



**Notice of Preparation
Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project
Subsequent Environmental Impact Report
September 14, 2020**

The Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection (VCPWA – WP) is soliciting input from interested persons and agencies as to the scope and content of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the VCPWA – WP requests that agencies review the project description provided in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The SEIR will be used by the VCPWA – WP when considering approval of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (Project) and by other Responsible and Trustee Agencies to support their discretionary actions related to the Project.

In October 2000, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (now the VCPWA – WP) initiated the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Study as a joint effort between VCPWA - WP and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a project resulting in the removal of Matilija Dam. The Project objectives included: aquatic and terrestrial habitat improvement along Matilija Creek and the Ventura River to restore a viable and abundant run of steelhead trout; restoration of natural sediment transport processes; and an increase in recreation opportunities. The joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/CEQA EIR was certified in 2004. In June 2017, the VCPWA – WP received funding to implement the Matilija Dam Removal 65% Design Planning Project. The updated plan to remove Matilija Dam incorporates new information garnered from recent dam removal projects as well as details regarding proposed modifications to downstream infrastructure. The VCPWA – WP has determined that preparation of an SEIR is warranted to evaluate the revised Project. The SEIR will provide a complete and objective analysis of the revised scheme for dam removal.

VCPWA – WP invites you and other interested persons and organizations to submit comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in this SEIR. Please focus your scoping comments on the issues to be considered in the Draft SEIR, including environmental concerns, feasible ways in which Project impacts may be minimized (mitigation measures), and potential alternatives to the Project.

Scoping comments can be submitted in one of the following ways. Comments must be postmarked by October 14, 2020:

Submittal by Mail

Ventura County Public Works Agency - Watershed Protection
Attn: Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project
800 S. Victoria Ave. / #1600
Ventura, CA 93009

Submittal by E-mail

MDERP@ventura.org
Please remember to include your name and return address in the email message.

For current Project information, please refer to the VCPWA – WP website: <https://www.vcpubliworks.org/wp/mderp/>. The Project description, location, and the potential environmental effects outlined in the Notice of Preparation can be found on this website. If you require additional information or do not have access to the internet, please contact Tyler Barns at 805.654.2064 or mderp@ventura.org.