



August 9, 2023  
Rincon Project No. 23-14635

David Stoldt, General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District  
5 Harris Court, Building G  
Monterey, California 93940  
Via email: [dstoldt@mpwmd.net](mailto:dstoldt@mpwmd.net)

**Subject: Proposal to Prepare an Addendum to the Pure Water Monterey/Groundwater Replenishment Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Report**

Rincon Consultants, Inc. is pleased to submit this proposal to assist the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD or District) with preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Addendum for a future water allocation program. The following sections of this proposal describe: (1) our project understanding; (2) our proposed scope of work; (3) a schedule for completion of the work program; and (4) our cost estimate.

## **Project Understanding**

The Pure Water Monterey/Groundwater Replenishment (PWM/GWR) Project is an advanced water recycling project, jointly developed by MPWMD and Monterey One Water (M1W), that provides both purified potable water for domestic use, as well as tertiary treated water for the Salinas Valley agricultural industry. In 2019, M1W prepared a Draft Supplemental EIR (SEIR) for modifications to expand the water supply yield of the approved PWM/GWR Project. These modifications would expand facility peak capacity from 5 mgd to 7.6 mgd and would ultimately result in an additional 2,250 AFY of purified recycled water for injection into the Seaside Groundwater Basin and subsequent extraction, for a total average yield of 5,750 AFY. With this new water source anticipated to come online in the coming years, the District is considering an additional water allocation for the various jurisdictions within the MPWMD service area. This includes the County of Monterey; cities of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, and Seaside; the Monterey Peninsula Airport District; and the Department of Defense (potentially including separate allocation accounts for the Coast Guard, Army, and Navy).

In July 2023, Rincon completed an assessment of the proposed water allocation program to determine whether it qualifies as a "project" under CEQA, and to what extent growth that could be accommodated by the water allocations has already been analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As outlined in a memorandum dated July 26, 2023, Rincon found that the proposed water allocation qualifies as a project under CEQA and that the PWM/GWR SEIR has already analyzed the growth-inducing and secondary environmental effects associated with the proposed water allocation, which is, in practice, a continuation of the District's existing water allocation program. As such, Rincon recommended preparation of Addendum to the PWM/GWR SEIR. This District has considered this recommendation and requested that Rincon prepare a proposal for completing the EIR Addendum.



## Scope of Work

In accordance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency may prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred. The conditions described in Section 15162 include the following:

- (1) *Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;*
- (2) *Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or*
- (3) *New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:*
  - a) *The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;*
  - b) *Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;*
  - c) *Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or*
  - d) *Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.*

Based on our understanding of the proposed new water allocations, this scope of work assumes that the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts and that, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, an EIR Addendum would be the appropriate level of supplemental CEQA review for the project. If a new impact or increase in magnitude of a previous impact, or other significant new information, is identified during the analysis, Rincon will notify the District immediately to determine the appropriate course of action.

The scope of work for the addendum will be as follows.

### Task 1 Draft Addendum

Rincon will prepare a Draft EIR Addendum pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Draft EIR Addendum will include the following content:

- **Introduction.** The EIR Addendum will include introductory information, including a brief description of the project history and an explanation of the relationship of this document to previous analysis, as well as a description of the required contents and applicability of preparing an Addendum; and



- **Environmental Impact Evaluation.** The EIR Addendum will evaluate whether the proposed water allocations would have different environmental impacts or a different degree of impact than those identified in the certified SEIR. The impact evaluation will address all issue areas discussed in the certified SEIR. However, the key question will be how or to what extent the proposed allocations differ from what is already analyzed in the SEIR with particular emphasis on growth inducement. As noted in the July 26, 2023, memorandum, the PWM/GWR SEIR has already analyzed the growth-inducing and secondary environmental effects associated with the proposed water allocation. The addendum will elaborate on this point. Following an explanation that the severity of growth-inducing impacts would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental effects, the addendum will briefly discuss all CEQA Appendix G issue areas. This approach seeks to provide a succinct yet comprehensive assessment, effectively augmenting the information presented in the certified SEIR. This approach aims to ensure efficient yet informative CEQA documentation for the proposed allocations.

The Draft EIR Addendum will be in the format of a stand-alone report. Rincon will submit an electronic copy of the Draft EIR Addendum in Microsoft Word format for MPWMD review and comment. This scope of work assumes that District comments and outside legal counsel comments will be consolidated into one set of comments, clearly indicating the desired revisions.

## Task 2 Final Addendum

Rincon will address consolidated comments on the Draft EIR Addendum and prepare the Final EIR Addendum. We will prepare a Notice of Determination (NOD) for District approval and will file the NOD with the County Clerk's office if the project is approved. We assume MPWMD or Monterey One Water (M1W) will provide the CDFW filing receipt from the certified SEIR; payment of CDFW fees is not included in this proposal. We assume the Addendum will not be specifically and separately circulated for public comment, consistent with the CEQA Guidelines. The Final EIR Addendum will be provided in digital (PDF) format. The PDF will not be formatted for Americans with Disabilities Act Section 508 accessibility unless requested by the District for an additional fee.

## Task 3 Project Management

This task includes Rincon attendance at up to two virtual meetings (one hour each) as well as management and coordination through the duration of the project, including coordination with the District and internal project team; project oversight; budget and schedule management; and project accounting including billing and accounts receivable efforts.

## Assumptions and Exclusions

This scope of work includes the following assumptions and exclusions:

- The project would not result in new or substantially increased significant impacts and an EIR Addendum is the appropriate level of supplemental review per CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.
- This scope does not include stand-alone technical studies, records searches, field visits, or quantification of air quality, greenhouse gas, noise, or other issue areas. This scope presumes that brief discussions of each issue area will be sufficient, following an explanation that growth-inducement was sufficiently analyzed in the certified SEIR.
- District comments and outside legal counsel comments will be consolidated into one set of comments, clearly indicating the desired revisions.
- MPWMD or M1W will provide the CDFW filing receipt from the certified SEIR.



- The Addendum will not be circulated for public review or comment.
- Rincon will not provide hard copies of any deliverables. Deliverables will not be formatted to comply with Section 508 accessibility requirements unless requested and authorized separately.
- All meetings will be held virtually.

## Schedule

The Rincon team is prepared to begin the work program described in this proposal immediately upon authorization. Barring delays beyond Rincon’s control, the Draft EIR Addendum can be completed approximately eight weeks from notice to proceed and project kickoff. We can complete the Final EIR Addendum within two weeks of receipt of District comments, assuming no substantial new analysis is required.

## Cost

As shown in Table 1 below, Rincon will provide the requested services described above on a time and materials basis for an estimated fee of **\$24,700**. Please note that we have a remaining (unused) budget of \$4,800 from the CEQA Approach Memorandum assignment. With an approval to reallocate the remaining budget to the current scope of work, an additional **\$19,900** would be required.

**Table 1 Cost Summary**

Task		Estimated Cost
Task 1	Draft Addendum	\$15,937
Task 2	Final Addendum	\$5,584
Task 3	Project Management	\$3,179
<b>Addendum Total</b>		<b>\$24,700</b>
Remaining Budget (to Reallocate)		-\$4,800
<b>Total Request</b>		<b>\$19,900</b>

Costs have been allocated to tasks based upon Rincon’s proposed approach. Rincon may reallocate costs among tasks as circumstances warrant so long as the adjustments maintain the total price within its authorized amount. This offer for professional services will remain in effect for a period of 30 days from the date of this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to support your project. If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**

Megan Jones, MPP  
Managing Principal  
831-920-5424 |  
[mjones@rinconconsultants.com](mailto:mjones@rinconconsultants.com)