



# Inland Empire Waterkeeper

*Advocacy • Education • Restoration • Enforcement*

August 5, 2008

Eastern Municipal Water District  
c/o K.S. Dunbar & Associates  
Attn: Keith Dunbar  
3035 Calle Frontera  
San Clemente, CA 92673-3012

## **RE: Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, NOP Public Comments**

Dear Mr. Dunbar,

Thank you for including Inland Empire Waterkeeper in your NOP distribution list to review the proposed EMWD recycled water pipeline project. We have provided some initial comments below, and look forward to reviewing the Program EA/EIR as well. Our mission is focused on the water quality of the Santa Ana River Watershed, which includes the San Jacinto River Watershed so in this case we are concerned with impacts primarily to the San Jacinto River, Mystic Lake, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, and the people who enjoy it, its native inhabitants, and tributaries:

1. Hemet Citrus In-Lieu: Point of clarification – if EMWD wants to supply the Soboba Golf Course in the future, that project would be subject to its own environmental review and discretionary approval process. The language in the NOP makes it sound automatic. Also, it is likely that impacts will be significant. For example, Western Municipal Water District is realigning its original proposal for the Riverside-Corona Feeder project, which includes “microtunneling” a pipeline under the Santa Ana River, for which an EIR is being prepared (Webb Associates).
2. General: It would have been helpful to have a figure or text describing the original project proposal and what was changed. What made EMWD change their mind? Now the proposal does not include the San Jacinto Wildlife Area storage pond. Please discuss how this will impact the future of the wildlife area.
3. General: There is no direct or clear discussion on growth-inducing impacts from this project. Please discuss.

Please call if you have any questions, and you can list my name as our CEQA reviewer.

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