LITTLEROCK RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT

Status Update
Palmdale Water District Board
May 11, 2016
NEPA and CEQA Lead Agencies

NEPA Lead Agency for EIS – U.S. Forest Service

• USFS, Angeles National Forest, Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District
• Prepares a Record of Decision (ROD) certifying the EIS if the Project is approved
• Has the authority to issue a special use permit to PWD to construct a grade control structure and excavate sediment from the Littlerock Reservoir

CEQA Lead Agency for EIR – Palmdale Water District

• Board considers certification of EIR
• Board considers approval of Project
Environmental Review Process

• Fulfill the NEPA and CEQA process requirements by preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

• Display viable alternative plans

• Assess environmental impacts of the proposed project

• Disclose impacts to the public

• Allow for public and agency review and input
The EIS/EIR Public Process

• Distribute Notice of Preparation (NOP) and publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) – Early 2014

• Public Scoping Period (March 7 to April 15, 2014)

• Prepare Draft EIS/EIR

• Publish and Circulate the Draft EIS/EIR for public review
  ○ 45-day public review period per CEQA and NEPA

• Respond to comments and prepare Final EIS/EIR

• After completion of the EIS/EIR process, decision makers can render respective decisions
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project

[SCH No. 2005061171]

Prepared for:

USDA Forest Services

Palmdale Water District

May 2016
Alternatives Analyzed

- Proposed Project

- Alternative 1
  - Reduced Yearly Sediment Removal Volume (took more than 13-years to initially restore Reservoir capacity)

- No Project/No Action Alternative

- Alternatives considered but eliminated
  - due to technical infeasibility,
  - greater environmental impacts, or
  - failure to meet project purpose and needs.
Project Purpose and Need

• Remove sediment to restore water storage capacity
  o Restores 1,300 AF of lost storage capacity

• Prevent disturbance upstream of Rocky Point to preserve critical habitat of arroyo toad, a federally-listed endangered species
Project Overview

• Construct a subterranean **grade control structure** at Rocky Point

• **Reservoir Restoration**: Remove approximately 1,165,000 cubic yards of sediment
  o 7 to 12 years, between Labor Day and January

• **Annual Reservoir Maintenance**: Following initial sediment removal, an estimated 38,000 cubic yards removed per year to maintain capacity
  o Permanent activities, between Labor Day and January
Project Overview

Removal of Reservoir Sediment

Rocky Point Grade/Erosion Control
Rocky Point Grade Control Structure

- Prevents erosion
- Protects upstream habitat of Arroyo Toad a federal listed endangered species
- Grade control will be constructed on a 2:1 slope in staircase fashion
- 6,350 cubic yards of concrete
- Stream channel bank protection requires 3,000 cubic yards of concrete
Schematic of Grade Control Structure At Rocky Point

Direction of Water Flow

Water Surface

Depth = 80 feet

Length = 200 Feet
Sediment Disposal Areas – quarry pits and land owned by Palmdale Water District plus dump truck routes
PWD – Temporary Sediment Storage

10,000 cubic yards temporary sediment storage
## Sediment Disposal and Truck Traffic

### Initial Removal of Sediment
- 1,165,000 cubic yards sediment
- 7 to 10 years
- Labor Day to January
- 16 dump trucks
- 240 round trips per day

### Annual Removal of Sediment
- 38,000 cubic yards sediment
- Annually except in years of little streamflow and sediment
- Labor Day to January
- 6 dump trucks
- 90 round trips per day
Forest Service Focused Recently on:

- OHV roads and trails
- Reservoir Recreation
- Harmony between Littlerock Sediment Removal project and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Plan

Note: During the initial construction period PWD and Forest Service to meet prior to Labor Day to discuss the construction activities to minimize impacts on OHV and Reservoir recreation.
Project Schedule

• Draft EIS/EIR Published on May 6, 2016
   o Public meeting to be held evening of May 19, 2016 at PWD Board Room
   o 45-day public review period ends June 20, 2016
• Publish Final EIS/EIR (Fall 2016)
• USFS Completes Record of Decision (ROD) (Late 2016)
• PWD Board Decision (Late 2016)
• All Necessary Permits Obtained (Mid-2017)
• Begin Construction (Fall 2017)
PLAN REQUIREMENTS

• Biological Resource Plans
• Fugitive Dust Control Plan
• Traffic Control and Management Plan
• Roadway Restoration Plan
• Fire Management Plan
• Spill Response Plan
PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

• USFS Special Use Authorization Permit
• Clean Water Act Section 401 permit from RWQCB
• CWA Section 404 permit from USACE
• Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit from CDFW
• Section 1600 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement Permit from CDFW
Final Design and Construction

• Final Grade Control Structure Design
• Final Cost Estimate
• Funding for Construction
• Final Excavation Plan
• Contractor Selection
• Biological Pre-construction Clearance Requirements for Construction
• General Compliance Monitoring, Reporting, and Agency Coordination
• Annual Fish Removal and Reporting