



Public Notice Announcing the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utility Service (RUS)

Seal Rock Water District, Oregon: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utility Services, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utility Services, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by the Seal Rock Water District, Lincoln County Oregon (District). The project is proposing to construct a new Raw Water Intake and Treatment Plant for the District. This new system will include: an intake structure on the southside of Beaver Creek with submersible pumps, raw water line from intake structure to the treatment process structure, back-up power for intake structure (mobile) and treatment plant (permanent), water treatment plant using membrane filtration, electrical building near the intake structure, along with a new 500,000 gallon welded steel reservoir to improve flow between tanks and better utilize the existing storage capacity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Beyer, State Environmental Coordinator at (503) 414-3368, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 1801, Portland, Oregon 97204 michael.beyer@or.usda.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Early environmental discussions for this undertaking included detailed coordination between the applicant and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), and the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). If implemented, the project will create temporary and permanent wetland disturbance to three delineated wetlands, totaling 0.544 acres. The proposed side channel intake structure is located on the south side of Beaver Creek, approximately located at river mile 2.05. Furthermore, the District authored a Biological Assessment (BA), dated July 20, 2018, to address the effects of the District's Beaver Creek Water Supply Project on fish listed or proposed as threatened or endangered and critical habitat under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. NMFS responded with a

Rural Development • Oregon State Office

1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 1801 • Portland, OR 97204

Voice: (503) 414-3300 • Fax: (855) 824-6180

Michael Beyer - State Environmental Coordinator

michael.beyer@or.usda.gov (503) 414-3368

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Biological Opinion (BO), dated April 3, 2019, which concluded that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Oregon Coast (OC) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) or result in the destruction or adverse modification or designated critical habitat for this species.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The District has completed an extensive archaeological survey of the project's area of potential effects (APE) based on the locations of the new river intake structure, pipe alignment(s), outfall, water treatment facility, reservoir and other critical infrastructure improvements. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred that the proposed project will likely have no effect on any significant archeological objects or sites or historic properties. Wetland delineation has also been conducted within the APE to ensure compliance with the Department of State Lands (DSL) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulations. A Joint Permit Application is in process for impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters.

Any mitigation measures resulting from these reports and/or surveys may be implemented into the project's environmental mitigation measures, contract documents and other financial instruments which offer RUS's commitment for this project.

Jacobs, engineer / environmental consultant, prepared the Environmental Assessment and Biological Assessment for RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes, as applicable, any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project.

No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.

Michael Beyer, State Environmental Coordinator

