

**Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
North Side Communications Tower Project
Oakdale Irrigation District**

Notice is provided by the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed North Side Communications Tower Project is available for public review and comment. The document will be available for review during a 45-day comment period **July 13, 2018** through **August 27, 2018**, after which a final EIR will be prepared addressing public comments and providing responses to comments.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

The Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) has over 80 automated canal gates and flow meters currently incorporated into its Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, and continues to expand canal automation as part of modernization and increased efficiency efforts identified in the District's Water Resources Plan and associated Programmatic EIR for the program. As the SCADA system continues to grow, the need has arisen for a new tower to intercept and relay radio communications to and from the OID office and the remote automated gate and meter sites.

The North Side Communications Tower Project (Project) will involve the installation of one 190' tall tower at the OID North Side Regulating Reservoir located approximately three miles northeast of the City of Oakdale in Stanislaus County. The proposed communications tower will be located approximately 1.47 miles northeast of the intersection of 28-Mile and Rodden Roads, at an area of the OID North Side Regulating Reservoir that is currently being used as a laydown area and inventory yard for OID materials. The tower will be a self-supporting lattice design and will be located approximately 2,100 feet from the nearest residence. It is anticipated that the tower will have daytime lighting as well as nighttime red obstruction lighting for the safety of low altitude aircraft. The tower's concrete pad foundation is anticipated to be approximately 26' x 26' x 4' deep, and the tower components will be manufactured at an existing facility and assembled onsite.

Due to the relatively short construction time frame, minimal area of ground disturbance during construction, and existing use of the site for OID operations, potential impacts are anticipated to be primarily limited to potential aesthetic effects. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been developed to review and disclose all potential environmental impacts, and identify measures designed to mitigate for such impacts.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS:

OID has determined with the safety and mitigation/avoidance measures identified in the DEIR, as well as limited potential impacts, the proposed Project will have a less than significant effect on the environment. Based on the results of a viewshed and visual analysis, the impacts to visual resources identified as potentially significant are anticipated to be negligent to minimal. The tower is sited approximately 2,100 feet from the nearest residence on OID owned property with no Williamson Act conflict in an agricultural zone. The 190 foot tower height is necessary to achieve reliable radio communications to and from the OID office and to and from remote automated canal gates located throughout the District on OID's SCADA system. While not subject to FAA regulations, OID has chosen to incorporate FAA tower lighting guidelines for the safety of

low altitude aircraft and crop dusting operations in this agricultural region. The tower's lattice design allows for it to be freestanding without the use of guy wires.

PUBLIC REVIEW:

The DEIR is available for review at the Oakdale Irrigation District Office, at 1205 East F Street, Oakdale, CA 95361 and on the OID website at www.oakdaleirrigation.com. Comments on the DEIR may be submitted to the attention of Steve Knell, General Manager, at the address noted above, or by email at srknell@oakdaleirrigation.com.

Comments may also be submitted during a public hearing which will take place within the 45-day comment period at the following time and place:

Tuesday, August 7, 2018, 9:00 am
Meeting of the OID Board of Directors
1205 East F Street
Oakdale, CA 95361

Following the close of the public review period for the DEIR OID will prepare a final EIR, inclusive of all comments received during the public review period, for consideration by the OID Board of Directors. As required by CEQA, the final EIR will be available at least 10 days prior to certification. For more information, you may contact OID at (209) 847-0341.