

Comments and Responses

- **Comment:** There is concern about one of the slurry sites above Highway 150 causing erosion problems on the opposite bank where erosion already occurs.
 - **Response:** The precise location of the sediment disposal sites has not been determined. This issue will be addressed during the detailed design of that feature. The current schedule (as of January 2006) anticipates that phase to begin in early 2007.

- **Comment:** Several residents were concerned about the location of the slurry pipeline and their ability to access private property once the pipeline is in place. Another resident expressed concern about existing privacy problems associated with nearby Ojai Valley Land Conservancy trail users and wants to know what will be done to ensure privacy is protected.
 - **Response:** The current project level of detail is based on the feasibility study, and does not show specific alignment of the pipeline in association with adjacent private property, as reflected in the January 19th workshop presentations. The slurry pipeline is intended to remain in or near the riverbed and therefore avoid blocking access to any residences. The final alignment of the pipeline will not be established until mid-2007 at the earliest. As the date for the finalization of the alignment of the slurry line and recreation trail approaches (mid-2007), meetings will be held in the affected areas. The Corps of Engineers and the County of Ventura is committed to minimizing the impact and inconvenience to all parties.

- **Comment:** Several citizens expressed concerns over potential future property acquisitions.
 - **Response:** There will be a better understanding what properties (or portions thereof) could be impacted by the project (either for the short term or long term) by the next public workshop, tentatively planned for late summer/fall 2006.

- **Comment:** Were alternatives such as notching the dam in increments over years considered.
 - **Response:** A very broad array of dam removal alternatives were considered, including multiple notching variations. The recommended alternative was selected after much engineering, economic and environmental analysis. Measures that were considered for project alternatives are described in Chapter 3 of the September 2004 feasibility study main report (link provided on this website).

- **Comment:** How can the public review and comment on design issues in a timely manner so that their concerns will be truly considered?
 - **Response:** As mentioned in the January 19th workshops, there are a number of ways to provide comments to the team, including participation in future workshops and by following the link to the comment form on this website (www.matilijadam.org). In addition, participation in the Design Review Team (DRT, see the organization chart) is open to all interested parties. Individuals who fill out the comment form and indicate their area of interest will be notified of future DRT meetings. Note, the DRT is planning to meet approximately 3 times a year or at key phases of project design.

- **Comment:** There were some concerns about exercising eminent domain.
 - **Response:** Both Ventura County Supervisor Bennett and the Director of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Jeff Pratt, emphasized in the January 19 workshop that exercising eminent domain would be the last possible action taken after exhausting all other reasonable options.

- **Comment:** The reasoning behind location of the proposed relocation of the Camino Cielo Bridge replacement was questioned (the feasibility study recommends relocating it 100 yards downstream from its current location).
 - **Response:** The alignment has not been finalized. Design of the bridge is anticipated to commence in mid-2007 at the earliest. Issues involving site selection will be addressed at

that time. Interested residents are recommended to make specific comments on the comment form and participation in the Design Review Team is invited.

- **Comment:** When will the floodplain analysis be completed? **Response:** This analysis is scheduled to be completed by mid-summer this year.

- **Comment:** In the January 19 meeting, it was suggested that some of the existing Ojai Valley Land Conservancy trails be used for the future recreation trail.
- **Response:** This is being considered in addition to the use of the slurry pipeline alignment from upstream of the damsite to Highway 150.

- **Comment:** Will the water supply in Lake Casitas be impacted during slurry operations.
- **Response:** No. It is estimated that approximately 4,500 acre-feet of water will be required to complete slurry operations based on conservative feasibility study assumptions. Currently, it is assumed that the water would be acquired using City of Ventura surplus allocations, therefore not affecting water supply needs for any other users during the slurry operations. The designated slurry disposal areas are downstream of the Robles Diversion Dam and canal; therefore slurry operations will not impact surface water diversions either.

- **Comment:** It was suggested the water for slurry be recycled.
- **Response:** That will be considered during the design of the dam removal.