

# 1 Introduction

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This Responses to Comments document has been prepared by the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District to accompany the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the proposed Integrated Vector Management Program (IVMP). The Draft PEIR identified the environmental consequences associated with a range of chemical and nonchemical treatment alternatives (components/methods/tools) for its ongoing program of surveillance and control of mosquitoes and other vectors of human and animal disease and discomfort. It includes discussion of best management practices (BMPs) to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts and additional proposed mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant. The Responses to Comments document presents responses to public comments received on the Draft PEIR, and it makes revisions to the Draft PEIR text and appendices, as necessary, in response to the comments. **Together with the Draft PEIR (dated August 2015), this Responses to Comments/Text Changes document constitutes the Final PEIR for the District's proposed IVMP.**

The District is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with responsibility for preparing responses to public comments and the Final PEIR. The Final PEIR is an informational document that must be considered by the District's Board of Trustees (decision makers) before approving or denying the Proposed Program. The CEQA Guidelines (§15132) require the following contents to be included in the Final PEIR:

- a. Draft PEIR or a revision of the draft
- b. Comments and recommendations received on the Draft PEIR, either verbatim or in summary
- c. A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft PEIR
- d. Responses of the lead agency (MSMVCD) to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process
- e. Any other information added by the lead agency

## 1.1 Environmental Review Process

The District released the Integrated Vector Management Program Draft PEIR on August 13, 2015, for public review (State Clearinghouse No. 2012052066). The 50-day public review (45 days minimum plus 5 extra days) and comment period began on August 14 and concluded on October 2. During this time, the District held three public hearings at San Rafael (September 15), Santa Rosa (September 17), and Petaluma (September 21), California, within the Program Area.

The State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit provided a letter dated September 29, 2015, that the District has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. This letter is provided herein at the end of this chapter.

Section 21092.5 of the Public Resources Code requires that the lead agency provide the "written proposed response" to a public agency on comments made by that public agency on the EIR at least 10 days before the lead agency certifies the document. See also State CEQA Guidelines §15088(b). Each written response describes the disposition of significant environmental issues raised by the commenter. Although optional under CEQA, the District has also distributed written responses to the nonpublic organizations and individuals for at least 10 days prior to PEIR certification. The Responses to Comments/Text Revisions document of the Final PEIR also has been posted on the District's website approximately 10 days before PEIR certification.

The District Board of Trustees will consider the PEIR, including all comments and responses, prior to certification of the Final PEIR. Certification is a finding that the PEIR complies with the requirements of CEQA. Following PEIR certification and upon approval of alternatives to comprise the IVMP, the Board shall make findings for each significant environmental impact that are supported by substantial evidence in the record and shall adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP).

Based upon material contained in the responses to comments and minor revisions of the Draft PEIR provided in the Final PEIR, recirculation of the PEIR is not required under the CEQA Guidelines §15088.5 because no new significant information has been added to the PEIR, and under subsection (b) recirculation is not required where the new information added merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications to an adequate EIR.

## 1.2 Report Organization

This Responses to Comments document and Final PEIR contains the following chapters with a brief explanation of chapter contents.

- > **Chapter 2. Public Agency Comments and Responses:** Comments received from state agencies (3) and one local agency are provided with District responses following each letter.
- > **Chapter 3. Organization Comments and Responses:** Four letters were provided from private organizations, special interest groups, and an attorney representing groups and an individual. District responses to comments follow each letter or attachments to a letter.
- > **Chapter 4. Individual Comments and Responses:** The District received 13 emails and handouts from individuals. In one case, an individual provided multiple emails and handouts (8). The letters and responses are provided alphabetically.
- > **Chapter 5. Public Hearing Comments and Responses:** On September 15, 17, and 21, 2015, the District held public hearings on the Draft PEIR. At the first two hearings, in San Rafael and Santa Rosa, one person in attendance provided oral comments, and a transcript of public comments is provided for these two hearings. No one in attendance provided comments at the third hearing in Petaluma.
- > **Chapter 6. Revisions to Draft PEIR:** This chapter presents minor revisions to text and appendices based on comments received or errors/errata discovered by the PEIR preparers. None of these text changes result in any changes to the conclusions and determinations of significant impact. In other words, no “less-than-significant” impacts were changed to “potentially significant” or “significant and unavoidable” impacts.

The following is a list of all public agencies (coded S [state], L [local]), private organizations (coded O), and private individuals (coded I) who submitted written comments on the Draft PEIR during the comment period. Each letter is assigned a code that includes at least three letters for the agency, organization, or individual name. If multiple letters were submitted, they are numbered.

### **Public Agencies**

S-CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bay Delta Region
S-DOT	California Department of Transportation
S-DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation, Bay Area District
L-NMWD	North Marin Water District

**Private Organizations**

O-MAS	Marin Audubon Society
O-MCGP	Marin County Green Party
O-RRK	Russian Riverkeeper
O-VOL	Stephan C. Volker Law Offices (Pesticide Free Marin in 2016, Turning Green, Coast Action Group, Sustainable TamAlmonte, and Mary Fraser)

**Private Individuals**

I-Dic	Pat Dickens
I-Fra1	Mary Fraser
I-Fra2	Mary Fraser
I-Fra3	Mary Fraser
I-Fra4	Mary Fraser
I-Fra5	Mary Fraser
I-Fra6	Mary Fraser
I-Fra7	Mary Fraser
I-Fra8	Mary Fraser
I-Joh	Dale Johnson
I-Leg	Dan Legacy
I-Per	Michael Peri
I-Spe	Suzanne Speh

**Public Hearings**

T-San Rafael	Transcripts of Proceedings Taken at San Rafael, California
T-Santa Rosa	Transcripts of Proceedings Taken at Santa Rosa, California
T-Petaluma	Transcripts of Proceedings Taken at Petaluma, California

In the responses, references may be made to responses to a different commenter. For example, if the commenter is directed to see response O-VOL-22, that reference will be to response to comment 22 in the letter labeled O-VOL.

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX  
DIRECTOR

September 29, 2015

Philip D. Smith  
Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District  
595 Helman Lane  
Cotati, CA 94931

Subject: Integrated Vector Management Program PEIR  
SCH#: 2012052066

Dear Philip D. Smith:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on September 28, 2015, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2012052066  
**Project Title** Integrated Vector Management Program PEIR  
**Lead Agency** Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District

**Type** EIR Draft EIR  
**Description** The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District undertakes activities through its Integrated Vector Management Program (IVMP) to control the following vectors of disease and/or discomfort within its two-county Service Area: mosquitoes, rats, yellow jackets, midges, and ticks. (A vector is defined as "any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury..." (The CA Health and Safety Code, Section 2200(f)). The District is preparing a PEIR to evaluate the effects of the continued implementation of the control strategies and methods prescribed in its IVMP.

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Philip D. Smith  
**Agency** Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District  
**Phone** 707 285 2204 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 595 Helman Lane  
**City** Cotati **State** CA **Zip** 94931

**Project Location**

**County** Marin, Sonoma  
**City** San Rafael, Novato, Petaluma, Santa Rosa  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long**  
**Cross Streets** NA - possible activities throughout the two Counties  
**Parcel No.**  
**Township** **Range** **Section** **Base**

**Proximity to:**

**Highways** Hwy 37, 116, 121, 128  
**Airports** Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Novato  
**Railways** SMART, NWP  
**Waterways** Russian River, Petaluma River  
**Schools**  
**Land Use** NA-covers all cities and unincorporated area within 2 counties as well as unincorporated area, developed and undeveloped

**Project Issues** Air Quality; Biological Resources; Noise; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Septic System; Toxic/Hazardous; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Landuse; Cumulative Effects; Other Issues

**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Boating and Waterways; California Coastal Commission; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 3; Department of Parks and Recreation; San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Department of Water Resources; Caltrans, District 4; Air Resources Board; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission; Department of Pesticide Regulation

**Date Received** 08/14/2015 **Start of Review** 08/14/2015 **End of Review** 09/28/2015