

Questions asked during the course of project development and public workshops

- Will an EIR be prepared? – *Yes.*
- Which of the two tunnel alternatives presented in the 1991 Boyle study is the Agency considering? – *A new alignment is being considered.*
- What are the logistics during construction (e.g., tunnel spoil management)? – *On site disposal for spoils is the current plan. However, if any hazardous materials are detected then spoils will be sent to an appropriate facility*
- Does the project require a Prop. 218 vote?- *A Prop 218 vote is the current proposed funding mechanism.*
- What are the alternatives and their cost? – *Alternatives will be analyzed in the EIR. Cost is a factor in feasibility, but is outside the scope of an impact analysis under CEQA. Cost-benefits will be included in the Engineers Report.*

Questions asked ... (continued)

- Can we switch alternatives? – *The EIR will analyze the proposed project and alternatives. Approval of an alternative would require additional study.*
- Are there more cost-effective alternatives? – *Alternatives are under review in the EIR. The Engineers Report will provide the cost-benefits analysis.*
- Can other existing dams be modified and provide this benefit? – *Modification of San Antonio dam spillway is being evaluated as part of this project.*
- Is there really less rainfall over San Antonio watershed (i.e, why does San Antonio fill so slowly)? – *Historical analysis by the Agency indicates a 3:1 inflow ratio Nacimiento to San Antonio*
- What if inflows to Nacimiento were diverted over to the San Antonio watershed much farther upstream? – *Feasible alternatives will be considered in the EIR.*

Questions asked ... (continued)

- What is the cost to raise San Antonio spillway? - *\$15 mil preliminary estimate*
- How much more Nacimiento water can be conserved if the San Antonio spillway is raised? – *To be determined from hydrologic modeling*
- What are the current finance resources? - *\$10 mil DWR Grant, \$3 mil County of Monterey*
- What water level triggers water transfer? – *Under current conceptual design, lake elevation greater than 760'*
- What are the recreational elevation limits? – *Agency's current operation manual targets a min. elevation of 730' until after Labor Day each year for recreational consideration*

Questions asked ... (continued)

- What about considering the upstream Jerrett Reservoir in-lieu of the tunnel? – *Jerrett Reservoir is an identified project alternative under review in the EIR.*
- Can overlying land owners of the tunnel have their concerns answered? – *The Agency is making efforts to address concerns re: the project and potential impacts.*
- What mitigation is Agency doing for water well integrity? – *Agency BOD passed Resolution to address this issue. Based on input from residents the Agency is reviewing that Resolution for potential revisions. Additional mitigations will be determined as part of the EIR analysis.*
- Can the Agency procure an insurance product that will address owner concerns? – *to be determined by Risk Management pending design development and risk mitigation plans -*

Questions asked ... (continued)

- What is the easement process? – *An underground easement from property owners above the tunnel alignment will be sought following design development.*
- Has agency evaluated alternative tunnel diameters? – *The EIR will contain a discussion of the preliminary engineering and vetting of alternatives including design components.*
- Has agency evaluated alternative tunnel lengths? – *Alternative alignments are being considered, based on preliminary engineering and ongoing geotechnical studies.*
- Has agency evaluated alternative tunnel hydraulic control (upstream vs. downstream valving)? – *Alternative tunnel controls are being analyzed as part of the design engineering scope of work.*

Specific questions

Will the lake be drained to construct the tunnel?

- The Agency intends to take advantage of normal operation periods when water levels are low to construct the project.

How many times has Nacimientto spilled (i.e., elevation greater than EL 800 ft?)

- Agency records indicate that Nacimientto has exceeded EL 800 feet 53 days during 4 calendar years (1967, 1969, 1983 and 2011).
- Flood control releases are also made at elevations below 800'

What design choices established the tunnel invert elevation? Tunnel Location? Tunnel Diameter?

- Final tunnel design is still undergoing engineering analysis. Design considerations include: construction costs, favorable geology, maximization of hydraulics, recreation impacts.

What is the operational parameters that dictate water conveyed from Nacimiento to San Antonio?

- Project operation analyses are in the initial phases of development by the Agency's Design Engineer, along with a parallel modeling endeavor.
- Draft modeling results are expected by the Summer of 2018.
- Operational considerations will be presented within the Engineer's Report and the Agency's EIR.

What are the projected lake levels between May 1 and Sep 30?

- Modeling is underway to answer this question, as well as many others.
- Modeling scenario runs of “before” and “after” project conditions will be developed for operational comparisons.
- Modeling results will be evaluated by the EIR consultant to identify impacts of the project.

Will modeling input and output data sets be available?

- Modeling input and output information will be made available once results have been finalized.
- Modeling results will likely be presented in a workshop-style manner

Are water rights between watersheds an issue?

- The Agency is currently evaluating the water rights necessary for the operation of the proposed project.

Will the lake be drained to kill the white bass in Nacimiento?

- The lake will not be drained to kill the white bass within the lake.
- The Agency is having discussions with CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) regarding white bass in Nacimiento in relation to the Interlake Tunnel Project.

Mercury mining occurred in the watershed. Is water quality impacted?

- California State Water Resources Control Board provides guidance/oversight for water quality.
- In general, at Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs, people and other animals are exposed by eating fish.
- CA Office Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has established fish consumption advisories for both Nacimiento and San Antonio. (<https://oehha.ca.gov/>)

Does the proposed project interfere with the recently completed SVWP?

- Preliminary analysis indicates that the proposed project will enhance the operation of the SVWP.

What did the SVWP work at Nacimiento, finished in 2010, do to increase lake capacity?

- The modification of the spillway at Nacimiento eliminated a CA Division of Dam Safety (DSOD) rule curve that limited when winter inflow could be captured in the reservoir.
- The spillway modification was evaluated in the SVWP EIR.

<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/projects-facilities/salinas-valley-water-project-svwp#wra>

Are other alternative project's available to provide benefit?

- Alternatives to the project will be evaluated and presented within the EIR.
- The EIR Consultant will use CEQA evaluation criteria to determine the level of effects of the project and will provide a comparative analysis of the alternatives within the EIR.

Is there a siphon option to the Interlake Tunnel

- A siphon is technically not feasible due to the elevation relationship between Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

Can pumps be used instead of the tunnel?

- Initial estimates indicate that a over ground pipeline and pumps with the capacity of 180,000 horsepower requiring 135 megawatts of available power is required. Feasible alternatives will be considered in the EIR.

How will the local economy (boating, camping, sales, etc.) be impacted by the project?

- The EIR will identify impacts to recreational uses and the potential for physical effects due to any related economic changes.
- Examples of other impacts to be evaluated include, but not necessarily limited to, cultural resources, biological resources, air, water, noise, traffic...