



Notice of Preparation

To: _____
_____ Place mailing label here. _____

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Project Applicant/Lead Agency:

Applicant/Agency Name: Newhall County Water District
Address: 23780 North Pine Street / P.O. Box 220970
City, State, Zip Code: Santa Clarita, California 91322-0970
Contact: Mr. Kenneth Petersen, General Manager (661/259-3610)

Consulting Firm:

Firm Name: David Magney Environmental Consulting
Address: P.O. Box 1346
City, State, Zip Code: Ojai, California 93024-1346
Contact: Mr. David L. Magney, President (805/646-6045)

NCWD will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information, which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is not attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but ***no later than 30 days*** after receipt of this notice. Please send your response to Mr. Kenneth Petersen at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Vasquez Water Main Project.

Project Location: The Vasquez Water Main Project is located in the Mint Canyon area at the eastern end of the City of Santa Clarita, but is outside the city limits (see Figure 1, General Project Site Location Map). The project site follows an approximate 1.65-mile path beginning on Sierra Highway, at the approximate coordinates of 34°27.157' north latitude, 118°25.273' west longitude; southwest ¼ of the southeast ¼ of section 2, township 4 north, range 15 west (SW¼, SE¼, S2, T4N, R15W), Mint Canyon, California Quadrangle (USGS 7.5-minute Series Topographic Map); at approximately 1,723 feet in elevation; and heads northeast for approximately 0.18 mile.

The proposed pipeline then heads north/northwest on Vasquez Canyon Road for approximately 1.47 mile, and intersects Mint Canyon Creek at the approximate coordinates of 34°27.29' north latitude, 118°25.223' west longitude; SW¼, SE¼, S2, T4N, R15W; and at approximately 1,702 feet in elevation.

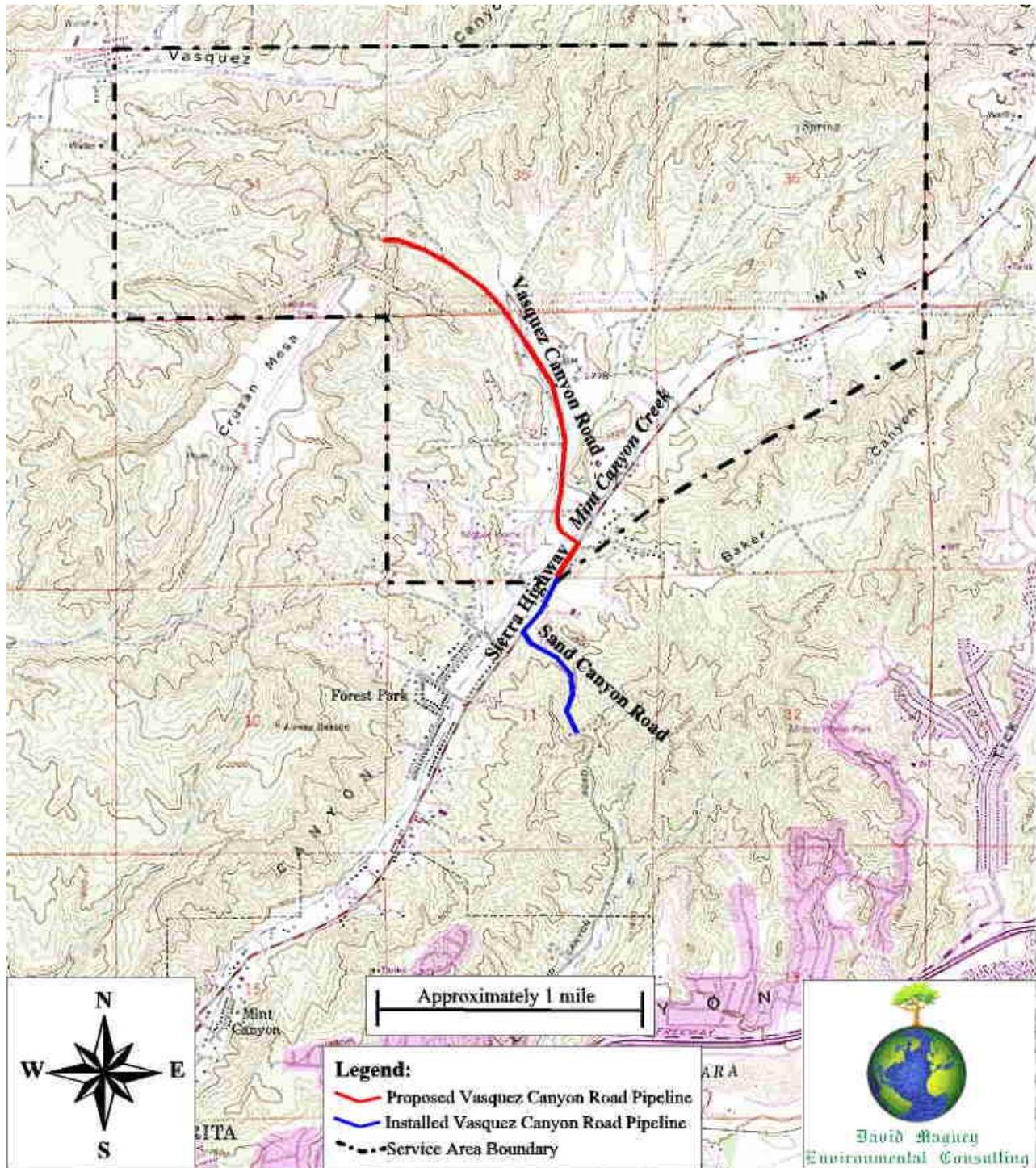
The pipeline will end on Vasquez Canyon Road at the approximate coordinates of 34°28.264' north latitude, 118°25.956' west longitude; SW¼, NE¼, SE¼, S34, T5N, R15W; and approximately 1,939 feet in elevation.

A portion of the pipeline has already been installed immediately south of the southern project site boundary. The installed pipeline begins on Sand Canyon Road at the approximate coordinates of 34°26.671' north latitude, 118°25.204' west longitude; SW¼, NE¼, S11, T4N, R15W; at



approximately 1,965 feet in elevation; and heads northwest for approximately 0.53 mile. The installed pipeline then heads northeast on Sierra Highway for approximately 0.78 mile, and ends where the proposed pipeline begins.

Figure 1. General Project Site Location Map





Mint Canyon Creek flows generally in a southwesterly direction and runs more or less parallel with Sierra Highway (Figure 1). In addition to Mint Canyon Creek, two unnamed tributaries to Mint Canyon Creek also cross the pipeline route. The Mint Canyon Creek portion of the project site is approximately 0.27 acre in size.

The Vasquez Water Main Project path is adjacent to, or intersects with, the following Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN):

- 3231-007-903 (the parcel in which the Mint Canyon Creek portion of the project is located);
- 3231-005-006, -010, -011, -013, -0014, -060, -500, and -501;
- 3231-004-025, -014, -015;-033, and -034;
- 3231-001-015 and -019;
- 3231-017-024 and -026; and
- 2813-015-024.

The project is proposed to provide water service to existing residences and businesses within a specific service area. The Vasquez Water Main service area includes an area of approximately four square miles (see Figure 1). It will service most of S2, T4N, R15W, except for the SE¼, SE¼, S2, T4N, R15W. The pipeline will service approximately the N½, S3, T4N, R15W, which includes an approximate two-mile long stretch of Sierra Highway and Mint Canyon Creek. The Vasquez Water Main service area also includes Sections 34, 35, and 36 of T5N, R15W.

Project Description: Newhall County Water District (NCWD) proposes to build an approximate 1.65-mile-long water main pipeline, to provide water service to existing residences and businesses in the service area, and for proposed new housing developments on Vasquez Canyon Road in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California.

The NCWD Vasquez Water Pipeline, which originates from an existing water main at the corner of Sand Canyon and Soledad Canyon Roads, will be installed under existing roads (Sand Canyon Road, Sierra Highway, and Vasquez Canyon Road) except in three locations where the pipeline will cross natural watercourses, including Mint Canyon Creek. The Mint Canyon Creek crossing will involve trenching through the creek bed a few feet upstream from the Vasquez Canyon Road bridge. The remaining two pipeline crossings, which cross over two ephemeral drainages, will span the drainages and will not involve any soil disturbances within the channels.

The pipeline installment project, within the vicinity of the Mint Canyon Creek portion of the project site, includes a maximum impact area of approximately 50 feet wide along the length of the pipeline (a maximum of 25 feet along each side). This pipeline creek crossing will result in filling activities of the Mint Canyon Creek portion of the project site, which contains jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands. In addition, the pipeline construction activities may substantially adversely affect existing fish and wildlife resources within the portion of Mint Canyon Creek, and existing vegetation and habitat resources in the vicinity of the project site.

Date: 12 December 2002

Signature: _____

Kenneth Petersen

Title: _____

General Manager

Telephone: _____

661/259-3610





Public Comments

- Bradley D. Howard
- California Department of Fish & Game (with Attachment: Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Developments on Rare and Endangered Plants and Plant Communities)
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- California Department of Health Services
- California Department of Transportation (District 7)
- Marjorie Combs

