



Inland Empire Waterkeeper

Advocacy • Education • Restoration • Enforcement

October 31, 2008

Eastern Municipal Water District
Attn: Karen Hackett
PO Box 8300
Perris, CA 92572-8300

RE: Comments on Draft EIR for Lakeview/Nuevo Master Plan for Water, Sewer and Recycled Water

Dear Ms. Hackett:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review the aforementioned draft EIR and Master Plan. Our concerns lie primarily with preserving ambient water quality of the San Jacinto Watershed, and future water supply for the region. Please contact Autumn DeWoody at (951) 689-6842 or Autumn@iewaterkeeper.org for clarification or questions.

Water Supply

Enclosed are several recent news articles and press releases as examples of the future restrictions of water supply through Metropolitan Water District. However, the water supply assessments included in the draft EIR technical appendices for the proposed developments that would be served by this master plan were prepared in 2005 and 2006. In light of the recent water supply crisis and the resulting changes in policy that have occurred since, can the District provide updated information on the water supply availability for these developments? Neither the Plan nor the draft EIR explain how the economic benefits would outweigh the costs of an inadequate water supply or enormous importation costs?

Water Quality

As stated in the NOA, this project would induce unavoidable conversion of agricultural properties and open space to impervious surfaces that also contribute to ambient water pollution; but in greater volume and velocity during storm events due to the inability to infiltrate (and thus changing drainage patterns). Inland Empire Waterkeeper desires to work with the District and developers to ensure innovative and effective runoff attenuation features are included in all developments supported by the Master Plan, to minimize impacts to groundwater supplies and surface waters.

Other

References in the Hydrology section show that the 1995 version of the Basin Plan was used, however the February 2008 is available on their Web site. References should be based on the most current version available.

Mystic Lake is slated for inclusion in the next update to the Basin Plan by the Santa Ana RWQCB. Please address whether this would alter any aspect of the Master Plan or draft EIR.

How would this project impact the recycled water allocation to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area?

Sincerely,

Garry Brown, Executive Director

