



Experienced in Providing Services to Water Agencies

Aspen has substantial experience assisting municipal and State water agencies with environmental review, permitting and compliance, and mitigation monitoring. Aspen's recent multi-year on-call environmental services contracts include the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Metropolitan Water District (MWD), Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD), and the West Basin Municipal Water District. We also hold similar contracts with federal agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Forest Service.

Project Experience

Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project EIS/EIR

For the Palmdale Water District/Angeles National Forest, this EIS/EIR evaluates the impacts of sediment removal alternatives for the Littlerock Reservoir and Dam on USFS Angeles National Forest (NEPA Lead Agency) land in Los Angeles County. Sediment build-up has greatly reduced the storage capacity, diminishing its water retention ability for use in water provision or flood control. The project involves impacts to the arroyo toad, extensive coordination with USFWS for a Section 7 consultation, incorporation of new Forest Service plan updates and requirements into the analysis, preparation of the Forest Service required BE/BA, and analysis of compliance with Federal air quality conformity requirements.

San Joaquin County - South San Joaquin Irrigation District, CEQA Compliance.

Aspen worked with San Joaquin County to guide SSJID through the CEQA process for its Plan to Provide Retail Electric Service. The irrigation district proposed to acquire existing electric distribution facilities from PG&E and establish itself as a new electric service provider. The project would involve modification of numerous substations and power lines in the rapidly developing area. Aspen prepared an EIR for the project.

Santa Clara Valley Water District - Jacques Gulch Restoration Project

Waste from mercury ore processing has filled portions of the creek bed and floodplain in Jacques Gulch, located in the historic Almaden Mining District of Santa Clara County. The waste material, accumulated between the 1840s and the 1970s, is known as calcine. It has formed a dense pavement-like material in the creek and floodplain, in places up to 9-feet deep. Aspen is managing the multidisciplinary consultant team preparing design concepts, a preliminary engineering report and restoration design, and CEQA documentation for the restoration. In addition, the project includes coordination with state and federal resource agencies. The final restoration will remove the dense calcines found in the project area and restore and revegetate the watershed to natural conditions. This will greatly reduce the amount of mercury from this upstream area entering Almaden Reservoir and, further downstream, the San Francisco Bay.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, River Supply Conduit EIR. As part of its on-call agreement Aspen prepared an EIR for the Lower Reach of a major water transmission pipeline and is currently working on the EIR for the Upper Reach. The existing RSC pipeline's purpose is to transport large amounts of water from the Los Angeles Reservoir Complex and local ground water wells to reservoirs and distribution facilities located in the central areas of the City of Los Angeles. The LADWP is proposing a new larger RSC pipeline to replace and realign the Upper and Lower Reaches of the existing RSC pipeline, involving the construction of approximately 69,600 linear feet (about 13.2 miles) of 42-, 48-, 60-, 66, 72-, 84, and 96-inch diameter welded steel underground pipeline.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Robert A. Skinner Water Filtration Plant Oxidation Retrofit Program, Riverside County, ongoing. Aspen obtained the Corps, CDFG, and RWQCB authorizations, including the preparation of the environmental impact assessment and habitat mitigation and monitoring plan, and biological construction monitoring.

PG&E Divestiture of Hydroelectric Facilities EIR. Aspen managed the environmental economic analyses of more than 27 subcontractor firms in completing a Draft EIR in November 2000 on PG&E's proposed auction of its hydroelectric system for the California Public Utilities Commission. The Draft EIR analyzes the range of operational changes that could occur under new ownership, including complex integrated models that analyze power generation and water management.

Department of Water Resources. Aspen holds an on-call environmental assessment, compliance, and monitoring services contract for projects associated with the State Water Project in southern California. Under this five-year contract, Aspen provides a variety of support services to DWR staff for projects to improve, expand, or maintain the California Aqueduct and other State Water Project-associated facilities. Environmental compliance task orders include:

- **Tehachapi East Afterbay Project.** Aspen prepared a focused EIR for this reservoir project located at the bifurcation of the East and West Branches of the California Aqueduct in southern Kern County. Aspen also assisted DWR with sensitive species surveys, cultural resources monitoring and agency coordination.
- **Piru Creek Erosion Repairs and Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project.** Aspen assisted DWR with CEQA review, federal and State environmental permitting, biological surveys, riparian restoration activities, and construction monitoring for repairs to access roads damaged by creek flows below Pyramid Dam. Aspen prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and prepared and submitted applications to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (LARWQCB), Section 404 Standard Permit (Corps) (included preparation of an EA and a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan), and a Section 1602

Streambed Alteration Agreement (CDFG). Aspen also prepared a joint BA/BE for the Angeles National Forest to use in their review of work to occur on Forest Service land. In addition, Aspen reviewed the construction contractor's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for adequacy, and prepared and submitted a Notice of Intent and appropriate fee to the State Water Resources Control Board to use their Clean Water Act Section 402 (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

- **Santa Ana Valley Pipeline Repairs.** Aspen completed CEQA documentation for emergency repairs to the Santa Ana Valley Pipeline, which is part of the East Branch of the California Aqueduct in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Aspen is currently assisting with environmental compliance during construction.
- **Horsethief Creek Access Road Improvements.** Aspen is assisting DWR with CEQA compliance, federal and State permitting, and biological surveys for improvements needed to maintain access across Horsethief Creek near Hesperia in San Bernardino County.
- **Pyramid Dam Flow Release Modifications.** Aspen is preparing an EIR examining mandated changes to flow releases from Pyramid Dam intended to improve habitat conditions along Piru Creek for the arroyo toad. Aspen will also provide documentation for the FERC Article 52 Amendment for the project.
- **Crafton Hills Reservoir.** Aspen obtained Clean Water Act Section 401 and 404 permits and a CDFG Section 1601 permit for improvements at the Crafton Hills Reservoir in San Bernardino County.
- **Pyramid Lake Repairs and Improvements.** DWR and Department of Boating and Waterways are planning various repairs and improvements at Pyramid Lake in northwestern Los Angeles County, California. The lake is located on the border between Los Padres National Forest and Angeles National Forest; recreation is managed by Angeles National Forest. It is also part of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project 2426. Aspen prepared CEQA Environmental Review documentation and filed permit packages for these repair activities. Aspen determined that a CEQA Notice of Exemption could be filed for the project, as the activities meet the requirements of Class 1 and Class 2 CEQA Categorical Exemption requirements. Aspen worked with DWR and DBW to prepare a project description for filing of all appropriate permits.