

Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
**Interlake Tunnel Project and Spillway Modification Project**  
**Scoping Meetings**

May 16 and 17, 2016



# Introductory Comments

MCWRA Role

History of Project

Introductions to Consultant Team

# Meeting Agenda

1. Meeting purpose and protocol
2. Project overview
3. Overview of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
4. Receipt of public comment

# Meeting Purpose

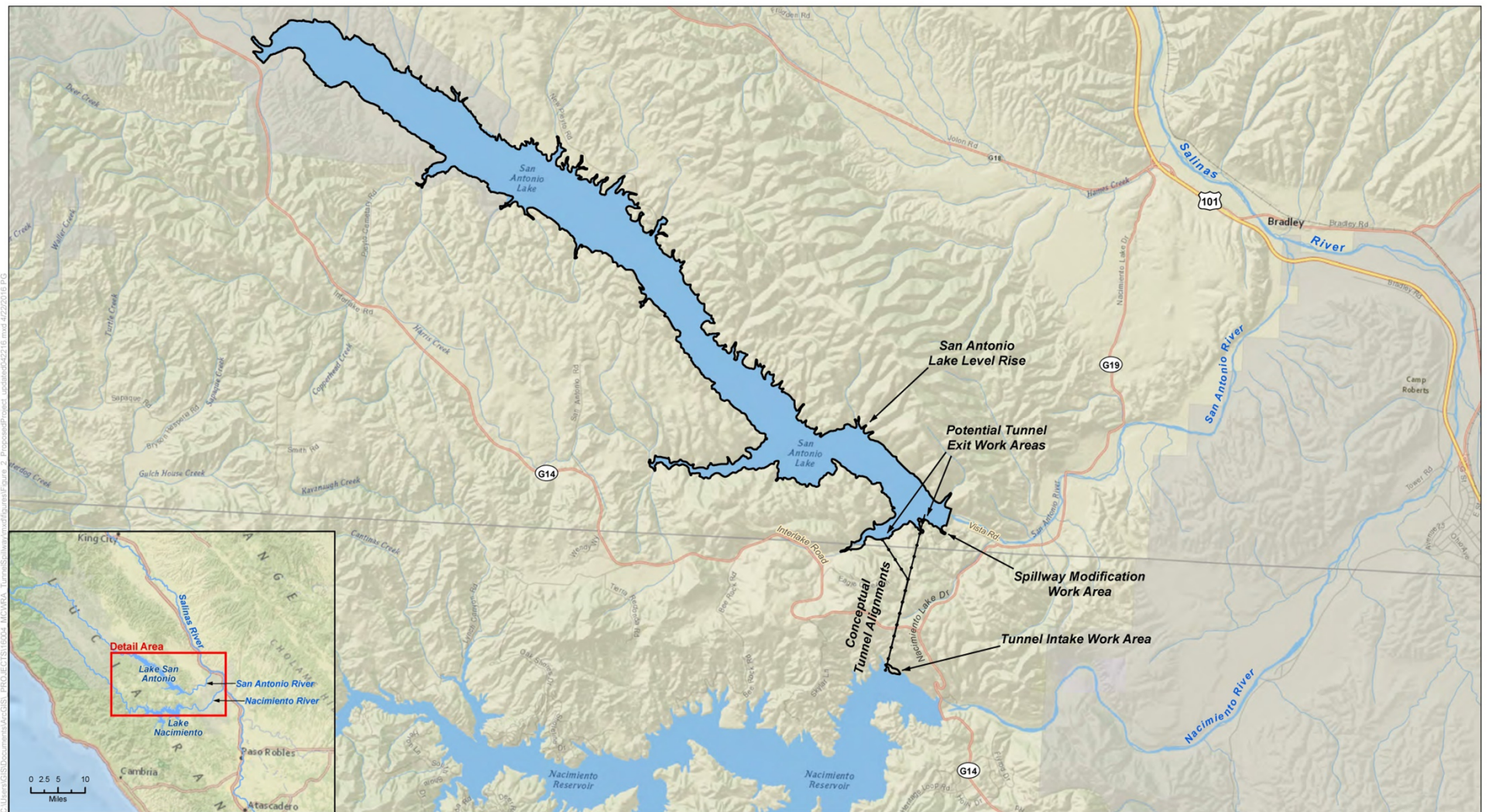
CEQA Scoping: To allow the public and agencies to provide input on the scope and content of the project's environmental impact analysis.

Scoping comments inform the scope and nature of the CEQA environmental analysis.

# Meeting Protocol

- Please silence cell phones.
- One person speaks at a time; please do not interrupt a speaker.
- Make clear and succinct comments in order for us to effectively capture the comment in notes.
- Be respectful of each other and differing points of view.
- Each speaker will have 3 minutes to speak.

# Project Location



□ Proposed Project Elements

Figure 2  
Proposed Project

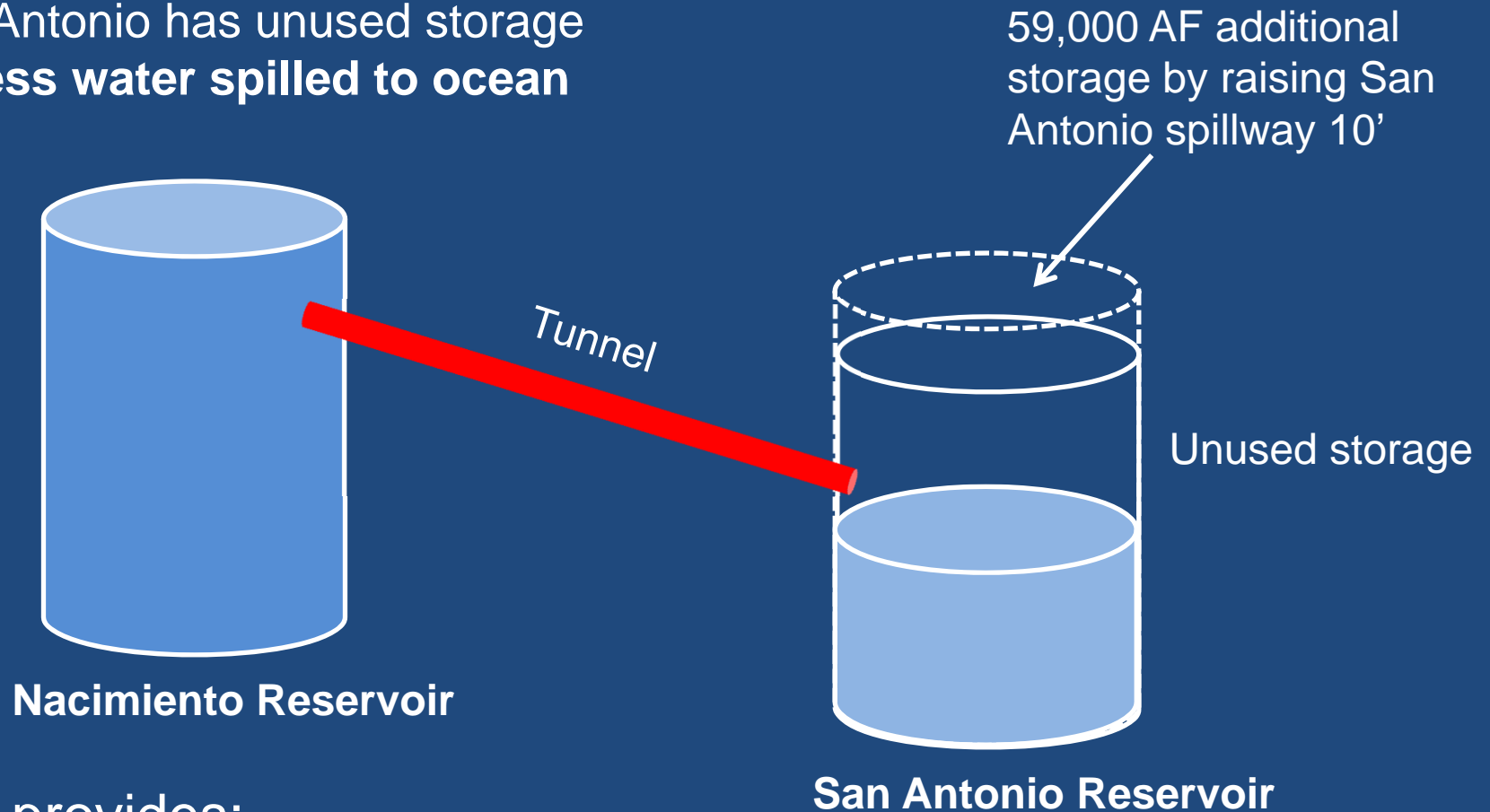
Interlake Tunnel and  
Spillway Modification Project

# Project Background and Purpose

- Project has been under consideration since the 1970's
- Unused storage in San Antonio Reservoir when Nacimiento Reservoir is at capacity and releasing flood spills
- Tunnel connection would allow utilization of unused storage
- Raised spillway at San Antonio Reservoir would further increase storage for transfers

# Project fundamentals

- Nacimiento fills 3x faster than San Antonio
- San Antonio has unused storage
- **Excess water spilled to ocean**



Tunnel provides:

- Flood control and reduced flood spills
- Increases net storage of reservoirs



# Project description



# Project Elements

- Interlake tunnel
- Tunnel intake facility at Nacimiento Reservoir
- Tunnel outlet facility at San Antonio Reservoir
- San Antonio dam spillway capacity increase
- Removal and replacement of infrastructure surrounding San Antonio Reservoir
- Disposal of spoils

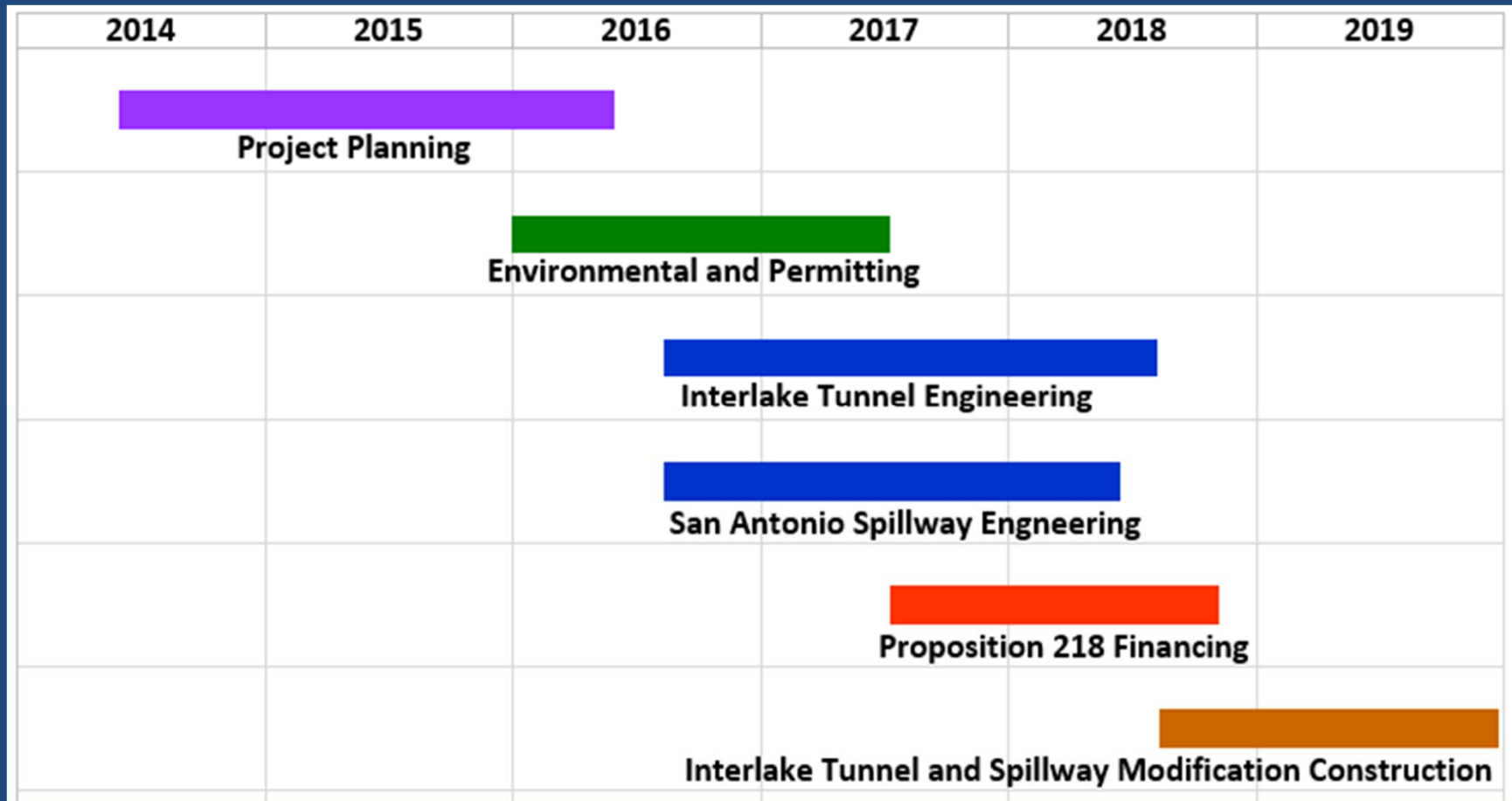
# San Antonio spillway modification



# Project Objectives

- Minimize flood releases from Nacimiento Reservoir and reduce associated downstream flood damages;
- Increase the overall surface water supply available from Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs by maximizing the opportunity for water to be collectively stored in the reservoirs;
- Improve the hydrologic balance of the groundwater basin in the Salinas Valley and reduce seawater intrusion;
- Continue to meet environmental flow requirements
- Minimize impact on existing hydroelectric production
- Preserve recreational opportunities in the reservoirs; and
- Protect agricultural viability and prime agricultural land.

# Project Schedule

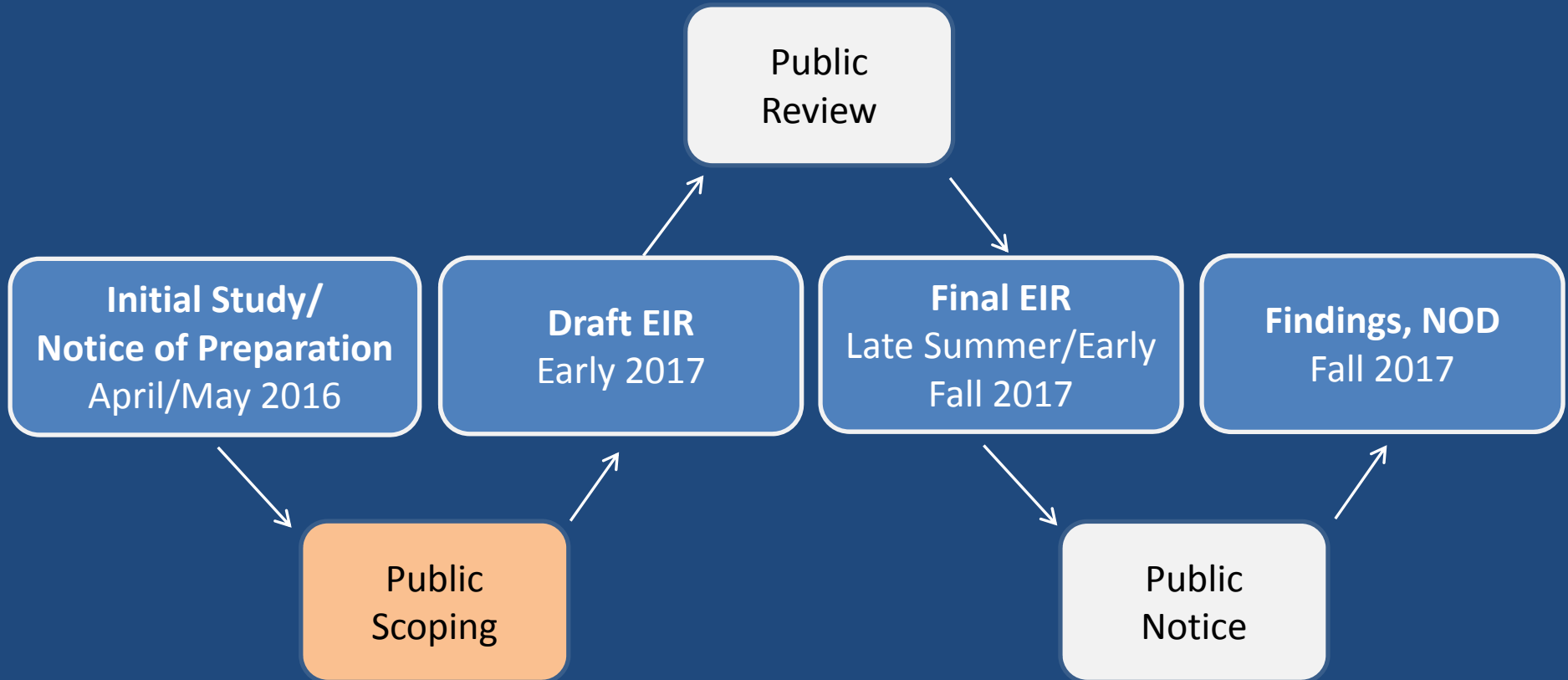


# CEQA Overview

Basic purposes of CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15002):

- Inform governmental decision makers and public about potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
- Identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced.
- Prevent significant, avoidable damage to environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when governmental agency finds changes to be feasible.
- Disclose to public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved.

# EIR Process



# CEQA Resource Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and forestry resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology and soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population and housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation and traffic
- Utilities and service systems
- Cumulative impacts



# Purpose of Scoping

To provide the public and agencies the opportunity to provide input on the scope and content of the environmental impact analysis.

Scoping comments can include information on:

- ✓ Potential environmental issues
- ✓ Potential mitigation measures
- ✓ Characteristics of the existing environment
- ✓ Resources that may be cumulatively affected

# How to Comment

Submit oral or written comments today. Fill out a speaker card and wait to be called or write your comments on a written comment form.

Or submit written comments via mail or email. Send comments to:

Robert Johnson, Deputy General Manager  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
893 Blanco Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901

[tunnelEIR@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:tunnelEIR@co.monterey.ca.us)

Comments accepted until **5:00 p.m. on Monday June 13, 2016.**

**DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT**  
**<http://mcwra.co.monterey.us>**