



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE
OTAY MESA CONVEYANCE AND DISINFECTION SYSTEM PROJECT,
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

DATE: May 12, 2016

TO: State Clearinghouse; Responsible, Trustee, and Other Jurisdictional Agencies; and Other Interested Organizations/Individuals

CEQA LEAD AGENCY: Otay Water District
2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard
Spring Valley, California 91978-2004

NEPA LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

This is to inform you that the Otay Water District (District) and the U.S. Department of State (Department) have prepared a joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIR/EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Otay Mesa Conveyance and Disinfection System Project (Proposed Project).

Responsible, Trustee, and Other Jurisdictional Agencies: The District and the Department request the views of your agency as to the content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. Agencies may need to use the EIR/EIS prepared by the District and the Department when considering permits or other approvals for the Project.

Interested Organizations/Individuals: The District and the Department request your comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the Project.

Project Title: Otay Mesa Conveyance and Disinfection System Project

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the community of Otay Mesa in southern San Diego County, approximately 17 miles southeast of downtown San Diego, and 8 miles northeast of downtown Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico (Figure 1-1, Project Vicinity). The southern end of the proposed pipeline would be located along the United States-Mexico border, approximately 2 miles east of the Otay Mesa Port of Entry (POE), and generally continue north via existing dirt roads to Paseo de la Fuente. It would continue along this road until reaching Alta Road. From the intersection of Alta Road and Paseo de la Fuente, the proposed pipeline would turn north and follow the road to the terminus at Roll Reservoir (Figure 2-1, Project Location).

Project Description: The proposed project involves the construction and operation of an approximately four-mile-long, 48 to 54-inch-diameter (not yet determined) potable water pipeline, and a metering station within the Otay Mesa area of the County of San Diego just north of the United States-Mexico international border. Additionally, a pump station and/or disinfection facility may be constructed if needed. The proposed project would enable the District to import and convey desalinated seawater from a connection point at the United States-Mexico border north to the District's existing Roll Reservoir. The desalinated seawater would be produced at a proposed Mexican desalination plant, located in Rosarito, Baja California. It is envisioned that this plant would produce 100 million gallons per day (MGD) of desalinated seawater. The District intends to purchase up to 50 MGD of desalinated seawater.

The Draft EIR/EIS identifies three conveyance pipeline alignment alternatives and a no-project alternative. All three alignment alternatives begin at the United States-Mexico border, approximately 300 linear feet (LF) east of the existing San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) power transmission lines and easement. This is the location of the pipeline terminus in Mexico. After starting at the same location, the three alignment alternatives diverge for approximately 4,000 LF, then merge again and follow the same alignment for approximately 17,740 LF ending at Roll Reservoir. A metering station is proposed near the United States-Mexico border, slightly north of the connection point. The metering station footprint is no more than approximately 1,000 square feet (SF). The station is located directly in-line or adjacent to the east side of the proposed conveyance pipeline, depending on the Alternative. A potential disinfection facility is proposed at one of four possible locations along the conveyance pipeline alignment alternatives and a potential pump station, if necessary to convey water to Roll Reservoir, would be located near the United States-Mexico border (adjacent to the previously described metering station, northeast of the connection point). Additionally, a proposed outfall structure is located along Alta Road south of the District's Roll Reservoir and would allow the District to off-load/divert water that does not meet quality specifications negotiated with the Mexican provider ("non-spec water") into O'Neal Canyon.

Potential Environmental Effects: In accordance with CEQA and consistent with NEPA, the Draft EIR/EIS evaluates "direct physical changes... and reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment which may be caused by the project." The Draft EIR/EIS also evaluates whether any such changes that it identifies are individually or cumulatively significant. In addition to evaluating the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on the environment, it presents feasible mitigation and analyzes potential project alternatives. The Draft EIR/EIS identifies potentially significant effects related to air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, environmental justice, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, and transportation/traffic from Project implementation. The only issue area with potential to result in significant and unavoidable

impacts is greenhouse gas emissions related to the potential pump station. All other impacts identified for the three Action Alternatives would be reduced to below a level of significance through the incorporation of mitigation measures presented in the Draft EIR/EIS.

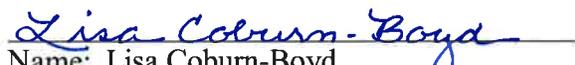
Public Review Period: The District has issued this Notice of Availability (NOA) for public review and comment pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15087. The Department has also published a NOA in the Federal Register. The comment period for the Draft EIR/EIS begins on May 12, 2016. Responses should be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than June 27, 2016. Copies of the NOA, Draft EIR/EIS, and appendices are available on the District's website: www.otaywater.gov or the project website: www.owd-desalconveyance.com. Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS are available for public review at the District office, location listed below. Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS and appendices are also available for public review at the following public libraries: Chula Vista Public Library—Otay Ranch Branch, City of San Diego Public Library—San Ysidro Branch, and County of San Diego Public Library—Bonita-Sunnyside Branch.

Responses and Comments: At this time, the District and the Department are soliciting comments on the Draft EIR/EIS for this Project. All comments must be postmarked by June 27, 2016. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, or email. All comments from agencies or organizations should indicate a contact person for the agency or organization. Comments should be sent to:

Otay Water District
2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard
Spring Valley, California 91978-2004
Attention: Lisa Coburn-Boyd
Fax: 619-670-8920
Lisa.coburn-boyd@otaywater.gov

Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR may also be submitted at www.regulations.gov by entering the title of this Notice into the search field and following the prompts or be submitted by mail, addressed to: Otay Project Manager, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues (OES/EQT): Room 2726, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street N.W., Washington, DC 20520. Following close of the public comment period, responses to comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS will be prepared, and, together with any corresponding revisions to the Draft EIR/EIS, will constitute a Final EIR/EIS. The Final EIR/EIS will be considered and acted upon by the District's Board of Directors at a noticed public hearing.

Signature:


Name: Lisa Coburn-Boyd
Date: May 12, 2016



Otay Mesa Conveyance & Disinfection System Project

El Florido Projects

Rosarito Desalination Plant

FIGURE 1-1
Regional Location

100032058



Source: AECOM, 2015
0 2 4
Miles
Approximate Scale

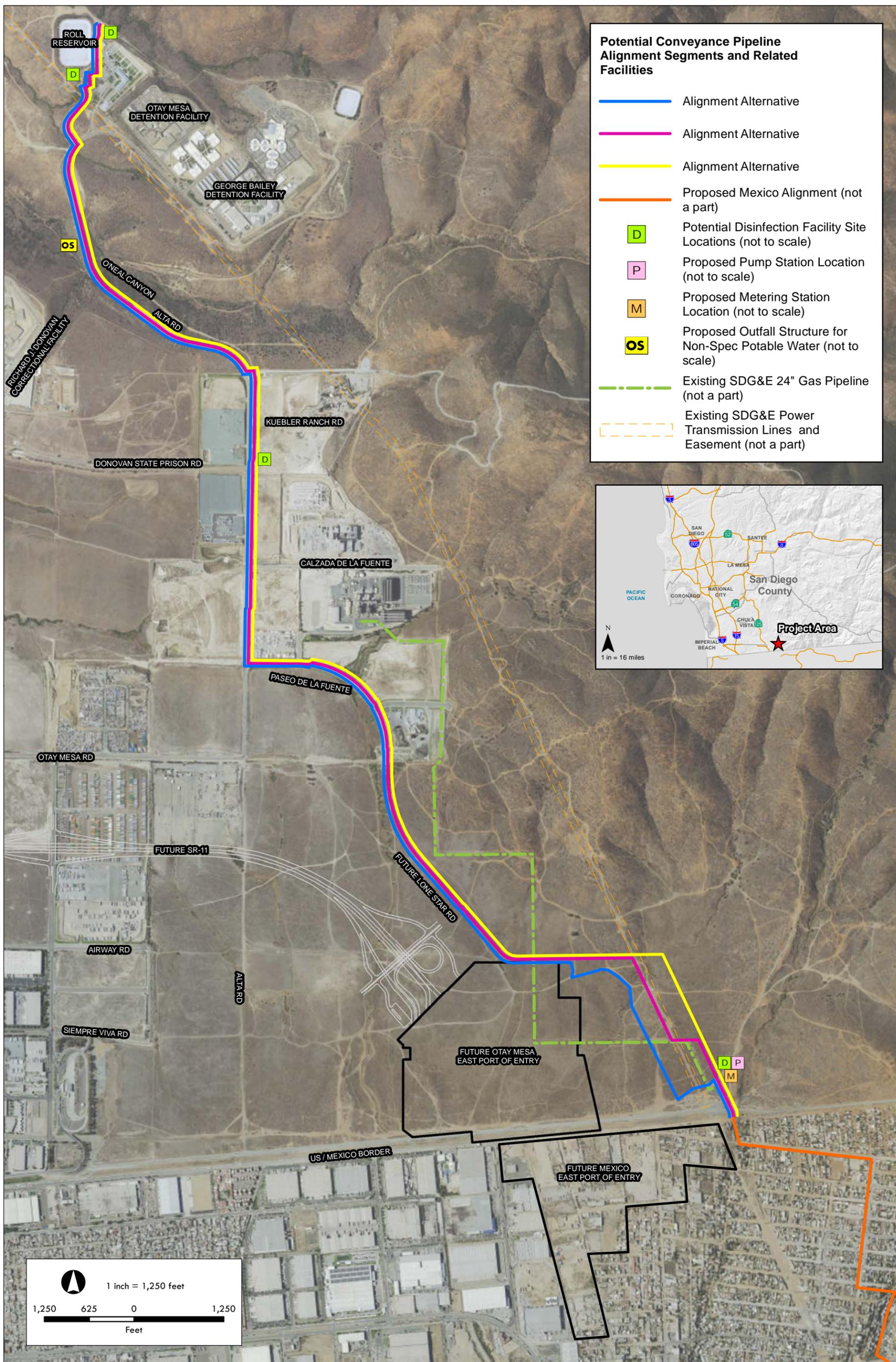


FIGURE 2-1
Proposed Alternatives

100032058

Source: Atkins, 2014; San Diego County GIS, 2012; ESRI, 2014

Otay Mesa Conveyance and Disinfection System Project