

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	San Jose Data Center 04
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Document Title:	Santa Clara Valley Water District Comments on Notice of Preparation
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Lisa Worrall
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Public
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From: [Lisa Brancatelli](#)
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy
Cc: [Colleen Haggerty](#)
Subject: RE: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San José Data Center 04 project (SJDC 04) (22-SPPE-02)
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 5:21:03 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

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Hello Lisa Worrall,

Valley Water has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed San Jose Data Center Campus, at 370 W. Trimble Road in San Jose.

The proposed project is located adjacent to the Guadalupe River and Valley Water's fee title property to the south of the project site. Valley Water is in the planning phase for a flood protection project along the Guadalupe River between Highway 880 and Tasman Drive with construction to start as early as 2025.

The project proposed at 370 W. Trimble Road includes a proposed trail connection to the existing Guadalupe River Trail, located on Valley Water property. In accordance with Valley Water's Water Resources Protection Ordinance, a Valley Water permit is required for any work, including access to Valley Water property, which is a discretionary action. Therefore, the DEIR needs to note that Valley Water is a Responsible Agency under CEQA if any work is proposed on Valley Water's property.

Based on our review of the NOP, we have the following comments:

1. All work on Valley Water property associated with the proposed trail connection will require a Valley Water Encroachment Permit, as noted above, and must comply with Valley Waters Water Resources Protection Manual.
2. Valley Water has local native riparian mitigation planting areas along the Guadalupe River adjacent to the project site. The Biological Resources discussion should include potential impacts to these mitigation planting areas and the riparian corridor due to the project. To protect the local riparian native plants within the riparian corridor the project should follow the Water Resources Protection Collaborative Design Guides 2 and 3 which are related to landscaping adjacent to creeks and the riparian corridor.
3. The DEIR should include a discussion of how the project will prevent hazardous materials into the Guadalupe River and the groundwater basin from the proposed underground fuel storage tanks.
4. Valley Water records note that for the majority of the site, the depth to first groundwater would be 0-10 feet below ground surface (bgs) and 10-20 feet bgs for a small portion of the site. The DEIR should include a discussion of impacts on groundwater due to excavation at the project site and whether temporary or permanent dewatering may be required.
5. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 06085C0068J, effective February 19, 2014, the project site is located within Zone X (shaded), representing areas of 0.2% annual chance of flood and Zone AH with an elevation of 27 feet (NAVD88). Zone AH is a FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and development in a SFHA is subject to City and FEMA required building standards, including floodproofing.
6. The DEIR should evaluate the anticipated increase in stormwater runoff due to the development. This discussion should address compliance with Regional Water Quality Control Board's Municipal Regional Permit in particular Provision C.3 and impacts to the 1% flood plain and flooding in general.
7. Please note the site is subject to inundation from the Almaden Reservoir Dam; Leroy Anderson Dam on Anderson Reservoir; Coyote Dam; Calero Dam; and the James J. Lenihan Dam on

Lexington Reservoir.

8. Grading and drainage of the site need to be designed and constructed to ensure drainage and grading activities, do not impact the existing levees and Valley Water property, including directing runoff away from the levee toe and keeping trees a minimum of 15 feet from the levee toes in accordance with Army Corps of Engineer levee guidance.
9. Valley Water's proposed flood protection project may include raising the existing levees or constructing flood walls within reach adjacent to 370 W. Trimble Road. Design of the proposed trail ramp connection to the Guadalupe River Trail located at the top of the existing levee needs to take into consideration the possible need to reconstruct the trail connection to a greater height and/or make other modifications to accommodate the future flood protection improvements. Valley Water is open to meeting with the project proponent, CEC, and the City to discuss further the flood protection project and how it may impact the proposed trail connection.
10. Due to the high water demands that are often associated with data centers, the DEIR should clarify projected demands for groundwater and recycled water, both prior to, and following the proposed connection to the regional recycled water system. Additionally, the DEIR should evaluate impacts related to water use and an analysis of the water supply that includes recycled water.
11. Valley Water records do not show any wells on the project site; however, it is always possible that a well exists that is not in Valley Water records. Abandoned or unused wells can provide a vertical conduit for contaminants to pollute groundwater. To avoid impacts on groundwater quality, any wells found on-site that will not be used must be properly destroyed in accordance with Ordinance 90-1, which requires the issuance of a well destruction permit. Property owners or their representatives should call the Wells and Water Measurement Unit at (408) 630-2660 for more information regarding well permits and registration for the destruction of wells.

Please forward the DEIR and any other project documents as they become available for Valley Water review. Also, please reference Valley Water File Number 34822 on further correspondence regarding this project. If you have any further questions regarding Valley Water's comments on the NOP, you may contact me at (408) 630-2479, or reach me via email at LBrancatelli@valleywater.org.

Thank you,

LISA BRANCATELLI

ASSOCIATE ENGINEER (CIVIL)

Community Projects Review Unit

lbrancatelli@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2479 / Cell. (408) 691-1247

CPRU Hotline: (408) 630-2650

Santa Clara Valley Water District is now known as:



Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118

www.valleywater.org

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:34 AM

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San José Data Center

04 project (SJDC 04) (22-SPPE-02)

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Hello,

This email is to notify you that the California Energy Commission (CEC) will be preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed San José Data Center 04 (SJDC 04), located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Orchard Parkway and Component Drive in the city of San José.

SJDC 04 would include two data center buildings; emergency backup generating facilities; recycled water storage, fire water storage, pipelines, and support buildings; building cooling equipment; an on-site substation and switchyard; potentially two distribution transmission lines; and ancillary support facilities. Together these constitute the “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEC is requesting your agency’s comments regarding the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency’s statutory responsibilities in connection with the EIR. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by CEC when considering your permit or other approval for the proposed project.

The attached Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report includes details on the proposed project, how to access the project’s website (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/backup-generating-system/san-jose-data-center-04>) and how to submit comments to the CEC. The comment period on the NOP ends on March 10, 2023.

Thank you,

Lisa

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



