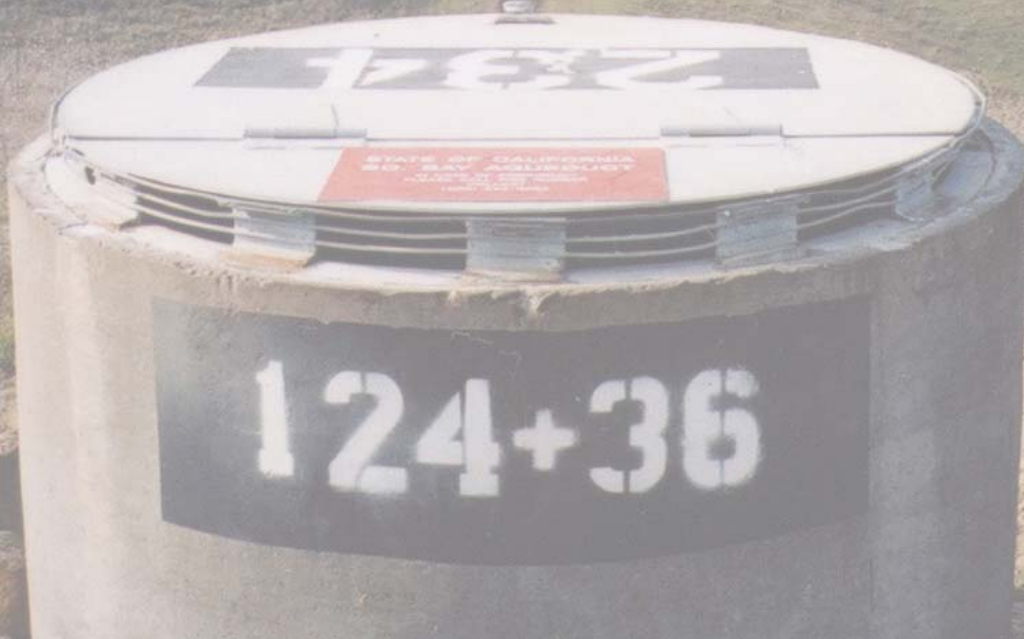
*Final Environmental Impact Report  
Responses to Comments Document  
SCH No. 2003092084*

*December 2004*

*Prepared for*



*Department of Water Resources*



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*December 2004*

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# CHAPTER 1

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## INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) has been prepared to respond to comments received by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the *South Bay Aqueduct (SBA) Improvement and Enlargement Project* (State Clearinghouse No. 2003092084, September 2004). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is an informational document prepared by a Lead Agency, in this case, DWR, that provides environmental analysis for public review and for agency decision-makers to consider before taking discretionary actions related to any Proposed Project that could have a significant effect on the environment.

Before DWR may approve the Proposed Project, it must certify that the Final EIR: a) has been completed in compliance with CEQA; b) was presented to DWR who reviewed and considered it prior to approving the project, and; c) reflects DWR's independent judgment and analysis.

CEQA Guidelines specify that the Final EIR shall consist of the following:

- the Draft EIR or a revision of that draft;
- comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR;
- a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR;
- the response of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and
- any other information added by the Lead Agency.

This Response to Comments Addendum to the Draft EIR for the DWR SBA Improvement and Enlargement Project presents:

- a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR (Table of Contents and Chapter 1);
- the written comments received on the Draft EIR along with a response to each comment (Chapter 2);
- text revisions to the Draft EIR (Chapter 3); and
- references (Chapter 4).

The Response to Comments Document, in combination with the Draft EIR, constitutes the Final EIR.

## 1.1 COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

The Draft EIR was circulated for public review from September 28 through November 12, 2004. During this period, DWR held a Public Hearing to provide interested persons with an opportunity to comment orally or in writing on the Draft EIR and the project. The Public Hearing was held at the City of Livermore Civic Center Branch Library on October 26, 2004.

Agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals that submitted written and oral comments on the Draft EIR during the public review and comment period are listed in Table 1-1. The comments and responses are presented in Chapter 2, in the order as shown in Table 1-1. The responses to comments are numbered to correspond to the comment numbers that appear in the margins of the comment letter.

## 1.2 CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

Revisions of the Draft EIR are developed in response to comments received during the public review period. However, the EIR authors also made text revisions to update information presented in the DEIR and to provide minor corrections and revisions in order to improve writing clarity and grammar. These revisions are presented in Chapter 3, and are organized by the Chapter and page number as they appear in the Draft EIR. Additions, deletions and corrections to the Draft EIR are made by indicating the page and paragraph to be revised and a description of the text changes. Additions are indicated by a single underline; deletions are indicated by a “strike-out” where practical. For example, in the following sentence the numerical “two” is replaced by “to”:

To~~Two~~ improve readability and minimize redundancy in response, the comments are organized generally by type of agency.

## 1.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public scoping meetings for the *SBA Improvement and Enlargement Project* were held on October 9, and September 16, 2003 in Pleasanton and Livermore. A public hearing on the Draft EIR was held on October 26, 2004 in Livermore. During these meetings and presentations, DWR staff and its environmental consultant provided information about the project, the potential environmental impacts, the CEQA review process, and the schedule for project implementation. At each meeting/hearing, members of the public had the opportunity to ask questions and express their concerns and interests for the project. The Notice of Preparation and the Notice of Availability were each distributed to affected public agencies, elected officials, community groups, and other interested parties.

**TABLE 1-1  
PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC AGENCIES  
COMMENTING IN WRITING**

<b>Commentor No.</b>	<b>Comments Received from</b>	<b>Commentor's Affiliation</b>	<b>Date</b>
A	Catrina Martin, Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	November 2, 2004
B	Terry Roberts, Director	State Clearinghouse	November 15, 2004
C	Brian Wines, Water Resources Control Engineer	Regional Water Quality Control Board	November 12, 2004
D	Chris Bazar, Planning Director	Alameda County Planning Department	November 10, 2004
E	Dale Myers, General Manager	Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	November 5, 2004
F	William Lepere, Supervising Civil Engineer	Alameda County Public Works	November 8, 2004
G	Susan Frost, Principal Planner	City of Livermore	November 9, 2004
H	David K. Behrens, Principle Engineer	Dublin San Ramon Services District	November 9, 2004
I	Robert B. Doyle, Assistant General Manager	East Bay Regional Park District	November 12, 2004
J	Timothy J. Barry, General Manager	Livermore Area Recreation & Park District	November 9, 2004
K	William L. Damon, Vice-President	Altamont Winds, Inc. (1)	October 26, 2004
L	William L. Damon, Vice-President	Altamont Winds, Inc. (2)	November 9, 2004
M	Virginia W. Miner Ph.D.	Resident	October 27, 2004
N	Tom O'Malley, President Becky Dennis, Chair	Tri-Valley Business Council	March 29, 2004
O	Kenneth Lewis, General Manager	Waste Management Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility	November 12, 2004
P	Public Hearing Transcript		October 26, 2004