
Date: February 21, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Directors **From:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Engineering, Operations & Water Resources

Staff Contact: Christiana Daisy, Deputy General Manager

Subject: Adopt Resolution No. 2024-2-1, 2020 Optimum Basin Management Program Update
Recirculated Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report

Executive Summary:

Chino Basin Watermaster (CBWM) developed the 2000 Optimum Basin Management Program (OBMP) to establish a groundwater management program that enhances safe yield and water quality of the Chino Basin (Basin), enabling all groundwater users to produce water from the Basin in a cost-effective manner. IEUA, serving as lead agency, adopted the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in July 2000. CBWM initiated the 2020 OBMP Update (OBMPU) in 2018 to modernize and incorporate an improved understanding of Basin characteristics and address new challenges. In 2020, with IEUA again serving as lead agency, Tom Dodson & Associates (TDA) prepared a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2020 OBMPU which included a 30-day public review period for the Initial Study and 45-day public review period for the Draft SEIR. Responses to comments were provided to commenting parties and the public in the Final SEIR on July 2, 2020. On July 15, 2020, IEUA received additional public comments immediately prior to the scheduled public hearing causing the IEUA Board to postpone consideration of the 2020 OBMPU Final SEIR until the comments could be fully evaluated and considered.

In October 2020, CBWM amended the 2020 OBMPU in collaboration with its stakeholders. As the 2020 update to CBWM's Storage Management Plan was included as part of the 2020 OBMPU and the additional public comments on the 2020 OBMPU SEIR were not yet resolved, CBWM produced the Local Storage Limitation Solution (LSLS) in order to maintain the Basin Safe Storage Capacity above 500,000 acre-feet (AF) past the June 30, 2021 expiration of the previously approved Storage Management Plan. Following technical approval of the LSLS, IEUA as lead agency conducted an environmental review of the document and the IEUA Board approved Addendum No. 2 to the 2000 OBMP PEIR for the LSLS on March 17, 2021.

Between September 2022 and February 2023, CBWM hosted workshops, meetings, and provided an extended opportunity to receive additional stakeholder input on the 2020 OBMPU SEIR Project Description. Proposed revisions to the Project Description included such proposed projects as the addition of a potential 9,000 acre-feet advanced water purification facility and associated infrastructure, new groundwater treatment facilities, conveyance facilities, existing treatment facility improvements, as well as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), monitoring, extraction, and injection wells. IEUA incorporated the additional stakeholder input into the updated analysis of the OBMPU SEIR and issued a Notice of Availability (NOA) as lead agency for the 2020 OBMPU Recirculated Draft SEIR on September 27, 2023 allowing for an additional 45-day public review of the revised 2020

OBMPU Draft SEIR. Ten written comment letters were received during the public review period from: 1) San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, 2) Orange County Sanitation District, 3) California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 4) Chino Desalter Authority, 5) City of Chino, 6) City of Ontario, 7) Orange County Water District, 8) CBWM – Non-Agricultural Pool, 9) State Water Resources Control Board, and 10) California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Examples of comments received from these entities and addressed in the Responses to Comments include concerns over the proposed placement of potential future projects, continued disagreements with the overall timeline and process of the OBMPU, disagreement with the described assessment of proposed project alternatives, concerns over the disruption of identified groundwater contamination plumes, and concerns over the possible impacts of potential future projects on local habitat. The Responses to Comments address those comment letters received and can be found in the OBMPU Recirculated Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (RFSEIR), which was circulated to commenting parties and the public on February 8, 2024, at least 10 days prior to the noticed public hearing date.

The revised and recirculated SEIR determined that most adverse environmental impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level and identified unavoidable significant impacts relating to Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems. The Statement of Overriding Considerations demonstrates that program the benefits of the project justify the approval of the project and outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects of approving the project. Certification of the OBMPU RFSEIR includes the adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, CEQA Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and will allow the OBMPU RFSEIR to function as a foundational environmental document for the region for the next 20 years to help address Basin challenges and enable future funding opportunities.

Staff's Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on proposed Resolution No. 2024-2-1; and
2. After closing the public hearing:
 - a. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-2-1, Certifying the Recirculated Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, Adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Adopting the Findings of Fact, and Adopting the Statement of Overriding Considerations, for the 2020 Optimum Basin Management Program Update; and
 - b. Authorize the Filing of the Notice of Determination with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse, Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Budget Impact *Budgeted (Y/N): N Amendment (Y/N): N Amount for Requested Approval*

Regional Sewerage *Technical Committee (Y/N): N
Policy Committee (Y/N): N*

Prior Board Action:

On July 12, 2000, the IEUA Board approved the OBMP PEIR. On May 21, 2008, the IEUA Board approved the Addendum No. 1 to the OBMP PEIR and the Facilities Master Plan PEIR. On June 19, 2019, the IEUA Board adopted Resolution No. 2019-6-12, supporting the timely completion of the 2020 OBMP Update. On July 15, 2020, the IEUA Board postponed consideration of item 1A for Resolution No. 2020-7-13, certifying the 2020 OBMP Update SEIR. On March 17, 2021, the IEUA Board

approved Addendum No. 2 to the OBMP PEIR for the Local Storage Limitation Solution.

Environmental Determination:

Project Environmental Impact Report

Environmental Determination Text:

The RFSEIR package includes: RFSEIR for the OBMP Update, Responses to Comments, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and all other materials in the administrative record.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - [PowerPoint](#)

Attachment 2 - [Resolution No. 2024-2-1](#)

Attachment 3 - [Link_to_OBMPU_Final_SEIR_2024.pdf](#)

Attachment 4 - [Statement of Overriding Considerations.pdf](#)