

Draft

CITY OF PALO ALTO EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY AND STORAGE PROJECT

Environmental Impact Report
SCH # 2066022038

Prepared for:
City of Palo Alto

November 2006



CITY OF PALO ALTO

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Notice of Availability

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been prepared by the City of Palo Alto Utilities for the project listed below. This DEIR will be available for review and comment during a minimum 45-day period commencing on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 and ending on Friday, December 22, 2006, during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at (a) the Development Center, 285 Hamilton Avenue, (b) the Main Library, 1213 Newell Road or (c) the Department of Planning and Community Environment, 250 Hamilton Avenue, 5th Floor, Palo Alto, California. A limited number of DEIR documents will be made available at the Department of Planning and Community Environment for a check-out/loan on a first-come-first serve basis. The DEIR is also available for viewing on the City of Palo Alto Utilities' website at www.cpau.com/emergencywater/EIR.

The Planning and Transportation Commission will hold a hearing to take public comments on the adequacy of the DEIR on November 29, 2006, and a second public hearing for the Final EIR on February 14, 2007. The City Council will hold a public hearing on March 5, 2007 to certify the adequacy of the FEIR. All meetings will be held at 7:00 PM in the Palo Alto City Council Chambers. Please check the above website for possible changes to these scheduled dates.

Written comments on the DEIR must be submitted to Jim Flanigan, Project Engineer, at City of Palo Alto Utilities, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301 by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 22, 2006.

Project Description

The City of Palo Alto currently relies on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy system for its water supply. According to the California Department of Health Services (DHS), the City does not have enough water to meet normal and emergency demands in the event of a temporary shutdown of the SFPUC aqueducts. The DHS recommendations for an emergency water supply are three-fold: (1) a stand alone system; (2) that could supply eight hours of maximum day water demand; (3) while maintaining fire fighting reserves.

Currently, the City owns five groundwater wells, which are available for limited use during a drought or emergency. The proposed Emergency Water Supply and Storage Project is intended to correct the deficiency in the City's emergency water supply. The proposed project would support a minimum of eight hours of normal water use at the maximum day demand level and four hours of fire suppression at the design fire duration level, and would be capable of providing water supplies for up to 30 days. The proposed groundwater system may also be used to a limited extent for water supply during drought conditions (up to 1,500 acre feet), and potentially for up to an average day supply during extended shutdowns of the SFPUC system. The proposed project would provide 11,000 gpm of reliable well capacity and 2.5 million gallons (MG) of water storage for emergency use in Pressure Areas 1, 2 and 3 by:

1. Rehabilitating all five of the existing City wells:
 - Hale well site – in Timothy Hopkins Creek Park (Hopkins Park), adjacent to San Francisquito Creek at the intersection of Hale Street and Palo Alto Avenue
 - Rinconada Park well site – in Rinconada Park located along Hopkins Street
 - Fernando well site – in Boulware Park, on Fernando Avenue near Matadero Creek
 - Peers Park well site – the southeast corner of Peers Park adjacent to the railroad
 - Matadero well site – on Matadero Avenue, between El Camino Real and Matadero Creek

 2. Constructing up to three new wells (two located at sites listed below and one located proximate to the selected new reservoir site as listed in the following #3):
 - Eleanor Pardee Park – northeast area of the park away from the demonstration gardens
 - Main Library/Community Gardens – northwest corner of the community gardens
 - Heritage Park – Waverly Street to the north, Bryant Street to the south, Homer Street to the west, and Channing Street to the east
 - Middlefield site – south side of Middlefield Avenue at a vacant lot between Lincoln and Kingsley Streets
 - Downtown Parking Lots – exact location not yet determined
 - California Avenue Parking Lots – exact location not yet determined

 3. Constructing a new 2.5 MG storage reservoir, associated pump station and new well:
 - El Camino Park – between El Camino Real and Alma Street
 - Stanford Shopping Center North site – the northernmost parking lot of the Stanford Shopping Center
 - Stanford Shopping Center South site – the parking lot accessed from Quarry Road immediately north of Arboretum Road
 - Town and Country Shopping Center site – the triangular parking lot behind the Town and Country Shopping Center where Embarcadero Road intersects Alma Road

 4. Upgrading an existing pump station (Mayfield Pump Station)
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STEVE EMSLIE, Director of Planning and Community Environment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, listening assistive devices are available in the Council Chambers and Council Conference Room. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request with 72 hours advance notice.

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