



**Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Impact Report**

DATE: April 20, 2023

TO: Interested Persons and Organizations

FROM: Scott Johnson, Senior Planner, Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of Sacramento Groundwater Master Plan Well Replacement Program

COMMENT PERIOD: April 20, 2023 through June 5, 2023

Notice is Hereby Given that the City of Sacramento (City) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to address potential environmental effects of the City's Groundwater Master Plan Well Replacement Program (Project). The DEIR for the proposed Project will be available for a 45-day public review period beginning April 20, 2023 and concluding June 5, 2023. The DEIR can be reviewed on-line at the following websites:

Utilities Department web page at:

[http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Utilities/Water/Current-Projects/Groundwater-Well-
Replacement](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Utilities/Water/Current-Projects/Groundwater-Well-Replacement)

Community Development Department, Environmental Impact Report webpage at:

[https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-
Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports](https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports)

Written comments or questions concerning the DEIR should be directed to the environmental project manager at the following address by 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2023. Please include the contact person's full name and address in the comment letter for future notification.

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BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The proposed Project is the replacement of 38 groundwater wells throughout the City of Sacramento that are at or near the end of their useful life. Due to climate change, extremely dry years are expected to be more frequent and intense, and maintaining the City's capability to extract groundwater more reliably will allow the City to diversify its water supply portfolio. The program is an outgrowth of the City's Groundwater Master Plan and identifies where, when, and how certain municipal production wells should be replaced, given current economic, regulatory and water quality constraints as well as variations in hydrologic and climate conditions affecting reliability of the City's surface water supply. Replacement planning was found to be necessary because many of the current well locations are too small to accommodate same-site well replacement, and groundwater quality concerns may affect the ability to use many of the City's existing wells. As such, new locations are required for most replacement wells.

The preliminary replacement well locations are at sites within residential, commercial, and industrial areas, schools, parks, and existing public facilities, such as existing City well sites, water storage facilities, and water treatment facilities. Replacement wells are located within the City's water service area, which overlies the North American and South American Subbasins of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin.

The proposed Project includes initial exploratory drilling, construction, operation, and long-term maintenance of 38 wells, including above-ground wellhead facilities, such as pumps and a chlorination/ fluoridation system, as well as below ground sanitary sewer and drinking water distribution system connections. Replacement wells would be constructed to produce approximately 1,250 gallons per minute of groundwater when in full operation. Wells in areas with groundwater quality concerns would require the construction and operation of necessary treatment systems. The Project also includes destruction of the 38 existing City wells and would take place after the replacement well is fully operational.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The DEIR assesses potential project impacts on Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation and Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. The DEIR concluded that the Project would have no significant unavoidable impacts and that potentially significant impacts could be reduced to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures.