

What are the key environmental findings for the proposed project?

EIR Section	Topic	Draft EIR Impact Summary	Level of Significance
5.1	Hydrology and Water Quality (includes Brine)	Brine (salts) from project operations would be discharged via the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility ocean outfall and would not violate water quality standards and the salinity of the discharge would be similar to existing seawater.	Less than Significant
		Temporary marine water quality effects during construction would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		A pilot study demonstrated that potable water from the desalination plant would meet all drinking water standards.	Less than Significant
5.2	Marine Biological Resources (includes Intake and Brine)	Operation of the seawater intake system and brine discharge would not have substantial adverse effects on special-status or other marine species.	Less than Significant
		Construction-phase impacts on marine life and habitat due to temporary water quality effects, underwater construction noise, and the placement of the intake structure would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.3	Terrestrial Biological Resources	Construction impacts of on-shore facilities on special-status species, migratory birds, riparian habitat, wetland habitat, or heritage trees would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		Tree removal at Plant Site A-2 could result in a substantial adverse effect to monarch butterfly overwintering habitat.	Potentially Significant and Unavoidable (Plant Site Alternative A-2 only)
5.4	Land Use, Planning, and Recreation	For Plant Sites A-1 and A-3 and all other project components, conflicts with land use plans and policies would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		Plant Site A-2 may conflict with City policies due to potential indirect impacts to the Natural Bridges State Beach (NBSB) monarch overwintering site, as a result of removal of trees on Plant Site A-2. These trees may provide secondary wind protection to the trees in NBSB where monarch butterflies roost.	Potentially Significant and Unavoidable (Plant Site Alternative A-2 only)
5.5	Air Quality and Climate (includes GHGs)	There would be no substantial adverse effects related to air quality.	Less than Significant
		There would be no substantial adverse effects related to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and climate change, as the project would not result in a net increase in GHG emissions.	Less than Significant
5.6	Noise	Operational noise impacts would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		The proposed project would not generate significant construction-phase noise impacts.	Less than Significant
		Construction-phase pile driving vibration impacts would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.7	Geology and Soils	Seismic, slope, and soil hazards would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		There would be no substantial adverse impacts from coastal bluff retreat.	Less than Significant
5.8	Cultural Resources	Construction would not cause a substantial adverse change on known cultural resources.	Less than Significant
		The potential for substantial change to yet to be discovered/recorded cultural resources and/or buried human remains would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.9	Utilities and Service Systems (includes Energy)	There would be no significant impacts to the potable water supply.	Less than Significant
		<i>Sewer Disposal Option</i> - Impacts to the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the distribution system would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		<i>Landfill Disposal Option</i> - Solid waste generated during operations would not substantially affect landfill capacity or conflict with state-mandated solid waste diversion rates.	Less than Significant
		Increased use of energy and natural gas during operation would not result in the need for new supplies or facilities, and would not result in conflicts with applicable energy standards.	Less than Significant
5.1	Aesthetics	There would be no substantial adverse impacts on a scenic vista or scenic resources.	Less than Significant
		There would be no substantial adverse impacts on the existing visual character or quality of the site and surroundings.	Less than Significant
		Impacts to nighttime views from a new source of light would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.11	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Potential adverse impacts from accidental release of or exposure to hazardous materials during the construction phase would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		There would be no substantial adverse impacts from routine transport or use of hazardous materials during operation.	Less than Significant
5.12	Traffic and Transportation	There would be no substantial adverse impact from construction or operations traffic.	Less than Significant
		There would be no substantial adverse impact on emergency access during construction and operation.	Less than Significant
6	Growth	The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce growth.	—
7	Cumulative	The proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to the resources above, except for Plant Site A-2 due to potential indirect impacts on the adjacent NBSB monarch butterfly overwintering roost and associated contribution to other potential regional effects.	Potentially Significant and Unavoidable (Plant Site Alternative A-2 only) Less than Significant with Mitigation (all other components)

# City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District (scwd<sup>2</sup>) Regional Seawater Desalination Project

Draft EIR Meeting Program June 3, 2013

Seacliff Inn: 7500 Old Dominion Court, Aptos, CA 95003

## MEETING AGENDA

- Open House 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Presentation 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Public Comment Session 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Resume Open House (Time Permitting)

## OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM

During today's open house, you will have the opportunity to review project information and ask questions at the exhibit stations described below. The information at these exhibit stations is designed to help you better understand the proposed project and how to draft effective comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

- 1 WELCOME STATION: Sign-in table, comment sheets, speaker cards, meeting programs
- 2 WHY THE PROJECT IS BEING EVALUATED: Overview of why the proposed project is needed by the City and District
- 3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Description of how desalination works and maps of the project area and project components and component alternatives
- 4 ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS: Summary of the key environmental findings for the proposed project
- 5 ALTERNATIVES: Overview of the alternative selection process and identification of the alternatives considered in detail
- 6 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS: Description of the public review period, how to submit comments, project timeline, project next steps
- 7 PUBLIC COMMENT STATION: Comment cards, comment box, information on how to effectively comment, contact information



# HOW TO ACCESS, READ, AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIR

## HOW CAN I ACCESS THE DRAFT EIR?

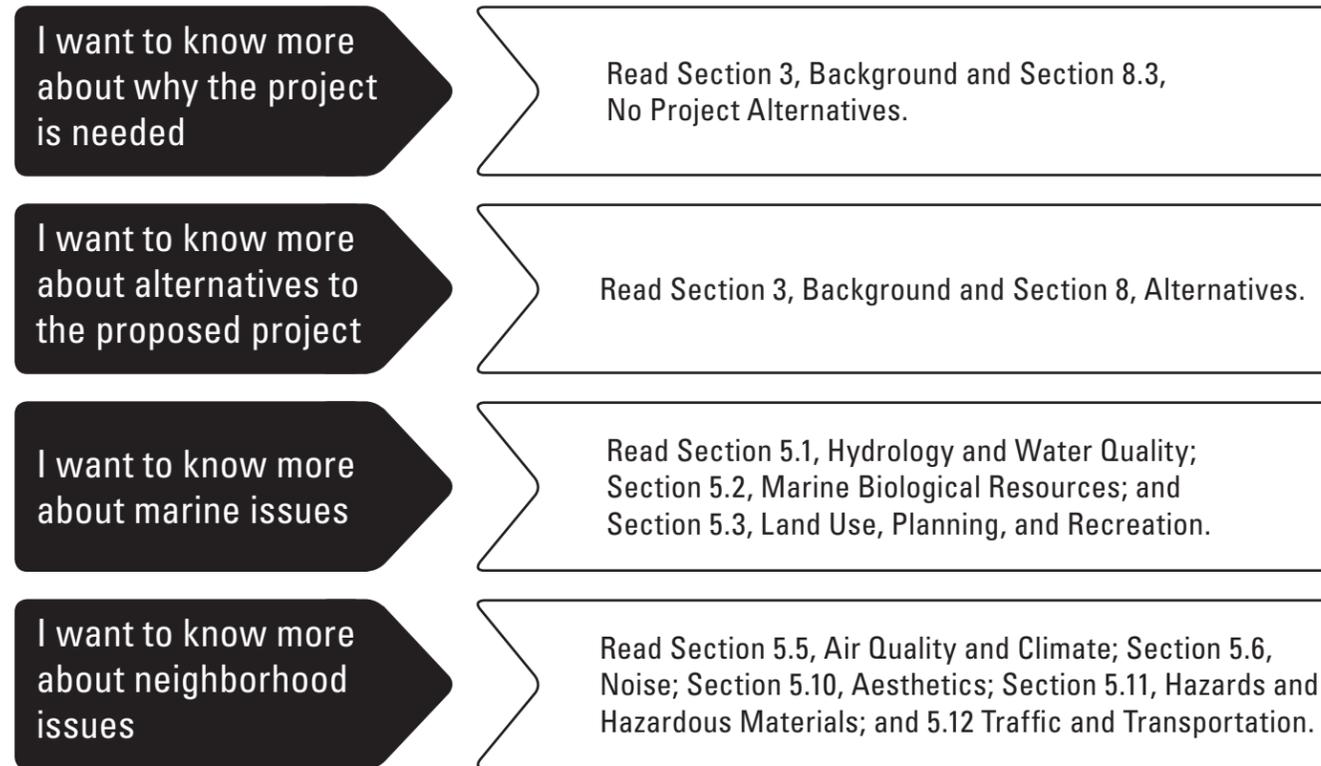
- Download the Draft EIR online at [www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org)
- Access the Draft EIR at a Public Hearing, local library, or City Water Department or Soquel Creek Water Department offices

## HOW SHOULD I READ THE DRAFT EIR?

- Some folks may read Draft EIR cover-to-cover
- Others may focus on only certain topics or considerations
- If you need guidance on how to read the Draft EIR, several tips are provided below.

**STEP 1:** Read Section 1, Executive Summary

**STEP 2:** Read additional portions of the document, based on your focus. The following provides some examples.



## HOW DO I COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIR?

- Attend a Draft EIR Public Hearing (June 3rd or July 1st) and provide verbal or written comments
- Submit written comments (via mail or email) during the 60-day comment period. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2013 and should be addressed to:

**SUBMIT COMMENTS** TO 

Heidi Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator  
City of Santa Cruz, Water Department  
212 Locust Street, Suite C  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
[hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com)

## HOW DO I PROVIDE EFFECTIVE COMMENTS?

Environmental Impact Reports, or EIRs, can be imposing and complicated documents. They are, however, the primary way that the public has of understanding and assessing the potential environmental impacts of proposed development. An important part of the EIR process is the public review period for a Draft EIR. During this period the public is invited to make comments on the Draft EIR. The lead agencies are then required to provide responses to these comments and incorporate them into the Final EIR in the "Response To Comments" section.

Providing effective comments is, therefore, one of the most important ways that the public has to potentially effect change in a proposed project and to help generate a fully informed final document. These guidelines have been provided to assist you in preparing comments on the proposed **scwd<sup>2</sup>** Regional Seawater Desalination Project so that you may participate in the process in a meaningful way.

- Comments should focus on the adequacy of the Draft EIR, especially related to the following key elements:
  - Objectives of the project, including underlying purpose of the proposed project
  - Project description
  - Assessment of the environmental impacts
  - Setting
  - Significance thresholds
  - Methods of analysis
  - Conclusions and basis of conclusions
  - Proposed mitigation measures
  - Alternatives considered in detail and alternatives eliminated
- Objectively evaluate the proposed project, impact conclusions, mitigation measures and alternatives, and be as specific and factual as possible in your comments.
- Whenever possible, present facts or expert opinions. If not, provide personal experience or your personal observations. Comments that reflect only an emotional opinion will not be addressed in detail. For example, a comment that states, "I don't like the project," typically results in a response of "Comment Noted."
- Focus on the sufficiency of the Draft EIR in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts of the project on the environment. If you believe an impact has not been adequately identified or characterized, then:
  - Identify the specific impact in question;
  - Explain the nature of your comment or question on the impact and what aspect of the analysis your comment relates to
  - Explain why you would recommend changes or need additional information on the analysis conclusions, mitigation measures, or other element of the analysis and support your recommendations.
- Include suggestions for improving the proposed project or offer specific alternatives and describe how they meet the objectives of the proposed project.
- If your comments relate to the existing alternatives discussion, be specific about what aspect of the analysis you have questions or comments about.
- Separate your concerns into clearly identifiable paragraphs or headings and keep a tight focus on each separate issue.
- Include a valid name and address on your comment. Submit it before the deadline. Keep a copy of your comments for your records. Organizations should include the name of a contact person.
- If submitting handwritten comments, please write legibly.
- Be aware that, when responding to comments, the City and District need only respond to significant environmental issues and do not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, as long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the EIR.



## What are the key environmental findings for the proposed project?

EIR Section	Topic	Draft EIR Impact Summary	Level of Significance
5.1	Hydrology and Water Quality (includes Brine)	Brine (salts) from project operations would be discharged via the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility ocean outfall and would not violate water quality standards and the salinity of the discharge would be similar to existing seawater.	Less than Significant
		Temporary marine water quality effects during construction would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		A pilot study demonstrated that potable water from the desalination plant would meet all drinking water standards.	Less than Significant
5.2	Marine Biological Resources (includes Intake and Brine)	Operation of the seawater intake system and brine discharge would not have substantial adverse effects on special-status or other marine species.	Less than Significant
		Construction-phase impacts on marine life and habitat due to temporary water quality effects, underwater construction noise, and the placement of the intake structure would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.3	Terrestrial Biological Resources	Construction impacts of on-shore facilities on special-status species, migratory birds, riparian habitat, wetland habitat, or heritage trees would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		Tree removal at Plant Site A-2 could result in a substantial adverse effect to monarch butterfly overwintering habitat.	Potentially Significant and Unavoidable (Plant Site Alternative A-2 only)
5.4	Land Use, Planning, and Recreation	For Plant Sites A-1 and A-3 and all other project components, conflicts with land use plans and policies would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		Plant Site A-2 may conflict with City policies due to potential indirect impacts to the Natural Bridges State Beach (NBSB) monarch overwintering site, as a result of removal of trees on Plant Site A-2. These trees may provide secondary wind protection to the trees in NBSB where monarch butterflies roost.	Potentially Significant and Unavoidable (Plant Site Alternative A-2 only)
5.5	Air Quality and Climate (includes GHGs)	There would be no substantial adverse effects related to air quality.	Less than Significant
		There would be no substantial adverse effects related to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and climate change, as the project would not result in a net increase in GHG emissions.	Less than Significant
5.6	Noise	Operational noise impacts would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		The proposed project would not generate significant construction-phase noise impacts.	Less than Significant
		Construction vibration impacts would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.7	Geology and Soils	Seismic, slope, and soil hazards would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		There would be no substantial adverse impacts from coastal bluff retreat.	Less than Significant
5.8	Cultural Resources	Construction would not cause a substantial adverse change on known cultural resources.	Less than Significant
		The potential for substantial change to yet to be discovered/recorded cultural resources and/or buried human remains would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.9	Utilities and Service Systems (includes Energy)	There would be no significant impacts to the potable water supply.	Less than Significant
		<i>Sewer Disposal Option</i> - Impacts to the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the distribution system would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		<i>Landfill Disposal Option</i> - Solid waste generated during operations would not substantially affect landfill capacity or conflict with state-mandated solid waste diversion rates.	Less than Significant
5.10	Aesthetics	Increased use of energy and natural gas during operation would not result in the need for new supplies or facilities, and would not result in conflicts with applicable energy standards.	Less than Significant
		There would be no substantial adverse impacts on scenic vistas, scenic resources, or existing visual character or quality.	Less than Significant
5.11	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Impacts to nighttime views from a new source of light would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
		Potential adverse impacts from accidental release of or exposure to hazardous materials during the construction phase would be minimized through mitigation measures.	Less than Significant with Mitigation
5.12	Traffic and Transportation	There would be no substantial adverse impacts from routine transport or use of hazardous materials during operation.	Less than Significant
		There would be no substantial adverse impacts from construction or operations traffic or emergency access.	Less than Significant
6	Growth	The project would not directly induce growth, as it would not result in new residential development or substantial new long-term employment. The project would not foster unplanned growth, but would indirectly support planned growth, as set forth in adopted general plans and regional population projections. Regardless of future planned growth, a supplemental water supply is needed to meet the water demands of existing customers.	—
7	Cumulative	The proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to the resources above, except for Plant Site A-2 due to potential indirect impacts on the adjacent NBSB monarch butterfly overwintering roost and associated contribution to other potential regional effects.	Potentially Significant and Unavoidable (Plant Site Alternative A-2 only) Less than Significant with Mitigation (all other components)

# City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District (scwd<sup>2</sup>) Regional Seawater Desalination Project

Draft EIR Meeting Program July 1, 2013

First Congregational Church: 900 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## MEETING AGENDA

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Open House on Draft EIR (Preceding Water Commission Meeting)

7:00 p.m. Water Commission Meeting Begins

- General Business Item No. 1 Introduced by Chair of the Water Commission
  - › 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Presentation by Consultant
  - › 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Public Comment Session
  - › 9:00 p.m. Close of Public Comment Session
- Water Commission Meeting Continues (see Water Commission Agenda)

## OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM

During today's open house, you will have the opportunity to review project information and ask questions at the exhibit stations described below. The information at these exhibit stations is designed to help you better understand the proposed project and how to draft effective comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

- 1 WELCOME STATION: Sign-in table, comment sheets, speaker cards, meeting programs
- 2 WHY THE PROJECT IS BEING EVALUATED: Overview of why the proposed project is needed by the City and District
- 3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Description of how desalination works and maps of the project area and project components and component alternatives
- 4 ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS: Summary of the key environmental findings for the proposed project
- 5 ALTERNATIVES: Overview of the alternative selection process and identification of the alternatives considered in detail
- 6 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS: Description of the public review period, how to submit comments, project timeline, project next steps
- 7 PUBLIC COMMENT STATION: Comment cards, comment box, information on how to effectively comment, contact information



# HOW TO ACCESS, READ, AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIR

## HOW CAN I ACCESS THE DRAFT EIR?

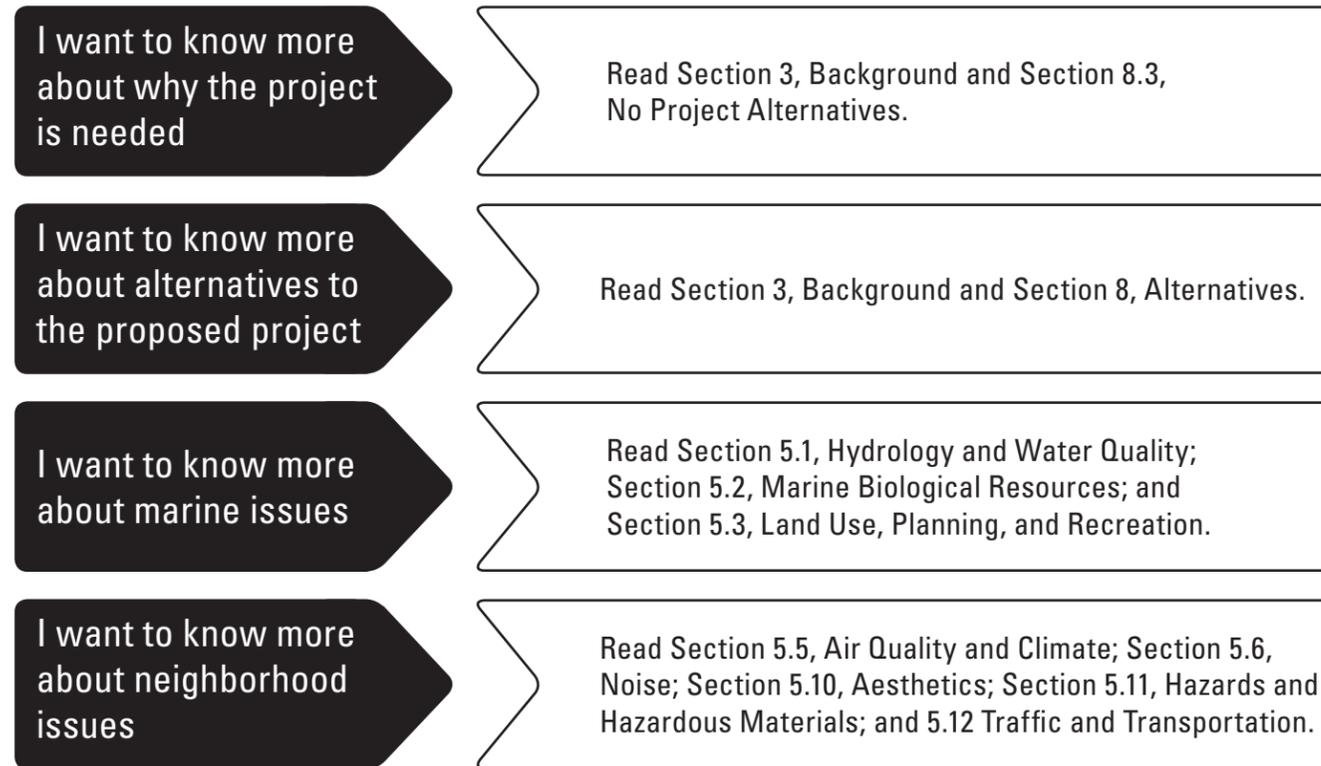
- Download the Draft EIR online at [www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org)
- Access the Draft EIR at a Public Hearing, local library, or City Water Department or Soquel Creek Water Department offices

## HOW SHOULD I READ THE DRAFT EIR?

- Some folks may read Draft EIR cover-to-cover
- Others may focus on only certain topics or considerations
- If you need guidance on how to read the Draft EIR, several tips are provided below.

**STEP 1:** Read Section 1, Executive Summary

**STEP 2:** Read additional portions of the document, based on your focus. The following provides some examples.



## HOW DO I COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIR?

- Attend a Draft EIR Public Hearing (June 3rd or July 1st) and provide verbal or written comments
- Submit written comments (via mail or email) during the 60-day comment period. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2013 and should be addressed to:

**SUBMIT COMMENTS TO**

Heidi Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator  
City of Santa Cruz, Water Department  
212 Locust Street, Suite C  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
[hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com)

## HOW DO I PROVIDE EFFECTIVE COMMENTS?

Environmental Impact Reports, or EIRs, can be imposing and complicated documents. They are, however, the primary way that the public has of understanding and assessing the potential environmental impacts of proposed development. An important part of the EIR process is the public review period for a Draft EIR. During this period the public is invited to make comments on the Draft EIR. The lead agencies are then required to provide responses to these comments and incorporate them into the Final EIR in the "Response To Comments" section.

Providing effective comments is, therefore, one of the most important ways that the public has to potentially effect change in a proposed project and to help generate a fully informed final document. These guidelines have been provided to assist you in preparing comments on the proposed **scwd<sup>2</sup>** Regional Seawater Desalination Project so that you may participate in the process in a meaningful way.

- Comments should focus on the adequacy of the Draft EIR, especially related to the following key elements:
  - Objectives of the project, including underlying purpose of the proposed project
  - Project description
  - Assessment of the environmental impacts
  - Setting
  - Significance thresholds
  - Methods of analysis
  - Conclusions and basis of conclusions
  - Proposed mitigation measures
  - Alternatives considered in detail and alternatives eliminated
- Objectively evaluate the proposed project, impact conclusions, mitigation measures and alternatives, and be as specific and factual as possible in your comments.
- Whenever possible, present facts or expert opinions. If not, provide personal experience or your personal observations. Comments that reflect only an emotional opinion will not be addressed in detail. For example, a comment that states, "I don't like the project," typically results in a response of "Comment Noted."
- Focus on the sufficiency of the Draft EIR in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts of the project on the environment. If you believe an impact has not been adequately identified or characterized, then:
  - Identify the specific impact in question;
  - Explain the nature of your comment or question on the impact and what aspect of the analysis your comment relates to
  - Explain why you would recommend changes or need additional information on the analysis conclusions, mitigation measures, or other element of the analysis and support your recommendations.
- Include suggestions for improving the proposed project or offer specific alternatives and describe how they meet the objectives of the proposed project.
- If your comments relate to the existing alternatives discussion, be specific about what aspect of the analysis you have questions or comments about.
- Separate your concerns into clearly identifiable paragraphs or headings and keep a tight focus on each separate issue.
- Include a valid name and address on your comment. Submit it before the deadline. Keep a copy of your comments for your records. Organizations should include the name of a contact person.
- If submitting handwritten comments, please write legibly.
- Be aware that, when responding to comments, the City and District need only respond to significant environmental issues and do not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, as long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the EIR.