



**California Public Utilities Commission**  
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Docket #: A.12-04-019

**CPUC ISSUES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR CAL-AM'S PROPOSED MONTEREY PENINSULA  
WATER SUPPLY PROJECT**

SAN FRANCISCO, January 12, 2017 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has released for comment the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The comment period runs from January 13, 2017 through February 27, 2017. The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement was prepared according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to examine and inform the public and decision-makers about the projected impacts to the environment of California American Water Company's (Cal-Am) proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The CPUC has scheduled three meetings to give the public an opportunity to learn about the report and make comments.

Cal-Am is seeking CPUC approval and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary authorization to develop the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, which would replace and augment existing water supplies in its Monterey District service area constrained by legal decisions affecting the Carmel River and Seaside Groundwater Basin.

"I am very pleased about the completion of this important step in the environmental process to analyze the desalination plant," said CPUC Commissioner Liane M. Randolph. "The draft document is an opportunity for the public to learn about the projected impacts of the plant, and I look forward to reviewing comments."



The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement evaluates the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project's proposed facilities and improvements, including a subsurface seawater intake system in Marina; a 9.6 million gallons per day desalination plant in unincorporated Monterey County; approximately 21 miles of water conveyance (pipelines) and storage facilities; and improvements to the existing Seaside Groundwater Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery facilities in Seaside.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement also evaluates alternatives, including one that combines a reduced-capacity (6.4 million gallons per day) desalination plant and all other facilities included in the proposed project with an agreement to purchase 3,500 acre feet/year of water from the approved Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment project.

The CPUC and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will host two open houses/public meetings and one public hearing to offer a transparent public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. The open houses/public meetings will include a brief presentation on the contents and conclusions of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, and interested parties will be provided an opportunity to interact with technical staff and preparers of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. The public hearing will focus on receiving oral comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. The events will take place as follows:

- Open House/Public Meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Marina Public Library Community Meeting Room, 188 Seaside Ave., Marina
- Open House/Public Meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 6-8 p.m., Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Ave., Seaside
- Public Hearing: Thursday, February 16, 2017, 4-8 p.m., Sunset Center, Carpenter Hall, San Carlos St., Carmel

The comment period on the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement is open from January 13, 2017 through February 27, 2017. Comments may be submitted either at the public meetings or in writing. Please send your comments

to: CPUC/Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, c/o Environmental Science Associates, 550 Kearny St., Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94108; or fax 415.896.0332; or email [MPWSP-EIR@esassoc.com](mailto:MPWSP-EIR@esassoc.com).

The document, appendices, and a [public notice of availability](#) of the project are available at: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/mpwsp/comms\\_n\\_docs.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/esa/mpwsp/comms_n_docs.html). During the comment period, copies of the report will be available for public review at the following locations: the CPUC in San Francisco, City of Marina Community Development Department, City of Seaside Community Development Division, CSU Monterey Bay Library, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey County Library branches (Carmel Valley, Castroville, Marina, and Seaside), Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency.

For more information about the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

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