



EAST BAY WATERSHED MASTER PLAN UPDATE FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETING

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Title: East Bay Watershed Master Plan Update (Update or Project)
2. Location: East Bay Municipal Utility District Watershed District lands, consisting of 29,000 acres of open space in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.
3. Description:
The East Bay Watershed Master Plan (EBWMP) was first adopted by the EBMUD Board of Directors (Board) in 1996. At that time, the Board certified a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report that evaluated potential environmental impacts of the EBWMP in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). EBMUD has prepared an Update to the EBWMP to reflect land management experience and actions taken since the EBWMP adoption, acknowledge changing management challenges, and address public input on access and land management practices. Specifically, the Update addresses: 1) "emerging challenges" which include climate change, invasive species, pathogens (e.g., Sudden Oak Death), contaminants, and limited capacity for trench soils management; these will be addressed through adaptive management and a boat inspection program to prevent the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels; 2) pest management practices and the decision to eliminate pesticides where feasible; and 3) changes to the access policy for the watershed trail system, providing access to bicycles and other users on 7.5 miles of trail in the Pinole Valley and on the Eagle's Nest trail.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Final Negative Declaration (ND) was prepared and is available at EBMUD's Administrative Offices, Room 829, or by download at <https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/east-bay/east-bay-watershed-master-plan-update/>.

1. Recommended finding: The Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Reasons to support finding: Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study (IS) was prepared for the Project. Based on the results of the Initial Study, it was determined that the Project would result in less than significant environmental impacts to the environment. Based on this assessment, an ND has been prepared.

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- An IS/ND was prepared for the Project and released for a 45-day public comment period on December 15, 2017. All comments received on the ND have been compiled and responded to in the Final ND including any changes and clarifications to the ND. A copy of the Final ND is available at EBMUD's Administrative Offices, Room 829, or by download at <https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/east-bay/east-bay-watershed-master-plan-update/>.
- *The EBMUD Board of Directors is scheduled to consider adoption of the Final ND and approval of the Project at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 22, 2018, which begins at 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room at EBMUD Administration Offices, 375 Eleventh Street, Oakland, CA 94607.*
- All persons who wish to challenge the finding that the Project will not have significant effect on the environment should appear at the meeting indicated above.

I hereby certify that a copy of the Notice of Intent for the MND was posted on the first floor of the EBMUD Administration Offices on the dates indicated below.

Date: **May 11, 2018**

12/15/2017 through 1/29/2018

Rosie S. Cole
Secretary of the District

Date Posted: _____ Date Removed: _____