



State Water Resources Control Board



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Division of Water Rights
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

OCT 12 2009

To: Enclosed Mailing List

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ON THE EL SUR RANCH WATER RIGHT APPLICATION (NO. 30166)

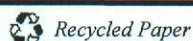
The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) announces the completion of a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the El Sur Ranch water right application No. 30166 and its availability for public review and comment. El Sur Ranch is a working cattle operation located on the coast of Monterey County, California, just north of the Big Sur River and west of Highway 1. Irrigation of approximately 267 acres of upland pastures at the ranch has historically occurred using water pumped from wells located within the adjacent Andrew Molera State Park on land originally deeded to the California State Parks system from El Sur Ranch. The State Water Board has determined that continued use of water pumped from these wells will require a water right application because the source of that water is a subterranean stream rather than percolating groundwater. The appropriation of this water, therefore, is under the jurisdiction of the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights (Division). If approved, El Sur Ranch's water right would allow for the appropriation of water from the two existing El Sur Ranch groundwater wells located in Andrew Molera State Park for irrigation of existing El Sur Ranch pasturelands located just north of the park and west of Highway 1. The total annual diversion sought is a maximum of 1,615 acre-feet in any one calendar year, subject to limitations identified in the water right application.

In considering approval of the water right application, the State Water Board must consider the project's potential environmental impacts and any appropriate mitigation measures, as required by CEQA. The DEIR evaluates the potential effects that approval of the water right application would have on water quality, Big Sur River hydrology, fisheries, and other aquatic resources supported by the Big Sur River and subterranean flows. The DEIR concluded the proposed project would result in potentially significant project and cumulative impacts on hydrology, water quality, and fisheries. Mitigation measures are included in the DEIR to reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels.

All interested persons are encouraged to review the DEIR and submit written comments on the project and adequacy of the DEIR. The DEIR is available for review in the Records Unit of the State Water Board's Division, which is located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA Headquarters Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California. A copy of the DEIR also has been posted on the Division's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/elsur_ranch/

California Environmental Protection Agency



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The public comment period on the DEIR will begin October 8, 2009 and end November 23, 2009. All written comments must be **submitted** to the address listed below, **on or before 5:00 p.m. on November 23, 2009**. Comments should be addressed to:

Paul Murphey
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Comments may be hand delivered to the same addressee at 1001 I Street, Second Floor, Division of Water Rights – Records Unit during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). In addition, comments may be, and are encouraged to be, submitted via electronic mail to wrhearing@waterboards.ca.gov with a subject of "El Sur Ranch", but must be followed by an original hard copy.

If you have any questions regarding the DEIR, please contact Paul Murphey at pmurphey@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5435.

Sincerely,

for James W. Kassel
Victoria A. Whitney
Deputy Director for Water Rights

Enclosure

El Sur Ranch Interested Parties Mailing List

Ellyn Levinson
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California Department of Parks and
Recreation
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

Ms. Lorri Lockwood
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Big Sur, CA 93920

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Dr. William Hearn
U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
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Mr. Stacy Li
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Central Coast Region –
Southern Unit
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Ms. Katie Morang
California Coastal Commission
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Dr. Roy Thomas
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Carmel, CA 93923

Mr Hank Smith
Carmel River Steelhead Association
1314 Josselyn Canyon Road
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Mrs. Frances Farina
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Carmel, CA 93923

Mr. Jim Crenshaw
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
1248 East Oak Av
Woodland, CA 95695

Ms. Trinda Bedrossian
Department of Conservation
Division of Mines and Geology
1027 10th Street, 4th Floor
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Mr James Hill III
C/o Janet Goldsmith
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Mr. Ken Gray
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Lois Harter
Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park
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Monterey County Clerk/Recorder
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Association of Monterey Bay Area
Governments
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Karin Strasser-Kauffman
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El Sur Ranch Interested Parties Mailing List

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