



**BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO ADOPT AN
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
BIG BEAR LAKE SHORELINE CLEAR AND GRUB**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the Big Bear Municipal Water District (District) Staff prepared a Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of the below-named project.

Project Title: Big Bear Lake Shoreline Clear and Grub

Project Location: The Project activities will occur on dry portions of the shoreline of Big Bear Lake, from the high-water mark of 6,743.23 feet above sea level at the shoreline to a distance of approximately 20 feet below the high water mark, which is the typically the distance needed to maintain invasive aquatic vegetation.

Project Description: The Big Bear Municipal Water District (District) proposes to conduct clearing and grubbing along various dry shoreline areas of Big Bear Lake (Project) to remove sediment buildup, enhance the shoreline ecology, and reduce water quality concerns related to invasive aquatic and terrestrial vegetation biomass. The last five years of drought in Southern California has decreased lake levels in Big Bear Lake 18 feet below the normal ordinary high water mark, which has left exposed approximately 100 to 200 feet (in some areas more than 600 feet) of lake bottom. As the lake level has dropped, more and more invasive terrestrial weeds have colonized the dry lake bottom and thrived off the dead or dying aquatic weed remnants. The project proposes to mechanically remove the first 1 to 1.5 feet of soil along the dry lake bottom in areas of high concentrations of the dead or dying aquatic weeds, to remove the rootballs of the weeds. The average annual volume is estimated to be approximately 100,000 cubic yards over approximately 50 acres annually, which includes work on both the District's property and by non-District entities within their extended property boundaries onto District property. Work is anticipated to occur between April 15 and December 1 annually. Equipment will vary but generally includes the use of a dozer, loader, dump truck and water truck. The District has developed a number of Best Management Operational Practices to protect the shoreline resources. Some of these practices include but are not limited to: equipment inspection, location staking, avoidance of sensitive plant resources, coordination with Native American entities, grade control to maintain existing slope, sterilization of stockpiles, and biological resource protection zones. Clearing locations will be targeted at those areas with high density of dead or dying invasive aquatic weeds and/or terrestrial weeds that represent a fire hazard. Sensitive, riparian and wetland species along the shoreline will not be removed. However, some emergent riparian/wetland vegetation that is mixed with non-native or invasive will be removed. Work will always be performed in completely dry conditions, and no work below the water line will be conducted.

Environmental Review and Public Comment: The circulation of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study is to encourage written public comments. Interested persons can review the Draft IS/MND at <http://www.bbmbwd.com/> and at the Big Bear Municipal Water District, 40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315. If unavailable on the web site, a hard copy of the document may be obtained by telephoning the Big Bear Municipal Water District at (909) 866-5796 or by emailing James Bellis at jbellis@bbmbwd.net to request an alternative to the electronic version of the document published on the District's website.

The public comment period starts **September 3, 2018** and ends on **October 4, 2018 at 5:00 PM**. Please submit comments to:

Email to: mstephenson@bbmbwd.net – or - Fax (909) 866-6485 attention to:
Mike Stephenson, District Manager

Big Bear Municipal Water District, 40524 Lakeview Drive, P.O. Box 2863, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held on **October 18, 2018** during the District's regular Board meeting to consider adoption of the Final IS/MND. In advance of the hearing date, Staff will distribute a separate notice regarding that hearing.