

**LITTLEROCK RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT**  
**Draft Environmental Impact Statement/  
Environmental Impact Report**  
**County of Los Angeles, California**

**Lead Agencies:**

**USDA Forest Service  
Palmdale Water District**

**Responsible Official:**

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**Abstract:** Palmdale Water District has applied for a special use authorization from the Forest Service to construct a grade control structure and to remove sediment from Littlerock Reservoir, located within the boundaries of the Santa Clara Mojave Rivers Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest in northern Los Angeles County. The proposed action would restore the Reservoir to 1992 water storage and flood control capacity through annual sediment removal, as well as preserve habitat for the arroyo toad by constructing a grade control structure that prevents sediment loss and headcutting of the stream channel. This Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) evaluates the following alternatives to provide a full comparison for consideration by the decision makers and the public:

- **Proposed Action/Project:** Involves the construction of a grade control structure within the Reservoir at Rocky Point, annual excavation and total removal of approximately 1,165,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment, and ongoing annual sediment removal of 38,000 cubic yards per year.
- **Reduced Sediment Removal Intensity Alternative:** Seeks to reduce the intensity of construction activities of the proposed action through an extension of the construction schedule.
- **No Action/ No Project Alternative:** Would not alter the existing conditions at the Reservoir. No construction or sediment removal would occur.

As the federal lead agency in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Forest Service must identify a preferred alternative, which is the alternative that the Forest Service believes would fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical and other factors (46 Fed. Reg.

18026). The preferred alternative need not be identified until the Final EIS, and may be determined on the basis of the Draft EIS and public and agency comments. In accordance with NEPA (40 CFR Section 1502.14(e)), the Forest Service will identify its preferred alternative for the Proposed Action/Project in the Final EIS.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of the draft environmental impact statement. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decisionmaking process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. City of Angoon v. Hodel (9th Circuit, 1986) and Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

**Send Comments to:**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE/  
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT  
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**Date Comments Must Be Received:**

**June 20, 2016**

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