



Salinas River Channel Maintenance Program Public Scoping Meeting

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

May 2, 2011

5-7 pm



Junta de Alcance Público para el Programa de Mantenimiento del Canal del Río Salinas

Agencia de Recursos de Agua del Condado de Monterey

2 de Mayo de 2011

5-7 pm



Introductions

- Lead Agency:
 - Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency)
 - Bill Phillips, Deputy General Manager
 - Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager
 - Shaunna Juarez, Project Manager
- Environmental Consultant:
 - Cardno ENTRIX
 - Lisa Mash, Senior Project Scientist
 - Susan Hootkins, Senior Consultant



Welcome

- Opening Remarks
- Please sign in:
 - Sign-in sheets, speaker and comment cards are located on the back tables
 - Indicate if you would like to be added to the distribution list



Meeting Overview

- Welcome/Overview
- History of Salinas River Flooding
- Purpose and Need for the Program
- Program Area
- Program Overview
- Environmental Review Process
- Public Participation Process



Meeting Overview cont.

- Why a Scoping Meeting?
 - Provides an opportunity for Public Comment
 - 3-5 minute limit per speaker to enable everyone to speak
 - submit speaker card to Agency staff
 - Written comments regarding scope and content of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are encouraged
 - Comments due by **May 27th** to be considered in the Draft EIR



History of Salinas River Flooding

- March 1995 Flooding:
 - Destroyed one-fourth of Salinas Valley's projected crop value
 - Damaged more than 30,000 acres of Salinas Valley farmland
 - Flood-related agricultural loss, estimated to be \$240 million (1995 dollars)
 - Permanent loss of over 1,100 acres of Prime farmland
 - Flood control levees destroyed or severely damaged



Historic Salinas River Flooding

March 1995 Flooding Photo





Purpose and Need for the Program

- Improve flood protection in the Salinas River by:
 - controlling vegetative growth and sandbars that obstruct or divert flows
 - increase channel capacity for storm flows
 - address channel capacity issues in a manner that is compatible with environmental concerns, including protection of listed species
 - promote coordination and permitting efficiency between regulatory agencies and the MCWRA



Purpose and Need for the Program cont.

- Results:
 - reduce the risk and frequency of flooding,
 - protect valuable farm resources,
 - enhance food safety,
 - reduce flood related economic losses , and
 - increase public safety and protection of infrastructure



Program Area

- Salinas River
 - Highway 1 Bridge to San Ardo (River Mile 94)
- San Lorenzo Creek
 - Salinas River to First Street Bridge
- Bryant Canyon Channel
 - Salinas River upstream approximately 2000 feet
- Gonzales Slough
 - Salinas River upstream approximately 500 feet





Program Area cont.

- San Lorenzo Creek photo
- Bryant Canyon Channel photo
- Gonzales Slough photo
- Salinas River photos



Program Overview

- Salinas River work performed by landowners
- Work on Tributaries performed by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Work performed between the riverbanks, away from the wetted channel
- Maintenance activities will be considered:
 - on an annual basis
 - for areas that can be accessed
 - based on hydrologic conditions
 - in areas of major flow constriction



Program Overview cont.

- Key activities that could occur are:
 - Non-native Vegetation Treatment
 - Mechanical removal
 - Herbicide application
 - Native vegetation Treatment
 - Mechanical removal
 - Sediment Management
 - Sandbar grading
 - Transport of material off-site
 - Bank Stabilization



Program Overview cont.

- Possible Project Alternatives:
 - Non-native Vegetation Eradication Program
 - Mechanical removal & herbicide application
 - Re-vegetation of native plants
 - Renewal of previous Program
 - Mechanical removal & hand thinning of vegetation
 - Sediment removal
 - Maintain Critical-at-Risk Flood Locations
 - Target at-risk sites
 - Provide site specific flood protection solutions
 - Mandatory Channel Maintenance Program
 - Require all landowners to participate and pay for program
 - Levee Improvements/Construction
 - Raise levees or construct new levees



Environmental Review Process

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a public disclosure law that applies to projects that require a discretionary approval by a state or local agency.



Environmental Review Process cont.

- An EIR is an informational document that will include:
 - a description of the project
 - a range of feasible alternatives
 - an analysis of potential environmental impacts
 - an analysis of any cumulative effects
 - mitigation measures to minimize potential adverse environmental effects



Environmental Review Process cont.

- Potential issue areas to be evaluated in the EIR include:
 - Human safety
 - Agricultural economics and land use
 - Seismic, Geologic, and Soil-Related Hazards
 - Air Quality
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Utilities and Public Services
 - Groundwater Resources
 - Biological resources
- Other areas may be evaluated and documented throughout the process



Public Participation Process

- Public Notification of the Project (Notice of Preparation) – April 20, 2011
- Public Scoping Meeting #1 in Salinas – Today
- Public Scoping Meeting #2 in Soledad – May 16, 2011
- Scoping Comments due May 27th, 2011
- Review and Comment on the Draft EIR *
 - Tentatively Summer 2012
 - Availability of Draft EIR will be announced in the local newspaper and a 45-day comment period will commence at that time
- Attend Public Meetings on the Draft EIR
- Review of the Final EIR
 - Tentatively Winter 2012

*contingent on funding



Public Comments

The Agency encourages those who wish to comment on the Proposed Project and EIR process, to submit comments in written format; electronic submittals (e.g. email) are also encouraged. Submit to:

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901

Fax, (831) 424-7935
930-SalinasRiverCMP@co.monterey.ca.us



Public Comments

- If you would like to speak tonight then fill out a Speaker Card
 - Limit your comments to 3-5 minutes
- Submit a comment card to help us track your comments
- Questions/comments will be noted and addressed in the EIR
- We can't address all questions tonight but will address them in the EIR



Comments/Questions?



Additional Information

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

<http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us>