

Palmdale Water District Strategic Water Resources Plan

Environmental Impact Report

Certification Hearing

December 16, 2024



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
A CENTURY OF SERVICE



**Woodard
& Curran**



Agenda



Purpose and Need



Location and Description



Environmental EIR Analysis, Public Outreach,
and Outcomes



Key Mitigation Measures



Schedule, Next Steps, and Recommended
Action



Project Purpose and Need

- ▶ The primary objectives of the proposed Project include:



Meet the current and future water supply needs for PWD's service area.



Increase water supply reliability by identifying feasible and reliable sources of water to meet the current and future needs.



Maximize cost savings by optimizing existing water rights and facilities, while strategically prioritizing new projects that align with PWD's Mission and Vision.



Identify and plan for the facilities that will be needed to meet current and future needs.



Maximize potential funding by selecting water supply sources that are in line with existing funding programs.

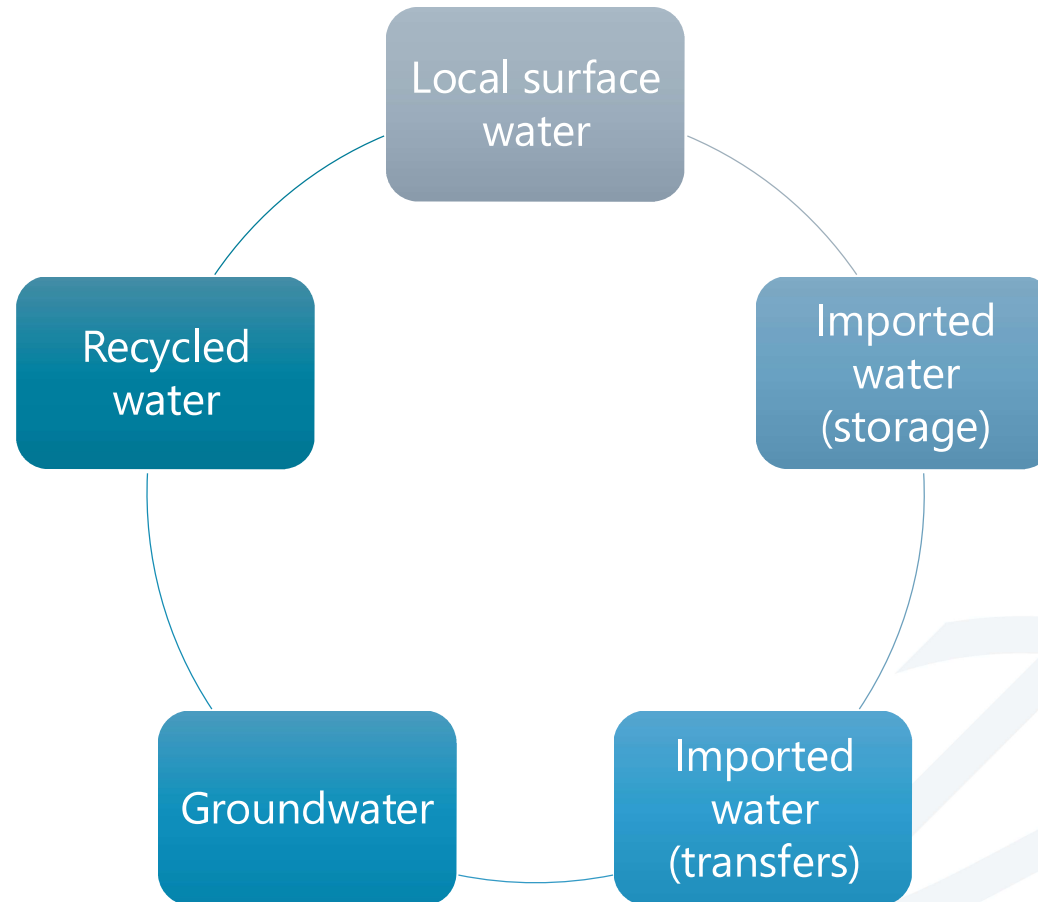


Plan for system redundancy and sustainability so that the system and PWD can accommodate unforeseen changes.

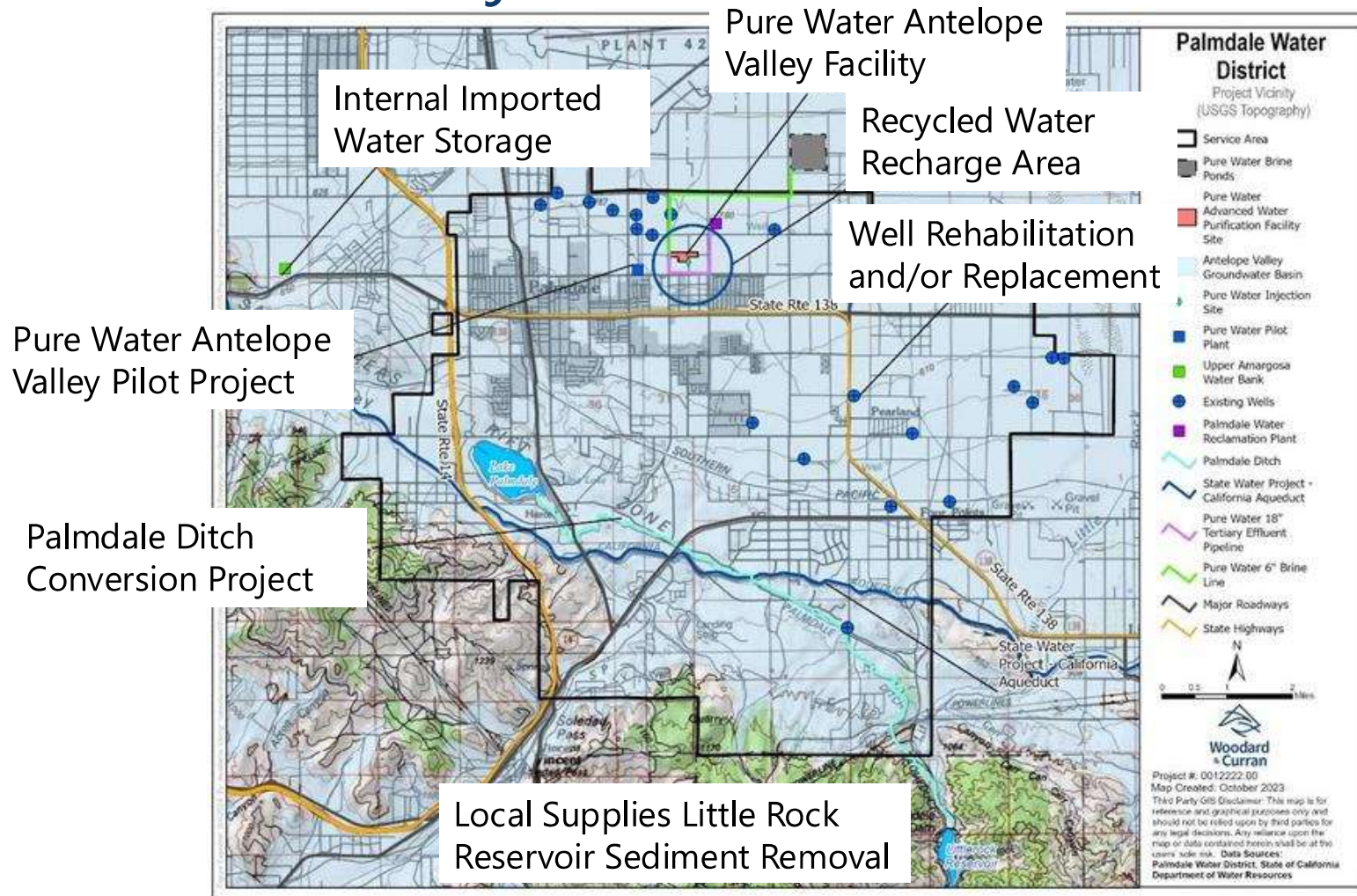
Secondary Objectives

Water Supply Element	Strategic Goals
Imported Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support projects and initiatives that increase the resilience of State Water Project supplies • Increase storage of State Water Project supplies in the Antelope Valley Basin • Maximize use of existing imported water supplies
Recycled Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize the use of recycled water within PWD's service area to reduce the current demand for imported water and limit the need for more imported water in the future • Obtain funding and partnerships to offset the cost of Pure Water Antelope Valley
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to pump stored water to meet demands during imported water shortages • Establish and operate recharge facilities to offset proposed pumping increases • Leverage excess stored water to generate capital for PWD projects • Increase PWD's groundwater production rights
Local Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Littlerock Reservoir sediment removal activities to create more storage capacity • Improve Palmdale Ditch to reduce water loss, increase conveyance capacity, and improve the quality of water transported to Lake Palmdale • Improve Palmdale Ditch system performance, reliability, and resiliency and decrease the potential for the interruption of water conveyance or need for emergency maintenance activities. • Improve Palmdale Ditch safety of operations and maintenance activities
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to expand conservation efforts on a regular basis (e.g. every 3-5 years), attracting outside funding to help expand programs • Maintain and update policies as needed to reduce water waste and preserve PWD's ability to achieve sufficient conservation savings in the event of a water shortage emergency • Achieve conservation objectives set by the State as part of Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 and Senate Bill (SB) 606

SRWP Water Supply Options



Location and Project Description



Preferred Strategy Portfolio – Alternative 11

► Includes:

- Imported Water Storage via Upper Amargosa Water Bank (Previous CEQA)
- Imported water, Tier 1 (Article 21 water) – 740 AF (Previous CEQA)
- Purchase of Antelope Valley Basin Rights – 1,000 AF (Previous CEQA)
- Indirect Potable Reuse: Recycled Water Injection – 4,500 AF (Evaluated in EIR)
- Well rehabilitations and replacement of existing wells (Evaluated in EIR)
- Palmdale Ditch Conversion – 1,500 AF (Evaluated in EIR)
- Conservation – variable (Evaluated in EIR)



SWRP Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Overview

Stakeholder and Public Meetings

Board Accepted the SWRP

EIR Notice of Preparation Meeting

EIR Public Review and Comment

Board Approves EIR and SWRP

Environmental Review

- ▶ Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- ▶ EIR was prepared to evaluate potential significant impacts
- ▶ CEQA process informs the public and responsible agencies of the project's consequences for environmental resources and human wellbeing and mitigation that can reduce impacts



Environmental Review

- ▶ Project is implementation of 2023 Strategic Water Resources Plan
- ▶ Detail design of recycled water groundwater injection wells, recycled water conveyance pipelines, groundwater extraction wells, and well replacement have not been developed yet
- ▶ Program EIR allows an examination of project build-out as a whole
 - can better address cumulative environmental effects
 - can develop programmatic mitigation
- ▶ Subsequent environmental review would be completed as individual projects are designed; tiered from the Program EIR

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Contents

- ▶ Executive Summary
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Project Description
- ▶ Environmental Analysis
- ▶ Cumulative; Significant and Unavoidable; Significant Irreversible; and Growth Inducing Impacts
- ▶ Alternatives Analysis
- ▶ References and Preparers



Draft EIR Analysis

Environmental Resources	Less than Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Significant and Unavoidable with Mitigation
Aesthetics		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Biological Resources			
Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire			
Hydrology, Groundwater, and Water Quality		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Agricultural, and Forestry Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Noise and Vibration		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Population and Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Transportation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Utilities, Service Systems, and Public Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Previous Board Briefings and Stakeholder Meetings



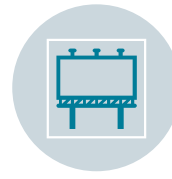
SWRP Stakeholder
Meeting #1
October 13, 2023



SWRP Stakeholder
Meeting #2
February 13, 2023



SWRP Stakeholder
Meeting #3
May 3, 2023



SWRP Public Meeting
June 13, 2023



PWD Board Acceptance
July 10, 2023



CEQA NOP Scoping
Meeting September 7,
2023

Public Review of Notice of Preparation and Draft EIR

Comment Letter Designation	Commenter	Date
1	Los Angeles County Sanitation District*	9/15/2023
2	Los Angeles County Sanitation District	11/06/2024
3	Department of Water Resources	10/04/2024
4	Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District	10/07/2024
5	Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe	10/24/2024
6	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	11/8/2024
7	State Water Resources Control Board	11/12/2024
8	Department of Transportation	11/8/2024
9	City of Lancaster	11/12/2024
10	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	11/11/2024

- ▶ 7 Agency Comments on Notice of Preparation (NOP)
- ▶ Notice of Availability published:
 - In Antelope Valley Press newspaper
 - On PWD's website
 - Email to Stakeholders and NOP commenters
 - Certified Mail to Stakeholders and NOP commenters
- ▶ EIR Available:
 - Palmdale Water District Headquarters
 - Palmdale City Library
 - PWD – Project Webpage
- ▶ Public review Draft EIR 45-days 9/27/24 to 11/11/24
- ▶ Agency Review Draft EIR 9/27/24 to 11/12/24
- ▶ 10 comments received on EIR
 - 4 State Agency
 - 2 Tribes
 - 3 Local Agencies

Draft EIR Comments

- ▶ Project Description text clarification sand additional Permit Requirements
- ▶ Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases compliance with Fugitive dust rule
- ▶ Biological Resources species and mitigation measures
- ▶ Tribal Cultural Resources setting, impacts during construction, and monitoring
- ▶ Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure information about sewerage
- ▶ Traffic Control Plan

REDUCED PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

- ▶ What is it
 - No groundwater production rights purchased
 - No Palmdale Ditch Improvements
 - Includes maximizing imported water supplies, developing recycled water supplies, constructing seven new groundwater production wells, continuing well rehabilitation and replacement, and sediment removal at Littlerock Dam Reservoir
- ▶ Eliminates Significant and Unavoidable Impact to Ditch Historic Resource
- ▶ Does not Meet SWRP Objectives
 - Would not meet current or future water supply needs
 - Does not optimize existing Ditch facility
 - Does not build in supply resiliency

ALTERNATIVE LOCATION TO THE PALMDALE DITCH CONVERSION PROJECT

- ▶ What is it
 - Looks at an alternative alignment of the Palmdale Ditch within roadways
 - Includes maximizing imported water supplies, includes purchase of groundwater production rights, developing recycled water supplies, constructing seven new groundwater production wells, continuing well rehabilitation and replacement, and sediment removal at Littlerock Dam Reservoir
 - CEQA only alternative not considered within SWRP
- ▶ May Eliminates Significant and Unavoidable Impact to Ditch Historic Resource
 - May still require some maintenance on the Palmdale Ditch
- ▶ Does not Meet SWRP
 - Requires pumping increases energy needs
 - Costs more not achieving cost savings
 - Requires new right-of-way and access obtainment

Key Mitigation Measures: **Mitigation Measure CUL-8:** Historic American Engineering Survey-Like Documentation Package

- Documents Ditch to capture historic significance



Significant and Unavoidable: Palmdale Ditch Conversion

- ▶ Project requires near-total demolition of Ditch
- ▶ Would materially impair the Ditch as defined by Section 15064.5(b) CEQA Guidelines
- ▶ Even with documenting the Ditch would not avoid significant impact





Thank you!



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
A CENTURY OF SERVICE

