



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED

Alisal Reservoir Conditional Use Permit

Case Nos. 13EIR-01 / 10CUP-00000-00018

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Alisal Ranch proposes to construct an agricultural water storage reservoir, earthen-lined with a maximum capacity of approximately 1.5 million gallons (4.7 acre-feet) and supplied with water from two existing, privately-owned wells located within the Santa Ynez River channel.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located approximately 200 meters (656 feet) south of the Santa Ynez River and approximately 300 meters (984 feet) west of Alisal Road just south of the City of Solvang, APN 137-270-025, in the Solvang area, Third Supervisorial District.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: Santa Barbara County Planning and Development (P&D) is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of 13EIR-00000-00001. You may comment by providing testimony at the public hearing on **Thursday June 26, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Solvang Veteran's Memorial Building (Legion Hall) located at 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang** and/or submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on **Monday, July 28 at 5 p.m.**

PROJECT DETAILS: The Alisal Ranch proposes to construct and operate an earthen-lined, 1.5 million gallon (4.7 acre feet) agricultural water storage reservoir on a 316.74-acre, agriculturally zoned parcel. The reservoir would draw water from two existing wells (Ranch Course wells no. 2 and 3) that are owned by the applicant and located within the Santa Ynez River, pursuant to the Alisal Ranch's existing riparian rights. The reservoir would be used to irrigate row crops on the property to facilitate year-round agriculture. It would not be used in conjunction with the property owner's neighboring parcels (i.e., the Alisal Guest Ranch and River Course). Water would be delivered to the proposed reservoir through an existing pipeline from the wells to Alisal Road, via a proposed underground pipeline from Alisal Road to the proposed reservoir. The project would require new overhead power supply lines, water pumps, telemetry, controls, fencing and an equipment pump storage area within an earthen berm, eight feet in height. The reservoir would be accessed by a new all-weather road via an existing all-weather road serving the Solvang Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plan. The proposed project incorporates design features that would be implemented during years when the Bureau of Reclamation is not required to release water to maintain a 1.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) flow of water at the Alisal Bridge. These design features would ensure that the pumping of river water by the Ranch Course wells would not affect the federally endangered southern steelhead.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (13-EIR-01) pursuant to the requirements of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. The EIR has been prepared due to the potential for unavoidable, significant adverse effects as a result of proposed project implementation. The Draft EIR, which identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for the proposed project, identifies no significant and unavoidable (Class I) impacts on the environment from the proposed project. The Draft EIR identifies significant but mitigable (Class II) impacts in the following areas: **Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Water Resources, Air Quality, Geology/Drainage, and Noise.** If the project description changes, P&D will require a re-evaluation to consider the changes. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the Draft EIR is not attached, the Draft EIR may be obtained and all documents referenced therein may be reviewed at Planning & Development offices located at 624 Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria and 123 E. Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara, and on our website at: www.sbcountyplanning.org/environmental/active.cfm. Draft documents are also available for review at the Santa Barbara, Solvang, and Santa Ynez Public Libraries, and at the Richardson Library at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Joyce Gerber, 624 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria, California 93455, phone (805) 934-6265, fax (805) 934-6258, jgerber@co.santa-barbara.ca.us prior to the close of public comment on Monday July 28, 2014 at 5 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as cultural resources, water, biology, traffic, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial (estimated Planning Commission hearing date of October 1, 2014).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact Hearing Support Staff (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.