



January 30, 2023

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Alex Henson
Associate Water Resources Engineer
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
1441 Schilling Place, North Building
Salinas, CA 93901
E-Mail: tunnelEIR@co.monterey.ca.us

Re: Extension of Comment Period and Request for Public Meeting on Draft EIR for the Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project

Dear Mr. Henson:

This office represent the Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (“NRWMAC”) with respect to the Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project (“Project”). It has come to NRWMAC’s attention, that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Agency”) has circulated a Draft EIR with respect to the Project, and that the Agency is leaving the comment period open for a period of forty-nine (49) days. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15105, a public comment period may extend to up to 60 days under normal circumstances and beyond that period in unusual circumstances.

The Draft EIR released by agency totals 2600 pages in length and requires substantial review for meaningful comments to be provided. In light of this, NRWMAC is hereby requesting that the Agency extend the comment period an additional 11 days to allow for the full 60 days authorized by statute for public review and comment.

Furthermore, it appears that the Agency is conducting two public hearings, one in Bradley, California, and one in Greenfield, California. However, no public hearings are being held near the south side of Lake Nacimiento, where a significant population resides that will be directly affected by the Projects impacts. NRWMAC is hereby requesting that the Agency hold an additional public hearing in the south Lake Nacimiento area, in addition to the two more distant hearings currently offered.

We look forward to working with the Agency to participate in the process as this Project moves forward and respectfully ask for your consideration to allow for this additional public comment by extending the comment period to 60 days and holding a public hearing in the south Lake Nacimiento area.

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We look forward to your prompt response to these requests.

Sincerely,

ALESHIRE & WYNDER, LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Early', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul J. Early
Partner

PJE:PJE