



Mono County
Public Outreach Plan
For the Proposed Water Transfer
Program in the Walker River Basin,
California

May 1, 2018

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For the Proposed Water Transfer
Program in the Walker River Basin,
California

May 4, 2018

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	1-1
	1.1 Overview of Program	1-1
	1.2 Purpose of this Outreach Plan	1-1
	1.3 Location of Program.....	1-2
2	Identifying Stakeholders.....	2-1
	2.1 Stakeholders.....	2-1
	2.2 Stakeholder Contact Information.....	2-1
3	Policy Development Outreach Process	3-1
	3.1 Summary of Process.....	3-1
	3.2 Initial outreach.....	3-1
	3.3 Additional Outreach to Individuals and Organizations.....	3-3
4	Public Outreach During CEQA Process	4-1
	4.1 Overview of CEQA Outreach Process	4-1
	4.2 CEQA Scoping and Notice of Preparation Process	4-1
	4.3 Outreach to federal and State Natural Resource Agencies	4-2
	4.4 Public meeting on Draft and Final EIR.....	4-4

List of Appendices

Appendix A	Fact Sheet and Initial Outreach Presentation
Appendix B	Workshop Outline
Appendix C	Questionnaire

List of Tables

Table 1	Stakeholder Contact Information.....	2-1
Table 2	Stakeholder Meeting Schedule	3-2
Table 3	Summary of Additional Outreach Methods, Responsible Parties, and Timelines.....	3-3
Table 4	Milestones and Deliverables for the Scoping Period	4-1
Table 5	Summary of Natural Resource Agency Outreach Methods, Responsible Party and Timeline	4-3
Table 6	Summary of Natural Resource Agency Outreach Deliverables and Timelines.....	4-3
Table 7	Milestones and Deliverables for Draft EIR Review Period and Final EIR.....	4-4

List of Figures

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Figure 1	Location of Potential Participants in the Walker River Basin Water Transfer Program, Mono County.....	1-2
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

Mono County (County) is investigating the development of a voluntary water transaction program that would facilitate the leasing or sale of water rights to support the restoration of Walker Lake, in Nevada, as part of the Walker Basin Restoration Program. A water transactions program within the California portion of the Walker River Basin could complement the ongoing water leasing and sales efforts in Nevada, currently led by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

Legislation that created the Walker Lake Restoration Program specifically restricted program funds from being used to lease water appurtenant to land in the California portions of the Walker Basin without Mono County's consideration of a program. In 2012 NFWF and Mono County signed a Memorandum of Understanding to move forward with exploration of a water transaction program in California. The Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Mono County spearheaded an effort to analyze the feasibility of water transactions in the California portion of the Walker Basin. The Feasibility Assessment of a Water Transfer Program in the Walker River Basin, California (Ciotti, Aylward, Merrill, & Young, 2014), was completed in 2014.

The County's next step in the process is to develop a water transfer program, prepare a document compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to assess the impacts of the program, and to amend the Mono County General Plan with new policies to allow for the transfers.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS OUTREACH PLAN

Public outreach and input is important to the County as they develop the water transfer program parameters. The program is best focused on the landowners that are most likely to participate in the program. Because the program could take different forms, the County is interested in understanding the concerns and constraints of potential participants, as well as the concerns of the resource agencies and other interested parties in the area.

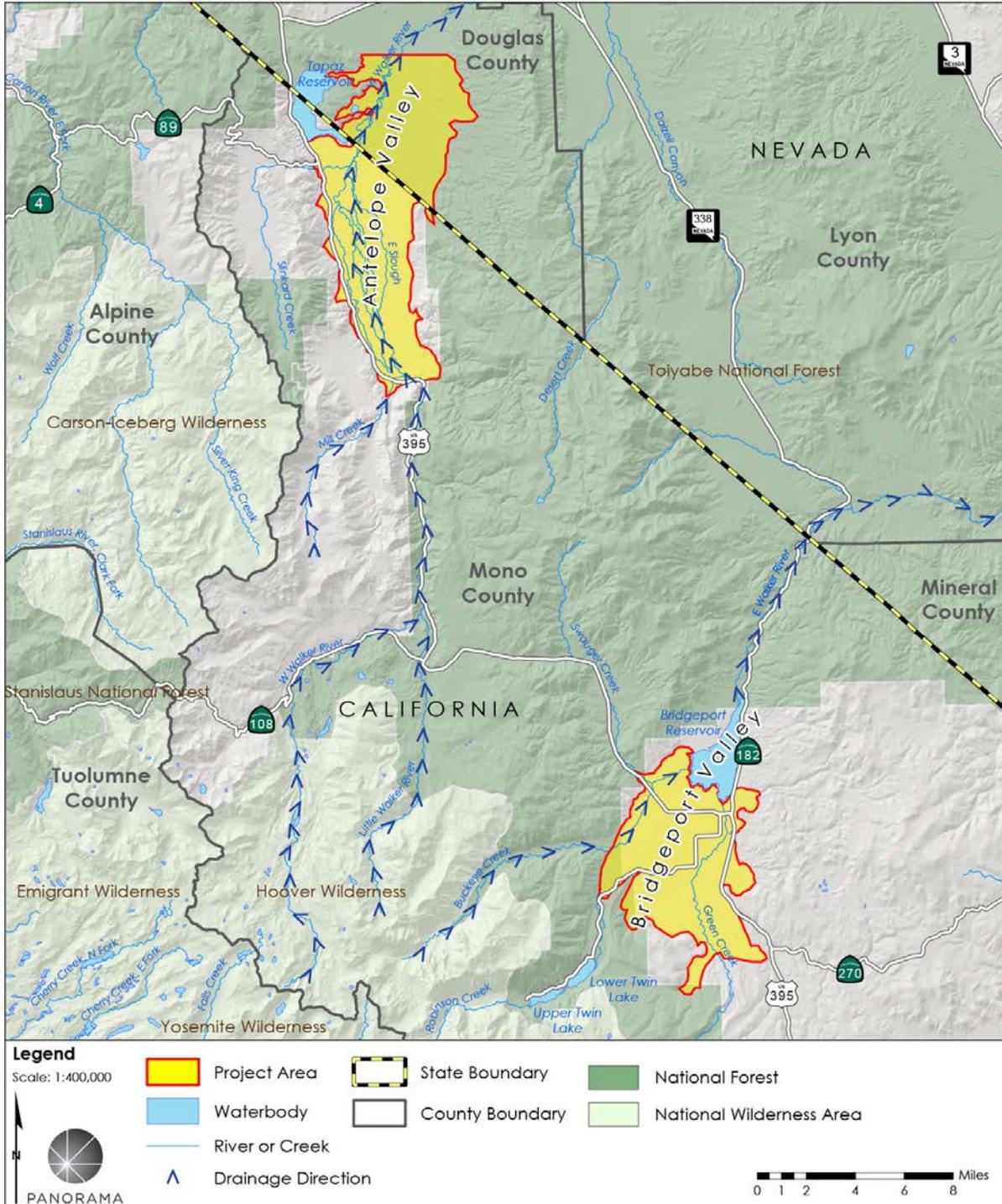
The purpose of this outreach program is to carefully define the steps, strategies, and responsibilities for the public outreach process for the program development and environmental review process. The outreach process will begin early in the process and be ongoing throughout the development and adoption of the General Plan policies.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.3 LOCATION OF PROGRAM

The two areas where the program would be applicable are on the West Walker River in Antelope Valley and the East Walker River in Bridgeport, shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Location of Potential Participants in the Walker River Basin Water Transfer Program, Mono County



2 IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders in the program include any person or group with an interest, such as a potential participant, as well as people or groups that could be affected by the transfer. The stakeholders include:

- Individual landowners, including participants
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with agriculture, ranching, water, and natural resources interests
- Natural resource agencies with purview over biological and hydrologic effects to the environment
- Native American tribes

The stakeholder list provided here was compiled based on past involvement and interest in this project; review of parcel data to identify large agricultural/rangeland owners and users compared against decree water rights holders; recommendations from interested parties; and regulatory requirements.

This stakeholder list will be expanded and/or edited throughout the outreach process.

2.2 STAKEHOLDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Table 1 identifies the currently known stakeholders.

Table 1 Stakeholder Contact Information

Name	Location	Contact Name	Contact Info
Landowners			
Bridgeport Ranchers Organization	Bridgeport (Hunewill Ranch)	Jeff Hunewill	(760) 932-7710
	Bridgeport (R.N. Fulstone)	Steve Fulstone	(775) 465-2341
	Bridgeport (Centennial)	Marcus Bunn	(559) 905 4416
	Bridgeport (Lacey Ranch)	Mark Lacey	
Antelope Valley Mutual Water Company			

2 IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS

Name	Location	Contact Name	Contact Info
Non-Government Organizations			
Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Bishop, CA	Sus Danner	(760) 873-4554 susanna@eslt.org
Walker Basin Conservancy	Yerington, NV	Joy Morris	joy.morris@walkerbasin.org
		Silas Adams	silas.adams@walkerbasin.org
Government Agencies			
Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Mono County	Nate Reade	(760) 873-7860 nreade@inyocounty.us
Mono County District 4 Supervisor	Mono County	John Peters	(760) 932-5532 jpeters@mono.ca.gov
Walker River Irrigation District	Yerington, NV	Robert Bryan	(775) 463-3523 ber@wrid.us
Mono County Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Mono County	Bruce Woodworth	(775) 461-6550 Woodwortsaw@gmail.com
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Gardnerville, NV	Carolyn Swed	(775) 861-6300 Carolyn_swed@fws.gov
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Headquarters (1416 9th St) Sacramento, CA	Tim Taylor	(760) 932-5749 Timothy.taylor@wildlife.ca.gov
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board		Jeffrey Fitzsimmons Jan Zimmerman	Jeffrey.fitzsimmons@waterboards.ca.gov Jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Bishop, CA	Steve Nelson (Field manager)	
Humbolt-Toiyable National Forest	Bridgeport, CA	Leeann Murphy, Acting District Ranger	(760) 932-7070
Native American Tribes			
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	Gardnerville, NV	Neil Mortimer, Chairman	(775) 265-8600 neil.mortimer@washoetribe.us
Mono Lake Kutzadikata'a		Charlotte Lange	Char54lange@gmail.com

2 IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS

Name	Location	Contact Name	Contact Info
Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony of California	Bridgeport, CA	John Glazier, Chairman	chair@bridgeportindiancolony.com
Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe	Lone, Pine, CA		(760) 876-1034

3 POLICY DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH PROCESS

3.1 SUMMARY OF PROCESS

The outreach process to develop the General Plan policies and program parameters will include the following phases:

- **Initial outreach:** to organizations and groups to introduce the program and identify key stakeholders
- **Additional outreach:** individualized outreach to key stakeholders and potential participants in the program to refine the policies and considerations and to identify the concerns or parameters of participation for those stakeholders and concerns of other interested parties

The public outreach process, as it pertains to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA, is described in Section 4.

3.2 INITIAL OUTREACH

3.2.1 Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the initial outreach efforts will be to introduce or re-introduce the program to the potential interested parties. The goal will be to identify the stakeholders that are interested in participating in a water transfer. While most stakeholders will need some time to understand the program and how it could work for their interests and needs, the initial outreach effort will entail introducing the potential scenarios and obtaining general feedback that may help the County to refine the scenarios and focus the program on certain areas where interest is shown.

3.2.2 Target of Outreach and Responsible Party

The initial outreach efforts will be through already established forums and meetings. The effort will be led by Mono County.

The initial meetings that the County will attend are shown in Table 2.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

Table 2 Stakeholder Meeting Schedule

Name	Location	Scheduled meeting	Target Meeting for County to Attend
Bridgeport Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)	Twin Lakes Annex Conference Room, Bridgeport	2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 PM	June 12th, 2018
Antelope Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)	Antelope Valley Community Center	1st Thursday of every month at 7 PM (spring/summer schedule)	June 7th, 2018
Mono County Resource Conservation District(RCD)	TBA	May 2nd, September 5th, December 5th	September 5 th , 2018
Walker River Irrigation District	410 N. Main Street, Yerington, NV	The 7th of every month at 10 AM. If the 7th falls on a weekend, the meeting is held on the nearest weekday. Next meetings are scheduled for May 7th and June 7th.	June 7 th , 2018

3.2.3 Methods and Materials for Outreach

The initial outreach will include a presentation that identifies the purpose of the program, the conditions of Mono County’s participation, and the scenarios and options for landowners to participate. The presentation will be supplemented with a 1-page fact sheet. These materials are provided in Appendix A to this plan. The County will give the presentation and record all comments and feedback.

The County will also develop a website that will serve as a repository for information on the project and will include contact information and/or a portal to submit comments on the program. Both written and online commenting options will be provided. Please see monocounty.ca.gov/planning/page/walker-basin-water-leasetransfer for more information.

3.2.4 Documenting Outcome of Outreach

The County will record any comments provided and will ask for contact information for any parties that would like to engage further or any recommendations for additional parties for whom the County should contact.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

3.3 ADDITIONAL OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

3.3.1 Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the additional outreach will be to solicit more information from potential participants as to their interest in participating in the program, and to understand the parameters under which they are interested in participating (i.e., the scenarios). The follow up outreach will also include outreach to interest groups and agencies to understand their concerns with the program and the values and interests that they see should be protected.

The outcome of the additional outreach will be a focus area (i.e., locations of potential initial participants in the program) to consider in the policies and EIR and refinement of the scenarios considered. Input on values to protect may also be incorporated into the General Plan Policies.

3.3.2 Target of Outreach and Responsible Parties

Table 3 summarizes the additional outreach efforts. The outreach methods are discussed further in Section 3.3.3.

Table 3 Summary of Additional Outreach Methods, Responsible Parties, and Timelines

Entity	Outreach Method	Party Responsible for Outreach	Timeline
Landowners			
Bridgeport Ranchers Organization	Mixed – phone calls most likely effective for individual landowners;	Mono County for initial direct outreach; Panorama to follow up with questionnaire;	Initial calls and meetings from June 1 to June 30 th ; Questionnaire and workshop July 10 th
Antelope Valley Mutual Water Company	Follow up with a questionnaire; Invitation to attend workshop	Panorama and the County to prepare for and lead workshop (1 workshop in Bridgeport)	
Non-Government Organizations			
Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Phone calls/emails;	Mono County to contact directly;	Initial calls June 1 to June 15 th ; Questionnaire and Workshop July 10 th
Walker Basin Conservancy	Invitation to attend workshop	Panorama to invite to workshop	
Government Agencies			

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

Entity	Outreach Method	Party Responsible for Outreach	Timeline
Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Phone calls/emails	Panorama will contact	By July 15th
Mono County District 4 Supervisor	Phone calls/emails	Mono County will contact	By July 15th
Walker River Irrigation District	Phone calls/emails; Invitation to attend workshop	Panorama will contact	By July 15 th
Mono County Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Phone calls/attend meeting	Mono County will contact and attend meeting	Initial contact by July 15 th . attend meeting in September
Native American Tribes			
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California			
Mono Lake Kutzadikata'a	Initial letter and follow up meetings, if requested	Panorama will prepare letter on County letterhead and will facilitate the follow up	By June 1 st and on-going
Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony of California			
Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe			

3.3.3 Methods and Materials for Outreach

The method of outreach is identified in the table. The additional outreach effort will commence as follows:

- Initial phone calls to landowners to introduce the program, explain the County's role, and to ask whether the potential participant is interested in learning more and providing feedback to the transfer program development process.
- In-person meetings, where appropriate (landowners), to discuss the program in more detail, and to solicit feedback on the program parameters and participation.
- Development of a questionnaire tailored for each type of stakeholder (landowners, non-government organizations, primarily); The template of the questionnaire is included in Appendix B but may be modified after the input on the initial outreach is received; The questionnaire may also be adapted into an electronic format; Completion may be by interview, via electronic submission, or paper submission.
- A workshop forum to provide more information, answer individual questions, and obtain additional feedback; The workshop format is summarized in Appendix C. When Panorama is in Mono County for the workshop, also plan some individual meetings with landowners with County staff.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

Throughout the additional outreach effort, Mono County will update the website with information on the program and its progress and will provide a portal for receipt of questions through the website.

3.3.4 Documenting Outcome of Outreach

Meeting notes will be prepared for all outreach efforts. The notes will identify the audience, will summarize the materials and information provided, and will summarize the input provided by the interested party. Email correspondence will be saved to a project file. Emails and correspondence received by Mono County will be provided to Panorama, and any meeting notes prepared by the County will also be provided to Panorama. Panorama will establish a secure file sharing repository for the information and documentation.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

4.1 OVERVIEW OF CEQA OUTREACH PROCESS

CEQA requires that the stakeholders are provided with both an opportunity to provide input to the analysis and environmental issues that should be addressed in an EIR, and the opportunity to comment on the outcome of the analysis, namely the impacts of a project, the mitigation, and the alternatives that would reduce project impacts to environmental resources.

4.2 CEQA SCOPING AND NOTICE OF PREPARATION PROCESS

4.2.1 Purpose and Goals

The purpose of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to solicit guidance from other agencies on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in an EIR. The notice will be prepared in accordance with CCR 15082. We anticipate that the County will expand the scoping process to seek public comment on the environmental information to be included in the scope of the EIR (PRC Sec 21080.4(a) and CCR Sec 15375 and Sec 15083).

The NOP will include:

- A brief description of the project and its location
- Anticipated likely resource subjects that will be analyzed in the EIR
- The dates for the beginning and end of the scoping period
- The date, time, and location of the scoping meetings
- The methods by which stakeholders can provide comment

Given the anticipated focus of the EIR, the NOP will also include the Initial Study (IS) as an attachment. The IS will provide the public with the analysis justifying the limited scope of the EIR.

4.2.2 Target of Outreach and Responsible Party

The NOP will be sent to the mailing list and State clearinghouse, agencies and other stakeholders identified by Panorama and the County. The responsible party and completion dates are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Milestones and Deliverables for the Scoping Period

Milestones and Deliverables	Responsibility	Completion Date
Prepare Draft IS	Panorama	
Develop Mailing List	Panorama/ County	

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

Milestones and Deliverables	Responsibility	Completion Date
Prepare NOP	Panorama	08/20/2018
Review NOP	County	08/27/2018
Mail NOP	Panorama	08/30/2018
Notice County Clerk and State Clearinghouse	Panorama	09/03/2018
Prepare Presentation for scoping meetings	Panorama	09/12/2018
Review Presentation for scoping meetings	County	09/26/2018
Public Scoping Meeting – Antelope Valley	Panorama/ County	10/01/2018
Public Scoping Meeting – Bridgeport Valley	Panorama/Mono	10/02/2018
Prepare Scoping Checklist	Panorama	10/24/2018

4.2.3 Methods of Outreach

As part of the scoping process, Panorama will prepare and conduct two (2) scoping meetings, one in Antelope Valley and one in Bridgeport Valley. Prior to the meeting Panorama will develop a PowerPoint presentation for review by the County. Panorama and County staff will lead the presentation and facilitate discussion at the public meeting.

The meetings provide an opportunity for the stakeholders to understand the project and provide formal comments specifically related to topics that they think need consideration during the EIR analysis.

4.2.4 Documenting the Outcome of Outreach

Following the public meetings Panorama will organize comments and provide a comment summary checklist. The checklist will be used to ensure that all issues raised by stakeholders are addressed during the preparation of the EIR. A court recorder will take a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

4.3 OUTREACH TO FEDERAL AND STATE NATURAL RESOURCE AGENCIES

4.3.1 Purpose and Goals

The purpose of outreach to agencies with interests in the program is to understand their key concerns early, and to receive input as the policies are developed and the CEQA process is initiated and implemented. The goal is to ensure that the agencies are on board with the County's program.

4.3.2 Target of Outreach and Responsible Parties

The target natural resource agencies are shown in Table 5. Panorama would contact these agencies early in the process to receive their feedback and input as part of the CEQA process.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

Table 5 Summary of Natural Resource Agency Outreach Methods, Responsible Party and Timeline

Agency	Method of Outreach	Responsible Party	Timeline
US Fish and Wildlife Service			
California Department of Fish and Game	Phone calls/emails/and potential meeting before the NOP;	Panorama will contact	By July 15 th and ongoing throughout EIR process
BLM	Receive NOP;		
HTNF	Receive Draft EIR during Public Scoping		
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board			

4.3.3 Methods and Materials for Outreach

The methods for reaching out to agencies will include an initial email or phone call. Panorama will provide the agency staff an overview of the program, likely in a conference call format with the County’s participation, if desired, and will provide a summary of our methods for assessing impacts. Follow up outreach would follow the CEQA process, as summarized in Table 6, below.

Table 6 Summary of Natural Resource Agency Outreach Deliverables and Timelines

Milestones and Deliverables	Responsibility	Completion Date
Initial Outreach	Panorama	06/14/2018
Follow-up Outreach	Panorama	07/25/2018
Mail NOP	Panorama	08/30/2018
Scoping Period End		10/17/2018
Publish Notices and DEIR (begin Public Review period)	Panorama	04/04/2019
End DEIR review Period	Panorama	05/25/2019
Publish Final EIR	Panorama	08/21/2019

4.3.4 Documenting the Outcome of Outreach

Meeting notes will be recorded for any communication with agency staff. Email correspondence will be saved to a project file.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

4.4 PUBLIC MEETING ON DRAFT AND FINAL EIR

4.4.1 Purpose and Goals

CEQA requires the County to provide the public, agencies and other stakeholders the opportunity to formally review and comment on the Draft EIR.

4.4.2 Target Audience and Responsible Parties

The Draft EIR will be sent to the mailing list, clearinghouse, agencies and other stakeholders identified by the Panorama and the County, and any entity that commented on the NOP, as well as all landowners within the Bridgeport and Antelope Valleys, as required under CEQA. The table below lays out key milestones for the noticing, public outreach for the Draft EIR. Panorama will provide support and support during the certification of the Final EIR.

Table 7 Milestones and Deliverables for Draft EIR Review Period and Final EIR

Milestones and Deliverables	Responsibility	Delivery Date
Develop Mailing List	Panorama/ County	
Prepare Notices for Draft EIR	Panorama	04/01/2019
Review Notices for Draft EIR	County	04/03/2019
NOA and NOC County Clerk and State Clearinghouse	Panorama	04/04/2019
Send Notices to Mailing List	Panorama	04/04/2019
Prepare Presentation for Draft EIR meetings	Panorama	04/11/2019
Review Presentation for Draft EIR meetings	County	04/18/2019
Public Draft EIR Meeting – Venue TBD	Panorama/ County	04/24/2019
Attend Board Meeting Final EIR	Panorama/ County	09/18/2019

4.4.3 Methods and Materials for Outreach

Panorama will prepare and file the required Notice of Completion (NOC), Notice of Availability (NOA) along with 15 copies of the Executive Summary and CDs. The NOA will include the following information:

- Purpose of the NOA
- Brief description of the proposed project;
- List of resource sections with significant and unavoidable impacts;
- Start and end date of Draft EIR review period;
- Locations at which the Draft EIR can be reviewed;
- Location, date, and time of public meeting;
- Methods and location to access the draft EIR;
- Method by which comments can be submitted.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING CEQA PROCESS

The County will make available hard copies of the draft EIR for public review at public locations such as libraries and the county planning department.

As part of the Draft EIR review process, Panorama will conduct a public review meeting. The meeting will familiarize the public with the draft EIR and provide the public opportunity to comment on the document.

Prior to the meeting, Panorama will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and supporting materials including posters, factsheets, FAQ sheets, and glossaries. All materials shall be reviewed and agreed to in advance by the county. At the public meeting, Panorama will provide sign in sheets to record attendance. A brief presentation will be led by Panorama and the County describing the content of the draft EIR, the next steps in the review process, and informing the public on how they can comment. Panorama will coordinate with a resource specialist to ensure their attendance at the meeting where it is considered helpful the process. Following the meeting Panorama will review and respond to comments as part of the final EIR process.

Panorama will attend the hearing on the Final EIR held at a meeting of the Mono County Planning Commission and a meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Panorama will prepare a draft PowerPoint presentation that includes a brief project overview, areas of public controversy, and conclusions of the Final EIR. Panorama will revise the PowerPoint presentation to address comments from Mono County. Panorama Project Director and Project Manager will be available at the public hearing to answer questions in support of Mono County staff.

4.4.4 Documenting the Outcome of Outreach

To ensure accurate record of the public comments a court reporter will be retained to memorialize oral comments.

APPENDIX A: FACT SHEET AND INITIAL OUTREACH PRESENTATION

APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP OUTLINE

[TBD]

APPENDIX C: QUESTIONNAIRE

[TBD]