

**NID Regional Water Supply Project  
Technical Memorandum****Project Objective and Need Statement**

Prepared For: Nevada Irrigation District and City of Lincoln

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In accordance with the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 9 (b), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Project Description must contain (among other items):

*“A statement of objectives sought by the proposed project. A clearly written statement of objectives will help the lead agency develop a reasonable range of alternatives to evaluate in the EIR and will aid the decision makers in preparing findings or a statement of overriding considerations, if necessary. The statement of objectives should include the underlying purpose of the project.”*

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to provide general information for the CEQA project description and a foundation for the CEQA EIR Statement of Project Objectives.

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is recognized by the State of California (State) as a water purveyor. As such, NID holds water rights and provides water service as a water purveyor as documented by LAFCO to lands within its District boundary. The types of service provided include irrigation water for agriculture and other non-potable uses, and treated water for domestic, municipal and industrial use. NID operates and maintains raw water storage and distribution facilities, hydroelectric power plants, water treatment plants, and treated water storage and distribution systems.

The City of Lincoln (City) is also recognized by the State as a water purveyor. As such, the City purchases wholesale treated water, produces groundwater from City wells, recycles wastewater

for non-potable uses, operates and maintains a treated water storage and distribution system, and distributes treated water to retail customers within the City limits for municipal and industrial use.

## **2.0 PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to meet current and anticipated treated water demands for portions of the City and unincorporated areas in Western Placer County which lie within the NID boundary. This demand will be met by providing an adequate, safe, reliable source of treated water in a cost effective manner, using NID water on NID lands.

## **3.0 PROJECT NEED**

Development of approved land uses within the City and surrounding unincorporated areas, has generated a need for treated water within the NID boundary in Western Placer County.

Approved land uses within the City are defined in the 2050 City of Lincoln General Plan, March 2008 (Lincoln General Plan). Approximately 6,750 acres of the City, as identified in the General Plan as approved within the City's CEQA document, are within the NID boundary and will generate a need for an estimated 12,000 acre-feet of treated water per year.

Approved land uses in unincorporated areas within the NID boundary that lie outside of the Lincoln General Plan are defined in the Placer County General Plan Update, August 1994 (Placer County General Plan). Approximately 25,200 acres could be served treated water by gravity from the proposed project and would generate a need for an estimated 3,800 acre-feet of treated water per year.

Total demand for treated water anticipated within the NID boundary as allowed by the Lincoln and Placer County General Plans is estimated at 15,800 acre-feet per year. To provide treated water service requires at a minimum the following facilities:

- A water treatment plant capable of producing 40 million gallons of treated water per day is needed to meet associated maximum demands.
- Treated water storage and transmission pipelines are also needed to meet existing and anticipated demands.
- Raw water storage and transmission pipelines are needed to provide an adequate source of surface water to the water treatment plant and will offer improved availability of raw water service within portions of the project area.

Land uses within the project area that lie outside of the proposed treated water service area and within the NID boundary, could be served raw water for irrigation and other non-potable uses. This anticipated service area includes approximately 5,550 acres and could generate an estimated 5,550 acre-feet of raw water demand per year. This estimated demand is included in the sizing of the raw water facilities.

## 4.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the proposed project, for ease of discussion, are divided into two categories: Regulatory and Implementation. Regulatory objectives pertain to NID responsibilities as a water purveyor to lands within its boundary. Implementation objectives pertain to NID responsibilities as owner and operator of facilities needed to provide service to lands within the project area. The proposed project or any alternatives must meet the following objectives to fulfill the project purpose and meet the existing and anticipated need for treated water.

### 4.1 REGULATORY OBJECTIVES

- **Provide a Treated Water Supply to Serve Within Portions of the NID Boundary in Western Placer County**– As the water purveyor, NID is required to provide water service in accordance with the California State Water Code. NID has adopted Rules and Regulations governing such service. This objective will be met by providing raw and treated water to the project area in sufficient quantities for existing and anticipated demands based on approved land uses within the NID boundary in Western Placer County. (Total estimated anticipated demands: 15,800 acre-feet of treated water and 5,550 acre-feet of irrigation water per year.)
- **Provide a Reliable Source water Supply to the Water Treatment Plant** – The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requires that a public water system provide adequate source water capacity to meet peak demands which includes the raw water supply. Therefore, the source water supply required to meet anticipated demands, for this project: raw surface water must be reliable in quantity and quality. This objective will be met by providing raw water pipelines and storage facilities sized adequately to meet anticipated peak demands, and by providing source water back-up capacity.
- **Provide a Treated Water Supply that meets Regulatory Requirements** – The CDPH and the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water (EPA) regulate and set standards for the production and use of treated water. NID is required to maintain facilities that meet or exceed current drinking water regulations and standards, and to the extent possible, account for pending, proposed, or anticipated regulations. This objective will be met by providing a water treatment plant, treated water storage, and treated water distribution pipelines; all sized to meet total anticipated demands for treated water.
- **Provide for Additional Reliability for Lincoln’s Water Supply** – The City is also required to maintain facilities that meet or exceed CDPH and EPA requirements by providing, among other, a reliable source of treated water to its customers. The Lincoln General Plan acknowledges NID’s objective and responsibility to supply treated water to that portion of the City within the NID boundary. This objective will be met by NID providing a second source of treated surface water of sufficient quantity to meet demands for treated water within the NID boundary.

### 4.2 IMPLEMENTATION OBJECTIVES

These objectives, when incorporated to extent feasible during project implementation, will improve the project and any proposed alternatives.

- Provide treated water service for the City within NID's service area.
- Provide the opportunity for treated water service to areas outside of the City area but within the NID's service area.
- Provide additional raw water to existing customers and additional customers along the raw water pipeline system.
- Minimize project operation and maintenance (O&M) costs.
- Protect source water quality within the project study area.
- Minimize negative impacts from treated surface water on the ability of the Lincoln Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facilities to comply with existing National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits for discharges to Auburn Ravine.
- Control and monitor flow and pressure of treated water delivery to the City and NID customers within the project area.
- Minimize operational energy costs by maximizing the use of gravity flow for both raw water and treated water facilities.
- Avoid, reduce, or mitigate significant effects on the environment.
- Accommodate feasible project phasing and funding strategies.
- Minimize impacts to the public that could be caused by project construction and operation.
- Provide remote electronic observation, data acquisition, and control of all pertinent conveyance and process facilities.
- Optimize sites for development of anticipated hydroelectric power plants.
- Optimize project design costs and construction costs.
- Maintain accurate accounting of raw water deliveries, treatment plant production, and metered water consumption.
- Minimize water loss from the raw and treated water delivery systems.
- Preserve recreational opportunities within the project boundaries.
- Provide opportunity for raw water service from the project raw water pipelines.