



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

March 28, 2018

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as co-Lead Agencies, enclose for your review, the *Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project*.

California American Water Company (CalAm) submitted a permit application for the construction and operation of its proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP). The purpose of the MPWSP is to replace existing water supplies for CalAm's Monterey District service area. The MPWSP includes various proposed facilities and improvements including: a subsurface intake system; a 9.6-million-gallons-per-day reverse osmosis desalination plant; desalinated water storage and conveyance facilities; and expanded Aquifer Storage and Recovery facilities. Federal, state, and local agencies will use the Final EIR/EIS to consider related permits or other approvals.

The Final EIR/EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and six alternatives including a No Action Alternative. The Final EIR/EIS identifies Alternative 5a as the environmentally superior/environmentally preferred alternative, assuming implementation of the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project. Alternative 5a is also the NOAA-preferred alternative.


NOAA and the CPUC are not required to respond to comments received as a result of issuance of the Final EIR/EIS. However, comments received will be reviewed and considered for their impact on the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) or a Record of Decision (ROD) described in Section 1.5.4. Please send comments to the decision makers below. The ROD will be made publically available after a final agency action.

Responsible Officials:

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Sincerely,



John Armor
Director

Enclosure