

Appendix A

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A.2 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAM	annual arithmetic mean
AFY	acre-feet per year
ALWD	Azusa Light and Water Department
AMC	Azusa Municipal Code
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
AVR	average vehicle ridership
BACM	Best Available Control Measures
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CASQA	California Stormwater Quality Association
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDHS	California Department of Health Services
CDWR	California Department of Water Resources
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
cfs	cubic feet per second
cm/yr	centimeter per year
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNG	compressed natural gas
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
COE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
CRA	California Resources Agency
CSPUP	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAMP	Orange County Stormwater Program 2003 Drainage Area Management Plan
dB	decibel
dBA	decibels using “A” weighted sound level
DSOD	Division of Safety of Dams, California Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
g	gravity
GLAVCD	Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District

Appendix A.2 – Acronyms and Abbreviations

HABS	Historic American Buildings Survey
HAER	Historic American Engineering Record
HALS	Historic American Landscapes Survey
LACDA	Los Angeles County Drainage Area
LACDPR	County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
LACFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
LACSD	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
LADPW	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
LASD	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
LASGRWC	Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council
L_{eq}	Equivalent Noise Level
LOS	level of service
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
mgd	million gallons per day
mm/yr	millimeter per year
mph	miles per hour
MSGBW	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
msl	mean sea level
MTA	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NDMA	N-nitrosodimethylamine
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NO₂	nitrogen dioxide
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
OCFA	Orange County Fire Authority
OCVCD	Orange County Vector Control District
OHP	State Office of Historic Preservation
OMR	California Department of Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation
OSD	Orange County Sheriff's Department
PAH	polyaromatic hydrocarbon
PCE	perchloroethylene
PM₁₀	particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PM_{2.5}	particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PRC	California Public Resources Code
Regional Board	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
RIO Trust	Riverlands Preservation Trust of the Rio San Gabriel
RMC	San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
ROC	reactive organic compounds
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District

Appendix A.2 – Acronyms and Abbreviations

SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SCE	Southern California Edison
SCGC	Southern California Gas Company
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
SGVCOG	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
SGVMVCD	San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975
SMGB	State Mining and Geology Board
SO₂	sulfur dioxide
SO_x	sulfur oxides
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan
TCE	trichloroethene
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
V/C ratio	volume/capacity ratio
VOC	volatile organic compound
WCA	Watershed Conservation Authority
WQA	San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority
WRD	Water Replenishment District of Southern California
WRP	Water Reclamation Plant

A.3 GLOSSARY

100-year discharge	The rate of flow or volume of water discharged during an 100-year frequency flood (a flood which has a two percent chance of occurring in any given year)
acre-feet	A quantity of volume of water that covers one acre to a depth of one foot; equal to 43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons.
aquiclude	A geologic unit (e.g., rock, clay, shale, etc.) that does not transmit water readily and acts as a barrier to the flow of groundwater.
discharge	The rate of flow or volume of water passing a point in a given time. Expressed using a unit of volume over time, typically cubic feet per second.
distributary	A river branch flowing away from the main stream
dry well	An excavated pit lined with gravel or other porous materials to infiltrate stormwater
fecal coliform bacteria	A group of organisms common to the intestinal tracts of humans and animals. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in water, wastewater, or biosolids is an indicator of pollution and possible contamination by pathogens.
Holocene	10,000 years ago to today
Holocene	10,000 years ago to the present
impervious (impermeable)	Description of a material that prevents passage of water into the underlying soils. Examples of impervious surfaces include asphalt, concrete, roof tops, clay, and compacted soils.
infiltration	The absorption of water into the ground. The rate at which infiltration occurs is expressed in terms of depth per unit time, such as inches/hour.
invert width	Width of a channel bottom
Mesozoic	65 to 245 million years ago
non-point source pollution	Storm water conveyed pollution that is not identifiable to one particular source, and is occurring at locations scattered throughout the drainage basin. Typical sources include erosion, agricultural activities, and runoff from urban lands.
peak discharge (or peak flow)	The maximum instantaneous rate of flow during a storm, usually expressed in cubic feet per second.
perched groundwater	A separate body of groundwater lying (perched) above the main body of groundwater, separated from the main body by an unsaturated, impermeable layer (e.g., clay or rock). Perched groundwater usually occur where there are discontinuous impermeable layers.
Pleistocene	1.8 million years ago to 10,000 years ago

Appendix A.3 - Glossary

Pleistocene	57.8 to 65 million years ago
Precambrian	544 to 4,600 million years ago
recycled water or reclaimed water	Wastewater that is suitable for a beneficial use as a result of treatment. The degree of treatment provided for recycled water depends on the quality of water needed for the specific beneficial use and for public health protection and may include effluent from Primary Wastewater Treatment, Secondary Wastewater Treatment, Tertiary Wastewater Treatment, or Advanced Treatment.
runoff	The excess portion of precipitation that does not infiltrate into the ground, but “runs off” and reaches a stream, water body or storm drain.
saltwater intrusion	Subsurface movement of ocean water into freshwater groundwater basins in coastal and inland areas, usually caused by excessive groundwater pumping.
sediment	Soil material that is transported from its site of origin by water.
sedimentation	The process by which sand and mud carried by water settles down to and accumulates on the bottom of a natural (river, stream, lake) or manmade (reservoirs, basins, tanks) body of water.
swale	A shallow, depressed strip of land in which the filtering action of grass and soil infiltration are utilized to remove pollutants from urban stormwater.
unconfined aquifer	An aquifer that is not separated from the ground surface by an impermeable geological boundary
vadose zone	A layer of unsaturated soil above the groundwater table
watershed	The area or region of land draining into a common outlet such as a river or body of water. Synonymous with river basin or drainage basin.

A.5 ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

Brandt, N. – Irvine Ranch Water District

Denger, L. – Irvine Ranch Water District

Flowers, L. – San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Fujioka, K. – San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

Jallo, D. – Natural Areas Superintendent for Whittier Narrows, County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation

Mendiola, A. – City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Meyer, R. – Orange County Vector Control District

Musick, S. – Riverlands Preservation Trust of the Rio San Gabriel

Scrivens, J. – City of Industry.

Shaw, C. – San Gabriel County Water District

Shaw, M. – Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

Simpson, F. – San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

Stark, L. – Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Appendix B

Notice of Preparation and Comments Received

Appendix B contains the following materials:

- Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Program EIR (April, 2003)
- Summary of oral comments received at the public scoping meeting
- Written comments received on the NOP

A.4 PREPARERS OF THE PROGRAM EIR

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Lead Agency)

Daniel Rynn, Watershed Manager, Watershed Management Division

Martin Moreno, Watershed Management Division

Ramy Rydman, Watershed Management Division

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Meha Patel, Project Analyst

BonTerra Consulting (Biological Resources Consultant)

Thomas E. Smith, Jr., AICP, FSMPS

Greenwood and Associates (Cultural Resources Consultant)

John Foster, R.P.A.

Garland Associates (Traffic and Transportation Consultant)

Richard Garland, Principal Traffic Engineer

Notice of Preparation

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report in Compliance with Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, and 15375 of the California Code of Regulations

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the San Gabriel River Master Plan.

Agencies: We request the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

Organizations and Interested Parties: Comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with construction and operation of this project are requested from organizations and individuals.

Project Title:	San Gabriel River Master Plan
Lead Agency Contact Information:	Mr. Marty Moreno County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Watershed Management Division P.O. Box 1460 Alhambra, CA 91802-1460 Phone: (626) 458-4119 Fax: (626) 457-1526 E-mail: MMORENO@ladpw.org
Lead Agency Project Role:	<p>On September 7, 1999, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to instruct the Department of Public Works (DPW) to prepare a San Gabriel River Master Plan for Board approval, with the assistance of the Departments of Regional Planning and Parks and Recreation, and the National Park Service. DPW established a Steering Committee composed of cities along the river; water and regulatory agencies; interested community, business, and environmental groups; and other stakeholders. Steering Committee members have met about 35 times over three years.</p> <p>DPW and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) formed a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that will seek to fund projects of mutual interest. The JPA also contemplates acquisition and protection of lands for watershed protection, conservation, natural open space, and recreational purposes. DPW will also pursue projects on its properties along the San Gabriel River, focusing on those related to flood management, water quality and conservation, and groundwater recharge.</p>

Lead Agency Project Role (Continued):	The Master Plan will include projects along the San Gabriel River initiated by cities and other stakeholder organizations. DPW will support projects that are planned and implemented along the river corridor in a manner that is consistent with the San Gabriel River Master Plan.
Project Location:	<p>The Master Plan will focus on the 58-mile long San Gabriel River (from Cogswell Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, Figure 1). While the corridor is defined as the Los Angeles County Flood Control District right-of-way, the Master Plan also addresses connections between the river and significant resources and opportunities that lie adjacent to or near the river such as relevant and significant biological, hydrologic, community, historic, and cultural resources. The corridor is primarily located within Los Angeles County; the mouth of the river is bordered by land within both Los Angeles and Orange counties.</p> <p>Cities within the San Gabriel River corridor include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arcadia • Azusa • Baldwin Park • Bellflower • Cerritos • City of Industry • Downey • Duarte • El Monte • Irwindale • Lakewood • Long Beach • Los Alamitos • Norwalk • Pico Rivera • Santa Fe Springs • Seal Beach • South El Monte • Whittier
Project Description:	<p>Engineered improvements currently present along the San Gabriel River provide flood protection for surrounding urban development. These improvements have also allowed development almost to the river's edge, decreasing open space and altering natural habitats. The San Gabriel River Master Plan will be a consensus-based document that will recognize and address a renewed interest in recreation, open space, and habitat, while also seeking to enhance and maintain flood protection, water conservation benefits, along with existing water rights. The Master Plan is expected to be ready for Board approval in early 2004.</p> <p>As defined by the Steering Committee, the vision for the project is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The San Gabriel River will be the corridor of an integrated watershed system while providing protection, benefit and enjoyment to the public.</i></p> <p>Project goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and enhance habitat systems through public education, connectivity, and balance with other uses • Encourage and enhance safe and diverse recreation systems, while providing for expansion, equitable and sufficient access, balance, and multi-purposes uses • Enhance and protect open space systems through conservation, aesthetics, connectivity, stewardship, and multi-purpose uses • Maintain flood protection and existing water and other rights while enhancing flood management activities through the integration with recreation, open space, and habitat systems • Maintain existing water and other rights while enhancing water quality, water supply, groundwater recharge, and water conservation through the integration with recreation, open space, and habitat systems

Project Description (Continued):	<p>Nine categories of river enhancement projects embody the goals of the Master Plan and serve as a framework to guide future projects by cities, agencies, and other stakeholders. Categories include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Trail Enhancements</u> – elements include: signage, fencing, landscaping with native plants and trees, trail surfacing appropriate to the river, lighting, site amenities, and gateways at river entrances and crossings 2. <u>Educational Centers</u> – educational centers to inform and educate visitors about the river and its environs 3. <u>Bridges, Gateways and Connections</u> – elements to reconnect the river with residential areas and commercial districts 4. <u>Multiple Uses on Corridor Rights-of-Way</u> – potential use of utility corridors for gardens, parks and trails and/or planting with native vegetation 5. <u>Bio-Engineered Wetlands</u> – stormwater-fed wetland areas; may also include groundwater infiltration 6. <u>Flood Channel Enhancements</u> – natural-looking terraces built over engineered levees or earthen levees set back from the river channel in less developed areas along the river 7. <u>Land Reclamation</u> - gravel pits, old parking lots, exhausted mines and unused land reclaimed as parks, residential and commercial development, restored habitat areas, “green” golf courses and river frontage 8. <u>Recreational Activities</u> - new and improved recreational and park facilities along the river (sports fields, playgrounds, and passive recreation) 9. <u>Development Standards and Guidelines</u> – Such as, model ordinance to outline landscape design, vegetation, surfacing, drainage engineering, roofing, building materials and other sustainable land use practices
Demonstration Projects:	<p>To date, stakeholders have identified over 160 individual projects that could be included in the Master Plan. The Steering Committee will select five of these projects to demonstrate how project planning can simultaneously address the Master Plan goals of habitat, recreation, and open space. A schematic plan and site design, preliminary cost estimates, and likely funding sources will be identified for each of the demonstration projects. Selection as one of the five demonstration projects will not guarantee future funding or implementation.</p>
Potentially Significant Environmental Effects:	<p>At a programmatic level, the EIR will address: air quality, noise, traffic, and disturbance of cultural resources during project construction; water quality for elements with groundwater infiltration; impacts to existing recreational and biological resources; and health and safety.</p>

Future Environmental Documentation:	In the future, as individual elements of the Master Plan are proposed for implementation, project proponents would review the Program EIR and determine whether or not the Program document sufficiently analyzes the environmental effects of the individual project. If the subsequent activity would have effects not covered by the Program EIR, a second-tier CEQA document (a Negative Declaration or an EIR) would then be prepared.
Related Documents:	Documents related to the proposed project are available for review at County of Los Angeles DPW headquarters in Alhambra (see contact information above).
NOP Review Period:	<p>The County invites your written comments on the scope of the Program EIR. The public review period is scheduled to begin on April 29, 2003 and end on May 28, 2003. Due to the time limits mandated by CEQA, your response must be received no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please indicate a contact person in your response and send your response to:</p> <p align="center">Mr. Marty Moreno County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Watershed Management Division P.O. Box 1460 Alhambra, CA 91802-1460</p>
Public Scoping Meeting:	<p>Date: A public scoping meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2003, as part of the regularly scheduled San Gabriel River Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Time: The Steering Committee Meeting will be held from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.; the EIR will be discussed starting at approximately 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Location: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Conference Rooms A & B 900 S. Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803</p> <p>All parties are welcome to attend and present environmental information that they believe should be addressed in the Program EIR.</p>

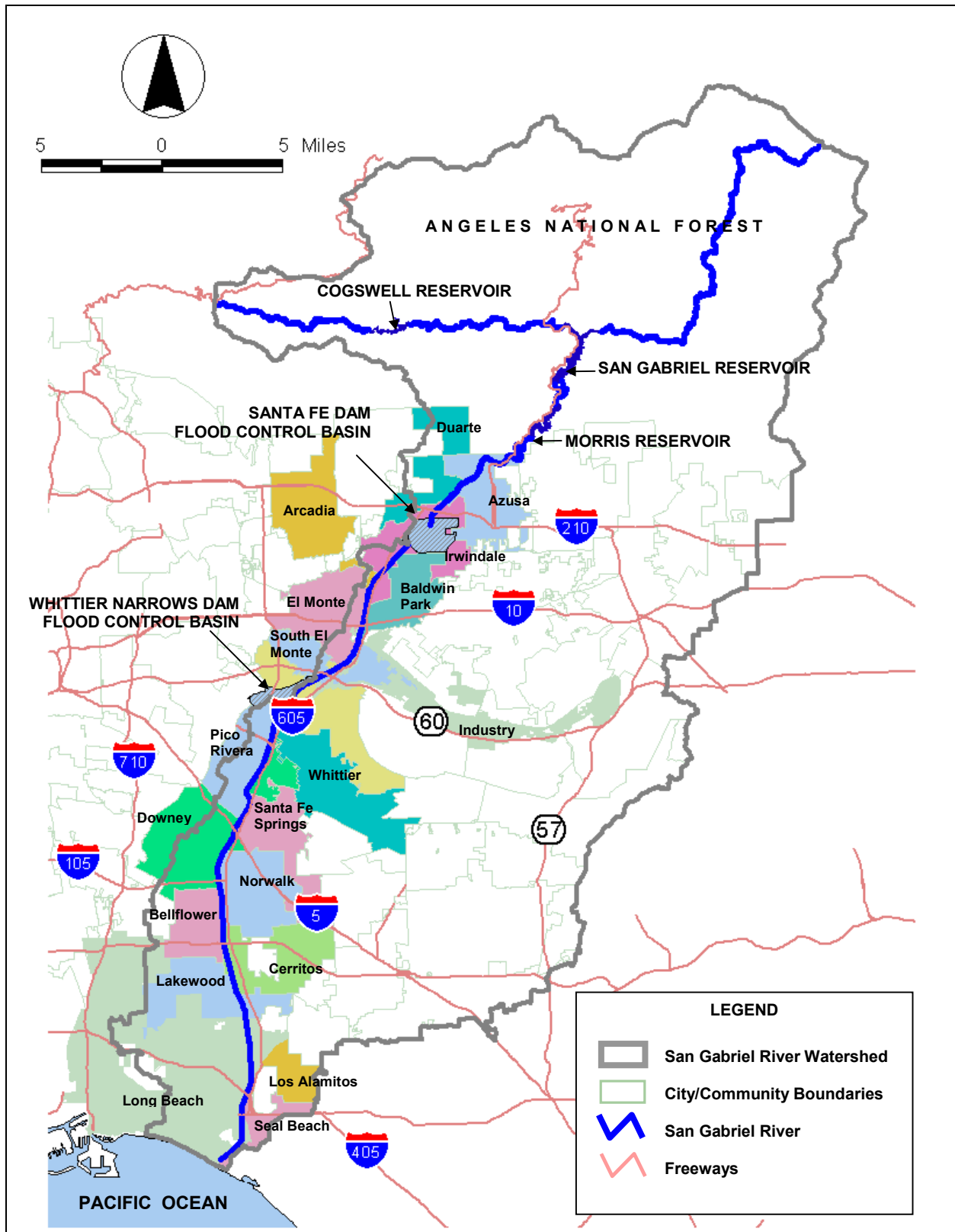
Martin Moreno
Signature

April 24, 2003
Date

Martin Moreno
Printed Name

Sr Civil Engineer
Title

Figure 1
Project Area



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Summary of Oral Comments Received at the Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting was held on May 12, 2003 at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works headquarters in Alhambra for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan Program EIR as a part of the Steering Committee meeting for the Master Plan.

The following oral comments and questions were received during the meeting:

- All groundwater and surface water rights in the Basin are fully adjudicated. It is essential to maintain the water supply.
- There is no unappropriated water in the San Gabriel River, and no water can be added or diverted without the authority of the Water Master.
- The San Gabriel River is the primary local water source for 7 million people.
- Area where drinking water wells are served by recharge should be mapped and delineated in the EIR. Identification of wells, recharge areas, and geology is needed.
- The perched groundwater should be mapped. Recharge of water above the Whittier Narrows would not be a problem, but excess recharge below Whittier Narrows could cause problems. Perched water now causes problems (e.g., on building foundations) along the 605 freeway especially closer to the coast, and this needs to be delineated in the Plan. There are injection wells being operated to counter saltwater intrusion.
- Water recharge in certain areas (e.g., areas of clay lenses near El Dorado Park) may cause problems for stability of structures.
- Relationship between the San Gabriel River watershed and the river corridor. Need to address the impact on the watershed from activities in the corridor.
- Flooding impact should be addressed.

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

San Gabriel River
Ranger District

110 N. Wabash Ave.
Glendora, CA 91741
626-335-1251 Voice
626-574-5209 TTY

Watershed

File Code: 1900

Date: May 20, 2003

Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

This letter is in regards to the Notice of Preparation of the San Gabriel River Master Plan and the scope of the Program EIR. The U.S. Forest Service strongly supports the development of a River Master Planning effort and commends the County for taking the lead in this endeavor.

As you know, the Angeles Forest, San Gabriel Canyon offers a wide variety of recreational uses. These recreational opportunities can be offered along many undeveloped stretches of the river corridor. We would like to see the County include recreational use at the San Gabriel Reservoir, Cogswell Reservoir and Morris Reservoir to include: picnicking, boating, fishing, hiking and camping. There are many natural benches there that would allow for easy access to the lake and meet the public's need for additional areas to recreate.

Many comments voiced during the River Planning Sessions are the need to keep the reservoirs clean and free of pollutants. I find the argument to keep people out of the reservoirs somewhat silly, when over 8 million people recreate in the waters within 1 mile upstream of the reservoir body which flows directly into the reservoirs.

Another issue I would like to see the Plan reflect is the goal of maintaining some kind of minimal flow below the reservoirs to maintain the riparian and aquatic fish habitats. This would involve insuring a year round minimum flow of 10 cfs. Biologist input should be sought to ensure the flow is adequate to support the desired outcome. Flood management practices can be modified to ensure a steady flow regime.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Karen Forts
for MARTY DUMPIS
District Ranger





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92009-4213



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM

Date Sent: June 2, 2003

Time Sent (PT): 5:20 PM

Number of pages, INCLUDING this transmittal sheet: 4

TO:

FAX NUMBER:

Marty Moreno	626 457-1526

FAXED BY:

Fax No: (760) 918-0638

Phone No: (760) 431-9440

FOR:

JUL TERP USFWS

SUBJECT:

NOP for DEIR for San Gabriel River Master Plan

COMMENTS:



Please call Doreen Milligan at (760) 431-9440, ext 258, if you have problems receiving this fax.





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92009



In Reply Refer To:
FWS-LA-3539.1

Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, California 91802-1460

JUN 02 2003

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan, Counties of Los Angeles and Orange, California

Dear Mr. Moreno:

We have reviewed the above referenced Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) received by our office on May 2, 2003. The project proposes to develop a Master Plan that will focus on the 58-mile long San Gabriel River (from Cogswell Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean). While the corridor is defined as the Los Angeles County Flood Control District right-of-way, the Master Plan will address connections between the river and significant resources and opportunities that lie adjacent to or near the river, such as relevant and significant biological, hydrologic, community, historic, and cultural resources. The corridor is primarily located within Los Angeles County; the mouth of the river is bordered by land within both Los Angeles and Orange counties.

We offer the following comments and recommendations regarding project-associated biological impacts based on our review of the NOP and our knowledge of declining habitat types and species within Los Angeles County. We provide these comments in keeping with our agency's mission to work "with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people." Specifically, we administer the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We also provide comments on public notices issued for a Federal permit or license affecting the Nation's waters pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

To facilitate the evaluation of the proposed project from the standpoint of fish and wildlife protection, we request that the DEIR contain the following specific information:

1. A description of the environment in the vicinity of the project from both a local and regional perspective, including aerial photograph(s) of the area with the project site outlined.

Marty Moreno (FWS-LA-3539.1)

2

2. A complete discussion of the purpose and need for the project and each of its alternatives.
3. A complete description of the proposed project, including the limits of any development, grading, and fuel modification zones.
4. Quantitative and qualitative assessments of the biological resources and habitat types that will be impacted by the proposed project and its alternatives. An assessment of direct, indirect, and cumulative project impacts to fish and wildlife associated habitats, particularly growth-accommodating effects of the project (e.g., increased population, increased development, increased traffic). All facets of the project (e.g., construction, implementation, operation, and maintenance) should be included in this assessment. Proposed developments in the surrounding area should be addressed in the analysis of cumulative impacts.

The assessments should include a list of Federal candidate, proposed, or listed species; State-listed species; and locally sensitive species that are on or near the project site, including a detailed discussion of these species and information pertaining to their local status and distribution. We are particularly interested in any and all information and data pertaining to potential impacts to populations of federally listed species.

The analysis of impacts to biological resources and habitat types should include detailed maps and tables summarizing specific acreages and locations of all habitat types, as well as the number and distribution of all Federal candidate, proposed, or listed species, State-listed species and locally sensitive species on or near the project site that may be affected by the proposed project or project alternatives.

5. A detailed discussion of measures to be taken to avoid, minimize, and offset impacts to biological resources.
6. A detailed analysis of impacts of the proposed project on the movement of wildlife and measures proposed to avoid, minimize, and offset impacts to wildlife movement.
7. An assessment of potential impacts to wetlands and jurisdictional waters of the United States. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act prohibits the unauthorized discharge of dredged or fill material into such waters, including wetlands. This section also provides that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) may issue permits for discharges of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters and wetlands. Potential areas of Corps jurisdiction should be evaluated and wetlands should be delineated using the methodology set forth in the Corps' Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987). The DEIR should disclose all impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands and on lands currently owned by the Corps, and proposed measures to be taken to avoid and minimize impacts, and offset unavoidable impacts.

Marty Moreno (FWS-LA-3539.1)

3

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the referenced NOP for potential impacts to sensitive and endangered species, wildlife and wetlands. Should you have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Kerri Davis of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Karen A. Goebel, written in cursive script. The signature appears to read "Ju Terp" followed by "for" in a smaller, less distinct script.

Karen A. Goebel
Assistant Field Supervisor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7, REGIONAL PLANNING

IGR/CEQA BRANCH

120 S. SPRING STREET

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 897-4429

FAX (213) 897-1337

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May 13, 2003

IGR/CEQA cs/030511

NOP

County of Los Angeles

San Gabriel River Master Plan

Vic. LA-605-VAR

SCH# 2003041187

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave.
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2003

DEPT. PUBLIC WORKS
PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIVISION 11

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation in the environmental review process for the above-mentioned program document. Based on the information received, we have the following comments:

A traffic study will be needed to evaluate the project's overall impact on the State transportation system including I-605 (San Gabriel River Freeway) as well as State Route 39, I-210, I-10, State Route 60, I-5, I-105, State Route 91, I-405, State Route 22 and State Route 1. The traffic study should include, but not be limited to:

- 1) Assumptions used to develop trip generation/distribution percentages and assignments.
- 2) An analysis of ADT, AM and PM peak hour volumes for both the existing and future (year 2025) conditions. This should also include level-of-service calculations using the HCM 2000 methodology. The analysis should include the following:
 - ☐ existing traffic volumes
 - ☐ project and cumulative traffic volumes
 - ☐ future traffic volumes projections for year 2025
 - ☐ existing level-of-service (LOS) calculations
 - ☐ project and cumulative level-of-service (LOS) calculations
- 3) Any mitigation measures proposed to alleviate traffic impact should include, but not be limited to the following:
 - ☐ financing
 - ☐ scheduling considerations
 - ☐ implementation responsibilities
 - ☐ monitoring plan

Any stormwater facilities that conforms with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements relating to construction activities and Post-Construction Storm Water Management should be fully discussed. To the maximum extent practicable, Best Management Practices will need to be implemented to address storm water runoff from new development.

Mr. Marty Moreno
May 13, 2003
Page Two

Caltrans has proposals to widen transportation facilities which cross the San Gabriel River. These proposed transportation improvements include State Route 60 and Interstate 5 corridors.

The locations of proposed groundwater recharging facilities should be identified in the report.

Any alteration to the riverbed including extraction operations, changes to the channel bed or river bank which could affect channel degradation, excessive local and general scouring, lateral movement of the channel and the ability of the river to maintain a stable channel which may have an impact on bridge structures and substructures will need to be fully discussed.

Any activity to be performed within the State Right-of-way will need a California Department of Transportation Encroachment Permit.

We recommend that construction related truck trips on State highways be limited to off-peak commute periods. Transport of over-size or over-weight vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans Transportation Permit.

Since the Department and other local agencies have projects proposed for the study area, including federally funded projects requiring FHWA approval, we would appreciate advance copies of the DEIR and traffic study to facilitate internal Departmental review. Copies should be sent to the undersigned :

Stephen Buswell, IGR/CEQA Program Manager
California Department of Transportation
District 7, Office of Regional Planning
120 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

If you have any questions regarding our comments, refer to our internal IGR/CEQA Record # cs/030511, and please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 897-4429.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN BUSWELL
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Mr. Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District 12
 3337 Michelson Drive, Suite 380
 Irvine, CA 92612-8894
 PHONE (949) 724-2010
 FAX (949) 724-2019
 TTY: (949) 756-7813

Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date 5-28-03 # of pages 2
To Marty Moreno	From [Signature]	
Co./Dept. LAPHD	Co. Caltrans	
Phone 626-458-4117	Phone 949-440-4861	
Fax # 626-457-1526	Fax #	



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FAX & MAIL

May 29, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
 County of Los Angeles
 Department of Public Works
 Watershed Management Division
 P.O. Box 1460
 Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

File: IGR/CEQA
 SCH#: 2003041187
 Log #: 1248
 Interstates 405, 605 & PCH

**Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the San Gabriel River Master Plan
 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Mr. Moreno;

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the document cited above. This Master Plan proposes an integrated watershed system achieving various goals and providing a wide variety of activities including but not limited to open space and habitat protection, water conservation benefits, flood safety, groundwater recharge and public recreation. The nearest state freeways are Interstates 405, 605 and Pacific Coast Highway.


Caltrans District 12 status is a responsible agency and we have the following comments:

1. Discussion should be included in the DEIR about impacts (temporary or otherwise) to posted bike trails within or adjacent to the channel (please refer to the 2001 OCTA Strategic Bike Plan). Please note that if bike trails are temporarily removed or blocked, a bike trail 'detour' will need to be provided;
2. All work within the State right-of-way must conform to Caltrans' Standard Plans and Standard Specifications for water pollution control, including preparation of a Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) or Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as required. (See attachment: *Water Pollution Control Provisions*);
3. Please note that all projects involving soil disturbing activities should pay extra attention to storm water pollution control during the "rainy season" (October 1st – April 30th) and follow

4. the water pollution control Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize impact to the receiving waters;
5. An Encroachment Permit from Caltrans may be required if any project activities or project improvements encroach upon Caltrans' right-of-way or Pacific Coast Highway. To acquire an encroachment permit, environmental concerns such as cultural resources, biological resources, and water quality concerns must be addressed. See the attachment, *Environmental Review Requirements for Encroachment Permits*.
6. No drainage, seepage of run-off water or waste of any kind is allowed on State property unless written authorization has been obtained from the State. Any water run-off that does drain onto Caltrans right-of-way from construction operations or from the resulting project must fully conform to the current discharge requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board to avoid impacting water quality. Measures must be incorporated to contain all vehicle loads and avoid any tracking of materials that may fall or blow onto Caltrans' roadways or facilities.

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments that could potentially impact the State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to call Becky Shumway at (949) 440-4461.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Joseph, Chief
Advanced Planning Branch

Enclosures:

cc: R. Helgeson

AT
CALTRA

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	5-28-01	# of pages	two
To	Marty Moreno	From	Debra Shumway		
Co./Dept.	LAPWD	Co.	Caltrans		
Phone #	626-458-4111	Phone #	949-440-4861		
Fax #	626-457-1926	Fax #			

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROVISIONS

Any runoff draining into Caltrans Right of Way must fully conform to the current discharge requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to avoid impacting water quality. Permittee shall fully conform to the requirements of the Caltrans Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Permit, Order No. 99-06-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000003, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on July 15, 1999, in addition to the BMPs specified in the Caltrans Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). When applicable, the Permittee will also conform to the requirements of the General NPDES Permit for Construction Activities, Order No. 99-08-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002, and any subsequent General Permit in effect at the time of issuance of this Encroachment Permit. These permits regulate storm water and non-storm water discharges associated with year-round construction activities.

Please note that project activities should pay extra attention to storm water pollution control during the "Rainy Season" (October 1st - May 1st) and follow the Water Pollution Control BMPs to minimize impact to receiving waters. Measures must be incorporated to contain all vehicle loads and avoid any tracking of materials, which may fall or blow onto Caltrans Right of Way.

For all projects resulting in 2 hectares (5 acres) or more of soil disturbance or otherwise subject to the NPDES program, the Contractor will develop, implement, and maintain a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) conforming to the requirements of the Caltrans Specification Section 7-1.01G "Water Pollution Control", Caltrans Statewide NPDES Permit, the General NPDES Permit for Construction Activities, and the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks "Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) Preparation Manual", and "Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual" effective November 2000, and subsequent revisions. In addition, the SWPPP must conform to the requirements of the SWRCB Resolution No. 2001-046, the Sampling and Analytical Procedures (SAP) Plan.

For all projects resulting in less than 2 hectares (5 acres) of soil disturbance or not otherwise subject to the requirements of the NPDES program, the Contractor will develop, implement, and maintain a Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) conforming to the requirements of Caltrans Specifications Section 7-1-.01G, "Water Pollution Control", and the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks "Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) Preparation Manual", and "Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual" effective November 2000, and subsequent revisions.

Copies of the Permits and the Construction Contractor's Guide and Specifications of the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook may be obtained from the Department of Transportation, Material Operations Branch, Publication Distribution Unit, 1900 Royal Oaks Drive, Sacramento, California 95815, Telephone: (916) 445-3520. Copies of the Permits and Handbook are also available for review at Caltrans District 12, 3347 Michelson Drive, Suite 100, Irvine, California 92612, Telephone: (949) 724-2260. Electronic copies can be found at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater.html>

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR ENCROACHMENT PERMITS

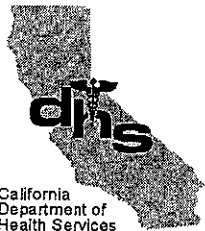
Any Party, outside of Caltrans, that does work on a State Highway or Interstate Highway in California needs to apply for an encroachment permit. To acquire any encroachment permit, environmental concerns must be addressed. Environmental review of encroachment permit applications may take 3 weeks if the application is complete or longer if the application is incomplete. For soil disturbing activities (e.g. geotechnical borings, grading, usage of unpaved roads from which dirt and other materials may be tracked onto the State/Interstate highways, etc.), compliance with Water Quality and Cultural Resources Provisions are emphasized. Surveys may/ may not be soil-disturbing activities, depending on the site and survey method.

A complete application for environmental review includes the following:

1. If an environmental document (CE, EIR/EIS, ND, etc.) has been completed for the project, copy of the final, approved document must be submitted with the application.
2. **Water Quality Provision:** All work within the State Right of Way must conform to Caltrans Standard Plans and Standard Specifications for Water Pollution Control including production of a Water Pollution Control Program or Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan as required. The applicant must provide Encroachments with a copy of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) including Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented for construction activities impacting Caltrans Right of Way, prepared for this as required by the NPDES Statewide Storm Water Permit for General Construction Activities. If no SWPPP has been prepared for this project, then the applicant must follow the requirements described in the attached Water Pollution Control Provisions (please see attachment).
3. **Cultural Resources Provisions:** If not included in the environmental document, before permit approval and project construction, the encroachment permit applicant must complete a Cultural Resource Assessment pursuant to Caltrans Environmental Handbook, Volume 2, Appendix B-1, and Exhibit 1, as amended. The Cultural Resources Assessment ascertains the presence or absence of cultural resources within a one-mile radius of the project area and evaluates the impact to any historical/cultural resource. Cultural Resources include "those resources significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, including Native American Resources" (Caltrans Environmental Handbook, Volume 2, Chapter 1, as amended)). The Cultural Resource Assessment must include:
 - a) a clear project description and map indicating project work, staging areas, site access, etc.;
 - b) a Record Search conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton. For information call (714) 278-5395;
 - c) proof of Native American consultation. Consultation involves contacting the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File, and following the recommendations provided by the NAHC. For information call (916) 653-4082;
 - d) documentation of any historic properties (e.g. prehistoric and historic sites, buildings, structures, objects, or districts listed on, eligible for, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places) within a one mile radius of the project area;
 - e) and a survey by qualified archaeologist for all areas that have not been previously researched.

The SCCIC and NAHC have an approximate turn around time of 2 weeks.

4. **Biological Resources Provisions:** Work conducted within Caltrans Right of Way should have the appropriate plant and wildlife surveys completed by a qualified biologist. If the information is not included in the environmental document, Environmental Planning requests that the applicant submit a copy of the biological study, survey, or technical report by a qualified biologist that provides details on the existing vegetation and wildlife at the project site and any vegetation that is to be removed during project activities. Official lists and databases should also be consulted for sensitive species such as the California Natural Diversity Database and lists provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. Any impacts that affect waterways and drainages and/or open space during construction, or that occur indirectly as a result of the project must be coordinated with the appropriate resource agencies. As guidance, we ask that the applicant include:
 - a) clear description of project activities and the project site
 - b) completed environmental significance checklist (not just yes and no answers, but a description should be given as to the reason for the response),
 - c) staging/storage areas noted on project plans,
 - d) proposed time of year for work and duration of activities (with information available),
 - e) any proposed mitigation (if applicable to the project),
 - f) and a record of any prior resource agency correspondence (if applicable to the project).



DIANA M. BONTÁ, R.N., Dr. P.H.
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

May 29, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
Lead Agency for the Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan
PO Box 1460
Alhambra CA 91802-1460

RE: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report in Compliance with Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 10582(a), 15103 and 15375 of the California Code of Regulations.

Dear Mr. Moreno,

The State Department of Health Services (DHS) is charged with maintaining a program of vector biology and control (California Health and Safety Code). Within DHS, this program is administered by the Vector-Borne Disease Section (VBDS). It is our understanding that several local vector control programs are commenting on the Notice of Preparation for the Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan separately.

Activities that have the potential for changing the current status of the San Gabriel River Corridor also have the potential for impacting public health through creation of a "disease corridor" from the Angeles National Forest to the Pacific Ocean. The San Gabriel River corridor cuts through one of the most highly urbanized areas of the state. Efforts to create "natural areas" such as wetlands and parklands within this corridor create the potential for disease transmission to visitors and residents in proximity to the river corridor.

It is essential that any projects within the scope of this EIR address the potential public health impacts and provide permanent measures to assure proper design, maintenance and funding for vector control activities. All plans and projects should be submitted for review to the appropriate vector control agency or agency/agencies or DHS.


A "short list" of the zoonotic and vector-borne diseases of concern would include (but not be limited to) the following: plague, rabies, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, Lyme disease, murine typhus, malaria, encephalitis (including West Nile Virus, Saint Louis Encephalitis and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis). In addition to the potential diseases listed above, many people are allergic (sometimes fatally) to the bites and stings of insects commonly found in parklands and "natural" settings. These include mosquitoes, black flies and other biting flies, midges, yellow jackets, bees, ticks, fleas and kissing bugs.



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

The vision statement defined by the Steering Committee requires "—providing protection, benefit and enjoyment to the public". VBDS requests that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works incorporate specific language into the EIR that addresses the issues raised here. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and request that we be added to the official mailing list for future developments. VBDS staff will be available to provide additional information and input in conjunction with local agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Myers', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles Myers
Supervising Public Health Biologist



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201



May 28, 2003

Marty Moreno
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
P.O Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

**San Gabriel River Master Plan
State Clearinghouse Number 2003041187**

Dear Mr. Moreno:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project, relative to impacts to biological resources. To enable Department staff to adequately review and comment on the proposed project, we recommend the following information be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), as applicable:

1. A complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats.
 - a. A thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities, following the Department's May 1984 Guidelines (revised May 2000) for Assessing Impacts to Rare Plants and Rare Natural Communities (Attachment 1).
 - b. A complete assessment of sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- c. Rare, threatened, and endangered species to be addressed should include all those which meet the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) definition (see CEQA Guidelines, § 15380).
 - d. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at (916) 327-5960 to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the Fish and Game Code.
2. A thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts, should be included.
- a. CEQA Guidelines, § 15125(c), direct that knowledge of the regional setting is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts and that special emphasis should be placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region.
 - b. Project impacts should be analyzed relative to their effects on off-site habitats. Specifically, this should include nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) reserve lands. Impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitat in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated and provided.
 - c. A discussion of impacts associated with increased lighting, noise, human activity, changes in drainage patterns, changes in water volume, velocity, and quality, soil erosion, and /or sedimentation in streams and water courses on or near the project site, with mitigation measures proposed to alleviate such impacts should be included.
 - d. The zoning of areas for development projects or other uses that are nearby or adjacent to natural areas may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the environmental document.
 - e. A cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines, § 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats.
3. A range of alternatives should be analyzed to ensure that alternatives to the proposed project are fully considered and evaluated. A range of alternatives which avoid or

otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources should be included. Specific alternative locations should also be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate.

- a. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from project-related impacts (Attachment 2).
4. Mitigation measures for adverse project-related impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats should be discussed. Mitigation measures should emphasize avoidance and reduction of project impacts. For unavoidable impacts, on-site habitat restoration or enhancement should be discussed in detail. If on-site mitigation is not feasible, off-site mitigation through habitat creation and/or acquisition and preservation in perpetuity should be addressed.
 - a. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.
 - b. Areas reserved as mitigation for project impacts should be protected from future direct and indirect impacts. Potential issues to be considered include limitation of access, conservation easements, monitoring and management programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, and fire.
 - c. Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in southern California ecosystems and native plant revegetation techniques. Each plan should include, at a minimum: (a) the location of the mitigation site; (b) the plant species to be used, container sizes, and seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) planting schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation on site; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for conservation of the mitigation site in perpetuity.
5. A California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit must be obtained, if the project has the potential to result in "take" of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. CESA Permits are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to

the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a 2081 permit unless the project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a 2081 permit. For these reasons, the following information is requested:

- a. Biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA Permit.
 - b. A Department-approved Mitigation Agreement and Mitigation Plan are required for plants listed as rare under the Native Plant Protection Act.
6. The Department has responsibility for wetland and riparian habitats. It is the policy of the Department to strongly discourage development in wetlands or conversion of wetlands to uplands. We oppose any development or conversion which would result in a reduction of wetland acreage or wetland habitat values, unless, at a minimum, project mitigation assures there will be "no net loss" of either wetland habitat values or acreage. Development and conversion include but are not limited to conversion to subsurface drains, placement of fill or building of structures within the wetland, and channelization or removal of materials from the streambed. All wetlands and watercourses, whether intermittent or perennial, should be retained and provided with substantial setbacks which preserve the riparian and aquatic values and maintain their value to on-site and off-site wildlife populations.
- a. If the site has the potential to support aquatic, riparian, or wetland habitat, a jurisdictional delineation of lakes, streams, and associated riparian habitats should be included in the DEIR, including a delineation of wetlands pursuant to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetland definition adopted by the Department¹. Please note that some wetland and riparian habitats subject to the Department's authority may extend beyond the jurisdictional limits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
 - b. The project may require a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, pursuant to Section 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code, with the applicant prior to the applicant's commencement of any activity that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river, stream or lake, or use material from a streambed. The Department's issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a responsible agency. The Department as a

¹ Cowardin, Lewis M., et al. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

responsible agency under CEQA may consider the local jurisdiction's (lead agency) Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report for the project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department pursuant to Section 1600 *et seq.* and/or under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for issuance of the agreement².

The Department holds regularly scheduled pre-project planning/early consultation meetings. To make an appointment, please call our office at (858) 636-3160.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Brad Henderson at (310) 214-9950.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Chadwick
Habitat Conservation Supervisor

Attachments

cc: Department of Fish and Game
File
San Diego
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kerri Davis
Carlsbad
State Clearinghouse
Sacramento

bjh

² A Streambed Alteration Agreement form may be obtained by writing to: Department of Fish and Game, 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, by calling (858) 636-3160, or by accessing the Department's web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/1600.

Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities

State of California
THE RESOURCES AGENCY
Department of Fish and Game
December 9, 1983
Revised May 8, 2000

The following recommendations are intended to help those who prepare and review environmental documents determine when a botanical survey is needed, who should be considered qualified to conduct such surveys, how field surveys should be conducted, and what information should be contained in the survey report. The Department may recommend that lead agencies not accept the results of surveys that are not conducted according to these guidelines.

1. Botanical surveys are conducted in order to determine the environmental effects of proposed projects on all rare, threatened, and endangered plants and plant communities. Rare, threatened, and endangered plants are not necessarily limited to those species which have been "listed" by state and federal agencies but should include any species that, based on all available data, can be shown to be rare, threatened, and/or endangered under the following definitions:

A species, subspecies, or variety of plant is "endangered" when the prospects of its survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, or disease. A plant is "threatened" when it is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in the absence of protection measures. A plant is "rare" when, although not presently threatened with extinction, the species, subspecies, or variety is found in such small numbers throughout its range that it may be endangered if its environment worsens.

Rare natural communities are those communities that are of highly limited distribution. These communities may or may not contain rare, threatened, or endangered species. The most current version of the California Natural Diversity Database's List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities may be used as a guide to the names and status of communities.

2. It is appropriate to conduct a botanical field survey to determine if, or to the extent that, rare, threatened, or endangered plants will be affected by a proposed project when:
 - a. Natural vegetation occurs on the site, it is unknown if rare, threatened, or endangered plants or habitats occur on the site, and the project has the potential for direct or indirect effects on vegetation; or
 - b. Rare plants have historically been identified on the project site, but adequate information for impact assessment is lacking.
3. Botanical consultants should possess the following qualifications:
 - a. Experience conducting floristic field surveys;
 - b. Knowledge of plant taxonomy and plant community ecology;
 - c. Familiarity with the plants of the area, including rare, threatened, and endangered species;
 - d. Familiarity with the appropriate state and federal statutes related to plants and plant collecting; and,
 - e. Experience with analyzing impacts of development on native plant species and communities.
4. Field surveys should be conducted in a manner that will locate any rare, threatened, or endangered species that may be present. Specifically, rare, threatened, or endangered plant surveys should be:
 - a. Conducted in the field at the proper time of year when rare, threatened, or endangered species are both evident and identifiable. Usually, this is when the plants are flowering.

ATTACHMENT 2

Sensitivity of Top Priority Rare Natural Communities in Southern California

Sensitivity rankings are determined by the Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Diversity Data Base and based on either number of known occurrences (locations) and/or amount of habitat remaining (acreage). The three rankings used for these top priority rare natural communities are as follows:

- S1.# Less than 6 known locations and/or on less than 2,000 acres of habitat remaining.
- S2.# Occurs in 6-20 known locations and/or 2,000-10,000 acres of habitat remaining.
- S3.# Occurs in 21-100-known locations and/or 10,000-50,000 acres of habitat remaining.

The number to the right of the decimal point after the ranking refers to the degree of threat posed to that natural community regardless of the ranking. For example:

- S1.1 = very threatened
- S2.2 = threatened
- S3.3 = no current threats known

Sensitivity Rankings (February 1992)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Community Name</u>
S1.1	Mojave Riparian Forest Sonoran Cottonwood Willow Riparian Mesquite Bosque Elephant Tree Woodland Crucifixion Thorn Woodland Allthorn Woodland Arizonan Woodland Southern California Walnut Forest Mainland Cherry Forest Southern Bishop Pine Forest Torrey Pine Forest Desert Mountain White Fir Forest Southern Dune Scrub Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub Maritime Succulent Scrub Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub Southern Maritime Chaparral Valley Needlegrass Grassland Great Basin Grassland Mojave Desert Grassland Pebble Plains Southern Sedge Bog Cismontane Alkali Marsh



COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998
Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422
www.lacsd.org

JAMES F. STAHL
Chief Engineer and General Manager

May 20, 2003

File No: 31-390.10

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

San Gabriel River Master Plan

The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) received a Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the subject project on April 28, 2003. We offer the following comments:

- The Districts maintain facilities along the San Gabriel River that may be affected by individual projects proposed in the Master Plan. Approval to construct improvements within a Districts' sewer easement and/or over a Districts' sewer is required before construction may begin. The Districts should review proposed projects in order to determine whether or not Districts' trunk sewers will be affected.
- In order to reduce paper waste, the Districts encourage distribution of large documents in electronic format. When possible, please submit documents on CD (pdf files) or provide Notices of Availability that include website information for downloading environmental documents.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (562) 699-7411, extension 2717.

Very truly yours,

James F. Stahl

Ruth I. Frazen
Engineering Technician
Planning & Property Management Section

RIF:rf

231452.1

In Re: EIR Scoping Process

S. Gabriel River Master Plan

MAY 13, 2003

WMD

Ms. Marty Moreno

County of Los Angeles
Dept. of Public Works- Watershed Management Division

P. O. Box 1450
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Marty:

In addition to the Flood flow impacts of the various projects which I mentioned at yesterday's hearing. I neglected to mention that a careful evaluation of the Quantitative **water supply** aspects (in acre feet) of each project should be carefully estimated as well as **water quality benefits** by chemical compound so the various projects ideas can be compared, weighed balanced and ranked in a more precise way. If these two criteria are better defined than all of the other projects criteria can be combined with the other various criteria and values which cannot be numerically estimated. The result will yield better cost and benefits analysis and rankings.

The qualitative ranking that we arrived at as a group could then be further refined using the scoped study results of the process your agency is conducting with the programmatic River EIR.

I understand that these two additional suggestion will be timely as long as you receive them before the Deadline of May 28, 2003.

Best,



R. William "Bill" Robinson
Director, Upper San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District, Division 4
West Covina

WMD!
38



May 8, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Subject: Notice of Preparation
Program Environmental Impact Report
San Gabriel River Master Plan

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you for providing the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) with the Notice of Preparation of Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the San Gabriel River Master Plan. Our comments follow.

The Watermaster was created by the Court in 1973 to manage the groundwater and surface water in the Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin), including flows along the San Gabriel River system down to about Whittier Narrows Dam. The project goals indicate that all projects under consideration will "maintain existing water rights...." The PEIR should address the Main San Gabriel Basin Judgment and specifically indicate that all groundwater and surface water rights in the Relevant Watershed of the Main Basin have been fully adjudicated. Proposed activities must not impact existing water rights owners. No water may be produced from the basin except as permitted by the Watermaster in accordance with the Judgment. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) declared the San Gabriel River system to be fully appropriated in order WR 89-25. No surface water may be diverted for proposed activities without acquiring appropriate water rights.

Watermaster also works closely with DPW and regional agencies to ensure local runoff and imported water are conserved into the groundwater basin to maintain water supplies. Proposed projects should not have negative impacts on water conservation activities.

Watermaster looks forward to reviewing the PEIR upon its release and we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the NOP.

Mr. Marty Moreno

May 8, 2003

Page 2

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss Watermaster's management authority in the Main Basin.

Sincerely,

Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster

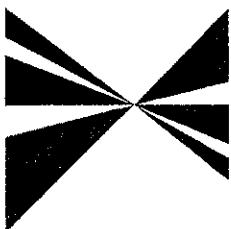
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carol Williams
Executive Officer

c: Stetson Engineers Inc.
San Gabriel Valley Protective Association
San Gabriel River Water Committee

Handwritten notes: "KMD-1", "435", and "Water shed".

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**

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La Palma • Shirley McCracken, Anaheim • Bev
Perry, Brea • Tod Ridgeway, Newport Beach

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• Ron Loveridge, Riverside • Jeff Miller, Corona •
Greg Pettis, Cathedral City • Ron Roberts,
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Garcia, Grand Terrace • Susan Longville, San
Bernardino • Gary Oviatt, Ontario • Deborah
R. Rialto

Ventura County: Judy Mikels, Ventura County •
Glen Becerra, Simi Valley • Carl Morehouse, San
Buenaventura • Toni Young, Port Hueneme

Riverside County Transportation Commission:
Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission:
Bill Davis, Simi Valley

May 7, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Water Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802

RE: **Comments on the Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact
Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan Project – SCAG No. I 20030221**

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you for submitting the **Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact
Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan Project** to SCAG for review and comment.
As areawide clearinghouse for regionally significant projects, SCAG reviews the
consistency of local plans, projects, and programs with regional plans. This activity is
based on SCAG's responsibilities as a regional planning organization pursuant to state and
federal laws and regulations. Guidance provided by these reviews is intended to assist
local agencies and project sponsors to take actions that contribute to the attainment of
regional goals and policies.

We have reviewed the **Notice of Preparation** and have determined that the **proposed
Project is regionally significant**. The proposed Project would substantially affect
**sensitive wildlife habitats such as riparian lands, wetlands, bays, estuaries, marshes,
and habitats for rare and endangered species**. CEQA requires that EIRs discuss any
inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans and **regional
plans (Section 15125 [d])**. If there are inconsistencies, an explanation and rationalization for
such inconsistencies should be provided.

Policies of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and Regional Transportation
Plan, which may be applicable to your project, are outlined in the attachment. **We expect the
Draft EIR to specifically cite the appropriate SCAG policies and address the manner in
which the Project is consistent with applicable core policies or supportive of
applicable ancillary policies**. Please use our policy numbers to refer to them in your
Draft EIR. Also, we would encourage you to use a side-by-side comparison of SCAG
policies with a discussion of the consistency or support of the policy with the
Proposed Project.

Please provide a minimum of 45 days for SCAG to review the Draft EIR when this document
is available. If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact me
at (213) 236-1867. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY M. SMITH, AICP
Senior Regional Planner
Intergovernmental Review

May 7, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Water Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802

RE: **Comments on the Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan Project – SCAG No. I 20030221**

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you for submitting the **Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan Project** to SCAG for review and comment. As areawide clearinghouse for regionally significant projects, SCAG reviews the consistency of local plans, projects, and programs with regional plans. This activity is based on SCAG's responsibilities as a regional planning organization pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations. Guidance provided by these reviews is intended to assist local agencies and project sponsors to take actions that contribute to the attainment of regional goals and policies.

We have reviewed the **Notice of Preparation** and have determined that **the proposed Project is regionally significant. The proposed Project would substantially affect sensitive wildlife habitats such as riparian lands, wetlands, bays, estuaries, marshes, and habitats for rare and endangered species.** CEQA requires that EIRs discuss any inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans and **regional plans (Section 15125 [d]).** If there are inconsistencies, an explanation and rationalization for such inconsistencies should be provided.

Policies of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and Regional Transportation Plan, which may be applicable to your project, are outlined in the attachment. **We expect the Draft EIR to specifically cite the appropriate SCAG policies and address the manner in which the Project is consistent with applicable core policies or supportive of applicable ancillary policies. Please use our policy numbers to refer to them in your Draft EIR. Also, we would encourage you to use a side-by-side comparison of SCAG policies with a discussion of the consistency or support of the policy with the Proposed Project.**

Please provide a minimum of 45 days for SCAG to review the Draft EIR when this document is available. If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact me at (213) 236-1867. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY M. SMITH, AICP
Senior Regional Planner
Intergovernmental Review

**COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
SAN GABRIEL RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECT
SCAG NO. I 20030221**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project considers a number of improvements centered around renewed interest in recreation, open space, and habitat, while seeking to enhance and maintain flood protection water conservation benefits, along with existing water rights.

CONSISTENCY WITH REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND GUIDE POLICIES

The **Growth Management Chapter (GMC)** of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG) contains the following policies that are particularly applicable and should be addressed in the Draft EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan Project.

3.03 The timing, financing, and location of public facilities, utility systems, and transportation systems shall be used by SCAG to implement the region's growth policies.

GMC POLICIES RELATED TO THE RCPG GOAL TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE

The Growth Management goals to attain mobility and clean air goals and to develop urban forms that enhance quality of life, that accommodate a diversity of life styles, that preserve open space and natural resources, and that are aesthetically pleasing and preserve the character of communities, enhance the regional strategic goal of maintaining the regional quality of life. The evaluation of the proposed project in relation to the following policies would be intended to provide direction for plan implementation, and does not allude to regional mandates.

3.18 Encourage planned development in locations least likely to cause environmental impact.

3.22 Discourage development, or encourage the use of special design requirements, in areas with steep slopes, high fire, flood, and seismic hazards.

- 3.23 *Encourage mitigation measures that reduce noise in certain locations, measures aimed at preservation of biological and ecological resources, measures that would reduce exposure to seismic hazards, minimize earthquake damage, and to develop emergency response and recovery plans.*

GMC POLICIES RELATED TO THE RCPG GOAL TO PROVIDE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL EQUITY

The Growth Management Goal to develop urban forms that avoid economic and social polarization promotes the regional strategic goal of minimizing social and geographic disparities and of reaching equity among all segments of society. The evaluation of the proposed project in relation to the policy stated below is intended guide direction for the accomplishment of this goal, and does not infer regional mandates and interference with local land use powers.

- 3.27 *Support local jurisdictions and other service providers in their efforts to develop sustainable communities and provide, equally to all members of society, accessible and effective services such as: public education, housing, health care, social services, recreational facilities, law enforcement, and fire protection.*

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** also has goals, objectives, policies and actions pertinent to this proposed project. This RTP links the goal of sustaining mobility with the goals of fostering economic development, enhancing the environment, reducing energy consumption, promoting transportation-friendly development patterns, and encouraging fair and equitable access to residents affected by socio-economic, geographic and commercial limitations. Among the relevant goals, objectives, policies and actions of the RTP are the following:

Core Regional Transportation Plan Policies

- 4.02 *Transportation investments shall mitigate environmental impacts to an acceptable level.*
- 4.04 *Transportation Control Measures shall be a priority.*
- 4.16 *Maintaining and operating the existing transportation system will be a priority over expanding capacity.*

AIR QUALITY CHAPTER CORE ACTIONS

The **Air Quality Chapter** core actions related to the proposed project includes:

- 5.07 *Determine specific programs and associated actions needed (e.g., indirect source rules, enhanced use of telecommunications, provision of community based shuttle services, provision of demand management based programs, or vehicle-miles-traveled/emission fees) so that options to command and control regulations can be assessed.*
- 5.11 *Through the environmental document review process, ensure that plans at all levels of government (regional, air basin, county, subregional and local) consider air quality, land use, transportation and economic relationships to ensure consistency and minimize conflicts.*

OPEN SPACE CHAPTER ANCILLARY GOALS

Outdoor Recreation

- 9.01 *Provide adequate land resources to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the present and future residents in the region and to promote tourism in the region.*
- 9.02 *Increase the accessibility to open space lands for outdoor recreation.*
- 9.03 *Promote self-sustaining regional recreation resources and facilities.*

Public Health and Safety

- 9.04 *Maintain open space for adequate protection of lives and properties against natural and man-made hazards.*
- 9.05 *Minimize potentially hazardous developments in hillsides, canyons, areas susceptible to flooding, earthquakes, wildfire and other known hazards, and areas with limited access for emergency equipment.*
- 9.06 *Minimize public expenditure for infrastructure and facilities to support urban type uses in areas where public health and safety could not be guaranteed.*

Resource Production

- 9.07 *Maintain adequate viable resource production land, particularly lands devoted to commercial agriculture and mining operations.*

Resource Protection

- 9.08 *Develop well-managed viable ecosystems of known habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, including wetlands.*

WATER QUALITY CHAPTER RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICY OPTIONS

The **Water Quality Chapter** core recommendations and policy options relate to the two water quality goals: to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's water; and, to achieve and maintain water quality objectives that are necessary to protect all beneficial uses of all waters.

- 11.02 *Encourage "watershed management" programs and strategies, recognizing the primary role of local governments in such efforts.*
- 11.03 *Coordinate watershed management planning at the subregional level by (1) providing consistent regional data; (2) serving as a liaison between affected local, state, and federal watershed management agencies; and (3) ensuring that watershed planning is consistent with other planning objectives (e.g., transportation, air quality, water supply).*
- 11.05 *Support regional efforts to identify and cooperatively plan for wetlands to facilitate both sustaining the amount and quality of wetlands in the region and expediting the process for obtaining wetlands permits.*
- 11.07 *Encourage water reclamation throughout the region where it is cost-effective, feasible, and appropriate to reduce reliance on imported water and wastewater discharges. Current administrative impediments to increased use of wastewater should be addressed.*

CONCLUSIONS

All feasible measures needed to mitigate any potentially negative regional impacts associated with the proposed project should be implemented and monitored, as required by CEQA.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Roles and Authorities

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) is a *Joint Powers Agency* established under California Government Code Section 6502 et seq. Under federal and state law, SCAG is designated as a Council of Governments (COG), a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), and a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). SCAG's mandated roles and responsibilities include the following:

SCAG is designated by the federal government as the Region's *Metropolitan Planning Organization* and mandated to maintain a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process resulting in a Regional Transportation Plan and a Regional Transportation Improvement Program pursuant to 23 U.S.C. '134, 49 U.S.C. '5301 et seq., 23 C.F.R. '450, and 49 C.F.R. '613. SCAG is also the designated *Regional Transportation Planning Agency*, and as such is responsible for both preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) under California Government Code Section 65080 and 65082 respectively.

SCAG is responsible for developing the demographic projections and the integrated land use, housing, employment, and transportation programs, measures, and strategies portions of the *South Coast Air Quality Management Plan*, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 40460(b)-(c). SCAG is also designated under 42 U.S.C. '7504(a) as a *Co-Lead Agency* for air quality planning for the Central Coast and Southeast Desert Air Basin District.

SCAG is responsible under the Federal Clean Air Act for determining *Conformity* of Projects, Plans and Programs to the State Implementation Plan, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. '7506.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65089.2, SCAG is responsible for *reviewing all Congestion Management Plans (CMPs) for consistency with regional transportation plans* required by Section 65080 of the Government Code. SCAG must also evaluate the consistency and compatibility of such programs within the region.

SCAG is the authorized regional agency for *Inter-Governmental Review* of Programs proposed for federal financial assistance and direct development activities, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12,372 (replacing A-95 Review).

SCAG reviews, pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087, Environmental Impacts Reports of projects of regional significance for consistency with regional plans [California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Sections 15206 and 15125(b)].

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. '1288(a)(2) (Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act), SCAG is the authorized *Areawide Waste Treatment Management Planning Agency*.

SCAG is responsible for preparation of the *Regional Housing Needs Assessment*, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65584(a).

SCAG is responsible (with the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) for preparing the *Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Plan* pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 25135.3.



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

May 22, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Notice of Preparation of a
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the San Gabriel River Master Plan (Master Plan). The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW) is the lead agency for this project. The proposed project will be a consensus-based document that will recognize and address a renewed interest in recreation, open space, and habitat, while also seeking to enhance and maintain flood protection, and water conservation benefits, along with existing water rights. The proposed project will focus on the 58-mile long San Gabriel River (River) from Cogswell Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The River corridor is primarily located within Los Angeles County; the mouth of the river is bordered by land within both Los Angeles and Orange counties. This letter contains Metropolitan's response to the Notice of Preparation as both a Responsible Agency and potentially affected agency.

Metropolitan owns and operates various facilities within the boundaries of the proposed Master Plan. The Metropolitan facilities include the following: Old Navy Peninsula, Foothill Feeder-Service Connection USG-3, Fish Canyon Adit to Monrovia Tunnel No. 3 of the Upper Feeder Pipeline, Upper Feeder Pipeline, Middle Feeder Pipeline, Lower Feeder Pipeline, and Second Lower Feeder Pipeline.

These Metropolitan facilities are described as follows:

- Old Navy Peninsula - Metropolitan owns property known as the Old Navy Peninsula on Morris Reservoir. The Peninsula is located on the west side of the reservoir, approximately 500 yards north of the Morris Dam.

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- The Foothill Feeder-Service Connection USG-3 has a 200-foot wide permanent easement and is located in Los Angeles County south of Morris Dam. Water is discharged from a 78-inch pipe and provides recharge for the Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts.
- The Fish Canyon Adit to Monrovia Tunnel No. 3 of the Upper Feeder Pipeline is approximately two miles west of Morris Dam and Metropolitan has an access right-of-way that extends from the adit into the River.
- The Upper Feeder Pipeline is a ten-foot inside diameter pipeline with a 200-foot wide permanent easement and approximately 15 to 20 feet of cover at the River invert. It is located in Los Angeles County, just south of Morris Dam and traverses the River in an easterly to southwesterly direction.
- The Middle Feeder Pipeline is a 73-inch inside diameter pipeline with a 50-foot wide permanent easement and approximately 20 feet of cover at the River invert. The Middle Feeder traverses the River in an easterly to southwesterly direction at Ramona Boulevard, located within the cities of Irwindale and El Monte.
- The Lower Feeder Pipeline is a 70-inch inside diameter pipeline with a 40-foot wide permanent easement and approximately 15 to 20 feet of cover at the River invert. The Lower Feeder Pipeline traverses the River in an easterly to westerly direction just south of Firestone Boulevard in the city of Downey.
- The Second Lower Feeder Pipeline is a 78-inch inside diameter pipeline with a 30-foot wide permanent easement and approximately five to ten feet cover at the River invert. The Second Lower Feeder Pipeline traverses the River in an easterly direction from Keynote Street in the city of Long Beach.

Metropolitan is concerned with potential impacts to these facilities that may occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Master Plan. Metropolitan requests that the LADPW consider these facilities in its planning and analyze in the Draft PEIR potential impacts to these facilities that may occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Master Plan.

In order to avoid potential conflicts with Metropolitan's rights-of-way, we request that any design plans for any activity in the area of Metropolitan's pipelines or facilities be submitted for our review and written approval. Metropolitan must also be allowed to maintain its rights-of-way and access to its facilities at all times in order to repair and maintain the current condition of those facilities. The applicant may obtain detailed prints of drawings of Metropolitan's pipelines and rights-of-way by calling Metropolitan's Substructures Information Line at (213) 217-6564. To assist the applicant in preparing plans that are compatible with Metropolitan's facilities and easements, we have enclosed a copy of the "Guidelines for Developments in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern

California." Please note that all submitted designs or plans must clearly identify Metropolitan's facilities and rights-of-way.

It is imperative that Metropolitan's member agencies ability to take imported water for groundwater replenishment is not impacted. Imported water for replenishment is generally available on a seasonal basis and the ability to deliver water to these agencies on short notice can be important both to Metropolitan's operations and the member agencies receiving the imported water. The following service connections can deliver water to the River:

- USG-03 Glendora Tunnel: Capacity maximum is 400 cubic feet per second (cfs); source of imported water is generally the State Water Project (SWP).
- CENB-48 La Verne Pipeline: Capacity maximum is 300 cfs; deliveries can be made to USG through this connection; source of imported water is generally the SWP.
- CENB-28 Upper Feeder Pipeline: Capacity maximum is 120 cfs; source of imported water is mostly a blend of the SWP and Colorado River Water.
- PM-26 Glendora Tunnel: Capacity is 20 cfs; source of imported water is the SWP.

Deliveries through these connections are often problematic, because the downstream facilities operated and maintained by the LADPW are not always available for the delivery of water to our member agencies. Sometimes when water is available from Metropolitan, LADPW is unable to facilitate deliveries due to maintenance or basin conditions. Therefore, when water is available and LADPW has the ability to move the imported water, it is imperative that the water be moved or the opportunity may be lost.

Metropolitan's facilities may also be used to dewater pipelines (blow-offs, pump wells, pressure relief valves) for maintenance or inspection. In addition, facilities along or adjacent to the River may contain pressure relief valves which operate automatically to relieve the pressure on a pipeline to ensure that Metropolitan's distribution system is not damaged by hydraulic transients that can occur due to pressure fluctuations arising from agency service connection problems, system malfunctions, or operator error. In these cases, water is automatically discharged from Metropolitan's system either directly into the River, or into a channel or flood control facility, which interconnects with the River. In the case of dewatering for a pipeline outage, the treated water in the pipeline is mixed with a chemical upon discharge to remove the residual from the disinfectant. When the pressure relief valve(s) open, treated water is discharged. The appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board is notified in either case. LADPW needs to ensure that Metropolitan's operations (imported water deliveries, normal pipeline operations, and emergency discharge) are not impacted by the Master Plan.

Also, Metropolitan is required to coordinate any activities that might affect groundwater with its member agencies that receive groundwater recharge. The Draft PEIR and Master Plan must

Mr. Marty Moreno

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include measures to ensure that imported groundwater replenishment operations by Metropolitan's member agencies are not negatively impacted. The Draft PEIR must also include measures to ensure that recycled water replenishment operations by Metropolitan's member agencies at the Montebello Forebay spreading grounds, near Interstates 605 and 60, are not negatively impacted. Additionally, Metropolitan must be allowed to maintain discharge and other facilities (i.e., service connection USG-3, blow-off structures, air-vacuum valves, etc.) and 24-hour patrol access. The Draft PEIR and Master Plan must clearly and properly address these Metropolitan requirements.

In order to avoid conflicts with Metropolitan facilities, provisions to allow emergency excavation and repair must be included in the Master Plan. Also, creation of wetland and sensitive habitat within and adjacent to Metropolitan facilities must be avoided and any sensitive habitat and/or revegetation processes must be carefully planned to avoid conflicts with Metropolitan facilities. Additionally, engineered protections (i.e., protective slabs) to prevent erosion must be provided in any areas along the River that may be converted to greenbelt areas.

Metropolitan requests that the LADPW analyze the consistency of the proposed Master Plan with the growth management plan adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Metropolitan uses SCAG's population, housing and employment projections to determine future water demand.

Additionally, Metropolitan encourages projects within its service area to include water conservation measures. Water conservation, reclaimed water use, and groundwater recharge programs are integral components to regional water supply planning. Metropolitan supports mitigation measures such as using water efficient fixtures, drought-tolerant landscaping, and reclaimed water to offset any increase in water use associated with the proposed project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your planning process and we look forward to receiving future environmental documentation on this project. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. William Fong of the Environmental Planning Team at (213) 217-6899.

Very truly yours,

For 

Laura J. Simonek
Manager, Asset Management
and Facilities Planning Unit

LIM/rdl

(Public Folders/EPU/Letters/22-MAY-03C.doc - Marty Moreno)

Enclosure: Planning Guidelines

Guidelines for Developments in the
Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements
of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

1. Introduction

a. The following general guidelines should be followed for the design of proposed facilities and developments in the area of Metropolitan's facilities, fee properties, and/or easements.

b. We require that 3 copies of your tentative and final record maps, grading, paving, street improvement, landscape, storm drain, and utility plans be submitted for our review and written approval as they pertain to Metropolitan's facilities, fee properties and/or easements, prior to the commencement of any construction work.

2. Plans, Parcel and Tract Maps

The following are Metropolitan's requirements for the identification of its facilities, fee properties, and/or easements on your plans, parcel maps and tract maps:

a. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements and its pipelines and other facilities must be fully shown and identified as Metropolitan's on all applicable plans.

b. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must be shown and identified as Metropolitan's with the official recording data on all applicable parcel and tract maps.

c. Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements and existing survey monuments must be dimensionally tied to the parcel or tract boundaries.

d. Metropolitan's records of surveys must be referenced on the parcel and tract maps.

3. Maintenance of Access Along Metropolitan's Rights-of-Way

a. Proposed cut or fill slopes exceeding 10 percent are normally not allowed within Metropolitan's fee properties or easements. This is required to facilitate the use of construction and maintenance equipment, and provide access to its aboveground and belowground facilities.

b. We require that 16-foot-wide commercial-type driveway approaches be constructed on both sides of all streets crossing Metropolitan's rights-of-way. Openings are required in any median island. Access ramps, if necessary, must be at least 16-feet-wide. Grades of ramps are normally not allowed to exceed 10 percent. If the slope of an access ramp must exceed 10 percent due to the topography, the ramp must be paved. We require a 40-foot-long level area on the driveway approach to access ramps where the ramp meets the street. At Metropolitan's fee properties, we may require fences and gates.

c. The terms of Metropolitan's permanent easement deeds normally preclude the building or maintenance of structures of any nature or kind within its easements, to ensure safety and avoid interference with operation and maintenance of Metropolitan's pipelines or other facilities. Metropolitan must have vehicular access along the easements at all times for inspection, patrolling, and for maintenance of the pipelines and other facilities on a routine basis. We require a 20-foot-wide clear zone around all above-ground facilities for this routine access. This clear zone should slope away from our facility on a grade not to exceed 2 percent. We must also have access along the easements with construction equipment. An example of this is shown on Figure 1.

d. The footings of any proposed buildings adjacent to Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must not encroach into the fee property or easement or impose additional loading on Metropolitan's pipelines or other facilities therein. A typical situation is shown on Figure 2. Prints of the detail plans of the footings for any building or structure adjacent to the fee property or easement must be submitted for our review and written approval as they pertain to the pipeline or other facilities therein. Also, roof eaves of buildings adjacent to the easement or fee property must not overhang into the fee property or easement area.

e. Metropolitan's pipelines and other facilities, e.g. structures, manholes, equipment, survey monuments, etc. within its fee properties and/or easements must be protected from damage by the easement holder on Metropolitan's property or the property owner where Metropolitan has an easement, at no expense to Metropolitan. If the facility is a cathodic protection station it shall be located prior to any grading or excavation. The exact location, description and way of protection shall be shown on the related plans for the easement area.

4. Easements on Metropolitan's Property

a. We encourage the use of Metropolitan's fee rights-of-way by governmental agencies for public street and utility purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with Metropolitan's use of the property, the entire width of the property is accepted into the agency's public street system and fair market value is paid for such use of the right-of-way.

b. Please contact the Director of Metropolitan's Right of Way and Land Division, telephone (213) 250-6302, concerning easements for landscaping, street, storm drain, sewer, water or other public facilities proposed within Metropolitan's fee properties. A map and legal description of the requested easements must be submitted. Also, written evidence must be submitted that shows the city or county will accept the easement for the specific purposes into its public system. The grant of the easement will be subject to Metropolitan's rights to use its land for water pipelines and related purposes to the same extent as if such grant had not been made. There will be a charge for the easement. Please note that, if entry is required on the property prior to issuance of the easement, an entry permit must be obtained. There will also be a charge for the entry permit.

5. Landscaping

Metropolitan's landscape guidelines for its fee properties and/or easements are as follows:

a. A green belt may be allowed within Metropolitan's fee property or easement.

b. All landscape plans shall show the location and size of Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement and the location and size of Metropolitan's pipeline or other facilities therein.

c. Absolutely no trees will be allowed within 15 feet of the centerline of Metropolitan's existing or future pipelines and facilities.

d. Deep-rooted trees are prohibited within Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements. Shallow-rooted trees are the only trees allowed. The shallow-rooted trees will not be permitted any closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the pipeline, and such trees shall not be taller than 25 feet with a root spread no greater than 20 feet in diameter at maturity. Shrubs, bushes, vines, and ground cover are permitted, but larger shrubs and bushes should not be planted directly over our pipeline. Turf is acceptable. We require submittal of landscape plans for Metropolitan's prior review and written approval. (See Figure 3).

e. The landscape plans must contain provisions for Metropolitan's vehicular access at all times along its rights-of-way to its pipelines or facilities therein. Gates capable of accepting Metropolitan's locks are required in any fences across its rights-of-way. Also, any walks or drainage facilities across its access route must be constructed to AASHTO H-20 loading standards.

f. Rights to landscape any of Metropolitan's fee properties must be acquired from its Right of Way and Land Division. Appropriate entry permits must be obtained prior to any entry on its property. There will be a charge for any entry permit or easements required.

6. Fencing

Metropolitan requires that perimeter fencing of its fee properties and facilities be constructed of universal chain link, 6 feet in height and topped with 3 strands of barbed wire angled upward and outward at a 45 degree angle or an approved equal for a total fence height of 7 feet. Suitable substitute fencing may be considered by Metropolitan. (Please see Figure 5 for details).

7. Utilities in Metropolitan's Fee Properties and/or Easements or Adjacent to Its Pipeline in Public Streets

Metropolitan's policy for the alinement of utilities permitted within its fee properties and/or easements and street rights-of-way is as follows:

a. Permanent structures, including catch basins, manholes, power poles, telephone riser boxes, etc., shall not be located within its fee properties and/or easements.

b. We request that permanent utility structures within public streets, in which Metropolitan's facilities are constructed under the Metropolitan Water District Act, be placed as far from our pipeline as possible, but not closer than 5 feet from the outside of our pipeline.

c. The installation of utilities over or under Metropolitan's pipeline(s) must be in accordance with the requirements shown on the enclosed prints of Drawings Nos. C-11632 and C-9547. Whenever possible we request a minimum of one foot clearance between Metropolitan's pipe and your facility. Temporary support of Metropolitan's pipe may also be required at undercrossings of its pipe in an open trench. The temporary support plans must be reviewed and approved by Metropolitan.

d. Lateral utility crossings of Metropolitan's pipelines must be as perpendicular to its pipeline alignment as practical. Prior to any excavation our pipeline shall be located manually and any excavation within two feet of our pipeline must be done by hand. This shall be noted on the appropriate drawings.

e. Utilities constructed longitudinally within Metropolitan's rights-of-way must be located outside the theoretical trench prism for uncovering its pipeline and must be located parallel to and as close to its rights-of-way lines as practical.

f. When piping is jacked or installed in jacked casing or tunnel under Metropolitan's pipe, there must be at least two feet of vertical clearance between the bottom of Metropolitan's pipe and the top of the jacked pipe, jacked casing or tunnel. We also require that detail drawings of the shoring for the jacking or tunneling pits be submitted for our review and approval. Provisions must be made to grout any voids around the exterior of the jacked pipe, jacked casing or tunnel. If the piping is installed in a jacked casing or tunnel the annular space between the piping and the jacked casing or tunnel must be filled with grout.

g. Overhead electrical and telephone line requirements:

1) Conductor clearances are to conform to the California State Public Utilities Commission, General Order 95, for Overhead Electrical Line Construction or at a greater clearance if required by Metropolitan. Under no circumstances shall clearance be less than 35 feet.

2) A marker must be attached to the power pole showing the ground clearance and line voltage, to help prevent damage to your facilities during maintenance or other work being done in the area.

3) Line clearance over Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements shall be shown on the drawing to indicate the lowest point of the line under the most adverse conditions including consideration of sag, wind load, temperature change, and support type. We require that overhead lines be located at least 30 feet laterally away from all above-ground structures on the pipelines.

4) When underground electrical conduits, 120 volts or greater, are installed within Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement, the conduits must be incased in a minimum of three inches of red concrete. Where possible, above ground warning signs must also be placed at the right-of-way lines where the conduits enter and exit the right-of-way.

h. The construction of sewerlines in Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements must conform to the California Department of Health Services Criteria for the Separation of Water Mains and Sanitary Services and the local City or County Health Code Ordinance as it relates to installation of sewers in the vicinity of pressure waterlines. The construction of sewerlines should also conform to these standards in street rights-of-way.

i. Cross sections shall be provided for all pipeline crossings showing Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement limits and the location of our pipeline(s). The exact locations of the crossing pipelines and their elevations shall be marked on as-built drawings for our information.

j. Potholing of Metropolitan's pipeline is required if the vertical clearance between a utility and Metropolitan's pipeline is indicated on the plan to be one foot or less. If the indicated clearance is between one and two feet, potholing is suggested. Metropolitan will provide a representative to assist others in locating and identifying its pipeline. Two-working days notice is requested.

k. Adequate shoring and bracing is required for the full depth of the trench when the excavation encroaches within the zone shown on Figure 4.

1. The location of utilities within Metropolitan's fee property and/or easement shall be plainly marked to help prevent damage during maintenance or other work done in the area. Detectable tape over buried utilities should be placed a minimum of 12 inches above the utility and shall conform to the following requirements:

1) Water pipeline: A two-inch blue warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ PIPELINE"

2) Gas, oil, or chemical pipeline: A two-inch yellow warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ PIPELINE"

3) Sewer or storm drain pipeline: A two-inch green warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ PIPELINE"

4) Electric, street lighting, or traffic signals conduit: A two-inch red warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ CONDUIT"

5) Telephone, or television conduit: A two-inch orange warning tape shall be imprinted with:

"CAUTION BURIED _____ CONDUIT"

m. Cathodic Protection requirements:

1) If there is a cathodic protection station for Metropolitan's pipeline in the area of the proposed work, it shall be located prior to any grading or excavation. The exact location, description and manner of protection shall be shown on all applicable plans. Please contact Metropolitan's Corrosion Engineering Section, located at Metropolitan's F. E. Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant, 700 North Moreno Avenue, La Verne, California 91750, telephone (714) 593-7474, for the locations of Metropolitan's cathodic protection stations.

2) If an induced-current cathodic protection system is to be installed on any pipeline crossing Metropolitan's pipeline, please contact Mr. Wayne E. Risner at (714) 593-7474 or (213) 250-5085. He will review the proposed system and determine if any conflicts will arise with the existing cathodic protection systems installed by Metropolitan.

3) Within Metropolitan's rights-of-way, pipelines and carrier pipes (casings) shall be coated with an approved protective coating to conform to Metropolitan's requirements, and shall be maintained in a neat and orderly condition as directed by Metropolitan. The application and monitoring of cathodic protection on the pipeline and casing shall conform to Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 195.

4) If a steel carrier pipe (casing) is used:

(a) Cathodic protection shall be provided by use of a sacrificial magnesium anode (a sketch showing the cathodic protection details can be provided for the designers information).

(b) The steel carrier pipe shall be protected with a coal tar enamel coating inside and out in accordance with AWWA C203 specification.

n. All trenches shall be excavated to comply with the CAL/OSHA Construction Safety Orders, Article 6, beginning with Sections 1539 through 1547. Trench backfill shall be placed in 8-inch lifts and shall be compacted to 95 percent relative compaction (ASTM D698) across roadways and through protective dikes. Trench backfill elsewhere will be compacted to 90 percent relative compaction (ASTM D698).

o. Control cables connected with the operation of Metropolitan's system are buried within streets, its fee properties and/or easements. The locations and elevations of these cables shall be shown on the drawings. The drawings shall note that prior to any excavation in the area, the control cables shall be located and measures shall be taken by the contractor to protect the cables in place.

p. Metropolitan is a member of Underground Service Alert (USA). The contractor (excavator) shall contact USA at 1-800-422-4133 (Southern California) at least 48 hours prior to starting any excavation work. The contractor will be liable for any damage to Metropolitan's facilities as a result of the construction.

8. Paramount Right

Facilities constructed within Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements shall be subject to the paramount right of Metropolitan to use its fee properties and/or easements for the purpose for which they were acquired. If at any time Metropolitan or its assigns should, in the exercise of their rights, find it necessary to remove any of the facilities from the fee properties and/or easements, such removal and replacement shall be at the expense of the owner of the facility.

9. Modification of Metropolitan's Facilities

When a manhole or other of Metropolitan's facilities must be modified to accommodate your construction or reconstruction, Metropolitan will modify the facilities with its forces. This should be noted on the construction plans. The estimated cost to perform this modification will be given to you and we will require a deposit for this amount before the work is performed. Once the deposit is received, we will schedule the work. Our forces will coordinate the work with your contractor. Our final billing will be based on actual cost incurred, and will include materials, construction, engineering plan review, inspection, and administrative overhead charges calculated in accordance with Metropolitan's standard accounting practices. If the cost is less than the deposit, a refund will be made; however, if the cost exceeds the deposit, an invoice will be forwarded for payment of the additional amount.

10. Drainage

a. Residential or commercial development typically increases and concentrates the peak storm water runoff as well as the total yearly storm runoff from an area, thereby increasing the requirements for storm drain facilities downstream of the development. Also, throughout the year water from landscape irrigation, car washing, and other outdoor domestic water uses flows into the storm drainage system resulting in weed abatement, insect infestation, obstructed access and other problems. Therefore, it is Metropolitan's usual practice not to approve plans that show discharge of drainage from developments onto its fee properties and/or easements.

b. If water must be carried across or discharged onto Metropolitan's fee properties and/or easements, Metropolitan will insist that plans for development provide that it be carried by closed conduit or lined open channel approved in writing by Metropolitan. Also the drainage facilities must be maintained by others, e.g., city, county, homeowners association, etc. If the development proposes changes to existing drainage features, then the developer shall make provisions to provide for replacement and these changes must be approved by Metropolitan in writing.

11. Construction Coordination

During construction, Metropolitan's field representative will make periodic inspections. We request that a stipulation be added to the plans or specifications for notification of Mr. _____ of Metropolitan's Operations Services Branch, telephone (213) 250-_____, at least two working days prior to any work in the vicinity of our facilities.

12. Pipeline Loading Restrictions

a. Metropolitan's pipelines and conduits vary in structural strength, and some are not adequate for AASHTO H-20 loading. Therefore, specific loads over the specific sections of pipe or conduit must be reviewed and approved by Metropolitan. However, Metropolitan's pipelines are typically adequate for AASHTO H-20 loading provided that the cover over the pipeline is not less than four feet or the cover is not substantially increased. If the temporary cover over the pipeline during construction is between three and four feet, equipment must be restricted to that which

imposes loads no greater than AASHTO H-10. If the cover is between two and three feet, equipment must be restricted to that of a Caterpillar D-4 tract-type tractor. If the cover is less than two feet, only hand equipment may be used. Also, if the contractor plans to use any equipment over Metropolitan's pipeline which will impose loads greater than AASHTO H-20, it will be necessary to submit the specifications of such equipment for our review and approval at least one week prior to its use. More restrictive requirements may apply to the loading guideline over the San Diego Pipelines 1 and 2, portions of the Orange County Feeder, and the Colorado River Aqueduct. Please contact us for loading restrictions on all of Metropolitan's pipelines and conduits.

b. The existing cover over the pipeline shall be maintained unless Metropolitan determines that proposed changes do not pose a hazard to the integrity of the pipeline or an impediment to its maintenance.

13. Blasting

a. At least 20 days prior to the start of any drilling for rock excavation blasting, or any blasting, in the vicinity of Metropolitan's facilities, a two-part preliminary conceptual plan shall be submitted to Metropolitan as follows:

b. Part 1 of the conceptual plan shall include a complete summary of proposed transportation, handling, storage, and use of explosions.

c. Part 2 shall include the proposed general concept for blasting, including controlled blasting techniques and controls of noise, fly rock, airblast, and ground vibration.

14. CEQA Requirements

a. When Environmental Documents Have Not Been Prepared

1) Regulations implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) require that Metropolitan have an opportunity to consult with the agency or consultants preparing any environmental documentation. We are required to review and consider the environmental effects of the project as shown in the Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for your project before committing Metropolitan to approve your request.

2) In order to ensure compliance with the regulations implementing CEQA where Metropolitan is not the Lead Agency, the following minimum procedures to ensure compliance with the Act have been established:

a) Metropolitan shall be timely advised of any determination that a Categorical Exemption applies to the project. The Lead Agency is to advise Metropolitan that it and other agencies participating in the project have complied with the requirements of CEQA prior to Metropolitan's participation.

b) Metropolitan is to be consulted during the preparation of the Negative Declaration or EIR.

c) Metropolitan is to review and submit any necessary comments on the Negative Declaration or draft EIR.

d) Metropolitan is to be indemnified for any costs or liability arising out of any violation of any laws or regulations including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act and its implementing regulations.

b. When Environmental Documents Have Been Prepared

If environmental documents have been prepared for your project, please furnish us a copy for our review and files in a timely manner so that we may have sufficient time to review and comment. The following steps must also be accomplished:

1) The Lead Agency is to advise Metropolitan that it and other agencies participating in the project have complied with the requirements of CEQA prior to Metropolitan's participation.

2) You must agree to indemnify Metropolitan, its officers, engineers, and agents for any costs or liability arising out of any violation of any laws or regulations including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act and its implementing regulations.

15. Metropolitan's Plan-Review Cost

a. An engineering review of your proposed facilities and developments and the preparation of a letter response

giving Metropolitan's comments, requirements and/or approval that will require 8 man-hours or less of effort is typically performed at no cost to the developer, unless a facility must be modified where Metropolitan has superior rights. If an engineering review and letter response requires more than 8 man-hours of effort by Metropolitan to determine if the proposed facility or development is compatible with its facilities, or if modifications to Metropolitan's manhole(s) or other facilities will be required, then all of Metropolitan's costs associated with the project must be paid by the developer, unless the developer has superior rights.

b. A deposit of funds will be required from the developer before Metropolitan can begin its detailed engineering plan review that will exceed 8 hours. The amount of the required deposit will be determined after a cursory review of the plans for the proposed development.

c. Metropolitan's final billing will be based on actual cost incurred, and will include engineering plan review, inspection, materials, construction, and administrative overhead charges calculated in accordance with Metropolitan's standard accounting practices. If the cost is less than the deposit, a refund will be made; however, if the cost exceeds the deposit, an invoice will be forwarded for payment of the additional amount. Additional deposits may be required if the cost of Metropolitan's review exceeds the amount of the initial deposit.

16. Caution

We advise you that Metropolitan's plan reviews and responses are based upon information available to Metropolitan which was prepared by or on behalf of Metropolitan for general record purposes only. Such information may not be sufficiently detailed or accurate for your purposes. No warranty of any kind, either express or implied, is attached to the information therein conveyed as to its accuracy, and no inference should be drawn from Metropolitan's failure to comment on any aspect of your project. You are therefore cautioned to make such surveys and other field investigations as you may deem prudent to assure yourself that any plans for your project are correct.

17. Additional Information

Should you require additional information, please contact:

Civil Engineering Substructures Section
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
(213) 217-6000

JEH/MRW/lk

Rev. January 22, 1989

Encl.

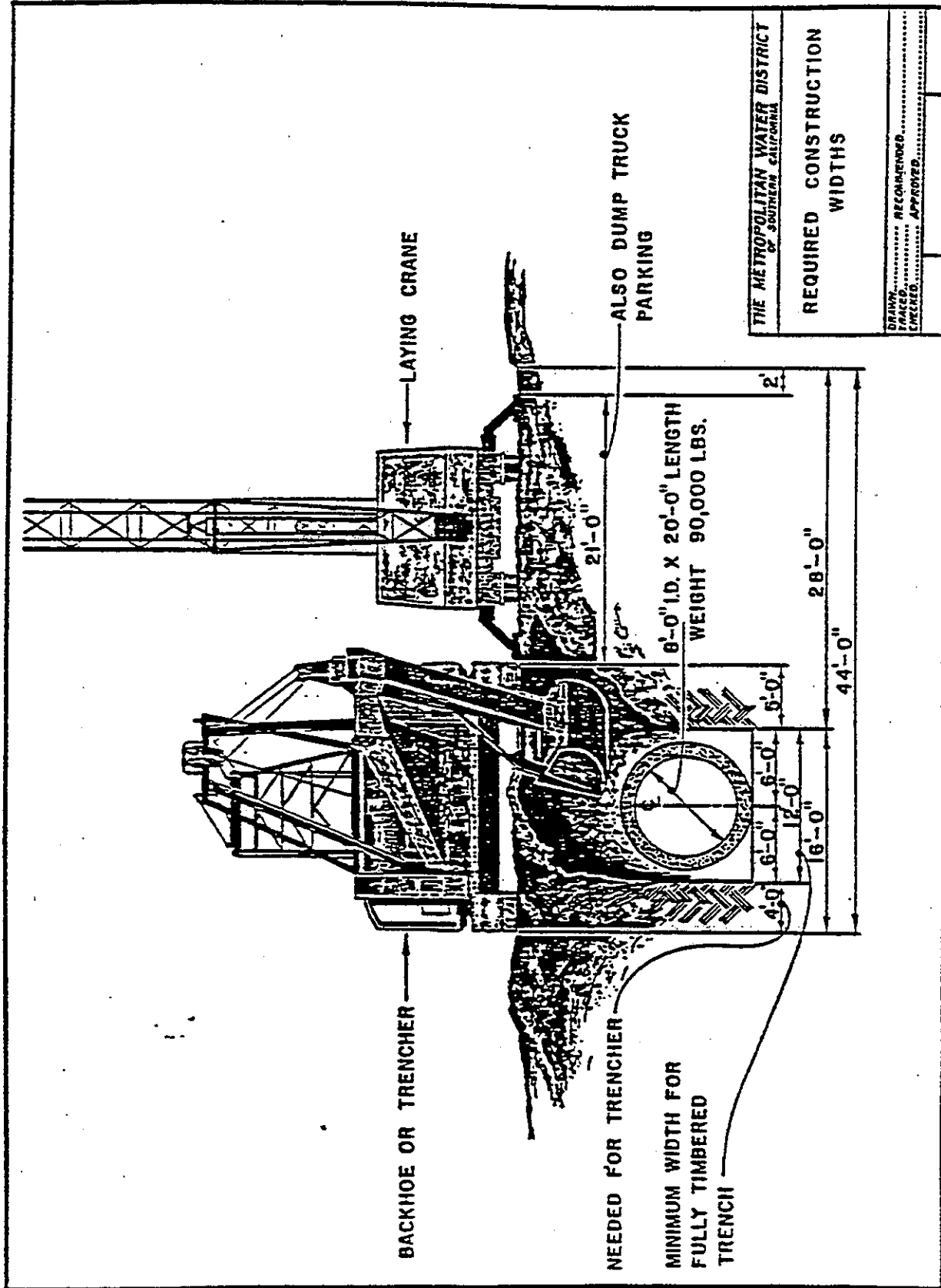


FIGURE 1

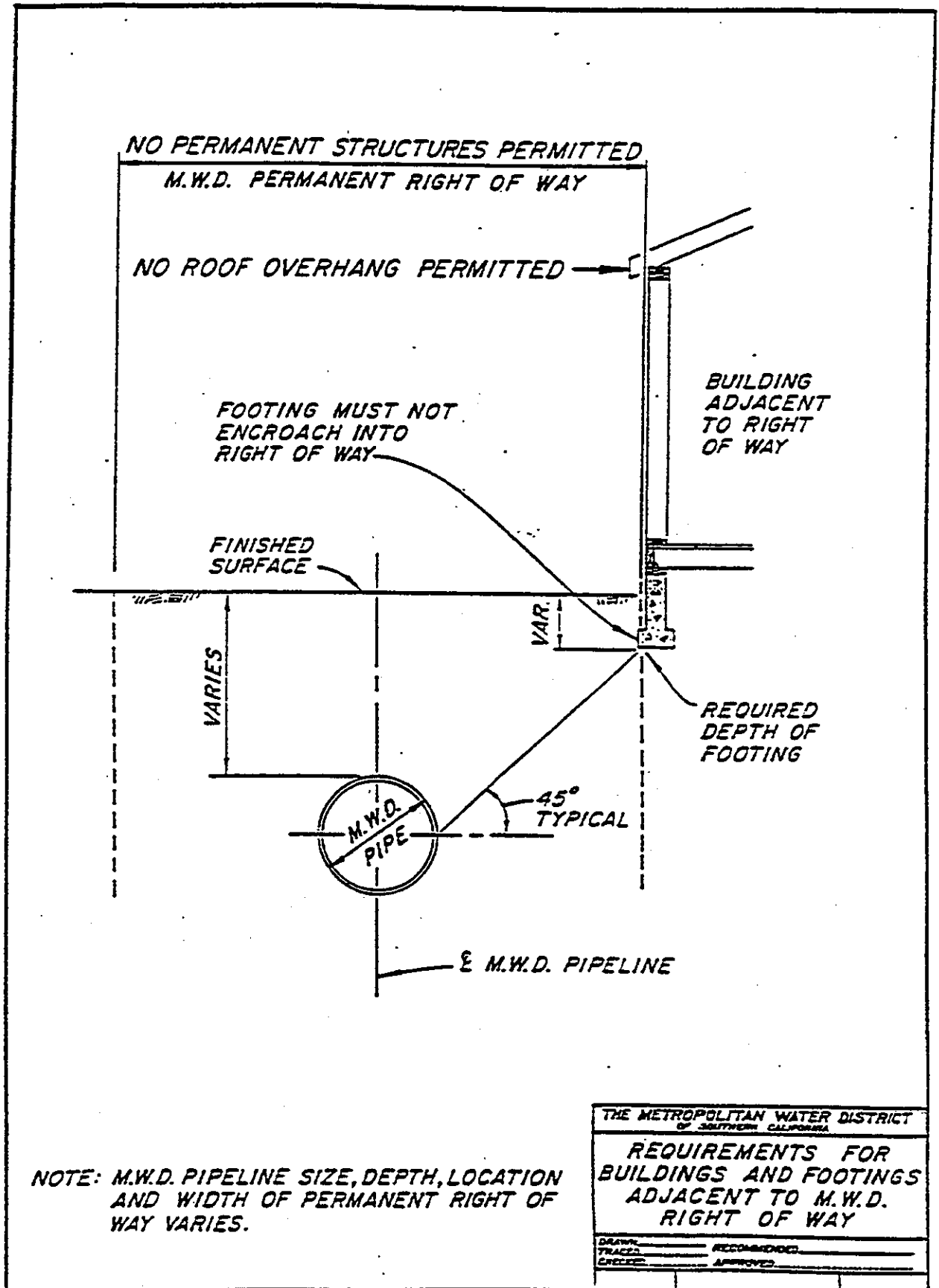
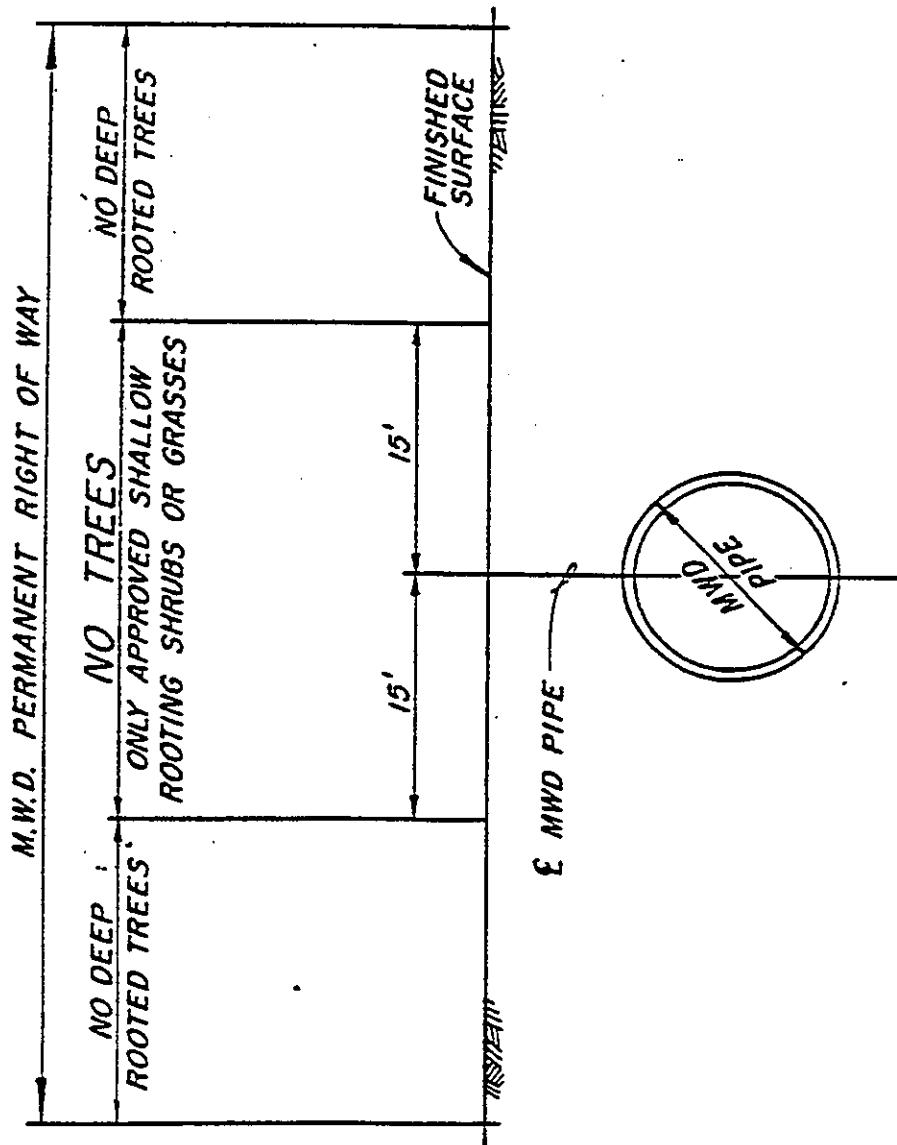


FIGURE 2



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES
FOR
M.W.D. RIGHT OF WAY

DRAWN.....
TRACED.....
CHECKED.....
RECOMMENDED.....
APPROVED.....

FIGURE 3

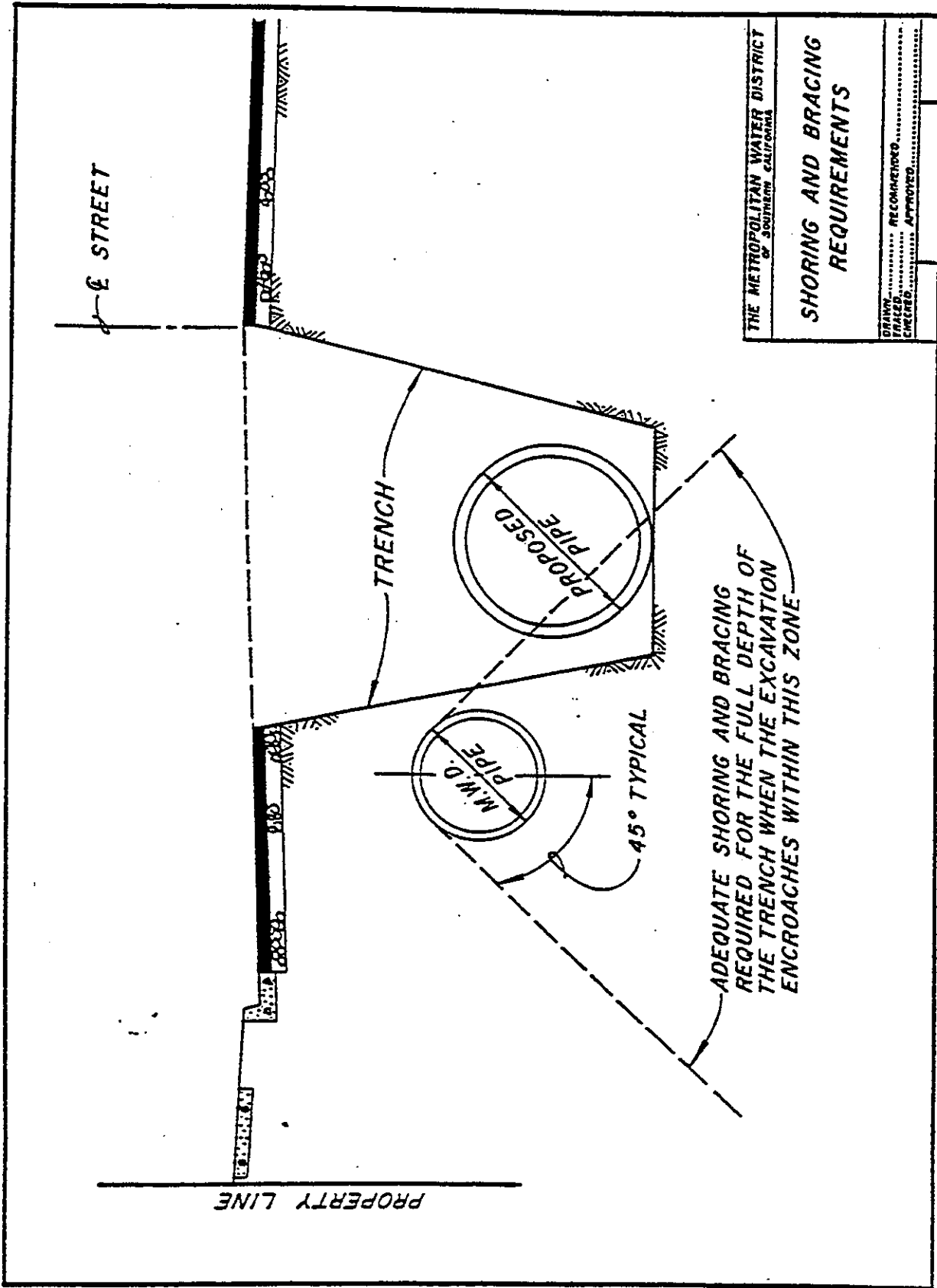
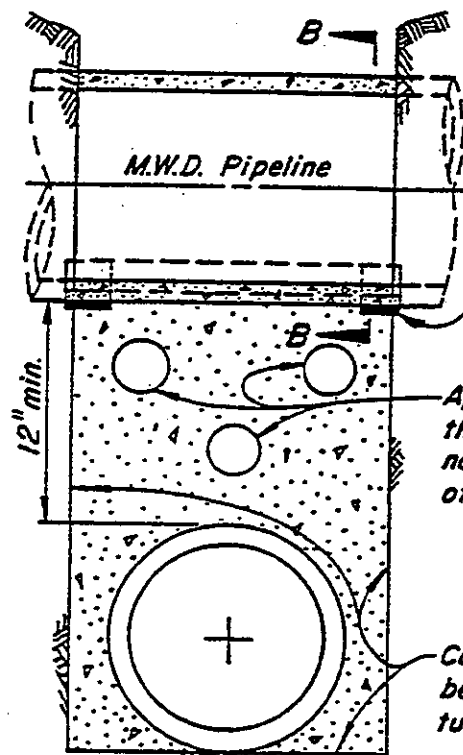


FIGURE 4

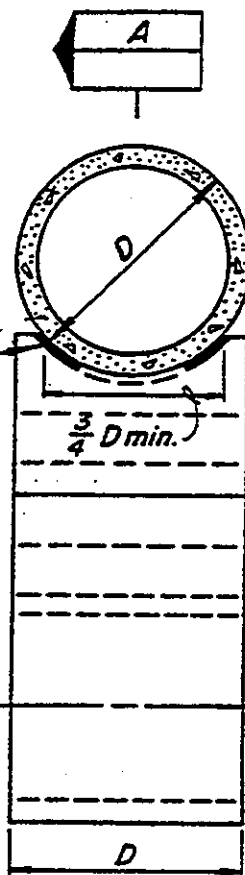


SECTION "A-A"

$\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" premolded expansion joint filler

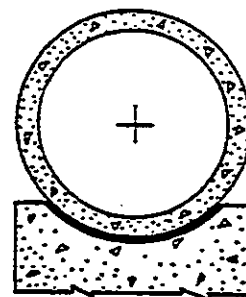
Apertures as directed by the Engineer, total volume not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ the volume of the supporting wall

Concrete support wall to be placed against undisturbed ground



CROSS SECTION

1. Supporting wall shall have a firm bearing on the subgrade and against the side of the excavation.
2. Premolded expansion joint filler per ASTM D-1751-73 to be used in support for steel pipe only.
3. If trench width is 4 feet or greater, measured along centerline of M.W.D. pipe, concrete support must be constructed.
4. If trench width is less than 4 feet, clean sand backfill, compacted to 90% density in accordance with the provisions of ASTM Standard D-1557-70 may be used in lieu of the concrete support wall.



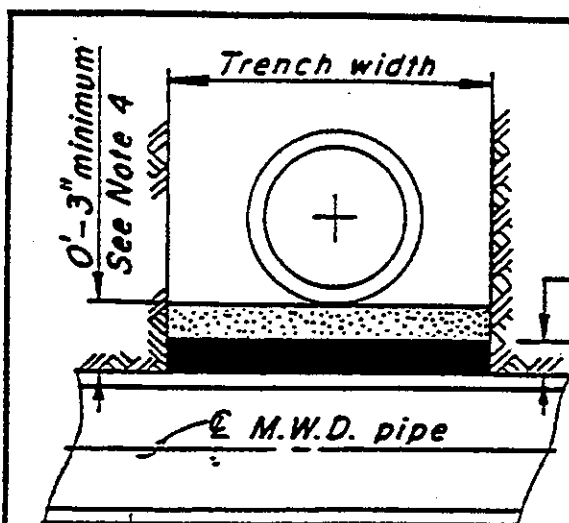
SECTION "B-B"

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

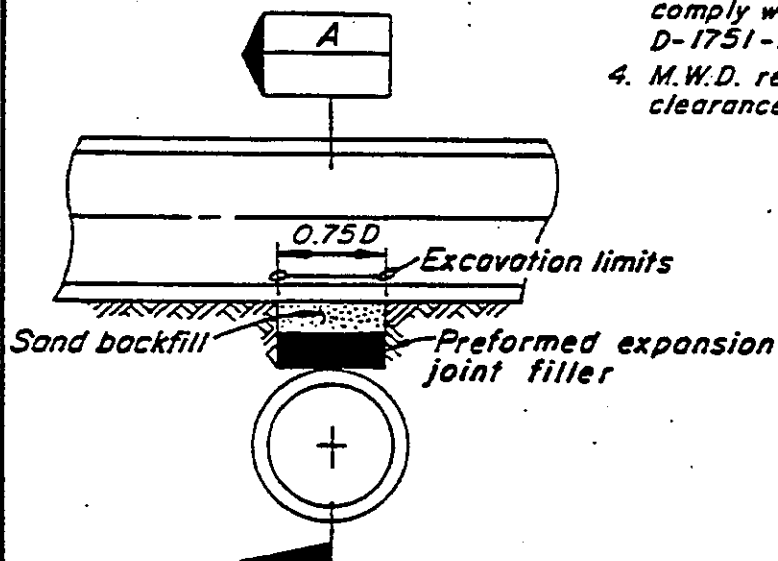
**TYPICAL SUPPORT FOR
M.W.D. PIPELINE**

DRAWN _____ RECOMMENDED _____
TRACED _____
CHECKED _____ APPROVED _____

C-9547



SECTION A



CROSS SECTION

3" Preformed expansion joint filler

NOTES

1. This method to be used where the utility line is 24" or greater in diameter and the clearance between the utility line and M.W.D. pipe is 12" or less.
2. Special protection may be required if the utility line diameter is greater than M.W.D. pipe or if the cover over the utility line to the street surface is minimal and there is 12" or less clearance between M.W.D. pipe and the utility line.
3. Preformed expansion joint filler to comply with ASTM designation D-1751-73.
4. M.W.D. requests 12" minimum clearance whenever possible.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

TYPICAL EXPANSION JOINT
FILLER PROTECTION FOR
OVERCROSSING OF
M.W.D. PIPELINE

DRAWN: _____ RECOMMENDED: _____
TRACED: _____ APPROVED: _____
CHECKED: _____

C-11632

**VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND E-MAIL
TO MMORENO@ladpw.org**

May 28, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P. O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

**SUBJECT: CITY OF SEAL BEACH COMMENTS RE:
NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT
PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT, SAN GABRIEL RIVER MASTER PLAN**

In February 2002, the City Council of the City of Seal Beach adopted Resolution Number 4981, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Seal Beach Approving "*Common Ground: From the Mountains to the Sea - San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan*", prepared by the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy.

The City of Seal Beach sees the preparation of the San Gabriel River Master Plan Program EIR as the next step in the process of implementation of the RMC plan. The City requests that the subject EIR reflect the goals and policies of the RMC Watershed and Open Space Plan and utilize as much information as is practical.

The San Gabriel River watershed is within the boundaries of the Los Angeles and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and the Program EIR should contain evaluations as to how the Master Plan will comply with and be consistent with the NPDES permit requirements of both of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

The City of Seal Beach has also identified several projects for potential funding under the provisions of Proposition 13, and requests that several of those identified projects be considered for "Demonstration Project" evaluation, as set forth in the NOP. The projects that the City would request for consideration of "Demonstration Project" evaluation are:

- ☐ Gum Grove Nature Park Restoration
- ☐ Hellman Wetlands Restoration
- ☐ San Gabriel River Trail Restoration

A brief project summary for these identified projects are provided as Attachment 1 to this letter.

The City also requests that the Program EIR evaluate programs and methods of reducing solid waste transport along the River to the Pacific Ocean within the analysis. The impacts upon the City of Seal Beach and also Long Beach are substantial, and create adverse environmental impacts due to wash-up of solid waste materials on the local beaches. The loss in beach availability, and the resulting adverse economic impacts of decreased visitors to the local beaches should be considered, evaluated, and mitigated within the Program EIR. One methodology of dealing with solid waste within the River is an evaluation of strategically placed debris booms along the length of the River to trap floating material and intercept that material from reaching the Ocean at various locations upstream. This type of program should specifically evaluated within the Draft Program EIR. The City has made application for such a project at the confluence of Coyote Creek and the San Gabriel River and is providing a project description of this project as Attachment 2 for your information and use in consideration this type of a program activity for other appropriate locations along the San Gabriel River.

Please contact my office at your earliest convenience if you require additional information or have questions regarding the City Council action. I can be reached at (562) 431-2527, extension 300, or by e-mail at jbahorski@ci.seal-beach.ca.us.

Sincerely,

John Bahorski
City Manager

Attachments: (2)

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Attachment 1: | Project Descriptions – Potential "Demonstration Projects" for analysis in Draft Program EIR |
| Attachment 2: | Project Description – San Gabriel River Trash Debris Boom |

*Transmittal Letter to Los Angeles County Department of Public Works re:
City of Seal Beach Comments re: Notice of Preparation of
Draft Program EIR – San Gabriel River Master Plan
May 28, 2003*

Distribution: City Council

Director of Development Services
City Engineer

ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS – POTENTIAL “DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS” FOR ANALYSIS IN DRAFT PROGRAM EIR

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

POTENTIAL “DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS” FOR ANALYSIS IN DRAFT PROGRAM EIR

Gum Grove Nature Park Restoration:

In August of 2002, the City was deeded a 14 ½ acre nature park from the Hellman Company which is adjacent to the Hellman Ranch and the San Gabriel River. Currently, it is an open space preserve containing archaeological, cultural and historical resources, used for recreational purposes and is in need of restoration of native planting, habitat and recreational trails. It can be directly connected to San Gabriel River Trail and City is requesting funds for the restoration of the park for community and regional use.

This project will restore existing trails and bring them in compliance with current ADA standards. The Nature Park is a home for several species of birds as well as other wildlife. The City of Seal Beach is requesting \$600,000 for the upgrade and restoration of the site. The park is accessible by the public from two public street locations.

The proposed project includes:

- Rehabilitation of existing trails and compliance with ADA standards;
- Installation of new signage and reflective devices on the trails and the parking lot;
- Rehabilitation of fencing along the trail;
- Installation of informational, recreational, educational or interpretive kiosks for public education of the park resources;
- Installation of picnic tables and benches bike racks;
- Landscaping with trees and native vegetation;
- Rehabilitation of the existing parking lot.

This project is feasible and a priority for the City and is consistent with the goals of the Prop 13 by providing natural, cultural and habitat resources, education, scenery, and low impact recreation. The Gum Grove Park Community Group will also be an active stakeholder in the project. The City has received \$100,000 as part of the property acquisition and is requesting Prop 13 funds for additional planning, design, and construction of the project. Upon successful completion of this project, a low impact natural multiple benefit park adjacent to the San Gabriel River will be restored.

* * * *

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

POTENTIAL “DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS” FOR ANALYSIS IN DRAFT PROGRAM EIR

Hellman Wetlands Restoration:

The City of Seal Beach will become an integral part of the planned wetlands restoration project in the Hellman Property. This restoration project will entail freshwater, brackish water and saltwater areas in the wetlands. The City of Seal Beach proposes to be the lead agency for the freshwater component of the project. Fresh water will be redirected from the Los Alamitos detention basin. Storm water will be pumped and deposited in the upper land areas and the water will be cleaned through a natural cleaning process such as bio-swales. This will convert the water into a valuable source of water to the lower wetland areas and it would be the first phase to bring the wetlands to its natural habitat. The City, in conjunction with the other agencies will thoroughly investigate all options to provide for the design and construction of the restored wetlands. The Hellman project site is located within a regional wetland complex, which is a significant component of the Pacific Flyway.

The Hellman Lowland area is a designated 100 acres of low lying land which historically was a wetlands area. The land is in the process of being transferred from Hellman Properties LLC to the Wildlife Conservation Board for conversion into a wetlands area. Several Federal, State and local agencies will take part in a collaborative and comprehensive effort to create a diverse and a multiple goal oriented wetlands restoration project that may include freshwater, brackish water and salt water. This project is needed because it will provide several types of water quality improvements to our beaches. The City of Seal Beach envisions several projects within the property and our goals include:

- A project designed to improve water quality at public beaches
- Make improvements to ensure public beaches meet the bacteriological standards
- A project designed to implement storm water and runoff pollution reduction and prevention programs for the restoration and protection of coastal water quality.
- A project designed to assist in the goals of the Clean Water Act.
- A project which provides education to the community and region.
- A project which provides habitat and natural resources.

Dry weather and wet weather run-off have been identified as a contributor to high bacterial levels often found in the ocean waters off the Orange County coastline. Non-point pollution conveyed by low flow urban run-off water from the watershed can be a significant contributor to poor water quality in the San Gabriel watershed. Wetlands are a

proven method to improve the quality of water as demonstrated by the Irvine Ranch Water District Project. In storm and non-storm conditions, wetlands would remove a large amount of non-point pollution, thereby reducing the amount of non-point pollution that is introduced into the San Gabriel watershed. The end result is less contamination into the San Gabriel River and an increase in water quality for the river and beaches.

This project is a priority for the City and is consistent with the goals of the Prop 13 by providing natural, cultural and habitat resources, education, scenery, reducing pollution, and protecting water quality at the beach. The City is expecting partial funding from Proposition 13 grants and is requesting Prop 13 funds for the planning and design portion of the project. With several regulatory agencies involved in this site, the planning and design costs will be extensive. Upon successful completion of this project, a wetlands area will be restored and millions of gallons of storm water and urban run-off water would have particulates removed before entering the San Gabriel River.

* * * *

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

POTENTIAL “DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS” FOR ANALYSIS IN DRAFT PROGRAM EIR

San Gabriel River Trail Restoration:

North Segment:

The proposed project will restore the existing San Gabriel River Trail and the trailside facilities from Marina Drive to Pacific Coast Highway and upgrade the site to feature new amenities. This project is of regional significance because of its connection the San Gabriel River Trail upstream. The restoration will be a benefit to the community and to the general public because of its high recreation use and educational benefits.

The proposed project includes:

- ☐ Rehabilitation of the asphalt trail including new striping;
- ☐ Installation of new signage and reflective devices on the trail and the parking lot;
- ☐ Rehabilitation of fencing along the trail;
- ☐ Installation of informational, recreational, educational or interpretive kiosk;
- ☐ Install new picnic areas along the trail including benches, tables and bike racks;
- ☐ Landscaping with trees and native vegetation;

This project is feasible and a priority for the City and is consistent with the goals of the Prop 13 by providing multiple benefit natural, cultural and habitat resources, education, scenery, and low impact recreation. The project is accessible from public streets and trails. The City will recruit active stakeholders for support in the project. The City is requesting Prop 13 funds for the planning, design, and construction of the project. Upon successful completion of this project, a low impact natural multiple benefit trail and trail facility adjacent to the San Gabriel River will be restored.

South Segment:

The proposed project will restore the existing San Gabriel River Trail and the trailside facilities from the First St. Parking Lot to Marina Dr. and upgrade the site to feature new amenities. This project is of regional significance because of its connection the San Gabriel River Trail upstream. The restoration will be a benefit to the community and to the general public because of its high recreation use and educational benefits.

The proposed project includes:

- ☐ Rehabilitation of the asphalt trail including new striping;

- ❑ Installation of new signage and reflective devices on the trail and the parking lot;
- ❑ Rehabilitation of fencing along the trail;
- ❑ Rehabilitation and upgrade of existing restrooms to meet current ADA standards;
- ❑ Construction of an additional restroom;
- ❑ Installation of informational, recreational, educational or interpretive kiosk;
- ❑ Install new picnic areas along the trail including benches, tables and bike racks;
- ❑ Landscaping with trees and native vegetation;
- ❑ Rehabilitation of the existing First Street Parking Lot with open graded asphalt;

This project is feasible and a priority for the City and is consistent with the goals of the Prop 13 by providing multiple benefit natural, cultural and habitat resources, education, scenery, low impact recreation, and will improve water quality with the open graded asphalt parking lot. The project is accessible from public streets and trails. The City will recruit active stakeholders for support in the project. The City is requesting Prop 13 funds for the planning, design, and construction of the project. Upon successful completion of this project, a low impact natural multiple benefit trail and trail facility adjacent to the San Gabriel River will be restored.

* * * *

ATTACHMENT 2

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SAN GABRIEL RIVER TRASH DEBRIS BOOM

This proposed project would provide for the construction of a trash debris boom on the San Gabriel River. This proposed collector is developed for the removal of debris that flows within the San Gabriel River watershed and is ultimately discharged into the mouth of the river. This project will remove approximately 2,800 cubic yards of trash per year. The main goal of the project is to reduce the debris load at the mouth of the San Gabriel River, and in particular to decrease the quantity of debris that is washed up onto Seal Beach and adjoining beaches.

The San Gabriel River flows from North to South, from the San Gabriel Mountains and through the eastern portions of Los Angeles and Long Beach, eventually reaching the Pacific Ocean in Seal Beach. Coyote Creek flows from the northeast to southwest and passes through a small section of Long Beach before it outlets into the San Gabriel River. By volume much of the material transported downstream is floating uncompacted Styrofoam, paper cups, plastic bottles, vegetation, cigarette butts, and other litter and waste. During large storm events, much larger and heavier trash items can be transported along the bed of the river: tires, shopping carts, and discarded furniture are all commonly found along the beaches of Seal Beach.

This proposed project would provide for a debris catching net in the River to trap debris following a rainstorm. This BMP's would remove particulate such as litter, vegetation, and other debris from the incoming water. The effluent water quality is improved and continues or its outlet in the San Gabriel River. City crews then remove the particulate by a vactor or vacuum truck and dispose of the materials at a proper facility.

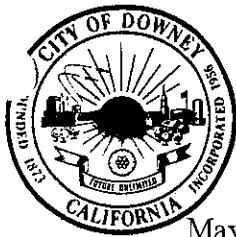
Debris booms have been studied by the City of Los Angeles, the County of Orange, and the LA County and have been successful in removing particulate, which contain contaminants in storm water flow. The City of Seal Beach received a \$300,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy to prepare the planning and design of this project. Currently, a design study has been completed and design preparation is underway.

Dry weather and wet weather run-off have been identified as a contributor to high bacterial levels often found in the ocean waters off the Orange County coastline. Non-

point pollution conveyed by low flow urban run-off water from the watershed could be a significant contributor to poor water quality in the San Gabriel River watershed. This debris boom is a proven method to improve the quality of water in the San Gabriel River watershed by removing contaminated particulate from the storm water. The City of Long Beach typically collects 4,000 tons of debris annually at the mouth of the Los Angeles River. In storm and non-storm conditions, this net would remove a large amount of non-point pollution, thereby reducing the amount of non-point pollution that is introduced into the watershed. The result is less contamination into the San Gabriel River and an increase in water quality for the river and beaches.

This project is a priority for the City and is consistent with the goals of the Clean Beaches Initiative by reducing pollution and protecting water quality at the beach. Upon successful completion of this project, millions of gallons of storm water and urban run-off water would have particulate removed before entering the San Gabriel River.

* * * *



City of Downey

FUTURE UNLIMITED

May 22, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Subject: NOP Responses to the Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you circulating a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the City of Downey for the Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan (Mater Plan). We believe the draft environmental document must identify and fully assess the potential impacts to the City of Downey of all river enhancement projects and elements of the Master Plan. That includes projects that would directly impact the City or projects that are planned upstream which could indirectly impact the community.

Other areas that we feel the draft program EIR must address include:

1. Recreational and wildlife encouraging strategies may negatively impact water quality and public health. Human and wildlife are sources of pathogens and indicator bacteria, while natural and constructed habitat areas can easily become a source of vector organisms and disease. The projects contemplated by the draft PEIR must account for their potential risk or impact on these aspects of public welfare. Perpetuity funding of vegetation maintenance and vector control activities needs to be included in project planning efforts and part of the project commitment documents.
2. Since the impacts of these projects on water quality are unpredictable, periodic up and down stream monitoring should be planned to demonstrate that the projects do not adversely impact water quality. Provisions should be made so that if and when monitoring demonstrates an adverse impact (on sediments, bacteria or other water constituent) of the project on the MS4 system, this can not be held against the MS4 conveyance agencies. In other words, project proponents should not be held responsible for the impact of wildlife in wild area.

If my recommendations in No. 2 can not be incorporated, the proposed project should include potential treatment, regulatory or litigation costs that can be reasonably be expected by undertaking the project.

Mr. Marty Moreno
San Gabriel River Master Plan

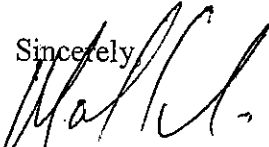
3. Exotic vegetation control measures and costs should be included; and wildlife flood refugia should be considered as part of the planning effort.
4. Native flora and fauna introduction should be considered for appropriate species. Examples could include Santa Ana Sucker, Western Toad, Pacific Treefrog and Western Fence Lizards

Again, thank you circulating a copy of the NOP to us. In addition, I am requesting that you circulate copies of the draft PEIR to me and Mr. Gerald Greene who is a Senior Civil Engineer with the City's Public Works Department.

Also, please notify us of any public meetings/hearings that are scheduled for Master Plan project or its draft Program EIR.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 562.904.7158.

Sincerely,



Mark Sellheim, AICP

CC: Gerald Greene, Public Works Department .

GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Office (562) 944-9656 Fax (562) 944-7976

Email: glacvector@mgci.com Website: www.glacvcd.org

PRESIDENT

Ray T. Smith, Bellflower

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Hazel Wallace, Signal Hill

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Joseph Esquivel, Lakewood

DISTRICT MANAGER

Jack Hazelrigg, Ph. D.

May 23, 2003

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BELL

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BELL GARDENS

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BURBANK

Adam Locke

CARSON

Kay Calas

CERRITOS

Alex H. Beanum

COMMERCE

Hugo Argumedo

CUDAHY

Mison Levi

DIAMOND BAR

Dexter D. MacBride

DOWNEY

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Jim Remington

LA MIRADA

Susan Tripp

LONG BEACH

Joy Dowell

LOS ANGELES CITY

Rose Busciglio

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Robert T. Lancet

LYNWOOD

Fernando Pedroza

MAYWOOD

Ted Serna

MONTEBELLO

Norma Lopez-Reid

NORWALK

Cheri Kelley

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PICO RIVERA

E.A. "Pete" Ramirez

SAN FERNANDO

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Janice H. Heidt

SANTA FE SPRINGS

Al Castillo

SOUTH EL MONTE

Allen Co

SOUTH GATE

Xochilt Ruvalcaba

WHITTIER

Greg Nordbak

Mr. Marty Moreno

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Watershed Management Division

Lead Agency for the Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan

P.O. Box 1460

Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Re.: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program EIR in Compliance with Title 14 (CEQA Guidelines), Section 10582(a), 15103 and 15375 of the California Code of Regulations.

Dear Mr. Moreno:

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (herein, "District") after carefully and thoroughly reviewing the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's plans to transform portions of the San Gabriel River to its original pristine state, including the re-creation and generation of wetlands, has concerns regarding such action.

The consequence of creating pristine river and streambed communities and associated wetland habitat will assuredly foster ideal breeding sources for mosquitoes, black flies and midges, eventually resulting in their increased occurrence and abundance. In the densely populated and highly urbanized areas adjacent to the San Gabriel River, uncontrolled pullulations of these insects will severely annoy nearby residents, likely prevent intended recreational activities associated with the River, and increase the risk to human health from mosquitoes potentially transmitting diseases. Although it is the principal function and mission of the District to control these insects and minimize transmission of human diseases from mosquitoes, in natural or man-made aquatic habitats as envisioned and contemplated by the Conservancy, with emergent aquatic vegetation allowed to grow and develop unmanaged, that task is essentially impossible without the continuous application of adulticides, which is the least preferred method of controlling mosquitoes, particularly in habitats considered environmentally sensitive and intended for public appreciation and use.

Mosquito-borne encephalitis viruses (St. Louis encephalitis and western equine encephalomyelitis) are endemic to southern California, and, with the anticipation of West Nile virus introduction into California, planned restoration projects such as this would require a commitment to an established permanent and continuous program of aquatic vegetation and water quality management.

Without such a management program, uncontrolled mosquito, midge, and black fly populations and increased risk to human health are inevitable. The Conservancy's envisioned concept of "wildlife corridors" in reality may transform into "disease corridors", if programs aimed at perpetual management of future established aquatic habitats fail to materialize (*Attachment I* was submitted to the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy in October 2000 and is now being once again re-submitted for consideration).

A CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

PROMOTING COMMUNITY HEALTH, COMFORT AND WELFARE THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE VECTOR CONTROL SINCE 1952

The control of nuisance aquatic insect populations, particularly mosquitoes, is accomplished using integrated mosquito management, combining the prudent and careful use of various chemical, biological, and environmental methods and techniques. This has been the operational approach of the District and the scientific basis of mosquito control adopted throughout California for nearly a century. In wetlands, deliberately environmentally well managed (i.e., long-term commitment to proper maintenance of emergent aquatic and vegetation), mosquitofish (biological) satisfactorily and effectively control mosquitoes, obviating little or no need for chemical intervention or application. Unmanaged, wetland habitats become serious public health nuisances, their resident or introduced mosquitofish cannot perform as efficient mosquito predators, and periodic and sustained chemical use becomes necessary, usually with temporary, but most often, little or no success.

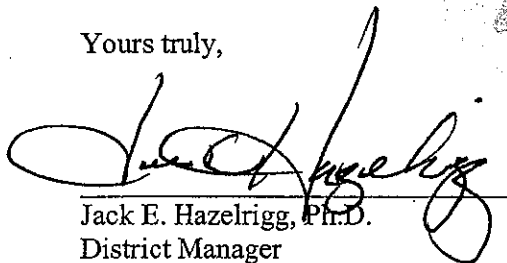
The California Health and Safety Code (*Attachment II*) clearly defines and delimits the powers granted to mosquito and vector control districts, enabling them, if necessary to file abatement notices and impose punitive fines on individuals or agencies creating a public health nuisance. The establishment of wetlands associated with the River, left to the natural forces of ecological succession without the human intervention of continuous and proper management, will result in unnecessary mosquito breeding habitats and populations interacting with residents to create a public health nuisance.

Based on our knowledge and practical experience with both unmanaged and managed wetlands, and the difficult and problematic public health consequences that can occur associated with them (*Attachment III*), the District strongly urges the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to seriously consider incorporating in their planning of aquatic habitats or ecosystems, especially the creation of extensive wetlands associated with the River, **permanent and continuous** management programs that will permit and allow for the uninterrupted maintenance of aquatic vegetation associated with these habitats or ecosystems, in the effort both to preserve and enhance the integrity of the wetlands system, and preclude the unnecessary need of the District to make chemical applications.

District staff will be available to provide consultation on mosquito and related vector problems and serve on committee/s addressing public health and safety issues relative to vector control.

Thank you for your anticipated commitment and consideration for public health-related issues.

Yours truly,



Jack E. Hazelrigg, Ph.D.
District Manager

Cc: Ray T. Smith, President, District Board of Trustees
Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis
Assemblywoman Sally Havice
L. A. City Councilwoman Janice Hahn
Belinda Faustinos, SGLLARMC

mbm/jeh

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY
VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

ATTACHMENT I

2000 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DISTRICT MANAGER
Jack Hazelrigg, Ph.D.

POSITION STATEMENT

Regarding

San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

October 25, 2000

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VICE PRESIDENT

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Bill DeWitt

WHITTIER

Dave Butler

The efforts of the Honorable Senator Hilda L. Solis to create the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (herein, Conservancy), and the proposal to establish a wildlife corridor within a densely populated urbanized metropolis, is an unique, environmentally significant, and commendable effort.

However, the California Department of Health Services, Local Environmental Health Departments and Special Districts (such as the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District, Orange County Vector Control District and Compton Creek Mosquito Control District), are mandated by state law (California Health and Safety Code) to safeguard public health within their boundaries by conducting nuisance and disease mosquito surveillance and control, and surveillance of other vector-borne diseases. Thus, we feel it is necessary to inform you that some of the actions of the Conservancy may affect public health.

We understand that one of the considerations of the Conservancy may be to restore natural habitat along the rivers, including establishing or reclaiming wetlands and riparian systems. Unfortunately, these habitats produce mosquitoes. They also attract wild birds and migratory fowl, which serve as hosts for viruses in the disease cycle that cause encephalitis. These viruses can cause serious diseases in humans, such as St. Louis encephalitis and western equine encephalomyelitis, the potential for emerging vector-borne infections in California, such as the recently introduced West Nile virus in New York and now spreading to other eastern States should also be considered, requiring additional efforts for mosquito surveillance, disease detection and prevention of potential outbreaks. Mosquitoes usually bite birds and cycle the viruses in the environment, but may also transmit them to humans. Implementing sound, environmentally compatible techniques such as proper water and aquatic vegetation management, reduces the potential threat of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases associated with wetlands and riparian habitats.

Should the Conservancy, in its future plans or actions, consider restoring certain portions of the rivers to create or reclaim wetland and riparian habitat, we request that the Conservancy considers the possible effects on public health. These projects should proceed only if funding is provided throughout the life of the project for continuous, proper water, vegetation and mosquito management in order to minimize the presence of mosquitoes and other vectors. If we allow "Mother Nature" to take its course, this, as well as future generations could potentially encounter maladies, such as malaria, dengue, yellow fever, encephalitis, and rodent-borne diseases, as did our forefathers.

It is our position that natural or reclaimed wetlands and other aquatic projects that benefit or enhance the environment can co-exist with the mandates of public health agencies responsible for controlling mosquitoes and vector-associated diseases. However, this can only be accomplished successfully if consideration is given to minimizing the occurrence of vectors. In addition, a successful conservancy must be funded sufficiently to ensure that mosquitoes and other vectors, and the diseases they can transmit, will always be effectively monitored for early detection, thereby, enabling preventive measures for potential outbreaks.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

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A CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

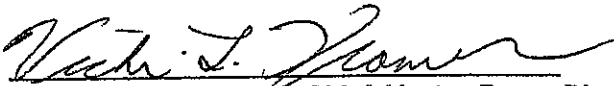
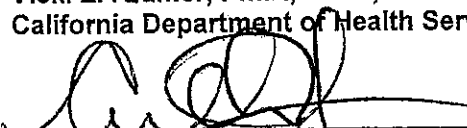

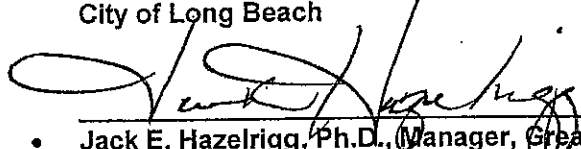



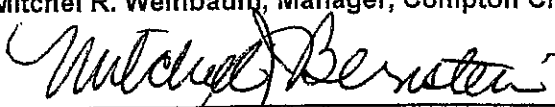
PROMOTING COMMUNITY HEALTH, COMFORT AND WELFARE THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE VECTOR CONTROL SINCE 1952

Mr. Dexter D. MacBride, the immediate Past President of the Board of Trustees, Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, is an Advisory Committee member for the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority. We are interested in helping the Conservancy achieve its goals while providing maximum protection to the public's health. We are available for consultation and request the opportunity to participate and serve on future Conservancy committees.

If you have any questions regarding our position or require specific information, please contact Jack E. Hazelrigg, Ph.D., Manager.

mbm/jeh

Signatory Agencies:

- 
• Vicki L. Kramer, Ph.D., Chief, Vector-Borne Disease Section,
California Department of Health Services
- 
• Arthur Tilzer, REHS, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection,
Environmental Health, Los Angeles County Department of
Health Services
- 
• Ron Arias, MPA, Director, Department of Health and Human Services,
City of Long Beach
- 
• Jack E. Hazelrigg, Ph.D., Manager, Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
- 
• Kenn K. Fujioka, Ph.D., Assistant Manager, San Gabriel Valley
Mosquito and Vector Control District
- 
• Robert D. Sjogren, Ph.D., Manager, Orange County Vector Control District
- 
• Mitchel R. Weinbaum, Manager, Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District
- 
• Mitch Bernstein, MPA, Southern Regional Representative,
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California

FILE

Multipurpose Constructed Treatment Wetlands in the Arid Southwestern United States: Are the Benefits Worth the Risks?¹

William E. Walton

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Abstract

Multipurpose constructed treatment wetlands are being used increasingly in the southwestern U.S. to reclaim water, provide habitat for wetlands wildlife, educate the public on issues related to water and wildlife conservation, and fulfill other goals. Whereas, man-made wetlands have proven effective for water treatment, one serious drawback is the potential of some wetlands to produce large numbers of pathogen-transmitting and pestiferous mosquitoes. In regions of rapid human development, the juxtaposition of wetlands, which contain reservoirs and vectors of the causative agents of human disease, and human developments, which may contain avian reservoirs capable of rapid arbovirus amplification, are a concern to public health officials. Population trends of immature and adult mosquitoes differ markedly among wetlands receiving water that differs in quality and differing in coverage by vegetation. Four case studies are discussed in terms of mosquito production and control.

INTRODUCTION

Multipurpose constructed wetland technology offers many potential benefits including water quality improvement/reclamation, creation of wetland habitat, wildlife conservation, recreation, education and research, and amenities to housing developments. As compared to conventional wastewater treatment facilities, the lower construction and annual operational costs make constructed treatment wetlands a potential alternative technology for wastewater treatment (Kadlec and Knight 1996). Constructed wetland technology has a great potential for meeting the wastewater treatment needs of small communities (< 10,000 persons with flows \leq 1 MGD) in the U.S. during a period of both reduced funding for capital improvements in existing wastewater treatment facilities and greater threats of enforcement for failure to meet wastewater discharge requirements (Bastian 2001). Facilities serving small communities with limited abilities to fund improvements in conventional wastewater treatment plants service about 72% of the U.S. population (Bastian 2001). The advances in the technology (Kadlec and Knight 1996, Vymazal et al. 1998, USEPA 2000) and the marked increase in the number (Cole 1998) of constructed wetlands attest to the utility of the technology for wastewater treatment. Despite the success of many constructed wetlands to attain multiple goals, questions remain concerning the suitability of man-made wetlands as surrogates for wetlands lost to human land use (NRC 2001) and design of treatment wetlands for multiple uses (USEPA 2000).

One drawback to multipurpose constructed wetlands primarily treating municipal wastewater is the production of mosquitoes which can be pestiferous and vectors of pathogens causing disease in humans and companion animals (Walton et al. 1998, CH2M Hill 1999, Russell 1999, Knight et al. 2001). Constructed treatment wetlands in arid regions of the U.S. may enhance and alter the seasonal phenology of mosquito populations in several ways. First, nutrient-rich municipal wastewater may

¹ INTECOL Invited Papers Symposium 30. Disease and Wetlands Thursday, August 10, 2000.

enhance resources for mosquito larvae ultimately increasing adult mosquito production. Second, a continuous source of shallow standing water with emergent vegetation provides developmental sites for immature mosquitoes and resting habitats for adult mosquitoes that might not otherwise exist during particular times of the year in arid regions. Compared to a bimodal annual pattern of mosquito abundance observed for some mosquito species in the arid southwestern U.S. (Durso and Burguin 1988), a continuous supply of municipal wastewater can result in a unimodal annual pattern of mosquito abundance exhibiting (i) an earlier onset of mosquito production during each year which can be further augmented by comparatively warm water derived from bacterial metabolism in the conventional wastewater treatment process, (ii) production during the summer months when mosquito developmental sites are usually dry and mosquitoes would either not be active or occur at low abundance, and (iii) conditions favorable for mosquito production later during the year (Figure 1A). Furthermore, design features of wetlands that create intermittently flooded habitats can also create mosquitoes if standing water persists long enough for mosquitoes to complete immature development.

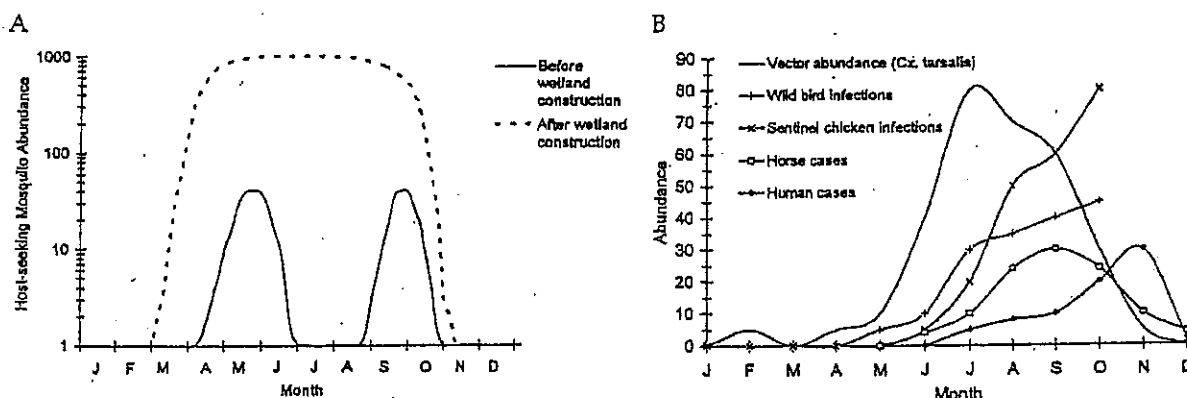


FIGURE 1
(A) HYPOTHETICAL CHANGE IN MOSQUITO ABUNDANCE IN AN ARID REGION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN U.S. FOLLOWING OPERATION OF A WETLAND PROCESSING MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER. (B) PHENOLOGY OF A WESTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS OUTBREAK IN CALIFORNIA [REDRAWN FROM CH2M HILL (1999)]

Even though annual abundance patterns of mosquitoes inhabiting arid regions of the U.S. are not always bimodal (Bohart and Washino 1978), a continuous supply of nutrient-rich water cannot only increase abundance and favor enhanced activity of adult mosquitoes by providing mosquito-friendly habitat during periods of natural inactivity or low activity, it might also alter mosquito life histories (e.g., natural selection for a reduction in diapause intensity in adult mosquitoes, enhanced survivorship of adult mosquitoes). Such changes in seasonal abundance patterns and life histories can have important consequences on the potential for pathogen transmission by mosquitoes of public health significance.

The implications for public health in regions of rapid urban and suburban development are particularly acute where wetlands lie in proximity to human development. Wetland birds are reservoirs for arboviruses in an enzootic cycle involving mosquito vectors. Mosquitoes which have fed on wetland birds and acquired arbovirus infections can migrate into the surrounding region and subsequently feed and infect humans directly or infect susceptible peridomestic birds, such as house finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) (Reeves 1990). Mosquitoes taking blood meals from viremic peridomestic birds can then potentially infect humans.

A typical outbreak of western equine encephalomyelitis in California would exhibit virus activity in the vector population (*Culex tarsalis*), seroconversions in susceptible wild birds and then in chickens used as sentinels for virus activity (Figure 1B). An increased incidence of avian infections would be followed by virus activity in horses and humans. The size of the vector population, the survival of infected adult mosquitoes to permit multiple blood meals, and the propensity of mosquitoes to feed on different vertebrate host species are among the important factors influencing the dynamics of disease outbreaks. Constructed treatment wetlands in arid regions have the potential to significantly influence the first two of these characteristics. An enhancement of summer mosquito populations during the period of accelerating pathogen activity has the potential to create disease outbreaks.

Mosquito populations have been studied in relatively few treatment wetlands (CH2M Hill 1999, Knight et al. 2001). This paper will highlight mosquito-related issues at four constructed treatment wetlands in California and Arizona. The difficulties for mosquito abatement posed by dense emergent vegetation used as part of the treatment process, the potential effects of water quality on mosquito abundance and the estimated costs for mosquito abatement will be briefly discussed.

CASE STUDY SITES

San Jacinto Demonstration Wetland

The 9.9 ha multipurpose demonstration wetland is located in San Jacinto, California and the site is described in detail by Sartoris et al. (2000). The wetland was configured as a marsh-pond-marsh system. The marshes were planted with *Schoenoplectus* (= *Scirpus*) *californicus* and *S. acutus* in autumn 1994 with 3 or 4 zones (12 m wide) of open water in each 0.5 m deep marsh. The central pond was 1.02 ha and 1.8 m deep. The wetland was incorporated into the Eastern Municipal Water District's Hemet/San Jacinto Regional Water Reclamation Facility's treatment train in January 1996 and, during the two year period discussed here, mean daily total inflow volume was 4542 m³ d⁻¹ of secondary treated effluent from the activated sludge process plant. Hydraulic retention time was 9-14 days. Mean concentration for constituents in the inflow water were total N 19.93 mg L⁻¹ (organic N 3.3 mg L⁻¹, NH₄-N 14.5 mg L⁻¹, NO₃-N 0.6 mg L⁻¹), total P 2.5 mg L⁻¹, BOD (summer 1997 only) 46.1 mg L⁻¹. NH₄-N loading rates during the period of annual mosquito activity (1 April - 1 November) increased 3-fold in 1997 (1996: 57.5 kg d⁻¹; 1997: 152.9 kg d⁻¹). The primary functions of the wetland are nitrogen removal and fecal coliform bacteria reduction from wastewater.

Prado Wetlands

The 186 ha Prado Wetlands is located north of Corona, California in western Riverside County and consists of 50 ponds divided among three types categorized by intended vegetation cover (60, 40, 0% of surface covered by emergent vegetation) and water depth (0.45, 0.6, 2.4 m, respectively). This multipurpose wetland is operated by the Orange County Water District and the primary function of the wetlands is to remove nitrate from Santa Ana River water prior to recharge of a groundwater basin. Half of the flow (1.8 - 2.4 m³ s⁻¹) of the Santa Ana River is diverted through the wetlands. Hydraulic retention time is 5-7 days during the summer and during this period nitrate concentration declines from approximately 10 mg L⁻¹ to non-detectable levels across the wetland. Ammonium nitrogen levels are low (circa 0.12 mg L⁻¹) and phosphate-P is around 1.2 mg L⁻¹. The wetlands were rebuilt in 1997, but were scoured by high flows caused by El Niño rains in early 1998 (Keiper et al. 1999). The dominant vegetation in the wetlands is *S. californicus* and *Typha* spp.

Tres Rios Demonstration Constructed Wetlands

The Tres Rios Demonstration Constructed Wetland Project is located in Tolleson, Arizona and is operated by the City of Phoenix, Water Services Department. The major function of the wetlands was to evaluate the applicability of constructed wetland technology for large-scale wetlands for habitat enhancement. Between August 1995 and late 1998, the project received approximately 7600 m³ d⁻¹ of municipal wastewater from the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant which utilizes an activated sludge process. During 1995 through 1998, the project consisted of three sites totaling approximately 5 ha of surface flow wetlands divided into deep open-water zones (> 1 m deep) and shallow (< 50 cm) marshes containing emergent vegetation, primarily *Schoenoplectus* (= *Scirpus*) *validus* and *S. olneyi*. The Cobble Site had a paired 0.9 ha basins located in the Salt River channel. The Hayfield Site had two 1.3 ha basins located above the Salt River channel. Each basin had 20% of its surface area as deep open-water zones. The Research Cell Site consisted of twelve 1200m² ponds located within the treatment plant. The basins were initially configured with varying amounts (11 to 35% of the surface area) of open water but were rapidly filled by bulrushes. Median values for constituents in the inflow water to the Hayfield and Cobble sites were total N 5.7-8.1 mg L⁻¹ (organic N 1.2 mg L⁻¹, NH₄-N 2 mg L⁻¹, NO₃-N 2.4 mg L⁻¹), PO₄-P 3.3 mg L⁻¹, COD 37 mg L⁻¹, BOD 3 mg L⁻¹, TOC 8.6 mg L⁻¹ (USBR 2001).

Sweetwater Wetlands

The Sweetwater Wetlands is located northwest of Tucson, Arizona and is operated by the City of Tucson Water Department. The wetlands were constructed during 1996 and shallow zones were planted with bulrush during April-May 1997. The site contains four settling basins (total surface area: 0.7 ha), two surface flow wetlands (6 ha) and four groundwater recharge basins (5.7 ha). The two 3 ha wetlands contained a mixture of open water (< 50%) and shallow emergent marshes supporting predominantly *Typha domingensis*, *S. validus* and *S. olneyi*. The primary function of the wetlands is to treat backwash water from filters used to process secondary effluent from the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. Therefore, the wetlands receive secondary treated effluent that has a high suspended solids content. The wetlands received a mixture of secondary effluent and backwash water between April and October 1998. During this time, the proportion of backwash effluent was gradually increased until only backwash water entered the wetlands after October 1998. Flow during summer 1999 was approximately 605 m³ d⁻¹. Mean concentrations for selected constituents in the inflow water during summer 1999 were Kjeldahl N 11.9 mg L⁻¹, NO₃-N 1.0 mg L⁻¹, PO₄-P 12.9 mg L⁻¹, and BOD 117.3 mg L⁻¹.

MOSQUITO PRODUCTION AND CONTROL

The abundance of mosquitoes actively seeking blood meals at the treatment wetlands increased annually after beginning operation. Host-seeking mosquito populations were initially small because emergent vegetation was sparse and nutrient loading rates were typically low during the period that vegetation was being established. As emergent vegetation filled in the shallow zones of treatment wetlands and loading rates were increased when the wetlands were incorporated into the treatment train, mosquito abundance increased concomitantly.

At the San Jacinto demonstration wetland, host-seeking mosquito (*Culex* spp.) abundance during early summer increased approximately ten-fold annually to nearly 40,000 trap⁻¹ night⁻¹ by the third year of operation (Figure 2A). Host-seeking mosquito abundance (integrated on an annual basis:

mosquito days) increased 6-fold annually. Mean larval abundance in dip samples during summer 1997 was nearly 10 larvae dip⁻¹ (Walton et al. 1998).

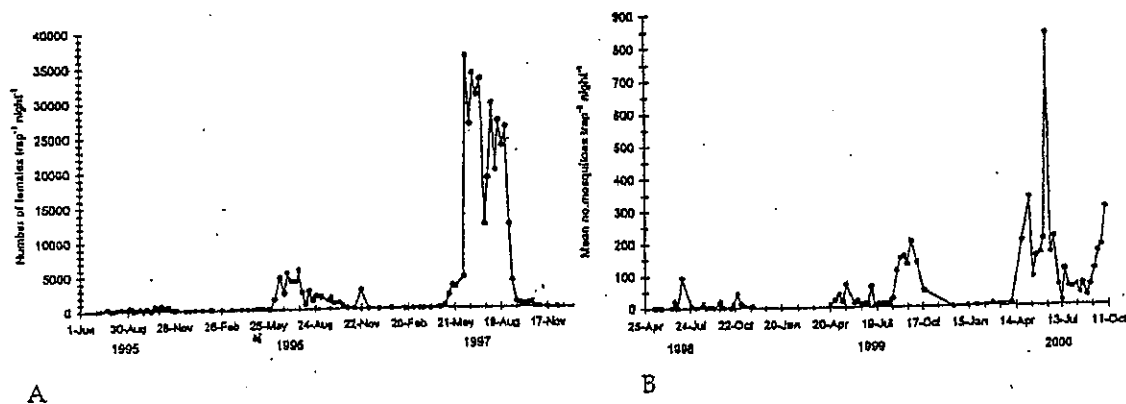


FIGURE 2
ABUNDANCE OF HOST-SEEKING MOSQUITOES COLLECTED BY CARBON DIOXIDE-BAITED SUCTION TRAPS AT THE (A) SAN JACINTO DEMONSTRATION WETLAND 1995-97 AND (B) PRADO WETLANDS 1998-2000 IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Mosquito abatement using bacterial larvicides (2 applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (Bti), 5 applications of *B. sphaericus* (Bs)) and an adulticide (2 applications of Pyrenone®; 6.0% pyrethrins, 60% piperonyl butoxide) was carried out by helicopter between August and mid-November 1997 (Walton et al. 1998). Early afternoon applications combining Bti and Pyrenone did not demonstrably reduce the mosquito populations during mid-August. The first treatment of *B. sphaericus* also appeared to have little effect on the mosquitoes. During late August, adult mosquito emergence across the wetland indicated that mosquito mortality in the inlet marshes was much greater than in the outlet (polishing) marshes (Walton et al. 1998). Because the bacterial larvicides were applied to the entire wetland, this mortality was unlikely to have been caused by the larvicide. Mosquito populations declined almost two orders of magnitude during September due in part to larvicides. In 1998, the wetland was reconfigured to improve water quality performance and reduce mosquito abundance.

At the Prado wetlands, mosquito populations also increased annually (Figure 2B) following damage caused by flooding from El Niño rains during early 1998. Even though the surface area of the Prado wetlands is ~20 times that of the San Jacinto wetland, mosquito abundance was considerably lower at the Prado wetlands (cf. Figure 2A and 2B). The comparatively small host-seeking mosquito population at the Prado wetlands was likely caused by the interaction of several factors such as the comparatively high water quality of the Santa Ana River, low coverage by emergent vegetation, high rates of water flow, mosquito predators occurring naturally within the river, and an excellent working relationship between wetland managers and vector control personnel which promotes immediate attention to potential mosquito problems. The compartmentalization and redundancy built into the wetland system, as well as dikes that can accommodate mosquito control equipment, facilitate environmentally friendly vector control focused on small areas rather than more expensive, basin-wide applications of mosquito control agents. Mosquito production is however greatly enhanced following vegetation management (Keiper and Walton, unpublished data) and by autumnal flooding of seasonal wetlands adjacent to the Prado wetlands. Many *Culex* species readily colonize recently inundated habitats; such habitats are made more attractive to mosquitoes when harvested and dead vegetation is inundated.

Mosquito production at the two Arizona treatment wetlands followed the aforementioned interannual trends. At the Tres Rios wetlands, host-seeking mosquito populations increased appreciably during the second year of operation. By late spring 1997, host-seeking mosquito abundance was > 1400 individuals trap⁻¹ night⁻¹ at several trap sites (CH2M Hill 1999). Between June and August 1997, $> 80,000$ mosquitoes were collected over 12 nights at the three sites within the Tres Rios complex (R. Wass, personal communication). Mosquito abatement measures using mosquito-specific bacterial larvicides were implemented during 1998 and mosquito abundance was reduced but was still high ($> 39,800$ mosquitoes collected over 14 nights from June through August 1998). Source reduction and other mosquito abatement measures outlined in CH2M Hill (1999) were carried out in 1999 and summer host-seeking mosquito collections declined to $< 4,300$ females (R. Wass, personal communication).

Monthly mean host-seeking mosquito abundance (< 100 individuals trap⁻¹ night⁻¹) at the Sweetwater wetlands was low during the period when emergent vegetation was being established and loading rates were low (Figure 3). During late spring 1998, mosquito abundance increased dramatically to > 5500 females trap⁻¹ night⁻¹. Mosquito abatement, primarily using larvicides, began in summer 1998. Monthly mean mosquito abundance was reduced to between 500-2,000 females trap⁻¹ night⁻¹, but arbovirus activity was detected in the vicinity of the wetland during autumn 1998. To reduce mosquito abundance and arbovirus activity, mosquito abatement was begun early in 1999 (Figure 3). A rotation of three larvicides at approximately biweekly intervals was carried out using a remote-controlled helicopter during spring 1999. Two mosquito-specific bacterial larvicides, (Bti and Bs), and an insect growth regulator, methoprene, were used. The rotation of the bacterial agents is a strategy to reduce the rapid evolution of resistance in mosquitoes to the more effective agent in organically enriched waters, *B. sphaericus*. Weekly applications of the bacterial agents were carried out during the summer and autumn. Malathion was applied once in August (Figure 3). Additional adulticiding was carried out weekly and then semiweekly (Figure 3: single- and double-headed arrows, respectively) using the synthetic pyrethroid sumithrin 2+2. Despite mosquito abatement efforts, arboviral activity was detected during the autumn.

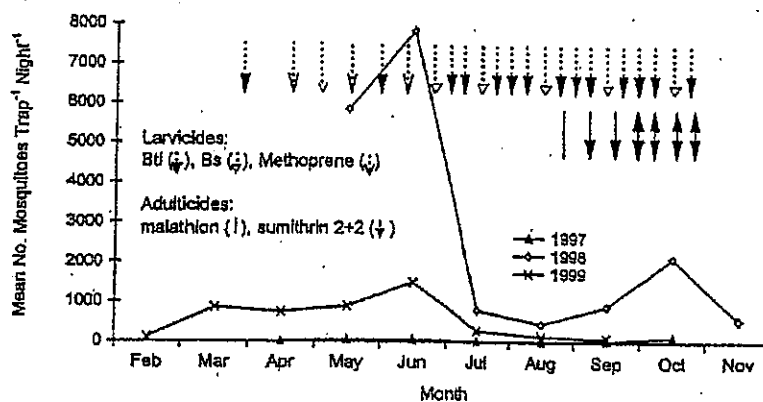


FIGURE 3
HOST-SEEKING MOSQUITO ABUNDANCE AT THE SWEETWATER WETLANDS, TUCSON ARIZONA DURING 1997-1999 AND MOSQUITO ABATEMENT CARRIED OUT DURING 1999. MOSQUITO ABUNDANCE WAS BASED ON FEMALE MOSQUITOES COLLECTED BY CARBON DIOXIDE-BAITED SUCTION TRAPS

DISPERSAL OF MOSQUITOES

Adult mosquitoes produced at a wetland can disperse in significant numbers several kilometers into the surrounding region. Mosquitoes differ appreciably in their dispersal tendencies; some container-breeding mosquitoes move < 200 meters from larval development sites whereas other mosquitoes associated with wetlands often disperse en masse tens of kilometers in search of hosts (Service 1993).

Two species commonly found at treatment wetlands in the southwestern U.S. show either strong developmental site fidelity (the tule mosquito, *Culex erythrothorax*) or a tendency to disperse (nearly 1-2 km night⁻¹; the western encephalitis mosquito, *Culex tarsalis*). More than 50% of blood-engorged *C. erythrothorax* females collected at the San Jacinto wetland contained cattle blood indicating that the mosquitoes had fed on hosts in the surrounding region and returned to the wetland to develop eggs (Walton et al. 1999). Mark-release-recapture studies (Walton et al. 1999) found that > 99% of *C. erythrothorax* were collected within 0.5 km of the wetland. The distributions of unmarked and marked individuals in a 23 km² region of the San Jacinto Valley were similar and showed a distinct concentration at the wetland (Figure 4A).

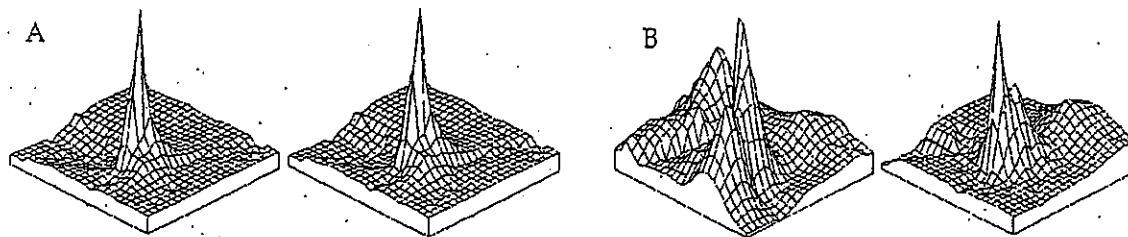


FIGURE 4
SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF HOST-SEEKING (A) *CULEX ERYTHROTHORAX* AND (B) *CULEX TARSALIS* IN A 23 KM² AREA OF THE SAN JACINTO VALLEY DURING SEPTEMBER 13-15, 1995. THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF ALL INDIVIDUALS COLLECTED IN 26 CARBON DIOXIDE-BAITED SUCTION TRAPS IS SHOWN IN THE LEFT PANEL AND THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF RECAPTURED INDIVIDUALS RELEASED AT THE SAN JACINTO DEMONSTRATION WETLAND (LOCATED AT THE CENTRAL PEAK IN ALL DIAGRAMS) IS SHOWN IN THE RIGHT PANEL FOR EACH MOSQUITO SPECIES

In contrast to the spatial distribution of *C. erythrothorax*, the spatial distribution of *C. tarsalis*, the predominant vector of arboviruses in the region, indicated that this species disperses widely (i.e., to the edge of the trapping grid in a single night) and occurs at three additional sites in the valley (Figure 4B). Whereas, the central peak in the *C. tarsalis* distribution is indicative of host-seeking females collected at the demonstration wetland in September 1995, as the number of host-seeking mosquitoes increased nearly two orders of magnitude during the next two years (Figure 1A) it is readily evident that the wetland would be the primary source of western encephalitis mosquitoes in region.

COST OF MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

Cost-benefit analyses for constructed treatment wetlands (Kadlec and Knight 1996) do not include the costs associated with mosquito abatement. If mosquito abatement must be carried out by helicopter, or remote-controlled helicopter, costs increase markedly. Dense emergent vegetation creates penetration problems for aerial and water-based applications of standard mosquito control agent formulations because larvicides will remain on the vegetation or vagaries in flow through vegetation often result in insufficient doses of mosquito control agents contacting or being ingested by mosquito larvae.

Annual costs for application of mosquito control agents to constructed treatment wetlands containing dense emergent vegetation ranged between \$5,250 and \$6,665 ha⁻¹ (Table 1). Despite these expenditures and comparatively reduced adult mosquito populations, pathogen transmission and disease outbreaks are still possible. Source reduction (i.e., harvesting emergent vegetation) can be effective, but is expensive (e.g., ~ \$100,000 for 9 ha) and may be contraindicated for water quality improvement.

TABLE 1
COSTS OF MOSQUITO ABATEMENT FOR THREE CONSTRUCTED TREATMENT WETLANDS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES

Demonstration Wetland San Jacinto, CA (1997)		Tres Rios Wetlands Phoenix, AZ (1998)		Sweetwater Wetlands Tucson, AZ (1999)	
Larvicides	\$13,664	Larvicides	\$ 6,538	Larvicides	\$18,500
Adulticides	\$ 406	Application	\$ 4,500	Adulticiding	\$ 2,000
Helicopter	\$12,000			Helicopter	\$27,700
Total (~½ yr)	\$26,070	(~½ yr)	\$11,038		\$48,200
Cost ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	\$ 5,266		\$ 5,250		\$ 6,665

CONCLUSIONS

Multipurpose constructed treatment wetlands offer many potential benefits; however, production of pestiferous and pathogen-transmitting mosquitoes is one drawback. Mosquito production typically increases as water quality declines and coverage by inundated vegetation increases. Problems related to mosquito production can be acute in the arid southwestern U.S. where rapid human development, a susceptible populace unaccustomed to the presence of mosquitoes, endemic activity of arboviruses, and the presence of competent mosquito vectors of the causative agents of human diseases combine to create public health concerns. Mosquito activity is not restricted to the area circumscribed by a wetland; large-scale land use patterns should be given greater attention. Long-term planning for maintenance and mosquito abatement have been discussed in detail elsewhere (CH2M Hill 1999, Russell 1999, Knight et al. 2001) and need to be incorporated into designs and operations for multipurpose constructed treatment wetlands in order to minimize mosquito production and maximize the benefits of this important technology.

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Senate Bill No. 1588

CHAPTER 395

An act to amend Sections 25842.5, 53750, 53961, and 56036 of, and to repeal Article 4 (commencing with Section 25850) of Chapter 8 of Division 2 of Title 3 of, the Government Code, to amend Sections 101285 and 106925 of, to add Section 11611 to, to add Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 2000) to, and to repeal Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2200) of Division 3 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to pest abatement.

[Approved by Governor September 5, 2002. Filed with Secretary of State September 6, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1588, Committee on Local Government. Mosquito abatement; pest abatement; vector control districts.

Existing law contains provisions relating to the establishment of mosquito abatement and vector control districts, including the formation of a district, the selection of a district governing board, and the powers and duties of the board. Existing law requires the State Department of Health Services to certify government agency employees who handle, apply, or supervise the use of pesticides for public health purposes as vector control technicians, and to establish continuing education requirements for these employees.

This bill would repeal these provisions, and would enact the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law which would specify the procedures for district formation, procedures for the selection of the district board of trustees and officers, and the powers and duties of the board. The bill would also make other conforming changes.

The bill would require the State Department of Health Services to charge and collect nonrefundable examination fees for providing examinations to certify government agency employees as vector control technicians.

This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 53750 of the Government Code proposed by SB 1961, to be operative if SB 1961 and this bill are both enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2003, and this bill is enacted last.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 25842.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

25842.5. (a) The board of supervisors may provide the same services and exercise the powers of mosquito abatement districts or vector control districts formed pursuant to the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law, Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 2000) of Division 3 of the Health and Safety Code, within both the unincorporated and incorporated territory of the county.

(b) Before exercising that authority within incorporated territory, the consent of the city council shall first be obtained. Before exercising the authority granted pursuant to this section, the board of supervisors shall hold a public hearing on the proposal. Notice of the hearing shall be given pursuant to Section 6061 in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

SEC. 2. Article 4 (commencing with Section 25850) of Chapter 8 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code is repealed.

SEC. 3. Section 53750 of the Government Code is amended to read: 53750. For purposes of Article XIII C and Article XIII D of the California Constitution and this article:

(a) "Agency" means any local government as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIII C of the California Constitution.

(b) "Assessment" means any levy or charge by an agency upon real property that is based upon the special benefit conferred upon the real property by a public improvement or service, that is imposed to pay the capital cost of the public improvement, the maintenance and operation expenses of the public improvement, or the cost of the service being provided. "Assessment" includes, but is not limited to, "special assessment," "benefit assessment," "maintenance assessment," and "special assessment tax."

(c) "District" means an area that is determined by an agency to contain all of the parcels that will receive a special benefit from a proposed public improvement or service.

(d) "Drainage system" means any system of public improvements that is intended to provide for erosion control, landslide abatement, or for other types of water drainage.

(e) "Extended," when applied to an existing tax or fee or charge, means a decision by an agency to extend the stated effective period for the tax or fee or charge, including, but not limited to, amendment or removal of a sunset provision or expiration date.

(f) "Flood control" means any system of public improvements that is intended to protect property from overflow by water.

property upon which a proposed property-related fee or charge is proposed to be imposed.

(i) (1) "Increased," when applied to a tax, assessment, or property-related fee or charge, means a decision by an agency that does either of the following:

(A) Increases any applicable rate used to calculate the tax, assessment, fee or charge.

(B) Revises the methodology by which the tax, assessment, fee or charge is calculated, if that revision results in an increased amount being levied on any person or parcel.

(2) A tax, fee, or charge is not deemed to be "increased" by an agency action that does either or both of the following:

(A) Adjusts the amount of a tax or fee or charge in accordance with a schedule of adjustments, including a clearly defined formula for inflation adjustment that was adopted by the agency prior to November 6, 1996.

(B) Implements or collects a previously approved tax, or fee or charge, so long as the rate is not increased beyond the level previously approved by the agency, and the methodology previously approved by the agency is not revised so as to result in an increase in the amount being levied on any person or parcel.

(3) A tax, assessment, fee or charge is not deemed to be "increased" in the case in which the actual payments from a person or property are higher than would have resulted when the agency approved the tax, assessment, or fee or charge, if those higher payments are attributable to events other than an increased rate or revised methodology, such as a change in the density, intensity, or nature of the use of land.

(i) "Notice by mail" means any notice required by Article XIII C or XIII D of the California Constitution that is accomplished through a mailing, postage prepaid, deposited in the United States Postal Service, and is deemed given when so deposited. Notice by mail may be included in any other mailing to the record owner that otherwise complies with Article XIII C or XIII D of the California Constitution and this article, including, but not limited to, the mailing of a bill for the collection of an assessment or a property-related fee or charge.

(k) "Record owner" means the owner of a parcel whose name and address appears on the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll, or in the case of any public entity, the State of California, or the United States, means the representative of that public entity at the address of that entity known to the agency.

(l) "Registered professional engineer" means an engineer registered pursuant to the Professional Engineers Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code).

(m) "Vector control" means any system of public improvements or services that is intended to provide for the surveillance, prevention, abatement, and control of vectors as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 2002 of the Health and Safety Code and a pest as defined in Section 5006 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

(n) "Water" means any system of public improvements intended to provide for the production, storage, supply, treatment, or distribution of water.

SEC. 4. Section 53961 of the Government Code is amended to read: 53961. The governing board of a public cemetery district organized pursuant to the public cemetery district laws in Part 4 (commencing with Section 8890) of Division 8 of the Health and Safety Code or the governing board of a mosquito abatement district or a vector control district organized pursuant to the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law, Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 2000) of Division 8 of the Health and Safety Code, may by resolution provide for the establishment of a revolving fund in an amount not to exceed 110 percent of one-twelfth of the district's adopted budget for that fiscal year. This fund, which shall replace the fund authorized in Section 53952, may be used to pay any authorized expenditures of the district. The resolution that established the district revolving fund shall conform with the designations required in Section 53952.

SEC. 5. Section 56036 of the Government Code is amended to read: 56036. (a) "District" or "special district" means an agency of the state, formed pursuant to general law or special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries. "District" or "special district" includes a county service area, but excludes all of the following:

- (1) The state.
- (2) A county.
- (3) A city.
- (4) A school district or a community college district.
- (5) A special assessment district.
- (6) An improvement district.
- (7) A community facilities district formed pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 53311) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5.
- (8) A permanent road division formed pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 1160) of Chapter 4 of Division 2 of the Streets and Highways Code.
- (9) An air pollution control district or an air quality maintenance district.

procedures provided by this chapter to meet the diversity of their own local circumstances and responsibilities.

2002. As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Abate" means to put an end to a public nuisance, or to reduce the degree or the intensity of a public nuisance.
- (b) "Board of trustees" means the legislative body of a district.
- (c) "City" means, any city, whether general law or chartered, including a city and county, and including any city the name of which includes the word "town."
- (d) "Control" means to prevent or reduce vectors.
- (e) "Department" means the State Department of Health Services.
- (f) "District" means any mosquito abatement and vector control district created pursuant to this chapter or any of its statutory predecessors.
- (g) "Principal county" means the county having all or the greater portion of the entire assessed value, as shown on the last equalized assessment roll of the county or counties, of all taxable property within a district at the time of formation.
- (h) "Property" means land and improvements, and includes water.
- (i) "Public agency" means any state agency, board, or commission, including the California State University and the University of California, any county, city and county, city, regional agency, school district, special district, redevelopment agency, or other political subdivision.
- (j) "Public nuisance" means any of the following:
 - (1) Any property, excluding water, that has been artificially altered from its natural condition so that it now supports the development, attraction, or harborage of vectors. The presence of vectors in their developmental stages on a property is prima facie evidence that the property is a public nuisance.
 - (2) Any water that is a breeding place for vectors. The presence of vectors in their developmental stages in the water is prima facie evidence that the water is a public nuisance.
 - (3) Any activity that supports the development, attraction, or harborage of vectors, or that facilitates the introduction or spread of vectors.
- (k) "Vector" means any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, and rodents and other vertebrates.
- (l) "Voter" means a voter as defined by Section 359 of the Elections Code.

2003. (a) This chapter provides the authority for the organization and powers of mosquito abatement and vector control districts. This chapter succeeds the former Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2200) as added by Chapter 60 of the Statutes of 1939, as subsequently amended, and any of its statutory predecessors.

(b) Any mosquito abatement and vector control district formed pursuant to the former Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2200) or any of its statutory predecessors that was in existence on January 1, 2003, shall remain in existence as if it had been organized pursuant to this chapter. Any zone of a mosquito abatement and vector control district formed pursuant to former Section 2291 to former Section 2291.4, inclusive, and any of their statutory predecessors that was in existence on January 1, 2003, shall remain in existence as if it had been formed pursuant to this chapter.

(c) Any indebtedness, special tax, benefit assessment, fee, election, ordinance, resolution, regulation, rule, or any other action of a district taken pursuant to the former Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2200) or any of its statutory predecessors that was taken before January 1, 2003, shall not be voided solely because of any error, omission, informality, misnomer, or failure to comply strictly with this chapter.

2004. This chapter is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

2005. If any provision of this chapter or the application of any provision of this chapter in any circumstance or to any person, city, county, special district, school district, the state, or any agency or subdivision of the state, including the California State University and the University of California, is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application of the invalid provision, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

2006. (a) Any action to determine the validity of either the organization, or any action, of a district shall be brought pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 860) of Title 10 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(b) Any judicial review of an action taken pursuant to this chapter shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1084) of Title 1 of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

2007. (a) Except as provided in this section, territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated, whether contiguous or noncontiguous, may be included in a district. Territory that is already within a mosquito abatement and vector control district formed pursuant to this chapter may not be included within another mosquito abatement and vector control district.

(b) If the local agency formation commission approves the proposal for the formation of a district, then, notwithstanding Section 57007 of the Government Code, the commission shall proceed pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 57000) of Division 3 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 57075 of the Government Code, the local agency formation commission shall take one of the following actions:

(1) If a majority protest exists in accordance with Section 57078 of the Government Code, the commission shall terminate proceedings.

(2) If no majority protest exists, the commission shall either:

(A) Order the formation without an election.

(B) Order the formation subject to the approval by the voters of a special tax or the approval by the property owners of a special benefit assessment.

(d) If the local agency formation commission orders the formation of a district pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c), the commission shall direct the board of supervisors to direct county officials to conduct the necessary elections on behalf of the proposed district.

Article 3. Boards of Trustees and Officers

2020. A legislative body of at least five members known as the board of trustees shall govern every district. The board of trustees shall establish policies for the operation of the district. The board of trustees shall provide for the faithful implementation of those policies which is the responsibility of the employees of the district.

2021. Within 30 days after the effective date of the formation of a district, a board of trustees shall be appointed as follows:

(a) In the case of a district that contains only unincorporated territory in a single county, the board of supervisors shall appoint five persons to the board of trustees.

(b) In the case of a district that is located entirely within a single county and contains both incorporated territory and unincorporated territory, the board of supervisors may appoint one person to the board of trustees, and the city council of each city that is located in whole or in part within the district may appoint one person to the board of trustees. If those appointments result in a board of trustees with less than five trustees, the board of supervisors shall appoint enough additional persons to make a board of trustees of five members.

(c) In the case of a district that contains only unincorporated territory in more than one county, the board of supervisors of each county may

appoint one person to the board of trustees. If those appointments result in a board of trustees with less than five persons, the board of supervisors of the principal county shall appoint enough additional persons to make a board of trustees of five members.

(d) In the case of a district that is located in two or more counties and contains both incorporated territory and unincorporated territory, the board of supervisors of each county may appoint one person to the board of trustees, and the city council of each city that is located in whole or in part within the district may appoint one person to the board of trustees. If those appointments result in less than five persons, the board of supervisors of the principal county shall appoint enough additional persons to make a board of trustees of five members.

2022. (a) Each person appointed by a board of supervisors to be a member of a board of trustees shall be a voter in that county and a resident of that portion of the county that is within the district.

(b) Each person appointed by a city council to be a member of a board of trustees shall be a voter in that city and a resident of that portion of the city that is within the district.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law including the common law doctrine that precludes the simultaneous holding of incompatible offices, a member of a city council may be appointed and may serve as a member of a board of trustees if that person also meets the other applicable qualifications of this chapter.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature that persons appointed to boards of trustees have experience, training, and education in fields that will assist in the governance of the districts.

(e) All trustees shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interests of the residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes and intent of this chapter. The trustees shall represent the interests of the public as a whole and not solely the interests of the board of supervisors or the city council that appointed them.

2023. (a) The initial board of trustees of a district formed on or after January 1, 2003, shall be determined pursuant to this section.

(b) The persons appointed to the initial board of trustees shall meet on the first Monday after 45 days after the effective date of the formation of the district.

(c) At the first meeting of the initial board of trustees, the trustees shall classify themselves by lot into two classes, as nearly equal as possible. The term of office of the class having the greater number shall expire at noon on the first Monday in January that is closest to the second year from the appointments made pursuant to Section 2021. The term of office of the class having the lesser number shall expire at noon on the

sum not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per month for expenses incurred while on official business. A trustee may waive the payments permitted by this subdivision.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the secretary of the board of trustees may receive compensation in an amount determined by the board of trustees.

Article 4. Powers

2040. Within the district's boundaries or in territory that is located outside the district from which vectors and vectorborne diseases may enter the district, a district may do all of the following:

- (a) Conduct surveillance programs and other appropriate studies of vectors and vectorborne diseases.
- (b) Take any and all necessary or proper actions to prevent the occurrence of vectors and vectorborne diseases.
- (c) Take any and all necessary or proper actions to abate or control vectors and vectorborne diseases.
- (d) Take any and all actions necessary for or incidental to the powers granted by this chapter.

2041. A district shall have and may exercise all rights and powers, expressed or implied, necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter, including, but not limited to, all of the following powers:

- (a) To sue and be sued.
- (b) To acquire by purchase, eminent domain, or other lawful means, any real property within the district or any personal property that may be necessary or proper to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter.
- (c) To sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property. Every sale of property shall be to the highest bidder. The board shall publish notice of the sale pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code. A board of trustees may exchange equivalent properties if the board determines that the exchange is in the best interests of the district.
- (d) To donate any surplus real or personal property to any public agency or nonprofit organization.
- (e) To purchase the supplies and materials, employ the personnel, and contract for the services that may be necessary or proper to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter.
- (f) To build, repair, and maintain on any land the dikes, levees, cuts, canals, or ditches that may be necessary or proper to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter.

(g) To contract to indemnify or compensate any property owner for any injury or damage necessarily caused by the use or taking of real or personal property for dikes, levees, cuts, canals, or ditches.

(h) To engage necessary personnel, to define their qualifications and duties, and to provide a schedule of compensation for the performance of their duties.

(i) To engage counsel and other professional services.

(j) To adopt a seal and alter it at pleasure.

(k) To provide insurance pursuant to Part 6 (commencing with Section 989) of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

(l) To participate in, review, comment, and make recommendations regarding local, state, or federal land use planning and environmental quality processes, documents, permits, licenses, and entitlements for projects and their potential effects on the purposes and intent of this chapter.

(m) To take any and all actions necessary for, or incidental to, the powers expressed or implied by this chapter.

2042. When acquiring, improving, or using any real property, a district shall comply with Article 5 (commencing with Section 53090) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5, and Article 7 (commencing with Section 65400) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code.

2043. (a) A district shall have perpetual succession.

(b) A board of trustees may, by a two-thirds vote of its total membership, adopt a resolution to change the name of the district. The name shall contain the words "mosquito abatement district," "vector control district," "mosquito and vector control district," "mosquito control district," or "vector management district." The resolution shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 23 (commencing with Section 7530) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code. Within 10 days of its adoption, the board of trustees shall file a copy of its resolution with the Secretary of State, the county clerk, the board of supervisors, and the local agency formation commission of each county in which the district is located.

(c) Unless another provision of law requires a longer retention period, a district may destroy or otherwise dispose of any paper or electronic document filed with, or submitted to, the district after one year unless the board of trustees determines that there is a need for its retention. In determining whether there is a need for retaining a document, the board of trustees shall consider future public need, the effect on statutes of limitation, and historical significance.

2044. (a) A district may cooperate with any public agency or federal agency to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter. To that

either within the district or property that is located outside the district from which vectors may enter the district, without hindrance or notice for any of the following purposes:

- (1) Inspect the property to determine the presence of vectors or public nuisances.
- (2) Abate public nuisances pursuant to this chapter, either directly or by giving notice to the property owner to abate the public nuisance.
- (3) Determine if a notice to abate a public nuisance has been complied with.
- (4) Control vectors and treat property with appropriate physical, chemical, or biological control measures.

2054. Whenever the boundaries of a district or a zone change, or whenever the board of trustees levies a special tax or a special benefit assessment, the district shall comply with Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 54900) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

2055. (a) In any dispute between a district and another public agency over the need to prevent, abate, or control, or the methods and materials used to prevent, abate, or control vectors or vectorborne diseases, the district or the other public agency may appeal the decision to the director of the department within 10 days of the decision.

(b) Within 30 days of receiving an appeal pursuant to subdivision (a), the director of the department shall consult with the affected agencies, take written and oral testimony, decide the appeal, and convey the decision to the affected agencies. The director's decision shall be consistent with the purposes of this chapter. The decision of the director of the department shall be final and conclusive.

Article 5. Abatement

2060. (a) A district may abate a public nuisance pursuant to this article.

(b) The person or agency claiming ownership, title, or right to property or who controls the diversion, delivery, conveyance, or flow of water shall be responsible for the abatement of a public nuisance that is caused by, or as a result of, that property or the diversion, delivery, conveyance, or control of that water.

2061. (a) Whenever a public nuisance exists on any property within a district or on any property that is located outside the district from which vectors may enter the district, the board of trustees may notify the owner of the property of the existence of the public nuisance.

(b) The notice required by subdivision (a) shall do all of the following:

(1) State that a public nuisance exists on the property, describe the public nuisance, and describe the location of the public nuisance on the property.

(2) Direct the owner of the property to abate the nuisance within a specified time.

(3) Direct the owner of the property to take any necessary action within a specified time to prevent the recurrence of the public nuisance.

(4) Inform the owner of the property that the failure to comply with the requirements of the notice within the specified times may result in the district taking the necessary actions, and that the owner shall be liable for paying the costs of the district's actions.

(5) Inform the owner of the property that the failure to comply with the requirements of the notice within the specified times may result in the imposition of civil penalties of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that the public nuisance continues after the specified times.

(6) Inform the owner of the property that before complying with the requirements of the notice, the owner may appear at a hearing of the board of trustees at a time and place stated in the notice.

(c) The board of trustees shall cause this notice required by subdivision (a) to be served on the owner of the property in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. If, after a diligent search, the notice cannot be served on the owner of the property, the board of trustees shall cause the notice to be posted in a conspicuous place on the property for not less than 10 days before the hearing. Not less than 10 days before the hearing, the board of trustees shall also cause a copy of the notice to be mailed by certified mail to the owner of the property at the address shown on the most recent assessment roll of the county in which the property is located.

(d) At the hearing before the board of trustees at the time and place stated in the notice, the board of trustees shall accept written and oral testimony from the property owner and other persons. At the close of the hearing, the board of trustees shall find, based on substantial evidence in the record, whether a public nuisance exists on the property. If the board of trustees finds that a public nuisance exists, the board of trustees shall order the owner of the property to abate the public nuisance and to take other necessary actions to prevent the recurrence of the public nuisance. The board of trustees shall specify a reasonable time by which the owner of the property shall comply with these requirements.

(e) If the owner of the property does not abate the public nuisance and take the necessary actions to prevent the recurrence of the public nuisance within the time specified by the board of trustees, the district may abate the public nuisance and take the necessary actions to prevent

Article 6. Finances

2070. (a) On or before August 1 of each year, the board of trustees shall adopt a final budget, which shall conform to the accounting and budgeting procedures for special districts contained in Subchapter 3 (commencing with Section 1031.1) of, and Article 1 (commencing with Section 1121) of Subchapter 4 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. The board of trustees may divide the annual budget into categories, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Maintenance and operation.
- (2) Employee compensation.
- (3) Capital outlay.
- (4) Interest and redemption for indebtedness.
- (5) Restricted reserve for public health emergencies.
- (6) Restricted reserve for capital and asset preservation.
- (7) Restricted reserve for contingencies.
- (8) Unallocated general reserve.

(b) The board of trustees shall forward a copy of the final budget to the auditor of each county in which the district is located.

2071. (a) In its annual budget, the board of trustees may establish one or more restricted reserves. When the board of trustees establishes a restricted reserve, it shall declare the exclusive purposes for which the funds in the reserve may be spent. The funds in the restricted reserve shall be spent only for the exclusive purposes for which the board of trustees established the restricted reserve. The reserves shall be maintained according to generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) Any time after the establishment of a restricted reserve, the board of trustees may transfer any funds to that restricted reserve.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in a public health emergency, a board of trustees may, by majority vote of the total membership of the board of trustees, temporarily transfer funds from other restricted reserves to the restricted reserve for public health emergencies.

(d) If the board of trustees finds that the funds in a restricted reserve are no longer required for the purpose for which the restricted reserve was established, the board of trustees may, by a four-fifths vote of the total membership of the board of trustees, discontinue the restricted reserve or transfer the funds that are no longer required from the restricted reserve to the district's general fund.

2072. (a) On or before July 1 of each year, the board of trustees shall adopt a resolution establishing its appropriations limit and make other necessary determinations for the following fiscal year pursuant to

Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Division 9 (commencing with Section 7900) of the Government Code.

(b) Pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 9 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, this section shall not apply to a district which existed on January 1, 1978, and that did not as of the 1977-78 fiscal year levy an ad valorem tax on property in excess of twelve and one-half cents (\$0.125) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed value.

2073. The auditor of each county in which a district is located shall allocate to the district its share of property tax revenue pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 95) of Part 0.5 of Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

2074. (a) A district may accept any revenue, money, grants, goods, or services from any federal, state, regional, or local agency or from any person for any lawful purpose of the district.

(b) In addition to any other existing authority, a district may borrow money and incur indebtedness pursuant to Article 7 (commencing with Section 53820), Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 53840), Article 7.6 (commencing with Section 53850), and Article 7.7 (commencing with Section 53859) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

2075. All claims for money or damages against a district are governed by Part 3 (commencing with Section 900) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 940) of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

2076. (a) All claims against a district shall be audited, allowed, and paid by the board of trustees by warrants drawn on the county treasurers.

(b) As an alternative to subdivision (a), the board of trustees may instruct the county treasurer to audit, allow, and draw his or her warrant on the county treasury for all legal claims presented to him or her and authorized by the board of trustees.

(c) The county treasurer shall pay the warrants in the order in which they are presented.

(d) If a warrant is presented for payment and the county treasurer cannot pay it for want of funds in the account on which it is drawn, the treasurer shall endorse the warrant, "NOT PAID BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS" and sign his or her name and the date and time the warrant was presented. From that time until it is paid, the warrant bears interest at the maximum rate permitted pursuant to Article 7 (commencing with Section 53530) of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

2077. (a) Notwithstanding Section 2076, a district that has total annual revenues greater than two hundred fifty thousand dollars

(c) After adopting its resolution pursuant to subdivision (b), the board of trustees shall proceed pursuant to Section 53753 of the Government Code.

(d) The special benefit assessments levied pursuant to this section shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as county taxes. The county may deduct an amount not to exceed its actual costs incurred for collecting the special benefit assessments before remitting the balance to the district. The special benefit assessments shall be a lien on all the property benefited. Liens for the assessments shall be of the same force and effect as liens for property taxes, and their collection may be enforced by the same means as provided for the enforcement of liens for county taxes.

2083. A district may levy special benefit assessments consistent with the requirements of Article XIII D of the California Constitution to finance capital improvements, including, but not limited to, special benefit assessments levied pursuant to:

- (a) The Improvement Act of 1911, Division 7 (commencing with Section 5000) of the Streets and Highways Code.
- (b) The Improvement Bond Act of 1915, Division 10 (commencing with Section 8500) of the Streets and Highways Code.
- (c) The Municipal Improvement Act of 1913, Division 12 (commencing with Section 10000) of the Streets and Highways Code.
- (d) Any other statutory authorization enacted in the future.

2084. Pursuant to Section 5 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution and Section 53753.5 of the Government Code, any assessment existing on November 6, 1996, that was imposed exclusively to finance the capital costs or maintenance and operation expenses for vector control shall be exempt from the procedures and approval process set forth in Section 4 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution and Section 2082. Subsequent increases in those assessments shall be subject to the procedures and approval process set forth in Section 4 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution and Section 2082.

2085. (a) A board of trustees may charge a fee to cover the cost of any service that the district provides or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee is charged. No fee shall exceed the costs reasonably borne by the district in providing the service or enforcing the regulation for which the fee is charged.

(b) Before imposing or increasing any fee for property-related services, a board of trustees shall follow the procedures in Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 6103 of the Government Code, a board of trustees may charge a fee authorized by this section to other public agencies.

(d) A board of trustees may charge residents or taxpayers of the district a fee authorized by this section which is less than the fee that it charges to nonresidents or nontaxpayers of the district.

(e) A board of trustees may authorize district employees to waive the payment, in whole or in part, of a fee authorized by this section when the board of trustees determines that the payment would not be in the public interest. Before authorizing any waiver, a board of trustees shall adopt a resolution that specifies the policies and procedures governing waivers.

Article 8. Zones

2090. (a) Whenever a board of trustees determines that it is in the public interest to provide different services, to provide different levels of service, or to raise additional revenue within specific areas of the district, it may form one or more zones pursuant to this article.

(b) The board of trustees shall initiate proceedings for the formation of a new zone by adopting a resolution that does all of the following:

- (1) States that the proposal is made pursuant to this article.
- (2) Sets forth a description of the boundaries of the territory to be included in the zone.
- (3) States the different services, the different levels of service, or additional revenues which the zone will provide.
- (4) Sets forth the methods by which those services or levels of service will be financed.

(5) States the reasons for forming the zone.

(6) Proposes a name or number for the zone.

(c) A proposal to form a new zone may also be initiated by a petition signed by not less than 10 percent of the registered voters residing within the proposed zone. The petition shall contain all of the matters required by subdivision (b).

(d) Upon the adoption of a resolution or the receipt of a valid petition, the board of trustees shall fix the date, time, and place for the public hearing on the formation of the zone. The board of trustees shall publish notice of the hearing, including the information required by subdivision (b), pursuant to Section 6061 of the Government Code in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the district. The board of trustees shall mail the notice at least 45 days before the date of the hearing to all owners of property within the proposed zone. The board of trustees shall post the notice in at least three public places within the territory of the proposed zone.

2091. (a) At the hearing, the board of trustees shall hear and consider any protests to the formation of a zone pursuant to this article.

The fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the examinations, as determined by the director.

(g) The department shall collect and account for all money received pursuant to this section and shall deposit it in the Mosquito-borne Disease Surveillance Account provided for in Section 25852 of the Government Code. Notwithstanding Section 25852 of the Government Code, fees deposited in the Mosquito-borne Disease Surveillance Account pursuant to this section shall be available for expenditure upon appropriation by the Legislature to implement this section.

(h) Fees collected pursuant to this section shall be subject to the annual fee increase provisions of Section 100425.

(i) Employees of the Department of Food and Agriculture and county agriculture departments holding, or working under the supervision of an employee holding, a valid Qualified Applicator Certificate in Health Related Pest Control issued by the licensing and certification program of the Department of Food and Agriculture shall be exempt from this section.

SEC. 10. Section 116111 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

116111. The department may provide any necessary and proper assistance and support to the vector control programs of counties, cities, and counties, mosquito abatement and vector control districts, and pest abatement districts.

SEC. 11. This act is based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Revising the Mosquito Abatement District Law convened by the Senate Committee on Local Government.

SEC. 12. Section 3.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 53750 of the Government Code proposed by both this bill and SB 1961. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2003, (2) each bill amends Section 53750 of the Government Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after SB 1961, in which case Section 3 of this bill shall not become operative.

Tallamraju, Rama

Subject: FW: Draft EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan

-----Original Message-----

From: Minoo Madon [mailto:mmadon@glacvcd.org]
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2003 2:37 PM
To: Moreno, Martin
Cc: kmiddleton@sgvmosquito.org
Subject: Draft EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan

The abovementioned Draft has not adequately addressed potential nuisance mosquito and/or mosquito-borne diseases associated with the creation of wetlands or restoring river systems to their "pristine" condition, as they may have existed originally. "Health and safety" has been casually mentioned on page 3, in the section "Potentially significant Environmental Effects". In the section entitled Project Description, the first bulleted item ought to include: "...enhance habitat systems by maintaining them mosquito-free and protecting public from nuisance and disease transmitting mosquitoes ..." The last bulleted item in the same section should include: "...through the integration with recreation, open space, and long-term maintenance for aquatic vegetation management in habitat systems." Item 5 (page 3) of the same section regarding "Bio-Engineered Wetlands" should include: - stormwater-fed wetland areas that will be maintained as mosquito-free habitats;"

Saint Louis encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease is endemic in Los Angeles County, which experienced 28 confirmed human cases in 1984. With the anticipation of West Nile virus in California, we recommend that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy take into serious consideration (as we have on several occasions stated in the public/agency comments at previous meetings in 2001 and 2002), proposing projects that will not result in mosquito production.

Thank you.

Minoo B. Madon, Sci.-Tech. Svcs. Dir.
Greater Los Angeles Co. Vector Control Dist.
Ph.# (562) 944-9656.

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

13001 GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA 92843
PHONE: (714) 971-2421

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FAX: (714) 971-3940
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COUNTY OF ORANGE
R. PAUL WEBB
DISTRICT MANAGER
DR. ROBERT D. SJOGREN

May 6, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

On behalf of the Orange County Vector Control District, I would like to express the District's concerns with the San Gabriel River Master Plan CEQA regarding Bio-Engineered Wetlands. The installation of improperly designed and maintained engineered wetlands will support the production of indigenous mosquitoes that have been associated with the transmission of mosquito-borne encephalitis viruses to humans and susceptible wildlife. This outcome will be enhanced with the inevitable arrival and establishment of the West Nile Virus.

The prime requisite for mosquito breeding is the establishment of a vegetation profile consisting of excessive growths of cattails, shoreline weeds, and grasses that "choke" the water surface and negate essential water circulation. These conditions represent environmentally optimal conditions for mosquito immatures (e.g., larvae and pupae) to establish and flourish. At the same time, conventional mosquito abatement practices of either applying environmentally safe "biorational" larvicides or planting mosquito fish are rendered ineffective.

The District has collaborated with the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) in Orange County to assist with the development of model wetlands via a design application that reduces significantly mosquito breeding and local public health concerns. I would recommend that LA County Watershed review the IRWD draft EIR for the stormwater project proposed for the San Diego Creek/San Joaquin Marsh.

If you have any questions or require further information, I can be reached at (714) 971-2421, ext. 141. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Meyer".

Richard P. Meyer
Assistant Manager

RPM/vb



Hanson Aggregates
Los Angeles
Sales / Administration
13550 Live Oak Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706-7804
Tel 626-856-6700
Fax 626-962-4420

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
(Watershed Division)
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT IN COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE 14, (CEQA GUIDELINES) SECTIONS 15082 (a),
15103, AND 15375 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Dear Mr. Moreno

We have received a copy of Notice of Preparation of a Draft Progress Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan, and this letter represents our response to that Notice. We understand that the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works will be the lead agency under CEQA for the production of the draft Program EIR.

Since property owned by and operated as a sand and gravel mining resource by Hanson Aggregates West along the San Gabriel River in the city of Irwindale will be under discussion as the San Gabriel River Master Plan is completed for presentation the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for adoption in early 2004, we wish to have an active role in upcoming completion of the draft PEIR.

We have, in fact, been participating in the work of the San Gabriel River Master Plan Steering Committee, through our consultant, Jane Bray, since that committee's inception in 1999, and thus we are well aware of the progress that committee has made to date.

It is our view that the recent creation of a Joint Powers Authority between the County's Department of Public Works and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy can be helpful in choosing and bringing about projects that will be of benefit not only to the cities and communities near the river, but to other citizens of the rapidly growing San Gabriel Valley.

It is, however, important to re-emphasize that Hanson Aggregates West's sand and gravel mining operations along the San Gabriel River occur on privately-owned land, conducted by a privately-owned business organization, governed by regulations promulgated by appropriate federal, state, county, and city authorities. It is also important to note that Hanson Aggregates West owns in perpetuity adjudicated water rights in the San Gabriel Basin that are protected by a judgment in an adjudication suit that remains under the continuing supervision of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

We have on file with the appropriate state agency a reclamation plan setting forth how our property along the San Gabriel River will be reclaimed when our sand and gravel operation has been concluded, but that conclusion is still many years away.



Please be assured we will maintain a continuing and active interest in achieving a final draft of the San Gabriel River Master Plan. We will look forward to interfacing with your staff and consultants in the coming months.

Please send further communications in the matter to:

Ken Barker
Hanson Aggregates West
13550 Live Oak Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706

Bob Warburton, alternate
Same Address

Sincerely,

Ken Barker
Environmental Manager



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

1145 N. Azusa Canyon Road
West Covina, California 91790
(626) 814-9466 • FAX (626) 337-5686
email: district@sgvmosquito.org

Steve West
District Manager

Kenn K. Fujioka, Ph.D.
Assistant Manager

Cities of:

Alhambra

Arcadia

Azusa

Bradbury

Claremont

Covina

Duarte

El Monte

Glendora

Industry

Irwindale

La Puente

La Verne

Monrovia

Monterey Park

Pomona

Rosemead

San Dimas

San Gabriel

Sierra Madre

Temple City

Walnut

West Covina

County of
Los Angeles

May 1, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
Lead Agency for the Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
in Compliance with Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 10582(a), 15103,
and 15375 of the California Code of Regulations.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a special district charged with protecting public health within approximately 250 square miles of the San Gabriel Valley, encompassing the upper reaches of the San Gabriel River and its tributaries. We take this responsibility very seriously. As such, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Master Plan.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District provides leading edge vector control services through an integrated pest management approach such that disease protection is maximized while the integrity of natural systems are maintained to the greatest extent possible. The complexity and success of our program stems from the diverse and highly qualified staff our District employs. With expertise in medical entomology, vector ecology, wildlife biology & ecology, biological and chemical control, and a strong emphasis on public awareness & education, we strive to provide the highest level of service to residents of the San Gabriel Valley.

Any issue relating to openspace development, wetland construction, and stormwater management along the San Gabriel River, its tributaries or environs, has the potential of impacting our ability to protect residents from

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

vector-borne disease. Mosquitoes and midges breed in standing and slow flowing waters commonly found in wetland habitats. Blackflies breed in faster flowing highly oxygenated waters. Both require diligent population management. *The vision of protecting and enhancing the San Gabriel River corridor must consider all implications so as to not inadvertently jeopardize public health.*

It is critical to our ability to protect public health that projects with the potential to increase the number of mosquitoes and other vectors in our communities incorporate permanent measures that will reduce or eliminate breeding; be designed to provide access for treatments when required; and identify permanent funding mechanisms for the potentially significant cost of vegetation maintenance and mosquito and vector control in project areas.

The following details our concerns:

- West Nile virus will very likely become a significant problem in California. At least 5 other encephalitis-causing viruses are currently present and capable of becoming a public health concern if mosquito control is compromised.
- Wetlands provide excellent habitat for wild birds. Mosquito-wild bird interactions in wetland habitats maintain and amplify various endemic encephalitis viruses known to infect humans.
- Wetlands in proximity to urban development greatly increase the risk of disease transmission/spillover to humans.
- Improperly designed and poorly maintained wetlands and stormwater control measures breed significant populations of mosquitoes that are competent vectors of encephalitis viruses and other diseases. Once established, cattail and tule beds require *extremely expensive* ongoing maintenance to ensure public health is protected.
- Reliance on pesticides alone to reduce vector populations will cause resistance to these products, quickly rendering them useless. Only a few environmentally sound products are currently available, heightening our concern for their potential loss.
- Modern chemical control measures require smaller quantities of highly specific products. Research and development costs for new products are prohibitive and rarely result in profit for manufacturers, thus fewer products will be available in the future. *Combined with an increased risk of resistance, treatment of poorly designed wetlands may become difficult at best.*
- Increasing connections between natural systems and residential/commercial districts increases ability of vectors (wild fleas, ticks, rodents and others) to enter and transmit disease in urban environments.
- Enhancing public visits to areas producing or harboring vector species increases the risk of vector-borne disease transmission to the public.

Civil penalties up to \$1,000 per day may be assessed if abatement orders are ignored, and the cost of vector control created by other agencies may be charged thereto.

- Increasing travel and international commerce effectively remove historic geographic boundaries on the ranges of vectors and the diseases they transmit. Problems associated with emerging and re-emerging diseases will increase in the foreseeable future. Reference: The World Health Organization Fact Sheet No 97 (Revised August 1998) at: <http://www.who.int/inf-fs/en/fact097.html>.
- Federal and State laws may seriously impair the future ability of vector control agencies to protect public health through either physical or chemical control methods.
- The public may perceive that a disease outbreak is linked to wetlands creation or a stormwater management practice. The negative publicity can be substantial; in fact, responsible parties may face an increased risk of litigation.

The benefits of *preventive planning* far outweigh the costs of reactionary mosquito and vector control, both to public health and public financial resources. We urge the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to incorporate clear and concise language into the Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan that will require this and all future projects:

- evaluate the potential impact on public health by submitting projects to the appropriate vector control district and/or the Department of Health Services for review prior to project approval
- mitigate the concerns outlined in those reviews such that mosquito and other vector-borne disease problems are not created
- establish/require a permanent funding mechanism for ongoing vegetation maintenance and vector control in projects that by nature of their implementation may enhance vector populations

The sphere of knowledge related to mosquito production in constructed wetlands and stormwater BMP's is rapidly expanding. Representatives from both public health and vector control welcome the opportunity to share this knowledge with project leaders in the earliest planning stages.

Please contact the District at (626) 814-9466 if we can be of any service.

Thank you again for your consideration.



Steve West
District Manager

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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)
)

SS.

I, Richard Barakat, President of the Board of Trustees of the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Response to the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan, was duly approved by the Board of Trustees of said District at a public meeting held on the 9th day of May, 2003 and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

Francisco Alonso (Monterey Park)
Dan Arrighi (Temple City)
Richard Barakat (Bradbury) – President
Robert Bruesch (Rosemead)
Mary Cammarano (San Gabriel)
Roger Chandler (Arcadia)
Boyd Condie (Alhambra) – Treasurer
Manuel R. Garcia (Irwindale)
Frank Hall (Los Angeles County)
Steve Herfert (West Covina)
Algird Leiga (Claremont)

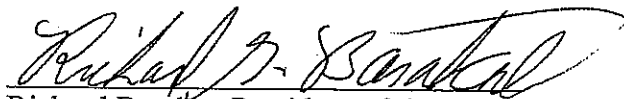
Henry Morgan (Covina) – Secretary
Robert Neher (La Verne)
Henry Nodal (La Puente)
Dick Stanford (Azusa)
Karen Suarez (Monrovia)
Tom Sykes (Walnut)
Jeffrey Templeman (San Dimas)
Jack Thurston (El Monte)
George Vangel (Glendora)

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT:

Margaret Finlay (Duarte)
Bruce Inman (Sierra Madre)
Jack Phillips (City of Industry)
Willie White (Pomona)



Richard Barakat, President of the Board
of Trustees of the San Gabriel Valley
Mosquito and Vector Control District

Vulcan

Materials Company

Western Division

STEVE CORTNER
VICE PRESIDENT, RESOURCES

May 13, 2003

3200 SAN FERNANDO ROAD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065
TELEPHONE 323 474-3225
FAX 323 258-3289
E-MAIL cortners@vmcmail.com

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (the DPW) FOR
THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER MASTER PLAN (the "Master Plan")

Dear Mr. Moreno:

This letter is in response to your Notice of Preparation for the Master Plan. Vulcan Materials Company ("Vulcan") understands that the Master Plan includes projects along the San Gabriel River that affect cities, stakeholders and other organizations along the San Gabriel River Corridor. Vulcan also understands that the DPW will support projects that are planned and implemented along the river corridor in a manner that is consistent with the Master Plan. Vulcan has met with the Rivers Mountain Conservancy Group ("RMC") on several occasions to discuss the Master Plan. As you may know, Vulcan Materials has several operations adjacent to the 58-mile long San Gabriel River Corridor in the cities of Azusa and Irwindale. Vulcan understands that portions of the Master Plan incorporate existing sand and gravel quarries that are either active or inactive. A number of Vulcan's quarries along the San Gabriel River Corridor remain active, and will be active for the foreseeable future.

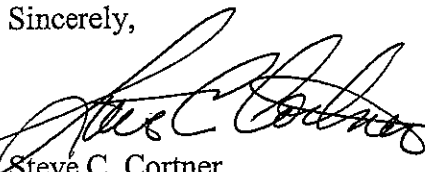
Vulcan appreciates the combined efforts of the RMC and the DPW in its efforts to enhance hiking trails, educational centers, reclamation of vacant properties and overall environmental enhancements subject to the Master Plan., but wishes to insure that the Master Plan takes into account the continuation of the mining activities in the San Gabriel River Corridor that provide sand and gravel that is essential to the Southern California building materials industry. Vulcan does not yet fully understand the impacts the Master Plan might have on its operations, but wishes to voice its concern relative to Vulcan's property rights and

extensive water rights it currently holds in the Upper San Gabriel Valley Basin and other areas. Vulcan asks that the environmental study understands the need to protect those private property interests because Vulcan's essential operations will continue for many years in the future. Vulcan's past and present reclamation efforts clearly demonstrate its interest in enhancing the riverine systems and restoration to waterways, and expects that its currently operating mining facilities will be similarly productively reclaimed after their operations cease. Accordingly, the DPW should insure that the Master Plan does not inhibit or otherwise impair Vulcan's continued mining operations.

Vulcan requests that the DPW acting as lead agency pursuant to CEQA coordinate its activities on the Master Plan with the cities that have ultimate land use control over Vulcan's mining interests (i.e., Irwindale and Azusa) to ensure that the Master Plan is consistent with the overall land uses within each city. This consistency must include, but is not limited to, end land use, the right to continue mining operations pursuant to approved land use permits and reclamation plans, and the appropriate co-existence between the Master Plan and these mining operations.

Vulcan requests that the DPW place Vulcan on the mailing list for the Master Plan to allow Vulcan to have appropriate input into this project as it moves forward. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Steve C. Cortner

Vice President, Resources

SCC:mx

May 13, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
(Watershed Management Division)
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Marty

I am pleased to express to you, on behalf of United Rock Products Corporation, Hanson Aggregates West, and myself, for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff recently to discuss the planning process for the upcoming San Gabriel River Master Plan, to be adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in early 2004.

It was enormously helpful to have the County's consultant for this project, Dan Iacofano, also present at the meeting. The free exchange of ideas we experienced at the meeting was very beneficial.

It is essential that the relation of the quarries along the San Gabriel River to numerous federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, as well as to the surrounding cities and communities, as embraced in the proposed Master Plan, be fully understood as we all move forward.

As the final draft for the San Gabriel River Master Plan moves ahead, we will maintain an active interest and participation. We will be available for discussion and input as the process proceeds.

Jane Bray

CC: Arnold Brink, United Rock Products Corporation
Ken Barker, Hanson Aggregates West
Steve Cortner, Vulcan Materials Company



UNITED ROCK PRODUCTS

May 21, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Works Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, Ca 91802-1460

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report in
Compliance with Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15082 (a), 15103 of the
California Code of Regulations

Dear Mr. Moreno,

This letter will indicate to you the interest of United Rock Products in actively participating in the Program EIR process for the San Gabriel River Master Plan, the final draft of which will be presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for adoption in early 2004.

It is to be noted that United Rock Products has had representation on the San Gabriel River Master Plan Steering Committee since the early formation of that Committee in 1999, has actively participated in the Committee's work, and continues to do so today.

We feel that through the recently-formed Joint Power Authority between the County's Department of Power Works and the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy, much progress can be made in choosing and implementing projects along the river system that can benefit the many cities and communities of interest that exist along the river itself, as well as other citizens of the San Gabriel Valley.

It will be helpful to note here that United Rock Products is a privately-owned and operated business, on privately-owned land and its sand and gravel mining operation contributes to the economic benefit of the entire surrounding area. In addition, United owns water rights in the Main San Gabriel Basin, which are essential to its mining operations. These water rights are secured under an adjudication lawsuit, under the continuing jurisdiction of Superior Court.

We have on file in Sacramento, as required by State law, a reclamation plan for our properties as they become mined out, which will be many years in the future.

We are presuming that the City of Irwindale, which will have final decision-making jurisdiction over the reclamation uses/plans of United's properties as they are depleted,



UNITED ROCK PRODUCTS

will also be actively involved in the draft Program EIR, as LADPW moves forward as lead agency pursuant to CEQA.

As requested, we are asking that I be added to your future mailing list in all matters pertaining to the draft Program Environmental Impact Report. We are also asking, if it can be done, that Ms. Jane M. Bray, our consultant in this matter, be added to the mailing list as well. Ms. Bray can be reached at 2259 Portola Lane, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

As the draft Program EIR process moves forward, United Rock Products will maintain an active interest and participation. We will be available for discussion and input as the process proceeds.

Sincerely,

Arnold Brink,
General Manager

Appendix C

Construction Air Emissions Evaluation

Appendix C contains the data, assumptions, and results of calculations used in estimating the air emissions associated with construction of the proposed Concept Design Studies. Air quality impacts of the proposed project are discussed in Section 4.1 of this document.

Air pollutant emissions from construction activities were estimated for each Concept Design Study by MWH, EIR consultant to LADPW. Based on the description and sizes of the proposed facilities, MWH staff experienced with construction management made assumptions about the amount of earthwork, types and number of construction equipment, duration of each phase of construction, and number of construction crew required.

Sources of emission factors and equations used in the calculation include the CEQA Handbook (SCAQMD, 1993) for construction equipment exhaust and PM10 emissions from earth moving activities and EMFAC 2002 Emission Factors for on-road vehicles (SCAQMD, 2003c).

Estimated construction duration by Concept Design Study is as follows:

- San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds – 20 work days
- Woodland Duck Farm – 40 work days
- Lario Creek – 32 work days
- San Gabriel River Discovery Center – 195 work days (including the construction of the Discovery Center building)
- El Dorado Regional Park – 44 work days

Table C-1
San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds – Estimated Construction Air Emissions

Emission Source	Emissions				
	CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
Grading and Excavation (lbs/quarter)	--	--	--	--	396
Construction Equipment (lbs/quarter)	229	26	517	44	34
Workers Commutes (lbs/quarter)	62	7	7	0.03	0.3
Delivery and Work Trucks (lbs/quarter)	61	75	8	0.6	1.3
Total Emissions (tons/quarter)	0.18	0.1	0.3	0.02	0.22
SCAQMD Threshold (tons/quarter)	24.75	2.5	2.5	6.75	6.75
Total Emissions (avg lbs/day)	18	5	27	2	22
Peak Day Emissions (lbs/day)	21	7	37	3	23
SCAQMD Threshold (avg lbs/day)	550	75	100	150	150
SIGNIFICANT?	No	No	No	No	No

Table C-2
Woodland Duck Farm – Estimated Construction Air Emissions

Emission Source	Emissions				
	CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
Grading and Excavation (lbs/quarter)	--	--	--	--	792
Construction Equipment (lbs/quarter)	927	102	2,087	176	135
Workers Commutes (lbs/quarter)	1,795	704	78	75	0.4
Delivery and Work Trucks (lbs/quarter)	347	424	46	3.3	7.3
Total Emissions (tons/quarter)	1.53	0.6	1.1	0.13	0.47
SCAQMD Threshold (tons/quarter)	24.75	2.5	2.5	6.75	6.75
Total Emissions (avg lbs/day)	77	31	55	6	23
Peak Day Emissions (lbs/day)	68	33	78	7	26
SCAQMD Threshold (avg lbs/day)	550	75	100	150	150
SIGNIFICANT?	--	--	--	--	--

**Table C-3
San Gabriel River Discovery Center – Estimated Construction Air Emissions**

Emission Source	Emissions				
	CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
Grading and Excavation (lbs/quarter)	--	--	--	--	317
Construction Equipment (lbs/quarter)	428	46	961	81	62
Workers Commutes (lbs/quarter)	273	30	29	0.2	1.2
Delivery and Work Trucks (lbs/quarter)	155	190	20	1.5	3.3
Discovery Center Bldg Const. (lbs/quarter)*	801	251	3,683	--	261
Total Emissions (tons/quarter)	0.83	0.3	2.3	0.04	0.32
SCAQMD Threshold (tons/quarter)	24.75	2.5	2.5	6.75	6.75
Total Emissions (avg lbs/day)	25	8	72	1	10
Peak Day Emissions (lbs/day)	26	10	94	3	10
SCAQMD Threshold (avg lbs/day)	550	75	100	150	150
SIGNIFICANT?	--	--	--	--	--

*** Discovery Center Building Construction**

	CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
Emission Factors - Table 9-1, Education Land Use (SCAQMD, 1993) (lbs/construction period - 1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area)	150	47	691	--	49
Emission (avg lbs/day)	12	4	57	--	4
Emission (lbs/quarter)	801	251	3,683	--	261

Assumptions

Gross floor area	16,000 sq.ft.
Construction duration	195 work days

Note: Air emissions for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center were calculated for construction of the stormwater treatment wetlands, site disturbance during habitat restoration around the wetlands, and construction of the Discovery Center building (approximately 16,000 square-feet). Since only preliminary concept plans have been developed for the Discovery Center building, construction equipment needs for this element of the Concept Design Study could not be reliably estimated. Therefore, the air emissions for construction of the building was calculated based on the screening level emission factors for construction activities as presented in Table 9-1 of the CEQA Handbook (SCAQMD, 1993; emission factors for education land use). Table 9-1 presents emissions factors for CO, ROC, NO_x, and PM10, but does not include emission factors for SO_x. Therefore, SO_x emissions from construction of the Discovery Center building are not included in the estimated emissions shown in Table C-3 above.

Table C-4
Lario Creek – Estimated Construction Air Emissions

Emission Source	Emissions				
	CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
Grading and Excavation (lbs/quarter)	--	--	--	--	403
Construction Equipment (lbs/quarter)	307	34	692	59	45
Workers Commutes (lbs/quarter)	199	22	21	0.1	0.9
Delivery and Work Trucks (lbs/quarter)	127	155	17	1.2	2.7
Total Emissions (tons/quarter)	0.32	0.1	0.4	0.03	0.23
SCAQMD Threshold (tons/quarter)	24.75	2.5	2.5	6.75	6.75
Total Emissions (avg lbs/day)	20	7	23	2	14
Peak Day Emissions (lbs/day)	26	10	38	3	15
SCAQMD Threshold (avg lbs/day)	550	75	100	150	150
SIGNIFICANT?	--	--	--	--	--

Table C-5
El Dorado Regional Park – Estimated Construction Air Emissions

Emission Source	Emissions				
	CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
Grading and Excavation (lbs/quarter)	--	--	--	--	317
Construction Equipment (lbs/quarter)	428	46	961	81	62
Workers Commutes (lbs/quarter)	273	30	29	0.2	1.2
Delivery and Work Trucks (lbs/quarter)	155	190	20	1.5	3.3
Total Emissions (tons/quarter)	0.43	0.1	0.5	0.04	0.19
SCAQMD Threshold (tons/quarter)	24.75	2.5	2.5	6.75	6.75
Total Emissions (avg lbs/day)	19	6	23	2	9
Peak Day Emissions (lbs/day)	26	10	38	3	10
SCAQMD Threshold (avg lbs/day)	550	75	100	150	150
SIGNIFICANT?	--	--	--	--	--

Table C-6
Estimated Fugitive Dust (PM10) Emissions from Earth Moving Activities

Concept Design Study	Total Disturbed Area (acres)	Duration (days)	Area Graded (acre/day)	PM 10 Emissions	
				(lbs/day)	(lbs/quarter)
SG Canyon Spreading Grounds	15	20	0.75	20	396
Woodland Duck Farm	30	40	0.75	20	792
SG River Discovery Center	12	44	0.27	7	317
Lario Creek	15	32	0.48	13	403
El Dorado Regional Park	12	44	0.27	7	317

Constants	Amount	Unit	Reference
Emission Factor	26.4	lbs/acre	SCAQMD, 1993 Table A9-9 (p. A9-93)

Appendix C – Construction Air Emissions Evaluation

Table C-7
Estimated Vehicle Exhaust Emissions from Construction Worker Commutes

Total Emissions per Quarter

Concept Design Study	No. of Workers	No. of Days	No. of Trips (Construction Worker Commutes)	Emissions (lbs/quarter)				
				CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
SG Canyon Spreading Grounds	3	20	158	62.1	6.9	6.6	0.0	0.3
Woodland Duck Farm	17	40	1,795	703.8	78.1	75.0	0.4	3.0
SG River Discovery Center	6	44	697	273.2	30.3	29.1	0.2	1.2
Lario Creek	6	32	507	198.7	22.1	21.2	0.1	0.9
El Dorado Regional Park	6	44	697	273.2	30.3	29.1	0.2	1.2

Peak Day Emissions

Concept Design Study	No. of Workers	No. of Days	No. of Trips (Construction Worker Commutes)	Emissions (lbs/quarter)				
				CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
SG Canyon Spreading Grounds	3	1	8	3.1	0.3	0.3	0.00	0.01
Woodland Duck Farm	17	1	45	17.6	2.0	1.9	0.01	0.08
SG River Discovery Center	6	1	16	6.2	0.7	0.7	0.00	0.03
Lario Creek	6	1	16	6.2	0.7	0.7	0.00	0.03
El Dorado Regional Park	6	1	16	6.2	0.7	0.7	0.00	0.03

Constants	Amount	Unit	Reference
Emission Factor (CO)	0.01815	lbs/mi	Emission Factor for Passenger Vehicles, Year 2003 Scenario (SCAMQD, 2004)
Emission Factor (ROC)	0.002014	lbs/mi	
Emission Factor (NOx)	0.001935	lbs/mi	
Emission Factor (SOx)	0.00001	lbs/mi	
Emission Factor (PM10)	0.00007847	lbs/mi	
Worker Trip Length	10.8	miles/one-way trip	SCAQMD, 1993 (Table A9-5-D (p. A9-24))
Worker Trip per Day	1.32	one-way trip/day	SCAQMD, 1993 (Table A9-5-A-2 (p. A9-22))

Table C-8
Estimated Vehicle Exhaust Emissions from Materials Delivery and Work Trucks

Total Emissions per Quarter

Concept Design Study	Type	No. of Trucks	No. of Days	Hours per Day	Deliveries		Work Trucks	Total Miles Travelled	Emissions (lbs/quarter)				
					No. of Trips Total	Length of Trip (mi)			CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
SG Canyon Spreading Grounds	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	320	5	--	1,600	41	50	5.4	0.4	0.9
	Water Truck	1	20	8	--	--	5	800	20	25	2.7	0.2	0.4
Total									61	75	8	0.6	1.3
Woodland Duck Farm	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	2,400	5	--	12,000	306	374	40	2.9	6.5
	Water Truck	1	40	8	--	--	5	1,600	41	50	5	0.4	0.9
Total									347	424	46	3.3	7.3
SG River Discovery Center	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	864	5	--	4,320	110	135	15	1.0	2.3
	Water Truck	1	44	8	--	--	5	1,760	45	55	6	0.4	1.0
Total									155	190	20	1.5	3.3
Lario Creek	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	736	5	--	3,680	94	115	12	0.9	2.0
	Water Truck	1	32	8	--	--	5	1,280	33	40	4	0.3	0.7
Total									127	155	17	1.2	2.7
El Dorado Regional Park	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	864	5	--	4,320	110	135	15	1.0	2.3
	Water Truck	1	44	8	--	--	5	1,760	45	55	6	0.4	1.0
Total									155	190	20	1.5	3.3

Peak Day Emissions

Concept Design Study	Type	No. of Trucks	No. of Days	Hours per Day	Deliveries		Work Trucks	Total Miles Travelled	Emissions (lbs/quarter)				
					No. of Trips Total	Length of Trip (mi)			CO	ROC	NOx	SOx	PM10
SG Canyon Spreading Grounds	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	16	5	--	80	2	2	0.3	0.02	0.04
	Water Truck	1	1	8	--	--	5	40	1	1	0.1	0.01	0.02
Total									3	4	0.4	0.03	0.06
Woodland Duck Farm	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	160	5	--	800	20	25	2.7	0.19	0.43
	Water Truck	1	1	8	--	--	5	40	1	1	0.1	0.01	0.02
Total									21	26	2.8	0.20	0.45
SG River Discovery Center	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	32	5	--	160	4	5	0.5	0.04	0.09
	Water Truck	1	1	8	--	--	5	40	1	1	0.1	0.01	0.02
Total									5	6	0.7	0.05	0.11
Lario Creek	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	32	5	--	160	4	5	0.5	0.04	0.09
	Water Truck	1	1	8	--	--	5	40	1	1	0.1	0.01	0.02
Total									5	6	0.7	0.05	0.11
El Dorado Regional Park	Materials Delivery	--	--	--	32	5	--	160	4	5	0.5	0.04	0.09
	Water Truck	1	1	8	--	--	5	40	1	1	0.1	0.01	0.02
Total									5	6	0.7	0.05	0.11

Constants	Amount	Unit	Reference
Emission Factor (CO)	0.025508	lbs/mi	Emission Factor for Delivery Trucks, Year 2003 Scenario (SCAMQD, 2004)
Emission Factor (ROC)	0.031208	lbs/mi	
Emission Factor (NOx)	0.003362	lbs/mi	
Emission Factor (SOx)	0.000241	lbs/mi	
Emission Factor (PM10)	0.000540	lbs/mi	
Number of trips per day	8	trips/day	N/A

Appendix C – Construction Air Emissions Evaluation

Table C-9
Estimated Emissions from Construction Equipment Tailpipe Emissions

Total Emissions per Quarter

Concept Design Study	Equipment Type	No. of Equip.	Approx. hp	Estimated Use		CO		ROC		NOx		SOx		PM10		Emission Factor Unit
				days	hrs per day	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	
SG Canyon Spreading Grounds	Excavator	1	138	20	7	0.011	213	0.001	19	0.024	464	0.002	39	0.0015	29	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	4	7	0.572	16	0.23	6	1.9	53	0.182	5	0.17	5	lb/hr
Total							229		26		517		44		34	
Woodland Duck Farm	Excavator	3	138	24	7	0.011	765	0.001	70	0.024	1,669	0.002	139	0.0015	104	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	3	--	4	7	0.572	48	0.23	19	1.9	160	0.182	15	0.17	14	lb/hr
	Excavator	1	138	10	7	0.011	106	0.001	10	0.024	232	0.002	19	0.0015	14	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	2	7	0.572	8	0.23	3	1.9	27	0.182	3	0.17	2	lb/hr
Total							927		102		2,087		176		135	
SG River Discovery Center	Excavator	1	138	38	7	0.011	404	0.001	37	0.024	881	0.002	73	0.0015	55	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	6	7	0.572	24	0.23	10	1.9	80	0.182	8	0.17	7	lb/hr
Total							428		46		961		81		62	
Lario Creek	Excavator	1	138	27	7	0.011	287	0.001	26	0.024	626	0.002	52	0.0015	39	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	5	7	0.572	20	0.23	8	1.9	67	0.182	6	0.17	6	lb/hr
Total							307		34		692		59		45	
El Dorado Regional Park	Excavator	1	138	38	7	0.011	404	0.001	37	0.024	881	0.002	73	0.0015	55	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	6	7	0.572	24	0.23	10	1.9	80	0.182	8	0.17	7	lb/hr
Total							428		46		961		81		62	

Peak Day Emissions

Concept Design Study	Equipment Type	No. of Equip.	Approx. hp	Estimated Use		CO		ROC		NOx		SOx		PM10		Emission Factor Unit
				days	hrs per day	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	Emission Factor	Emissions	
SG Canyon Spreading Grounds	Excavator	1	138	1	7	0.011	11	0.001	1	0.024	23	0.002	2	0.0015	1	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	1	7	0.572	4	0.23	2	1.9	13	0.182	1	0.17	1	lb/hr
Total							15		3		36		3		3	
Woodland Duck Farm	Excavator	2	138	1	7	0.011	21	0.001	2	0.024	46	0.002	4	0.0015	3	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	2	--	1	7	0.572	8	0.23	3	1.9	27	0.182	3	0.17	2	lb/hr
Total							29		5		73		6		5	
SG River Discovery Center	Excavator	1	138	1	7	0.011	11	0.001	1	0.024	23	0.002	2	0.0015	1	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	1	7	0.572	4	0.23	2	1.9	13	0.182	1	0.17	1	lb/hr
Total							15		3		36		3		3	
Lario Creek	Excavator	1	138	1	7	0.011	11	0.001	1	0.024	23	0.002	2	0.0015	1	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	1	7	0.572	4	0.23	2	1.9	13	0.182	1	0.17	1	lb/hr
Total							15		3		36		3		3	
El Dorado Regional Park	Excavator	1	138	1	7	0.011	11	0.001	1	0.024	23	0.002	2	0.0015	1	lb/hp-hr
	Loader	1	--	1	7	0.572	4	0.23	2	1.9	13	0.182	1	0.17	1	lb/hr
Total							15		3		36		3		3	

Constants	Amount	Unit	Reference
Emission Factors	See Table	lbs/hr	SCAQMD, 1993 (Table A9-8-A (p. A9-82), for Diesel)
Emission Factors	See Table	lbs/hp-hr	SCAQMD, 1993 (Table A9-8-B (p. A9-83) for Diesel)

Appendix D

Cultural Resources Analysis

Appendix D contains the following:

- Cultural Resources Technical Report completed for the proposed project by Greenwood and Associates (2003). (Note: Selected map pages in the report have been omitted for public distribution.)
- California Historical Resources Information System correspondence (dated September 14, 2004) regarding the Woodland Duck Farm Project Area

SELECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER PROJECT MASTER PLAN

Prepared for:
MWH Americas
Ms. Sarah Garber
301 North Lake Avenue
Pasadena, California 91101

Greenwood and Associates
725 Jacon Way
Pacific Palisades, California 90272

Peter Messick

October 22, 2003

(This report contains confidential site location information and is not for public distribution)

Abstract

MWH Americas has requested an archaeological survey for selected projects for the San Gabriel River Master Plan project. The pedestrian survey of three project areas within the larger San Gabriel River Master Plan confirmed the presence of historical cultural resources in the Whittier Narrows Education/Nature Center and Lario Creek project area. Four probable historic structures, one historic gaging station, and one historic metal water tank were documented. These were recorded and may be recommended for Phase II investigations. Possible prehistoric shell beads were found in El Dorado Regional Park and raise concern, although the context is questionable. The project area is sensitive for cultural resources both prehistoric and historic, as well as the surrounding Whittier Narrows basin as confirmed by the records search. It must be emphasized that surface visibility for most of project area did not exceed 25 percent.

Since the examination of the project area was limited to surface observations, it is possible that archaeological resources may be discovered during better, less obscured ground conditions and future subsurface investigations. This would apply also to the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds and El Dorado Park project areas.

Should any subsurface disturbance be planned within the project area, it is recommended that a qualified archaeologist be present to monitor all such activity. Should any cultural resources be encountered, the archaeologist will have the authority to halt construction activities temporarily in the vicinity, to identify and evaluate the materials, and implement appropriate measures to mitigate unavoidable impacts to resources found to be significant.

Information Center:

USGS Quadrangles: Azusa; El Monte; Los Alamitos

Acreage: 100 acres; 385 acres; 458 acres

Cultural Resources:

Type of Investigation: Archaeological survey

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Cultural Resources Survey: San Gabriel River Master Plan

San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, Azusa, Whittier Narrows Education Center and Lario Creek, South El Monte, El Dorado Park, Long Beach, California

INTRODUCTION

At the request of MWH Americas, Greenwood and Associates (GandA) has completed a cultural resources records search and pedestrian survey for three areas alongside the San Gabriel River and its watershed: 1) San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, approximately 100 acres, located in the City of Azusa; 2) Whittier Narrows Education Center and Lario Creek, approximately 385 acres in South El Monte and Whittier; and 3) El Dorado Regional Park, approximately 458 acres, located in Long Beach. The project area that encompasses these three areas is a part of the larger San Gabriel River Master Plan project area that lies along 58 miles of the San Gabriel River (Figure 1).

The Master Plan and its primary objectives are to develop the San Gabriel River corridor as an integrated watershed system that enhances habitat, provides for recreational benefits (e.g., creation of a regional community park), protects open space, and maintains flood protection and water supply (San Gabriel River Master Plan Administrative Draft Program EIR 2003). A records search of maps, archaeological site and survey reports, and regional overviews covering 0.25 mile on each side of the project areas boundaries was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center at California State University, Fullerton. A surface survey was conducted from September 15 to September 26, 2003 by Peter Messick and Linda Rehberger, staff archaeologists with Greenwood and Associates.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The San Gabriel River flows north to south almost entirely in Los Angeles County, from its headwaters in the Angeles National Forest, to its southern outfall into the Pacific Ocean at Seal Beach, Orange County.

The Master Plan divides the entire course geographically into seven reaches. The three that are the subject of this investigation are the Upper and Lower San Gabriel Valleys, and the Lower Coastal Plain.

1) San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds – Located below the mouth of San Gabriel Canyon, the area surveyed is comprised of approximately 100 acres and is bounded on the west side by a bike trail and the San Gabriel River, the Azusa Greens Golf Course, and a residential/commercial mixed area to the south, southwest, and east. Just to the

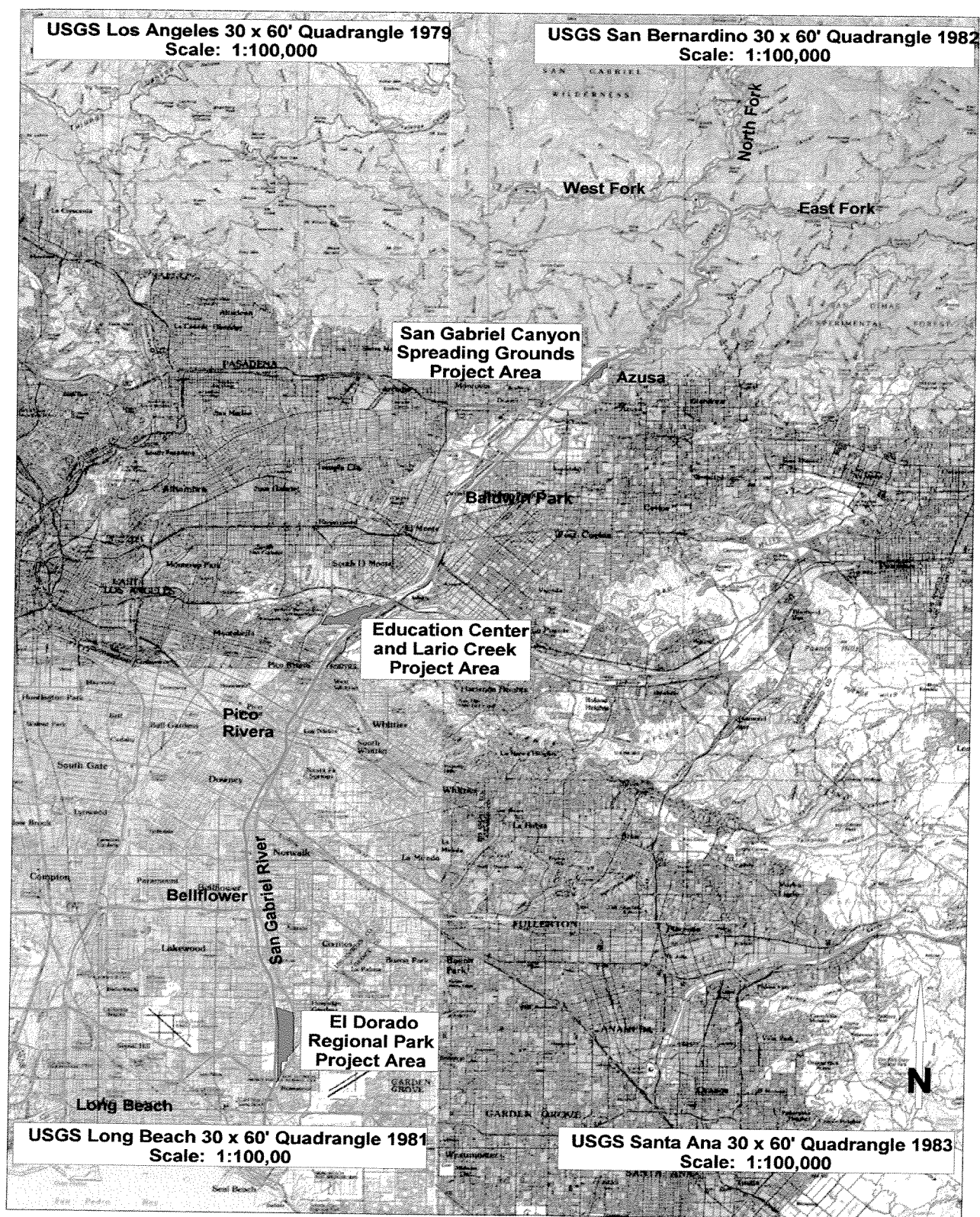


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

northwest are the rugged, steep slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains which are part of the Angeles National Forest. The project area is mostly flat. A chain link fence encloses two deep spreading basins that are operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW). Known as Basins I and II, these steep-sloped spreading grounds presently contain water from numerous sources including the adjacent San Gabriel River. A 14-acre triangular parcel (owned by the City of Azusa) between the two basins contains water storage tanks, wells, and pumps presently in operation and is largely without vegetation. Unpaved access roads are either dirt or crushed asphalt. A conveyor belt, part of the Azusa Rock Quarry, a large industrial mining operation located across the river, is located in the southern end of the site.

The topography is best described as alluvial canyon bottom land. The portion of the San Gabriel River and bike path that runs approximately 1.5 miles along the west side of the project area contains native vegetation of alluvial fan sage scrub and riparian habitat and is considered a Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area. Thick and dense in many areas, the vegetation is interspersed with alluvial deposits of particularly large rocks and boulders.

2) Whittier Narrows Nature/Education Center and Lario Creek – The project area surveyed covers approximately 385 acres of natural woodland bordered by Durfee Avenue to the north, Peck Road on the west, Rosemead Boulevard on the east, and both the San Gabriel River and Lario Creek (man-made) to the south. It includes an existing nature/education center in the northeast portion of the project area, which has a museum, library, and gift shop. The project area is relatively flat open space, with the exception of a moderate, low-lying hillside that slopes upward to Durfee Ave. in the vicinity of the nature center. Meandering man-made trails and roads constructed of dirt, asphalt, and/or concrete surfaces criss-cross the project area. In addition to Lario Creek, four man-made lakes (currently dry), the San Gabriel River, and Legg Lake (just north of the project area) provide a habitat for a variety of migrating waterfowl. A raptor management area has been introduced in this park.

Located in part of unincorporated Los Angeles County, South El Monte, and Whittier, the project area takes its name “Whittier Narrows” from the southern constriction of the San Gabriel Valley, close to the confluence of the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River. The area is characterized as riverine floodplain, with soils consisting of silt-clays and sands, from fine to coarse, of undetermined thickness. Native vegetation observed includes walnut, oak, cottonwood, and willow trees, tules, and blackberries. Palm and redwood trees are among exotic species present. Other vegetation communities present include coastal sage scrub and riparian associations with dense concentrations of wild grape vines and ruderal vegetation of non-native grasses including mustard.

3) El Dorado Regional Park – The El Dorado East Regional Park is bordered on the west by the San Gabriel River for approximately 2 miles, Coyote Creek on the south, the 605 Freeway on the east, and the Long Beach Town Center on its north side are the other

boundaries. Overhead transmission lines transect the park on its west side. Located in and operated by the City of Long Beach, the 458-acre park includes a 107.5-acre wildlife habitat and nature center. The project area surveyed included the Park and the following adjacent land: the Long Beach Police Academy (a pistol firing range) to the north; and on the south, a maintenance yard, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) facility, community gardens, and the Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant are located.

The reach of the San Gabriel River adjacent to the park is totally concrete lined and the berms along the river block views of the river from the park. The public park, divided into Areas 1-3, is relatively flat, open planted hybrid grassland characterized by meadows and forested areas with man-made bike and jogging trails, roads, and artificial lakes. Originally fertile bean and alfalfa fields, the park was created in the 1950s. Earth from the 605 Freeway construction was used as fill to create the present landscaped park, particularly the wildlife habitat and nature center (Blackburn, personal communication 2003). The nature center, a minimally maintained existing ecosystem within the park, consists mostly of non-native, introduced vegetation, quite dense and thick in many areas. Efforts are presently underway to reintroduce native plant species and eventually to restore the area to its former riparian habitat.

The area south of the nature center below Willow Street is the location of the Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant. Portions of El Dorado Park are irrigated by reclaimed water from this facility. The property at the south end is at the confluence of the San Gabriel River and Coyote Creek. Outside the landscaped plant facility, the acreage is mostly level, undeveloped land with dense ruderal vegetation with some slight riparian habitat observed.

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. Ethnography

The Native American people described as inhabiting the region surrounding the project area are known as the Gabrieliño. These people were hunters and gatherers with permanent villages, specialized processing sites, formal cemeteries, and trade networks with local and non-local groups. It is believed that they initially practiced a seasonal strategy, moving from location to location exploiting various food resources, but with technological advances they were able to maintain permanent year round villages with reliance on acorns and marine resources. At the time of European contact, they occupied an area that included portions of western San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Orange counties (Kroeber 1953).

B. Prehistory

The archaeological record indicates that sedentary populations occupied the coastal and inland regions of California more than 9,000 years ago. Early periods were characterized

by the processing of hard seeds with the mano and milling stone and the use of the atlatl (dart thrower) to bring down large game, e.g., deer. Villages in the Los Angeles area were typically near permanent water sources that allowed exploitation of a variety of different habitats for food. In the later periods, prior to the arrival of Europeans, the bow and arrow was in use, beads were used as money, trade and social networks had evolved, and the mortar and pestle were used to process acorns.

C. History

1. Spanish Period (1769 - 1821)

California was claimed by Spain during the sixteenth century as part of the empire it was establishing in the New World. Europeans arrived in Los Angeles in 1769 with the Gaspar de Portolá expedition. Portolá's objective was to locate potential mission sites and to establish an overland route between the first Franciscan mission, established by his party at San Diego, and Monterey Bay. To solidify their claims, the Spanish government fortified San Diego and Monterey and started to establish Mission outposts. San Gabriel Mission was founded in 1771 and by the early 1800s, most of the Gabrieliño population, with the exception of those who had fled into the interior mountains and valleys, had come into the Mission system.

2. Mexican Period (1821-1846)

Mexico declared independence from Spain in 1821. A city council was formed in 1822 for Los Angeles, and Alta California became a State with Monterey as the capital. During this period the Gabrieliño Indian population declined due to disease, disruption of ancient lifeways, and excessive toil.

With Mexican independence from Spain came conflict over the disposition of mission lands in Alta California. A series of laws, culminating with the Secularization Act of 1833, stripped the missions of their land and power. The Missions were secularized in 1834, and eventually the surviving Native Americans were forced out of the area and into a marginalized existence. The vast holdings of the Franciscans were opened for acquisition by private citizens. Grants were made to individuals willing to work to make the land productive, and were often used to stimulate settlement of under populated areas. The number of grants rose markedly in the mid-1840s as the Mexican government acted to place as much of its California territory into private ownership as possible prior to the imminent takeover by the United States. More than 600 rancho grants were made between 1833 and 1846.

3. American Period

The United States took control of California after the Mexican-American War of 1846. The discovery of gold in northern California created a boom in the cattle industry which fed the

hordes of miners searching for gold. During the 1860s, the American population grew rapidly, partly because many of the old rancho families lost title to their land, leaving a vacuum which was promptly filled by settlers from central and eastern United States.

4. History of Selected Cities and Communities

Long Beach

Long Beach occupies land ceded in 1784 to Manuel Nieto, a former soldier, whose claim originally extended from the Santa Ana River to the San Gabriel River and from the San Diego-San Gabriel Road to the sea. Later it was split into five ranchos (Robinson 1954:2). When Nieto died in 1804, his children divided their inheritance with Juan José getting Los Alamitos, and Manuela the adjoining Los Cerritos. In these two ranchos lies the City of Long Beach. Los Alamitos lies southeast of the present Alamitos Avenue, and Los Cerritos is northwest of this avenue. Most of the original townsite of Long Beach lies within the former rancho Los Cerritos.

The drought of the early 1860s caused the death of thousands of cattle, and both John Temple and Abel Stearns lost their ranchos. Los Alamitos had become the property of Michael Reese, a San Francisco money lender, when Reese foreclosed the mortgage which Stearns put on the ranch to complete the building of his Arcadia Block in Los Angeles. Jotham Bixby, John W. Bixby, and I.W. Hellman purchased the rancho from the heirs of Reese.

Thus the whole of what is now Long Beach came into the Bixby family, with the two ranchos devoted to sheep raising. William Willmore, an Englishman, secured an option from Jotham Bixby on four thousand acres to establish a subdivision called the "American Colony." He planned and filed the first survey for Willmore City in 1882. The city quickly failed and in 1887 the Long Beach Land and Water Company was organized. The colony was revived as "Long Beach" and in 1887 recorded the first official map of the present city. With the boom of the eighties sweeping over California, Long Beach became an established seaside resort. The Terminal Railroad in 1891 gave direct tourist and freight connections with Los Angeles, but when the Pacific Electric extended to Long Beach in 1902, the city's population began to increase tremendously.

In 1911, the State of California granted to the City of Long Beach, in trust for harbor and other public purposes, the tidelands and submerged lands bordering upon and below the mean high tide line.

Los Alamitos

Los Alamitos, meaning little cottonwoods, lies southeast of the present Alamitos Avenue, and Los Cerritos, meaning little hills, lies northwesterly of this avenue. Juan José Nieto

sold his rancho for \$500.00 to José Figueroa, governor of California, in 1834. Abel Stearns then purchased the ranch in 1842.

Lakewood

Lakewood was a part of the Los Cerritos Rancho which was sold by the Bixby Investment Company in 1897 to William Clark of Montana for \$349,950.00. Clark used the area for crops, including hay, sugar beets, and alfalfa. By the 1930s portions of the property were subdivided into residential units. It has been suggested that Bouton Lake, located on the golf course and formed when drilling operations opened an artesian well, is the source for the name Lakewood (Lakewoodcity.org 2002).

Cerritos

John Temple, an American who became a Mexican citizen, married Rafaela Cota, daughter of Dona Manuela Nieto de Cota. Rafaela was one of 12 children and heirs of the owner of Los Cerritos. Temple bought out his brothers and sisters-in-law for \$3,025.00. The deed was executed in 1843.

Formerly an agricultural center, the community was known as Dairy Valley until 1967. The city then was renamed Cerritos (Spanish, "little hills") after a ranch established here in the 1780s. The city was incorporated in 1956.

Bellflower

What is now Bellflower was one of the land grants that were given to some Spanish soldiers in 1784 so they could graze livestock. The name comes from the Bellefleur apple. One of the early settlers, William Gregory, had an orchard of these variety of tree. The name, translated from French, means "beautiful flower" (Greatestcities.com 2003). The City of Bellflower was incorporated on Sept. 3, 1957.

Norwalk

Norwalk is a residential community in the southeastern portion of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. A junior college, the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex, and Sproul Museum are in the city. The settlement, established in 1868 as Corvallis, became known as Norwalk Station in the 1870s because the railroad tracks crossed the "north walk." In 1877 the name was shortened to its present form. Norwalk first prospered as a shipping center for the surrounding agricultural and lumbering area. It incorporated as a city in 1957.

Downey

The community, laid out with the arrival of the railroad, was an agricultural center until the late 1940s (Greatestcities 2003). Originally part of the Los Nietos township, Downey was

started as a 126 acre lot formed by the Downey Land Association. The townsite was named after John G. Downey, California Civil War governor and president of the land company. In 1874 the first Southern Pacific train reached the area. Downey took possession of the St. Gertrude's Rancho, northeast of what is now Long Beach, and proceeded to subdivide it in smaller communities, one of which he named "Downey."

Pico Rivera

The City of Pico Rivera traces its beginnings to the 1870s when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and the Union Pacific completed rail lines throughout the area. Both of the country towns of Pico and Rivera grew slowly as agricultural centers until the 1950s. By the mid-1950s, leaders from both communities started to voice strong support for incorporation and in 1958, the name Pico Rivera was chosen as the name of the 61st city in Los Angeles County (Pico-Rivera. Ca.us 2003).

Between the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo, it is an industrial suburb of Los Angeles. The major manufactures include transportation equipment, chemicals, metal and wood products, and processed food.

Whittier

Whittier was incorporated as a city in 1898. The community was founded by members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1887 and named for the poet John Greenleaf Whittier. A residential and commercial community at the foot of the La Puente Hills near Los Angeles, the city lies in a petroleum, citrus fruit, avocado, and walnut producing area with some light industry. Major manufactures include oil field supplies, refined petroleum, motor vehicle parts, and aerospace equipment. Whittier College (founded in 1887), a junior college, and the adobe mansion of the last Mexican governor of California are here. President Richard M. Nixon attended college and practiced law in Whittier.

El Monte

The city is located in the San Gabriel Valley, in the Los Angeles metropolitan region. Manufactures include plastic, glass, and electronic equipment. It is the site of the El Monte Historical Society Museum. The name El Monte, given by Spanish explorers, is derived from the word meaning "woodland." The city is the oldest settlement in the San Gabriel Valley; it was founded in the early 1850s around the western terminus of the Santa Fe Trail. The first public school and Protestant church in southern California were built in El Monte.

El Monte was first settled in 1851 by the pioneer family of Thompsons. The proximity of the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers provided water and rich agricultural lands for the newcomers. The area had long been a watering hole for immigrants and over time others

settled in the area. The newcomers proposed Lexington as the name of their village, but this was eventually set aside and El Monte was formally adopted.

In the early twentieth century field crops were replaced by fruit orchards, walnut groves, and a growing dairy industry. By 1906, the Pacific Electric had established a line through El Monte and the city was incorporated in 1912. Lion tamers, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gay, opened a lion farm and at its peak in the 1930s, had more than 200 lions in residence. The City of El Monte designated a statue of one of the lions as an official Historical Monument (Barton 1988).

Baldwin Park

Baldwin Park is primarily a residential community for the nearby industrial centers of Irwindale and City of Industry, with some diversified light industry. In the mid-19th century it was cattle-grazing land for the nearby San Gabriel Mission and was settled by homesteaders about 1875. The community was established in 1906 by Elias J. Baldwin, a wealthy landowner for whom the town is named. It was incorporated as a city in 1956.

Arcadia

Arcadia, at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains, incorporated in 1903. Primarily residential, it has some light industry. The area was initially part of a land grant to Hugo Reid, a Scot who became a Mexican citizen and petitioned for the Rancho Santa Anita, a tract of more than 13,000 acres. In 1845 he was granted full title from Pio Pico, last Mexican governor. During the next 30 years Rancho Santa Anita changed ownership five times, until finally, Elias J. Baldwin purchased 8,000 acres of the old rancho in 1875 and subsequently subdivided it. The city was laid out in 1888 and named for the region of ancient Greece that was known for its pastoral character. The Santa Anita Park racetrack and the Los Angeles Arboretum are in Arcadia.

Irwindale

The city was named for a citrus grower in the area. The post office was established in May 1899, and the city was incorporated in 1957 (Gudde 1969:153).

Azusa

The city's name might be derived from that of a Shoshonean village, *Asuksa-gna*, formerly located nearby. Another interpretation is that it represents everything from A to Z in the U.S.A.

In 1841, an area of land some three miles square was granted to Luis Arenas by the Mexican government. Arenas built an adobe home on the hill in the eastern part of the City, did farming and stock raising, and called his newly acquired possession EL Susa

Rancho. In 1844 Arenas sold his holdings to Henry Dalton, an Englishman who acquired his wealth by buying and shipping foods from Peru to Wilmington Harbor, now Los Angeles harbor, and San Francisco. Dalton planted a vineyard and built a flour mill.

During 1854, gold was discovered in the San Gabriel Canyon and a town named El Doradoville was built at the fork of the San Gabriel to take care of the 2,000 miners who had filed gold claims along the east fork of the canyon. The town was destroyed by floods in 1861 and 1862. Dalton became involved in property disputes about the size of his holdings and after 24 years of litigation, he turned over his property to Jonathon Slauson who had loaned him the money to fight the Federal government.

In 1887, Mr. Slauson laid out the town of Azusa and as lots were graded Indian tools and artifacts were unearthed. In 1898, the City was incorporated (Mutschler 1996). Manufactures in the city include aerospace equipment, chemicals, and plastics. Azusa Pacific University (1899) and a junior college are in Azusa.

Angeles National Forest

In 1841, Henry Dalton paid Luis Arenas \$7,000 and for the purchase of the 4,400 acre Mexican rancho, the Azuza de Dalton. Dalton built his adobe near the mouth of the San Gabriel Canyon. The east and west branches of the San Gabriel River attracted settlement. H. Roberts built a frame house and general store on the east fork of the San Gabriel River, meeting the needs of miners during the gold rush then under way. A settler on the west side of the San Gabriel River in 1880 was George Islip after whom Mt. Islip was named. El Doradoville was located on the east fork of the San Gabriel River where miners built shacks and stone cabins in 1860. To protect the watershed of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and other rivers in the Sierra range, President Benjamin Harrison signed the forest into being as San Gabriel Timberland Reserve, changed in 1907 to San Gabriel National Forest, and then in 1908 renamed the Angeles National Forest.

San Gabriel River

The waters of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers often mingled on the coastal plain in times of flood. Flood waters from these rivers deposited the rich soil that helped make Los Angeles County the most productive agricultural county in the United States until the 1950s (Gumprecht 1999:9). The San Gabriel River once emptied into the ocean at San Pedro Bay, along a course later occupied by the Los Angeles River. The Los Angeles River joined the San Gabriel River seven miles north of its ocean terminus; the combined flow of the two streams reached the ocean through the Wilmington Lagoon. Both the Santa Ana and the San Gabriel posed greater flood risks in their uncontrolled states than did the Los Angeles River because they spread over wide areas as soon as they left the mountains. Other than the Los Angeles River, most of the rest of the irrigated farmland in Los Angeles County was located along the San Gabriel and Santa Ana Rivers (Gumprecht 1999:79).

The floods of 1868 caused the San Gabriel River to cut a new course to the sea. Until that time, the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers had joined north of the present location of Long Beach. Surging waters that winter, though, forced the San Gabriel to leave its bed farther upstream, where its channel turned southwest after emerging between two hills south of El Monte, a gap known as Whittier Narrows. Flood waters washed away the town of Galatin, settled a few years earlier near the present site of Downey, and dug an entirely new channel south to Alamitos Bay, at the boundary between Los Angeles and Orange counties. This new channel, initially known as New River, is approximately the course of the San Gabriel River today. Water continued to flow in the river's former channel, which became known as Rio Hondo. The last seven miles of the old San Gabriel channel, downstream from its meeting with the Los Angeles River, meanwhile, gradually assumed the name of that river (Gumprecht 1999:148).

The overflow of the San Gabriel River during a storm in March 1911 awakened fears of more flooding. Gravel extraction companies had removed so much of the River's bed near Duarte that nearly all the flow of the San Gabriel River had been forced back into its former channel, now the Rio Hondo, and had washed away bridges and destroyed valuable farmland during the flood. Studies conducted two years later showed that more than 90 percent of the water carried by the upper San Gabriel flowed west through the Rio Hondo and reached the ocean via the Los Angeles River at San Pedro Bay. Little water flowed in the main channel of the San Gabriel River below Whittier Narrows.

Supervisors hired a former Santa Fe railroad engineer named Frank H. Olmstead to prepare a comprehensive plan for to control of the San Gabriel River. In 1913 he proposed \$1.5 million in additional work. He suggested that the banks of the San Gabriel be reinforced and that the stream channels be kept clear of brush and rubbish. During this time, more than 2 million people moved to Los Angeles County during the first three decades of the twentieth century, transforming it from largely agricultural region with a population of Abilene, Texas, into a major metropolitan area (Gumprecht 1999:198).

Flood control hinged upon passing of Bond measures but these were defeated. The Federal government acted to take over and in 1935 Franklin D. Roosevelt allocated 13.9 million in Works Progress Administration funds to finance 14 of the most urgent projects in the comprehensive plan, and Congress authorized a preliminary examination of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers. This was the first step toward creating a more comprehensive federally funded Flood Control Program. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) became the agency delegated to study flood control issues and implement measures to prevent flood events. Flood control plans were completed in 1938 for the San Gabriel River which are still in place today.

METHODS

Record Search

Archaeological site records, survey and excavation reports, historic maps, and landmark lists were examined for any cultural resource data within a 0.5-mile radius of each of the three project areas. Two surveys had slightly overlapped the project boundaries at the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds (Farnsworth 1989; Owl Rock Products Co. 1988) with no cultural resources identified within the project area. Five surveys and one archaeological investigation overlapped the project boundaries at Whittier Narrows Nature/Education Center and Lario Creek (Greenwood, Foster, and Duffield 1989; Love 1980; Roberts and Brock 1987; RMW Paleo Associates 2000; Romani 2000; Sundberg and Whitney-Desautels 1991). No cultural resources were identified within the project area. The archaeological investigation resulted in the discovery of stone foundations and features associated with the La Merced Adobe, a late nineteenth century historic structure, located in the project area near the intersection of Rosemead Blvd. and Durfee Ave. Sampled and believed to be significant in 1989 (Greenwood, Foster, and Duffield 1989), the site is identified as CA-19-002583. Eight surveys have overlapped the project boundaries at El Dorado East Regional Park (Allen and Jones 1993; Demcak 1997; Dibble and Cottrell 1987; Duke 2000, 2002; McKenna et al. 2001; Ward and Del Chario 1990) with no cultural resources reported within this project area.

Survey

Each of the three project areas was inspected on foot, with the exception of areas of exceptionally thick and overgrown vegetation. Two archaeologists walked the parcels in parallel transects spaced approximately 10 meters apart, examining all visible ground surface and subsurface wherever revealed. Numerous animal trails, rodent burrows, erosion gulches, and several dirt roads throughout each of the project areas afforded some subsurface visibility.

RESULTS

Record Search

San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds

No Sites in Project Area

Two Sites in Search Area: Site Records. 19-002777. Alexandrowicz 1999a; 19-186107. Alexandrowicz 1999b

Table 1. Summary of Archaeological Investigations, San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, Project Area

Reference Number	Name of Project	Type of Investigation	Author/Date	Results
L-2111	Azusa Quarry	Linear Survey	Farnsworth 1989	Negative for Project Area
L-3797	National Guard Armory, Azusa	Survey	Ashkar 1997	Negative
L-391	Army Owl Rock Facility	Survey	de Barros 1988	Negative

Table 2. Summary of Archaeological Investigations, San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, Search Area

Reference Number	Name of Project	Type of Investigation	Author/Date	Results
L-1283	Foothill Dairy EIR, Azusa	Survey	Zahneiser 1983	Unrecorded Dairy Site
L-4723	Tract No. 52800, Azusa	Survey	Alexandrowicz 1999	19-002777 19-186107
L-2076	24 Acre Parcel, Duarte	Survey	Singer 1977	Negative

USGS Azusa 7.5' Quadrangle Map, scale 1:24,000, 1966 (photorevised 1972)

Sites in search area: 2

Alexandrowicz, J. S., and T. L. Bell

1999a Site Record, CA-LAN-2777 (19-002777). On file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton. 2 concrete-lined irrigation ditches, poss. 1844, certainly pre-1894.

1999b Site Record, building, 19-186107. On file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton. 1930s residence 1750 and 1770 Azusa and San Gabriel Canyon Road.

Historical maps consulted:

USGS Azusa 6' Map, 1939: no structures

Whittier Narrows Education Center and Lario Creek

One Site in Project Area: Site Record. 19-002583. Owen and Foster 1997

Two Sites in Search Area: Site Records. 19-001311. Brock and Elliott 1986; 19-000858. Jones et al. 1988

Brock, J., and J. Elliott

1986 Site Record, CA-LAN-1311H (19-001311). On file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton. 2 components: historical refuse and prehistoric lithics.

Jones, J., et al.

1976 Site Record, CA-LAN-858H (19-000858). On file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton. Historical refuse.

Table 3. Summary of Archaeological Investigations, Whittier Narrows Education Center and Lario Creek, Project Area				
Reference Number	Name of Project	Type of Investigation	Author/Date	Results
L-358	Los Angeles, Rio Hondo and Whittier Narrows	Records Search	Stickel 1976	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-828	Part of Whittier Narrows	Survey	Love 1980	Negative
L-1648	Whittier Narrows	Records Search	Roberts and Brock 1987	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-2970	Cajon Pipeline	Linear Survey	City of Adelanto 1992	Negative in Project Area
L-4659	Whittier Narrows	Records Search	Maxwell 1993	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-5455	Whittier Narrows	Review of Previous Research	Maxwell 1994	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-5456	Whittier Narrows	Survey	Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles County	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-5475	Whittier Narrows	Survey	Miller 2000	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-5476	San Diego Fiberoptic, Segment	Linear Survey	Romani 2000	Negative for Project Area

Table 3. Summary of Archaeological Investigations, Whittier Narrows Education Center and Lario Creek, Project Area				
Reference Number	Name of Project	Type of Investigation	Author/Date	Results
L-3509	Los Angeles County Drainage	Survey	Cottrell et al. 1985	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-2649	Los Angeles County Drainage	Records Search	MITECH 1989	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
no #	Whittier Narrows	Excavation Report	Greenwood et al. 1989	19-002583, 19-001311

Table 4. Summary of Archaeological Investigations, Whittier Narrows Education Center and Lario Creek, Search Area				
Reference Number	Name of Project	Type of Investigation	Author/Date	Results
L-1221	Whittier Narrows	Excavation Report	Schwartz 1982	19-000858
L-6299	NEXTEL CA-8028B, South El Monte	Records Search	McKenna 2002	Negative
L-4880	Route 605	Records Search	Smith and Sriro 2000	Negative
L-2667	Whittier Narrows	Partial Survey	Lindsey and Schiesel 1976	Negative in Project Area
L-2237	Whittier Narrows	Records Search	Sundberg and Whitney-Desautels 1991	19-002583, 19-001311, 19-000858
L-182	Whittier Narrows	Survey	Clewlow 1976	Negative
L-2882	Cajon Pipeline	Linear Survey	McKenna 1993	Negative in Project Area
L-4883	Route 60	Partial Survey	Storey 2000	Negative

Historical map consulted:

USGS Pasadena 15' Quadrangle Map, 1900: 3 or 4 structures

El Dorado Regional Park

Historical maps consulted:

USGS Downey 15' Quadrangle Map, 1896 – no structures

USGS Downey 15' Quadrangle Map, 1941 – 5+ structures
 USGS Downey 15' Quadrangle Map, 1943 – 5+ structures

No Sites in Project Area

No Sites in Search Area

Table 5. Summary of Archaeological Investigations, El Dorado Regional Park, Project Area				
Reference Number	Name of Project	Type of Investigation	Author/Date	Results
L-2067	Family Sports Complex, Long Beach	Survey	Ward and del Chario 1990	Negative
L-4090	6-Acre Parcel, Long Beach	Survey	Demcak 1997	Negative
L-83	Sewer Treatment Plants	Linear Survey	Rosen 1975	Negative for Project Area
L-6168	AT&T Wireless Facility 05114A-01	Records Search	Duke 2002b	Negative
L-2068	26-Acre Parcel, Long Beach	Survey	Dibble and Cottrell 1987	Negative
L-5718	Long Beach Reclaimed Water	Monitor Report	Demcak n.d.	Negative

Table 6. Summary of Archaeological Investigations, El Dorado Regional Park, Search Area				
Reference Number	Name of Project	Type of Investigation	Author/Date	Results
L-2843	Naval Hospital Site	Survey	Allen and Jones 1993	Negative
L-983	7.2 Acres, Lakewood	Survey	Rangel 1977	Negative
L-3649	Lot 36, Tract 9265, Long Beach	Survey	Cottrell 1976	Negative
L-6162	AT&T Wireless Facility 05292B	Records Search	Pletka 2002	Negative
L-4880	Route 605	Records Search	Smith and Siro 2000	Negative
L-5312 & L-6173	AT&T Wireless Facility C783.1	Records Search	Duke 2000	Negative
L-6088	AT&T Wireless Facility 05292A	Records Search	Duke 2002a	Negative
L-5215	Long Beach Desalination	Linear Survey	McKenna 2001	Negative for Project Area

Survey

The following is an inventory of the cultural resources encountered and recorded within each project area during the survey. Documentation included a site record/description, plan view map, and photographs.

San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds

Ground surveillance at the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds (Figure 2) was quite low along a strip between the bike path and the DPW property enclosing the spreading basins. Alluvial and riparian habitat vegetation was extremely thick here, and many areas were covered with rock and boulder-size alluvium. Much of the surface within the DPW property was open dirt but several paved roads and crushed asphalt surfaces reduced surface visibility to zero. Total ground surface visibility was approximately 80 percent of the project area.

Whittier Narrows Nature/Education Center and Lario Creek

At the Whittier Narrows Nature/Education Center and Lario Creek project area (Figure 3), vegetation is extremely thick and overgrown with ruderal varieties of grasses/weeds especially with the non-native mustard species. Dense concentrations of native grapes have virtually taken over many low lying shrubs and many trees as well, observed as high as 30 feet. Much of the perimeter of the parcel is thick with low-lying brush and shrub undergrowth within stands of trees. With the artificial lakes dry, drought conditions presently exist and much of the vegetation is dead and dry, waist and shoulder high in most areas, making surface visibility virtually impossible. Even the mowed grasses/weeds in the raptor management area did not measurably improve surface visibility due to the accumulation of the cut and uncleared vegetation. Several dirt trails and roads criss-cross the project area, and a proliferation of rodent burrows throughout the parcel offered some surface and subsurface visibility. Overall, total ground surface visibility probably did not exceed 25 percent of the project area. A recent fire in a small area in the south portion of the parcel afforded the best visibility during the survey.

El Dorado East Regional Park

With the exception of the wildlife habitat and nature center, visual surveillance within El Dorado East Regional Park was excellent (Figure 4). The paved roads and parking lots, concrete pad picnic areas, and park facility structures were the major impediments to pedestrian survey. Thick low-lying brush, shrub undergrowth, and trees are present along much of the park's perimeter. Although not as dry, the vegetation growth of the wild habitat and nature center was quite similar to that of the Whittier Narrows project area. The nature center's dirt trails and roads and a few areas adjacent to these offered maximum surface visibility. Heavy and thick weed and shrub undergrowth within stands of trees made these forested areas inaccessible.

SURVEY RESULTS

San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds:

No cultural resources, prehistoric or historic, were observed.

Whittier Narrows Nature/Education Center and Lario Creek:

Structure 1 – The complex included a concrete floor pad and remains of a concrete pool, located between a medium-size alder and the Lario Creek channel (on the north side). Just south of the "600" area, the remains of a concrete slab lay buried beneath a dirt access road that angles across the south side of both features. The concrete pad is parallel to and 15 feet north of the pool. It now measures at least 15 feet wide x 35 feet long and may have been larger. Several whole, thin, and warped red tiles of a composite material represent remains of flooring. These are 0.06 to 0.08" thick and 9" square. No makers' marks were observed. Faded tile fragments were scattered over a red painted concrete surface. Where one area was exposed adjacent to a chain link fence that borders the channel, corners of both the flooring and pool edges had been removed for installation of the fence, evidence that they predate its construction.

Rectangular in shape, the pool measures 26 feet wide x 44.5 feet long (inside) with a depth of 24 inches measured at the southwest corner. The pool may be deeper on the other side but the fill of soil prevented further measurements. Faded light blue paint was observed over white paint on portions of the inside walls. The pool's concrete rim extends out for approximately 36 inches, with a beveled edge and smooth finished surface, apparently not painted. A whole red brick embossed "SIMONS" was found in the soil fill inside the pool in the southwest corner. The date of construction for both the pool and floor and their historical significance are presently unknown.

Structure 2 – Remains of a concrete, red brick and mortar foundation were found in the eastern half of the nature area beside a dirt trail that circumscribes one of the dry lakes

south of the "Blue" gate off of Durfee Ave. The remains of Structure 2 are located approximately 150 feet north of the Lario Creek channel and were virtually hidden from view by the thick weedy overgrowth off of the trail and the encroaching branches of a medium size elderberry. After clearing the surrounding vegetation, a red brick and mortar foundation was exposed approximately 14 feet long x 8 feet wide.

The foundation appears to be solidly built. One north-south wall is almost 3 feet wide and extends at least 24 inches below the surface. This foundation wall continues another 3 feet west (for a total length of 6 feet), with a 2 foot gap, ending with the remains of a stucco wall finish of chicken wire and mortar which may indicate a larger structure may have existed. Several bolts were set in concrete on top of the foundation, presumably to anchor a wood framed superstructure. At what seems to be the southwest corner of the foundation, part of a brick exposed on the top surface revealed a partial makers' mark indicating "SIMONS" as the manufacturer.

Structure 3 – A concrete and rebar foundation was encountered beside a dirt access road in a relatively flat area in the eastern half of the nature area, approximately 210 feet north of the Lario Creek channel. Overgrown with mustard weed, the outside foundation and floor remains measure 24 feet east-west x 22 feet north-south. It is approximately 8 to 9 inches thick and reinforced with rebar (5/8" diameter sample collected). A foundation wall divides the structure into two rooms with inside dimensions of 13 feet x 20.5 and 9 feet x 20.5 feet. The exposed concrete floor is a smooth finished surface that appears to have been painted green and subsequently red. Lots of small concrete and mortar fragments are strewn about all over the floor surface. Several large concrete saw cut "cubes" and "cylinders" were observed on the floor and on the adjacent ground (Figure 5).

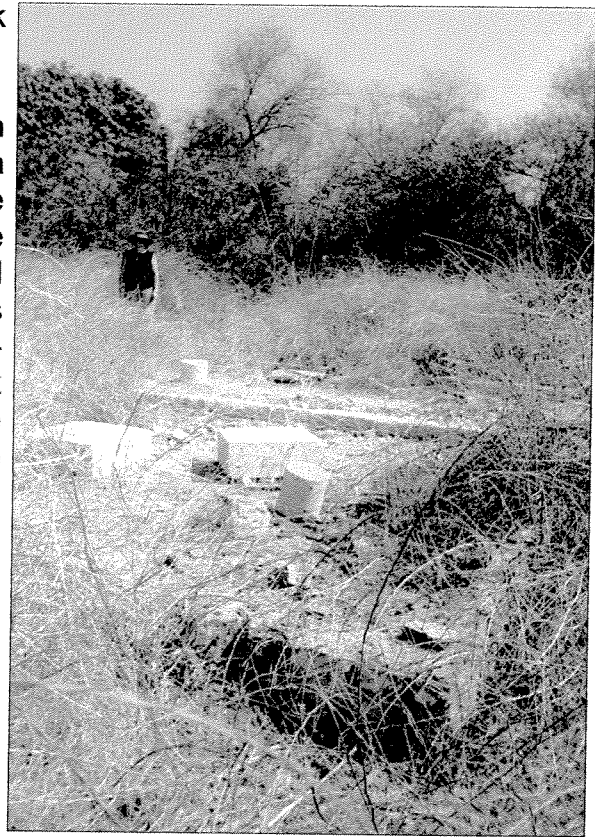


Figure 5. Structure 3

It appears that Structure 3 had utility services at one time with a gas pipe (1 5/16" diameter) and water pipe (1" diameter) on the northeast corner of the foundation. A utility pole some 50 feet to the east indicates telephone or electrical service. Structures 2, 3, and 4 are all in the same vicinity (within 250 feet of each other), and may be associated.



Figure 6. Structure 4

Structure 4 – Another concrete pad or floor and an inlet/outlet water pipe were located north of Structures 2 and 3. Discovered in an area overgrown with mustard weed and set back away from any trail or road, the remains are almost totally covered with weeds and duff. After clearing, the rectangular slab measured >32 feet east-west x 13 feet north-south, most of the surface appearing like a smooth finished floor. Where this finish was broken up into thin (1/4"

thick) pieces, with some missing, a rough concrete surface was exposed underneath.

About 5 feet in from the north edge of the pad is a concrete ledge or "curb", 4 inches wide x 6 inches high that extends east-west approximately 12.5 feet parallel to the edge (Figure 6). Approximately 20 feet east of Structure 4, a 9 inch diameter metal pipe or casing emerges from the ground to a height of 10 inches. Rising from the casing is a 3.25 inch diameter metal pipe (inside dia.) which may possibly represent an inlet/outlet water pipe. Its association with Structure 4 is unclear.

Historic Gaging Station: Located in the western half of the nature area approximately 100 feet south of Durfee Ave. by the "Green" gate, the gaging station structures are quite overgrown with wild grape vines, presumably abandoned for some time. A small structure associated with the station existed here at one time (Jallo, personal communication 2003; Figure 7).

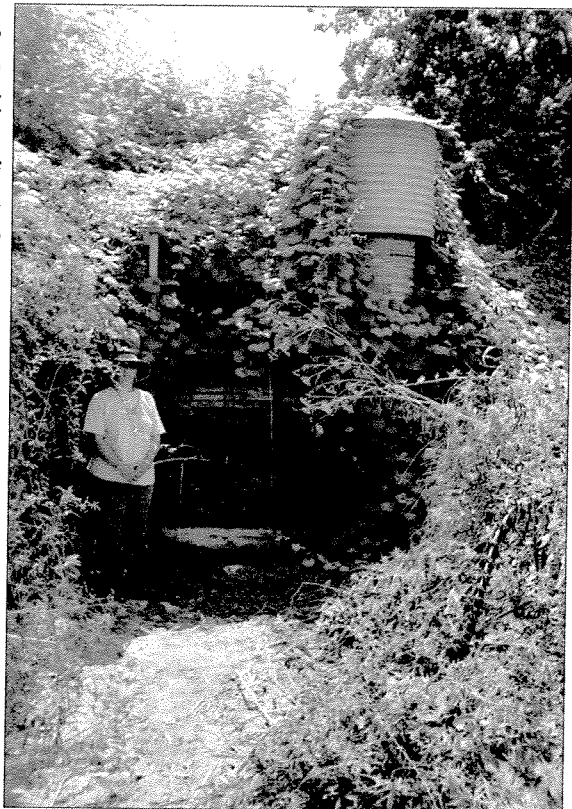


Figure 7. Gaging Station

Historic Metal Water Tank: Located about 145 feet south of the intersection of Durfee Ave. and Santa Anita Ave. near the "Yellow" gate, an

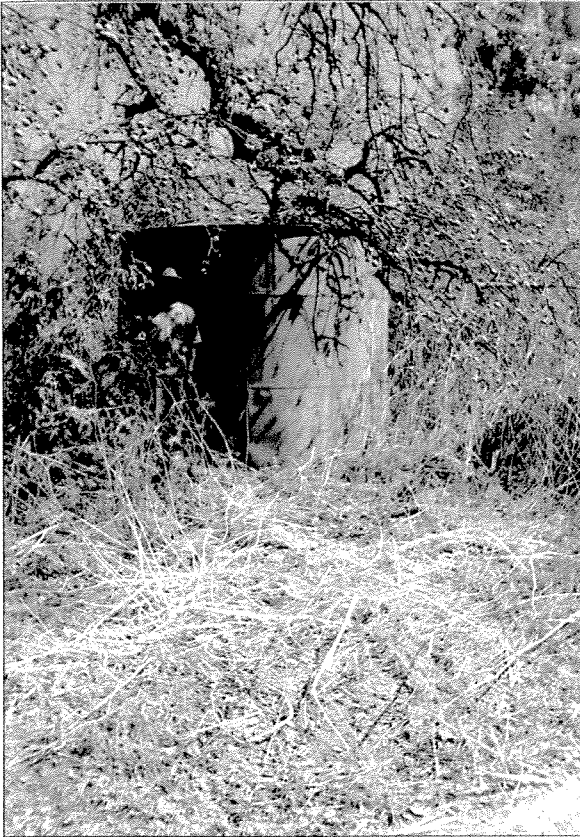


Figure 8. Water Tank

abandoned rusted metal water tank lies on the surface just east of a dirt access road. Measuring approximately 7 feet 7 inches in height and 10 to 12 feet in diameter with a slightly conical roof, the tank is constructed of metal panels that have been riveted together. This probably is not the tank's original location and the tank may have been raised on an associated structure or tower (Figure 8).

Driveways 5, 6, 7, 8: During the survey along the dirt access road that parallels Durfee Ave. between the "Yellow" and "Red" gates, four former "driveways" were observed as we crossed them. Three are asphalt and one is concrete, and they were labeled D5-D8 for purposes of documentation. All are perpendicular to Durfee Ave. and appear to represent access to residences that were located in the project area before its conversion to the nature center. Measurements of width and length, from the property fence line on the south side of Durfee Ave. were made by probing to determine, if possible, the length of each driveway. Driveway 5 is of concrete

construction, 10 feet wide x 70+ feet long. In the heavy undergrowth, a mound containing some exposed red roof tile, bottles, and cans was observed on the west side of the driveway approximately 85 feet south of the fence line. Driveway 6 is of asphalt construction, 76 feet east of D-5, and is 8 feet wide x 75+ feet long. A mound east of the driveway and a scatter of concrete rubble were observed. Driveway 7 is asphalt with concrete curbs, 154 feet east of D-6, and 13 feet wide x 75+ long. The vegetation was so thick and dense that no associations were visible. Driveway 8 is also of asphalt, 395 feet east of D-7 and 180 feet west of the "Yellow" gate. It is 8 feet wide x 65+ long. The vegetation here was thick and dense and quite impenetrable.

El Dorado East Regional Park: Eight shell beads were found on the surface on a slight knoll within a common public picnic area in Area II, approximately 91 feet west of the paved asphalt park access road. Each has a single conical drilled perforation with one appearing to be biconically drilled. They are square to slightly rectangular in shape averaging approximately 5 mm in length and 2 mm thick. The area where the shell beads were found appears heavily trafficked and three concrete pads (8 feet x 12 feet) with picnic tables surrounded with tree cover provide the setting with non-native hybrid grass ground cover interspersed with patches of open dirt. The beads were clustered within a 50 cm radius

in a patch of open dirt that appeared to have been recently fertilized. The ground was moist from recent watering.

The origin of the beads is questionable. They do appear Native American in manufacture, yet their context on the surface in a public park raises questions about their age. It is not evident whether the beads are *in situ* or were imported from fill or other means from a source outside the park. They could be modern copies. The pedestrian survey in the surrounding area and in other sections of the park revealed numerous shell fragments found on open dirt surfaces and in spoil from rodent burrows, particularly in Area III just west of the pistol firing range. Whole shells, both *Argopecten circularis* (scallop) and *Chione undatella* (clam), were observed on the surface in another part of Area II, west of this location, behind the archery range and are attributed to recent barbecue or picnic activities. The park grounds have undergone many changes over the years from the original flat agricultural fields to the modified topography of the lakes and landscaped areas that characterize the park today. The utilization of imported landfill in the early development of the park seems a reasonable conclusion for the presence of shell throughout the park.

CONCLUSIONS

The pedestrian survey of three project areas within the larger San Gabriel River Master Plan confirmed the presence of historical cultural resources in the Whittier Narrows Education/Nature Center and Lario Creek project area. Four probable historic structures, one historic gaging station, and one historic metal water tank were documented. These were recorded and may be recommended for Phase II investigations. The shell beads raise concern, although the context is questionable. The project area is sensitive for cultural resources both prehistoric and historic, as well as the surrounding Whittier Narrows basin as confirmed by the records search. It must be emphasized that surface visibility for most of project area did not exceed 25 percent.

Since the examination of the project area was limited to surface observations, it is possible that archaeological resources may be discovered during better, less obscured ground conditions and future subsurface investigations. This would apply also to the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds and El Dorado Park project areas.

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1992, the California legislature established the California Register of Historical Resources based on the federal model which established the National Register of Historic Places (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966). The California Register is to be used as a guide by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change. The California Register, as instituted by the California Public Resources Code (PRC), includes all California properties

already listed in the National Register and those formally determined to be eligible, as well as specific listings of State Historical Landmarks and State Points of Historical Interest (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 5024.1[d]). The California Register may also include various other types of historical resources which meet the criteria for eligibility.

As defined by Section 15064.5(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the term “historical resource” shall include the following:

- A. A resource listed in, or determined eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC Sections 5024.1);
- B. A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant;
- C. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the historical record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC Section 5024.1[a]) including the following:
 - 1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;
 - 2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
 - 3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
 - 4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Significance, as measured by eligibility to the California Register, has not been formally determined for any of the cultural resources.

PROJECT IMPACTS

Proposed Project. Under the proposed project, the existing Nature Center will be replaced with a new San Gabriel River Education Center. The project leads are the Sierra Club and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

The new San Gabriel River Education Center will be a regional indoor/outdoor museum and conference center. The project includes a new Education Center building (approximately 10,000 square feet), modifications to the site entrance and parking area, and improvements to the surrounding Nature Area including a constructed stormwater treatment wetland. The Education Center programs will focus on watershed and water-related topics. The Education Center will include indoor and outdoor exhibits and a museum, a reception area, orientation center, sales/retail area, auditorium, restrooms, meeting room, library, kitchen, offices, and a theater. The parking lot will be expanded to accommodate 170 staff and visitors.

The Nature Area surrounding the Education Center will be enhanced to provide native habitat. A constructed treatment wetland could replace areas currently dominated by ruderal (low-value) vegetation. The treatment wetland could treat urban runoff from upstream areas. Removal of invasive species and streamlining of the trail system will provide enhanced opportunities for wildlife foraging and nesting. Removal of redundant trails and improved trail signage would further improve the native habitat (BonTerra, 2003).

The Whittier Narrows Dam Master Plan prepared by USACE (1996) lays out a number of recreation and environmental resource objectives for the Whittier Narrows Dam Recreation Area. The Education Center project should reinforce these recreation and environmental resource objectives.

Proposed Project. North East Trees, a non-profit organization, is the project lead for Lario Creek, and DPW is a project partner. The project proposes to increase the capacity of Lario Creek and improve the surrounding Nature Area. Proposed improvements to the Nature Area include trails, signage, channel modification, stormwater treatment wetlands, and removal of exotic species.

An upstream rubber dam on the San Gabriel River at Valley Boulevard has a valve that can release up to 400 cfs (Gomez, 2003). Increasing the capacity of Lario Creek from the existing 250 cfs up to 400 cfs would allow more flexibility for DPW in its groundwater recharge operations. A minimum increase to 300 cfs is currently envisioned by DPW.

There are two alternatives for modifying the Lario Creek channel -- a dual flow model and a dual channel model. The dual flow model is a stepped channel design with a deep and

narrow low flow channel and a wider high flow channel. The high flow channel would be designed to meet the capacity requirements of DPW with vegetation in the channel. The dual channel model utilizes two parallel channels, one for conveyance, and one for habitat and aesthetic enhancements. The conveyance channel would not be vegetated. The habitat channel would be vegetated and meandering to resemble a natural creek. The habitat channel could potentially provide a water source for the dry lake beds and treatment wetlands to be located near the proposed San Gabriel River Education Center. Currently, DPW's preferred option is the dual channel model.

Southeast of the existing Nature Center is an area dominated by weedy vegetation that could be replaced with a constructed wetland designed to treat urban runoff. The wetland may be supplied by water from Lario Creek during periods of dry weather. Another potential year-round water source is Whittier Narrows WRP effluent. The wetland would be a continuous flow-through system that delivered water for downstream uses.

The project could remove exotic and invasive non-native species from areas directly adjacent to Lario Creek and within the project area. The area at the north end of Lario Creek west of the San Gabriel River is significantly degraded, and could be improved with plantings of native species. The removal of exotics and extension of the natural habitats would provide enhanced opportunities for wildlife foraging and nesting, and potentially attract species such as the willow flycatcher and the yellow-billed cuckoo (BonTerra, 2003).

Proposed trail improvements aim to improve the experience for trail users (cyclists, horses, and pedestrians) as well as to protect high quality habitats.

Proposed Project. The project, proposed by the City of Long Beach, will provide an opportunity to connect users of El Dorado Park with the San Gabriel River. Potential elements include the following:

1. Construct stormwater treatment wetlands at the north and south ends of the park and adjacent to power lines
2. Replace the water supply for the lakes with a non-potable source
3. Replace exotic plant species with native species
4. Create riparian habitat
5. Replace concrete bottom with soft bottom in San Gabriel River adjacent to site. Increase width of river and integration of river with park

This project will create wetlands and/or riparian habitat adjacent to the San Gabriel River in the northern half of the park. The wetlands would be designed to create habitat and treat river water and stormwater runoff. Potential water sources are runoff from the Long

Beach Town Center and the upstream urban areas of the City of Lakewood, San Gabriel River, and Coyote Creek. It may be necessary to pump water from these sources if current topography would not allow gravity flow. Reclaimed or potable water may be used to supplement these water sources during dry periods. The construction of wetlands in Area 3 can be an opportunity to redesign the existing lakes to improve their function.

Wetlands or riparian habitat are also proposed in the South of Willow area. The wetlands could be used to treat urban runoff from Coyote Creek. The habitat areas can be designed to meet the access requirements of Southern California Edison and promote the Master Plan objective of multiple uses of utility corridor rights of way.

The project also proposes to replace the current potable water source for the lakes with either San Gabriel River water or reclaimed water in order to promote water conservation. Water quality will have to be sufficient to support the fish in the stocked lakes.

The project will also enhance passive recreation within the regional park and increase educational opportunities at the existing El Dorado Nature Center. Trail signage, artwork and shade trees will improve the trail experience and emphasize the connection to the San Gabriel River Trail. Overlook and vista points of the San Gabriel River can be highlighted. The water quality and water conservation aspects of the park can be used as additional educational opportunities. A debris boom on Coyote Creek is one of the proposed projects in the Project Action Grid. If the project is implemented adjacent to El Dorado Park, it could be another topic for educational programs.

The project may include phasing out existing ornamental landscaping and replacing it with a native drought-tolerant plants. Potential habitat changes could involve revegetating the land directly adjacent to the eastern bank of the San Gabriel River by adding native trees and understory such as gooseberry and mule fat, which can attract numerous bird species. Proposed wetlands and mudflats could also attract bird species and provide more foraging habitat for shorebirds. Although the land on the western bank of the San Gabriel River is not owned by the City of Long Beach, stakeholders proposed replacing the current nursery land use with a mosaic of upland scrub vegetation.

Removing the concrete from this reach of the river is long-term goal that would require extensive modeling of the river corridor. However, El Dorado park is a unique opportunity where there is a long stretch of open space along a concrete lined section. Concrete removal would require a larger channel to have the same flood control capacity as the existing design. If concrete is to be removed and the channel widened, modifications to the bridges at Willow Street, Spring Street and Wardlow Street would be required.

Impacts Upon Cultural Resources

It does not appear from the project description that any of the resources will be impacted by virtue of project related activities.

MASTER PLAN

There are a number of potential projects that are considered for the San Gabriel River Master Plan. It is not within the scope of this investigation to consider each of these proposals, but the type of project can be categorized into potential effects on cultural resources. There are eight categories under consideration and include:

1. Habitat Enhancement. These project would involve revegetation, planting of trees and scrubs, removal of non-native species, possibly the installation of irrigation systems.
2. Parks and Open Space. Types of impacts for this category may vary widely, from grading, plantings, installation of irrigation, building of structures and other features, to removal of non-native species.
3. Water Quality and Supply. Activities that might be associated with water quality and supply may vary from massive construction projects, to canals, to channel dredging.
4. Trail Enhancement. This particular effort may involve cutting trails, construction of retaining walls, installation of signage and benches, irrigation, parking facilities, and other forms of impacts.
5. Bridges and Gateways. In this type of impact, there may be widening of approaches, drilling of soldier piles, channel widening, grading, construction of parking lots, and other types of disturbance.
6. Education Center. Construction of buildings and related elements would involve grading, irrigation facilities, and other forms of disturbance.
7. Land Reclamation. This type of project may involve a wide variety of issues, including the removal of building ruins (potential historical sites), grading, creation of berms, dredging, and other types of impacts.
8. Studies. Most studies don't tend to be intrusive, but geologic testing through drilling or trenching has been known to affect archaeological sites as well as the grading of access roads to such locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Specific

Should any subsurface disturbance be planned within any of the project areas, it is recommended that a qualified archaeologist be present to monitor all such activity. Should any cultural resources be encountered, the archaeologist will have the authority to halt construction activities temporarily in the vicinity, to identify and evaluate the materials, and implement appropriate measures to mitigate unavoidable impacts to resources found to be significant. Additional survey will be required if project plans are changed to include areas not previously surveyed.

Overall Project

There are more than 150 projects in various phases of planning for the San Gabriel River Master Plan. There are a minimum of eight categories of projects, most of which entail three or more types of impacts. A review of the San Gabriel River and surrounding communities suggest that there is the potential for encountering elements of Spanish Period occupation, e.g., the Ontiveros Adobe in Santa Fe Springs, Mexican Period ranchos, e.g., Azusa, Long Beach, numerous agricultural related buildings and structures during the early American Period, and residential development in later years which would include historical transit systems, e.g., Pacific Electric light rail.

While project specific impacts are, as yet, undeveloped, there are certain basic recommendations that can be made in regard to cultural resources. The first is historical research, record search at the California State Information Center, contact with local historical societies, and the Native American Heritage Commission. These steps will provide the minimal information necessary to conduct field reconnaissance of each of the project areas. Some of these projects may have had cultural resource investigations in the past, but it should be noted that cultural resource studies become obsolete after five years. This time limit recognizes that historical resources age and eventually become more than 50 years of age which will trigger more intensive study.

Cultural resources are subject to direct and indirect effects. Direct effects such as grading, drilling, and even capping are potential forms of impacts. Construction of new buildings, berms, channels, may create indirect effects on both historical structures and archaeological sites. If cultural resources are to be affected, then the significance of the resource will need to be determined if not already done so. The evaluation phase for archaeological sites will consist of excavation, research, and laboratory analysis. For the built environment, evaluation will consider historical research, field examination, and report documentation.

Mitigation of impacts will depend on the nature and type of resource, level of impact, and other factors. Site specific planning will be necessary.

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Storey, N.

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South Central Coastal Information Center
California Historical Resources Information System
California State University, Fullerton
Department of Anthropology
800 North State College Boulevard
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846
714.278.5395 / FAX 714.278.5542
anthro.fullerton.edu/sccic.html - sccic@fullerton.edu

Ventura
Los Angeles
Orange

September 14, 2004

SCCIC #4599.2124

Mr. Glenn Howe
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA, 91803-1331
626.458.5100

RE: Woodland Duck Farm Project Area – PQ528073

Dear Mr. Howe,

As per your request received on August 29, 2004, an expedited records search was conducted for the above referenced project. This search includes a review of all recorded archaeological sites within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site as well as a review of cultural resource reports on file. In addition, the California Points of Historical Interest (PHI), the California Historical Landmarks (CHL), the California Register of Historic Places (CR), the National Register of Historic Places (NR), the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), and the City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments listings were reviewed for the referenced project site. The following is a discussion of the findings.

Due to the sensitive nature of cultural resources, archaeological site locations are not released.

El Monte, CA. USGS 7.5' Quadrangle

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

No archaeological sites have been identified within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. This does not preclude the potential for archaeological sites to be identified during project activities. No isolates have been identified within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site.

HISTORIC RESOURCES:

One additional cultural resource (19-186112) has been identified within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. This resource is not located within the project site.

A review of the historic map(s) – El Monte (1948) 15' USGS - indicated the presence of the place name "Bassett", Workman Mill Road, Valley Boulevard, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the San Gabriel River within a 1/2-mile radius of the project area. Also noted, were the presence of a network of roads and structures within a 1/2-mile radius of the project area.

The California Point of Historical Interest (2004) of the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, lists no properties within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site.

The California Historical Landmarks (2004) of the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, lists no properties within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site.

The California Register of Historic Places (20004) lists no properties within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site.

The National Register of Historic Places lists no properties within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site.

The City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments lists no properties within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site.

The California Historic Resources Inventory (2004) lists no properties that have been evaluated for historical significance within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site.

PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS:

Fifteen studies (LA1220, LA2823, LA2882, LA2894, LA2970, LA3295, LA4117, LA4527, LA4528, LA4835, LA4880*, LA4883, LA4889, LA6310, LA6809) have been conducted within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. Of these, one is located within the project site. There are 11 additional investigations located on the El Monte 7.5' USGS Quadrangle that are potentially within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. These reports are not mapped due to insufficient locational information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the records search and the details provided for the project site, no further archaeological work is recommended. However, in order to avoid damaging any previously unidentified cultural resources, a halt-work condition should be in place during all ground disturbing activities. In the event that cultural resources are encountered, all work within the vicinity of the find should stop. A professional archaeologist should be retained to assess such finds and make recommendations.

Additionally, if the Original Ranch House or any adjacent structure is 45 years and older, our office recommends that the building be assessed and evaluated for potential historical significance by a professional architectural historian.

The professional archaeologist / architectural historian you retain may request the records search map, archaeological site records, and bibliography from the Information Center referencing the SCCIC number listed above for a fee (per the fee schedule).

If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at 714.278.5395 Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the SCCIC number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Sincerely,
SCCIC



Stacy St. James
Assistant Coordinator

Enclosures:

(X) Invoice #2124 Sent to po box 1460

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Appendix E

Woodland Duck Farm Access Analysis

Appendix E contains the traffic access analysis conducted for the Woodland Duck Farm by Kaku Associates (2003).

MEMORANDUM

TO: Frank Simpson, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

FROM: Pat Gibson
Chris Munoz

SUBJECT: Woodland Duck Farm Passive Recreation Area
Access Analysis

DATE: April 16, 2003

REF: 1607

Kaku Associates, Inc. has been asked to evaluate the points of access to the Woodland Duck Farm, which the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is considering purchasing as a passive recreation site.

The former Woodland Duck Farm site is located along the I-605 Freeway south of Valley Boulevard in Los Angeles County. As illustrated in Figure 1, the site is bisected by I-605 and bordered on the west side by the San Gabriel River. The level of visitor activity generated by the passive open space has not yet been fully programmed, but it is anticipated that a 50, 75, or 100-space visitor parking lot could satisfy the anticipated visitor levels. For the purposes of this analysis, the most intense activity level (i.e., the development of a 100-space parking lot) is evaluated.

PRIMARY ACCESS

The primary access point is through a gate located at the west end of Proctor Street, south of Valley Boulevard, as shown in Figure 2. This driveway connects the east and west portions of the site via a one-lane underpass under the I-605 Freeway. Employees and visitors could both use this entrance.

Capacity of One-Lane Underpass

One lane of a roadway has a physical capacity to accommodate a maximum of 1,800 vehicles per hour per direction of travel.

In the case of the one-lane underpass, the eastbound and westbound traffic must share the same roadway and therefore the capacity of the underpass would be one-half of the 1,800 vehicles per hour capacity discussed above. The one-lane under pass would have a capacity of 900 vehicles per hour, 450 vehicles per direction.

The existing underpass provides more than enough capacity to accommodate even the largest visitor parking lot under consideration (i.e., the 100-space parking lot). Even if 50% of the spaces turned over in an hour (50 vehicles in and 50 vehicles out), the vehicle activity generated by the passive recreation would not come close to the physical capacity of the underpass.

Because the existing underpass provides only one lane of travel, some system would have to be implemented to assign right-of-way in the underpass. A simple traffic signal could be installed at the both entrances to the one-lane underpass to control drivers entering and leaving the site. This would provide safety for the visitors and sufficient capacity would still be available to allow the underpass to operate at a good level of service.

Impacts on Proctor Street

Traffic destined to the main gate to the site driveway would traverse two blocks of Proctor Street between San Angelo Avenue and the gate. Proctor Street is a two-lane local street with residential units on the south side of the street and a Los Angeles County park on the north side.

Existing traffic counts on Proctor Street were taken on Thursday, April 10 and Friday, April 11, 2003. The results of the traffic counts show Proctor Street carries approximately 1,674 vehicles per day. During the morning and evening peak hours, Proctor Street has a total of 133 and 137 vehicles per hour, respectively. These volumes are very low and result in a Level of Service (LOS) A. See Table 1 for a description of Level of Service operations.

In order to determine if the project will impact Proctor Street, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works impact criteria for new projects on two-lane roadways will be utilized. There are two criteria for determining impacts. First, a project is deemed to have a significant impact on a two-lane roadway if the proposed project increases the number of cars per hour by more than 4% when the two-lane street is operating at Level of Service C (or 2% at LOS D or 1% at LOS E or F). Secondly, a project is considered to have a significant impact if the project-generated traffic significantly increases on a residential street and alters its residential characteristic.

The existing volume of traffic and the current Level of Service on Proctor are below the range of the significant impact criteria. Proctor is operating at LOS A, while the impact criteria begin at LOS C. As mentioned above, the proposed open space project would contain a maximum 100-space parking lot. Assuming that 50% of the parking spaces turned over in an hour, this is equivalent to 50 vehicles in and 50 vehicles out – or approximately one vehicle per minute in each direction. This traffic level will in no way change the residential character of Proctor Street, and therefore will not create a significant impact.

SECONDARY ACCESS

There are two secondary access points to the site. Figure 2 illustrates the location of these access points. One is located off Rall Avenue and could be reached via Proctor Street or San Angelo Avenue. This driveway connects to the driveway off Proctor, east of the one-lane underpass. Except for the rare occasion when emergency vehicles would need to utilize this driveway, we do not expect that any significant amount of project traffic would be utilizing this access point. The majority of project traffic will stay on Proctor, traveling directly to the site, rather than diverting to this driveway.

The other access point to the site is located off Temple Avenue just north of Valley Boulevard in the vicinity of the I-605/Valley Boulevard interchange. This access point is farther away from the site and, because of its proximity to the railroad tracks north of Valley Boulevard, it is limited to right turns in and out only. Traffic approaching the site from the I-605 Freeway would have to travel north on Temple Avenue and make a u-turn at the signalized intersection of Temple/Perez Place and then return southbound to make a right turn into the project driveway. Because of this circuitous route, we believe that most RMC staff and visitors would use the Proctor driveway to access the farmhouse site.

A review of the parcel maps at the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office showed that Los Angeles County owns all of the land parcels along this driveway. The parcel maps did not indicate any easements or restrictions that would preclude the continued use of the Temple gate for access to the west side of the site. Both autos and trucks from the current lease holders (a nursery and a tree trimming operation) utilize this entry/exit today. Southern California Edison (SCE) maintenance trucks also use this entry for maintenance of their towers along the west side of the site.

Emergency Access

The Los Angeles County Fire Department typically requires two points of emergency access to every development or public assembly place. The access off Temple Avenue, which is currently accommodating trucks accessing the nursery and tree trimming company as well as SCE maintenance trucks, can be used for emergency access. Although there is only one access to the west side of the site that is capable of accommodating large trucks, the land area along the Temple driveway is wide enough that it would be very difficult for the entire driveway to be blocked. Thus, the Temple driveway can clearly accommodate emergency vehicles, and it provides sufficient emergency vehicle access to the west end of the site.

Currently, Los Angeles County is planning a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over the San Gabriel River at Rush Street, as shown in Figure 2. This bridge project is scheduled to be constructed and open by 2006. RMC should work with the County to ensure that the Rush Street overpass is designed to accommodate emergency vehicles. This overpass could then serve as the second emergency access route to the west side of the site.

The Proctor Street and Rall Avenue access points can also be used for emergency access to the east side of the site. Both access driveways can accommodate emergency vehicles. These driveways meet the LA County requirements for dual emergency vehicle access routes to the east side of the site. Emergency access to the west side of the site would be limited through these two access points. The current one-lane underpass cannot accommodate large emergency vehicles due to the height constraints of the underpass. As described above, the Temple driveway would provide the emergency access to the west side of the site.

Alternative Access Points

Other possible access points have been explored. Due to the physical constraints adjacent to the site, the I-605 Freeway, San Gabriel River, and the Metrolink tracks, there are no other viable or feasible access points. Constructing an additional freeway underpass or vehicular river crossing would be cost-prohibitive and unnecessary.

SPECIAL EVENTS

If there are any special events at the site that attract large crowds, special directional signing would be used to direct some of the traffic to the Rall Avenue access point and even to the Temple access drive.

The site could provide temporary event parking on the east side of the I-605 Freeway between the Proctor and the Rall driveways. Visitors could park on the east side of the freeway and be transported to the event on the west side on a tram or other similar vehicle.

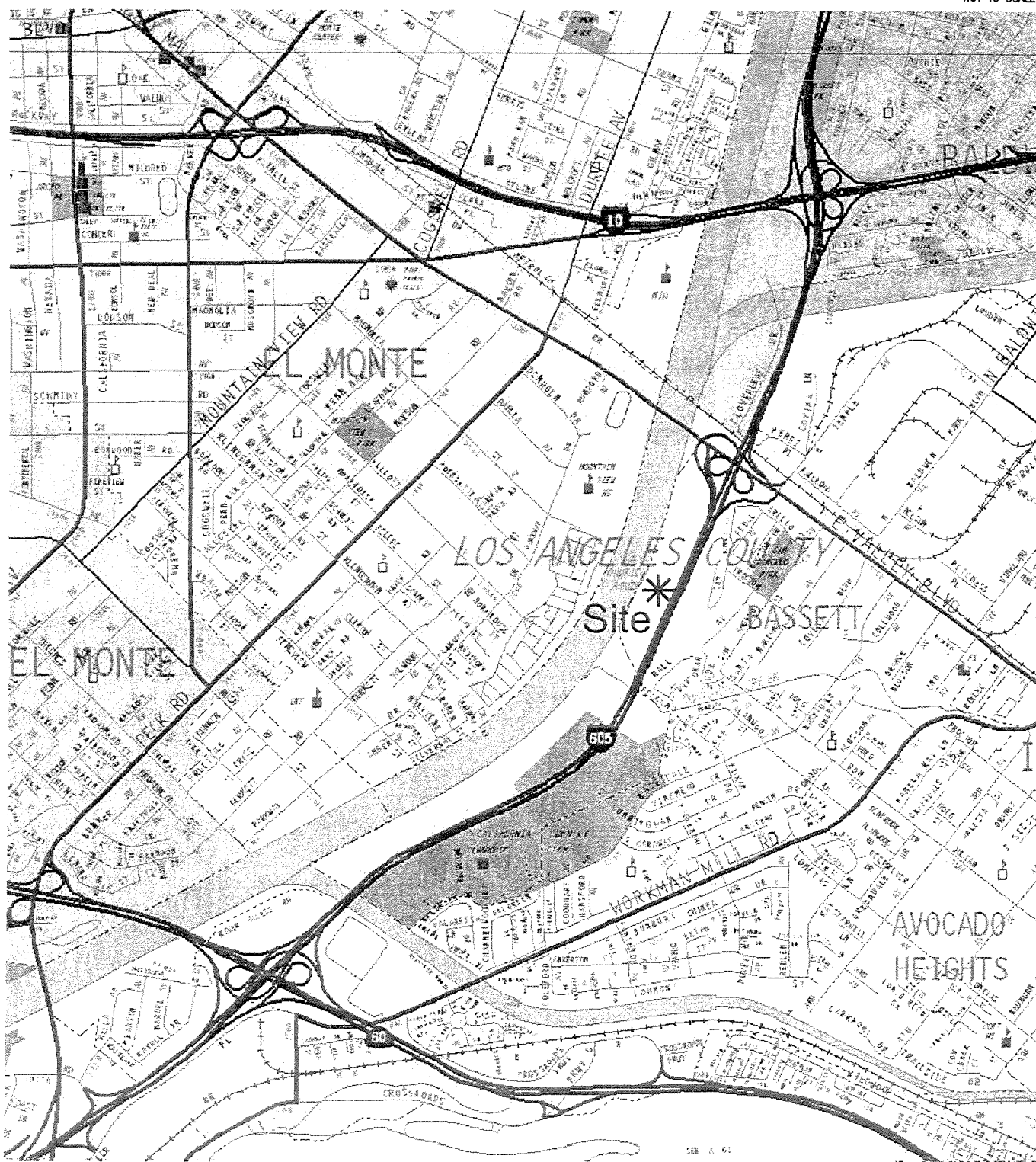
CONCLUSIONS

The site currently has sufficient capacity to accommodate the anticipated staff and visitor demand through the Proctor gate. The Temple access route provides a secondary visitor access route if needed in an emergency, and the Temple gate provides emergency vehicle access to the west side of the site. The Proctor and Rall access points provide sufficient emergency vehicle access to the east side of the site.

The proposed passive recreation area will not generate enough visitor traffic to create any access constraints at the site. The three available access points can accommodate the anticipated project traffic. The future Rush Street overpass could also provide a second emergency vehicle access to the west side of the site.

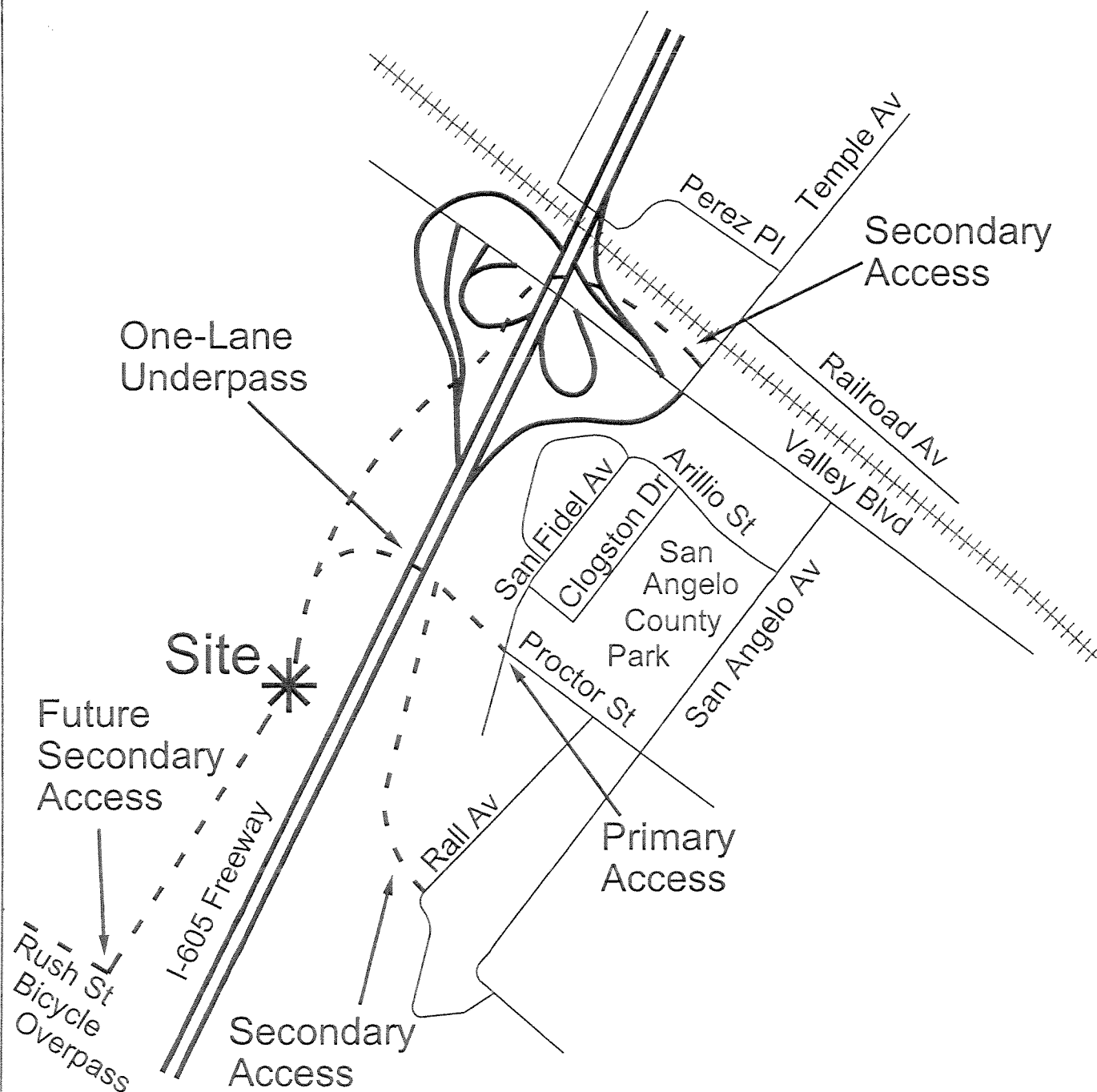


NOT TO SCALE



KAKU ASSOCIATES

FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION



KAKU ASSOCIATES

FIGURE 2
SITE ACCESS

TABLE 1
LEVEL OF SERVICE DEFINITIONS FOR ARTERIAL STREET SEGMENTS

Level of Service	Volume/Capacity Ratio	Definition
A	0.00 - 0.60	EXCELLENT. Primarily free-flow conditions at about 90 percent of free-flow speed. Vehicles are completely free to maneuver within the traffic stream. Stopped delay at signalized intersections is minimal.
B	0.61 - 0.70	VERY GOOD. Reasonably unimpeded flow at about 70 percent of free-flow speed. Ability to maneuver is only slightly restricted and delay at intersections is not bothersome.
C	0.71 - 0.80	GOOD. Stable operations at about 50 percent of free-flow speed. Ability to maneuver and change lanes may be restricted at mid-block locations. Motorists will begin to experience tension while driving.
D	0.81 - 0.90	FAIR. Small increases in flow begin to cause substantial increases in intersection approach delay. Ability to maneuver becomes more difficult, with speeds about 40 percent of free-flow speed.
E	0.91 - 1.00	POOR. Characterized by significant delays at intersection approaches and travel speeds about one-third of free-flow speed. Ability to maneuver is severely restricted and driver tension is high.
F	>1.00	FAILURE. Extremely low travel speeds and unstable traffic flow. Characterized by long delays at intersection approaches, severe difficulty in maneuvering between lanes, and extremely high driver tension.

Source: Adapted from Transportation Research Board, *Highway Capacity Manual, Special Report 209*, 1985.

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Appendix F

Comments and Responses

Table F-1 lists the agencies and organizations who provided written comments on the Draft Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan. This section presents the comments followed by the County's responses to those comments.

Table F-1
List of Comment Letters

Letter Number	Organization	Commentor
1	California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources	Mr. Paul Frost, Associate Oil & Gas Engineer
2	California Department of Fish and Game	Ms. Leslee Newton-Reed, Habitat Conservation Planning Mr. Donald R. Chadwick, Habitat Conservation Supervisor
3	California Department of Transportation	Mr. Robert Joseph, Chief IGR/Community Planning Branch
4	Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts	Ms. Jennifer Bender, Water Quality Scientist
5	City of Cerritos	Mr. Torrey N. Contreras, Director of Community Development
6	City of Santa Fe Springs	Mr. Robert G. Orpin, Director of Planning and Development
7	City of Seal Beach	Mr. Paul Yost, Mayor Mr. Phil Ladner, Chairman Planning Commission Mr. Mario Voce, Chairman Environmental Quality Control Board
8	County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department	Mr. Ronald L. Tippetts, Chief, Environmental Planning Division
9	Fly Fishers Club of Orange County	Mr. David M. Long
10	Law Offices of Susan M. Trager	Ms. Susan M. Trager
11	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	Ms. Carol Thomas Williams, Executive Officer
12	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Ms. Laura J. Simonek, Manager, Environmental Planning Team
13	Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority	Ms. Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
14	San Gabriel River Water Committee	Mr. Don Berry, Administrator
15	San Gabriel River Watermaster	Mr. Richard A. Rhone

Table F-1 (Continued)
List of Comment Letters

Letter Number	Organization	Commentor
16	San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District	Mr. Steve West, District Manager Mr. Minoo Madon, Scientific Technical Services Director, Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District Mr. Charles Myers, Supervisor, California Department of Health Services, Vector-Borne Disease Section
17	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	Mr. Christian Alarcon, Civil Engineer, Monitoring Section
18	Southern California Association of Governments	Ms. April Grayson, Associate Regional Planner, Intergovernmental Review
19	Southern California Edison	Ms. Maryann Reyes, Director of Public Affairs
20	Southern Council of Conservation Clubs, Inc.	President
21	United Rock Products	Mr. Ken Barker, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Manager
22	Vulcan Materials Company Western Division	Mr. Steve C. Cortner, Vice President
23	--	Mr. Robert Dale
24	--	Mr. Lester Kau

wmd
337



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Comment Letter No. 1

April 4, 2005

DIVISION OF OIL,
GAS, & GEOTHERMAL
RESOURCES

5816 CORPORATE AVE.
SUITE 200
CYPRESS
CALIFORNIA
90630-4731

PHONE
714/816-6847

FAX
714/816-6853

INTERNET
consrv.ca.gov

ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, California 91802-1460

Subject: Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report for
the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan, SCH #2003041187

Dear Mr. Moreno:

The Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) has reviewed the above referenced project. The Division supervises the drilling, maintenance, and plugging and abandonment of oil, gas, and geothermal wells in California.

The proposed project is located within the administrative boundaries of several oil and gas field. There are numerous wells within the project boundaries. The wells are identified in Division records and on Division maps. The Division recommends that all wells within or in close proximity to project boundaries be accurately plotted on future project maps.

Building over or in the proximity of plugged and abandoned wells should be avoided if at all possible. If this is not possible, it may be necessary to plug or re-plug wells to current Division specifications. Also, the State Oil and Gas Supervisor is authorized to order the reabandonment of previously plugged and abandoned wells when construction over or in the proximity of wells could result in a hazard (Section 3208.1 of the Public Resources Code). If reabandonment is necessary, the cost of operations is the responsibility of the owner of the property upon which the structure will be located. Finally, if construction over an abandoned well is unavoidable an adequate gas venting system should be placed over the well.

Furthermore, if any plugged and abandoned or unrecorded wells are damaged or uncovered during excavation or grading, remedial plugging operations may be required. If such damage or discovery occurs, the Division's district office must be contacted to obtain information on the requirements for and approval to perform remedial operations.

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

2005 APR 20 PM 2:02

MAIL CENTER
900 S. FREMONT AVE.

1-1

1-2

Mr. Marty Moreno, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works

April 4, 2005

Page 2

1-2
(cont'd)

To ensure proper review of building projects, the Division has published an informational packet entitled, "Construction Project Site Review and Well Abandonment Procedure" that outlines the information a project developer must submit to the Division for review. Developers should contact the Division's Cypress district office for a copy of the site-review packet. The local planning department should verify that final building plans have undergone Division review prior to the start of construction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report. If you have questions on our comments, or require technical assistance or information, please call me at the Cypress district office: 5816 Corporate Avenue, Suite 200, Cypress, CA 90630-4731; phone (714) 816-6847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Frost". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "P" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Frost
Associate Oil & Gas Engineer



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201

Comment Letter No. 2

April 22, 2005

RECEIVED

APR 22 2005

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

clear
4-18-05
late

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

**Comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River
Corridor Master Plan, Orange County (SCH# 2003041187)**

Dear Mr. Moreno:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The following statements and comments have been prepared pursuant to the Department's authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project (CEQA Section 15386) and pursuant to our authority as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Section 15381 over those aspects of the proposed project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et seq.) and Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. The Department also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program (NCCP).

The proposed project area is a 1-mile wide corridor along 58 river miles on the San Gabriel River from its headwaters in the San Gabriel Mountains to its terminus at the Pacific Ocean between Long Beach and Seal Beach. The project area includes 19 cities as well as unincorporated areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan is a consensus-based document that recognizes and addresses a renewed interest in recreation, open space, and habitat, while also seeking to enhance and maintain flood protection, water conservation benefits, along with existing water rights. The Master Plan identifies over 130 projects along the San Gabriel River that are visions of cities and other stakeholder organizations and incorporate one or more of the Master Plan goals. The Master Plan provides policies and guidelines that help coordinate these independent projects and to facilitate the achievement of the shared vision and goals for the San Gabriel River corridor. This Program EIR is intended to be a model to guide further project-level CEQA review and streamline the environmental review and documentation for Steering Committee members proposing projects in the river corridor.

The Department offers the following preliminary comments and recommendations; we reserve the right to make further comments on second-tier CEQA documents.

2-1

1. The Department recommends the following revision to Construction impacts on nesting

Mr. Marty Moreno

April 22, 2005

Page 2

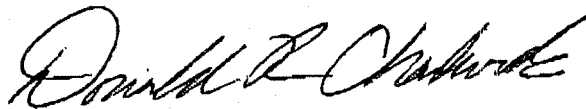
raptors, CD-B4, on Table 1-3, Summary of Concept Design Study Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

CD-B4 Nesting Raptors – The following mitigation measure shall be implemented to avoid raptor impacts:

~~No earlier than 45 days and no later than 20 days~~ One week prior to construction or ~~grading/site preparation and clearing~~ activities that would occur during the nesting/breeding season of native bird species potentially nesting on the site (typically February through August), a survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active nests of bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or the California Fish and Game Code are present ~~in the construction zone or within 100 feet (200 feet for raptors)~~ within 300 feet (within 500 feet for raptors) of the construction zone. Construction can proceed if no active ~~raptor~~ avian nests are located during this survey. If an active nest is found during the survey, a 500-foot (this distance may vary depending on the bird species and construction activity, as determined by the biologist) fence barrier shall be erected around the nest site. Clearing and construction within the fenced area shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities may occur near active nests to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests occur. Results of the raptor survey and any subsequent monitoring shall be provided to the CDFG and any other appropriate agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIR. The Department finds that the project would be de minimis in its effects on fish and wildlife per section 711.4 of the California Fish and Game Code. Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Leslee Newton-Reed at (858) 467-4281.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Chadwick
Habitat Conservation Supervisor

cc: State Clearing House

LNR:lnr
San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan DEIR



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Sean Walsh
Director

April 25, 2005

Marty Moreno
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Subject: San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan
SCH#: 2003041187

Dear Marty Moreno:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Draft EIR was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on April 18, 2005. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2003041187) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District 12

3337 Michelson Drive, Suite 380

Irvine, CA 92612-8894

Tel: (949) 2724-2267

Fax: (949) 724-2592

0221 WMS
Comment Letter No. 3*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!***FAX & MAIL**

April 13, 2005

Mr. Martin Moreno
County of Los Angeles,
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, California 91802-1460

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2003041187
Log #: 1248-A
SR #: SR-1, I-405, I-605

Subject: San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan

Dear Mr. Moreno,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the **Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan Project**. This Master plan proposes an integrated watershed system achieving various goals and providing a wide variety of activities including open space and habitat protection, water conservation benefits, flood safety, water supply and water quality, and economic development. The nearest state facilities to the project site Interstates 405, 605 and SR-1.

Caltrans District 12 status is a reviewing agency on this project and has the following comments:

3-1

1. Please refer to our comments in our previous correspondence dated May 23, 2003 (copy attached). In the event of any activity in Caltrans' right-of-way, an encroachment permit will be required. Applicants are required to plan for sufficient permit processing time, which may include engineering studies and environmental documentation.

3-2

- Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments, which could potentially impact the transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to call Maryam Molavi at (949) 724-2267.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. JOSEPH, Chief
IGR/Community Planning Branch

C: Terry Roberts, Office of Planning and Research
Terri Pencovic, Caltrans HQ IGR/Community Planning
Gale McIntyre, Deputy District Director
Isaac Alonso Rice, Traffic Operations

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Comment Letter No. 4**Rydman, Rama**

From: Jennifer Bender [jenniferb@wcbwater.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2005 11:41 AM
To: Rydman, Rama
Subject: Additional Comments to the SGR Master Plan

Rama,

Apologize for not attending the meeting Monday - I myself am wrapped up in Prop 50 and was just too swamped to make it.

Although I submitted a few comments last December to the Master Plan, I took another read through and would like to add the following comments. I'm not sure if you are the specific person to send these to, but I thought you could at least forward them on if you weren't.

- 4-1
1. Overall comment - sometimes the West Coast Basin is referred to as just the West Basin (referring to groundwater basins). It should be consistently called the West Coast Basin throughout the entire document.
- 4-2
2. Overall comment - sometimes the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has the word "Southern" left out of their name in the text. They are truly called the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. It should be consistent throughout.
- 4-3
3. Overall comment - sometimes even after the phrase "Water Reclamation Plant" has been defined and the acronym used, the phrase is continually used in the document rather than the acronym. It should be one or the other.
- 4-4
4. Overall comment - sometimes the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County are mis-named in the text as County Sanitation Districts, or Sanitation District (singular). Their name "Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County" should be consistent throughout.
- 4-5
5. Overall comment for Chapters 2 and 3 - when discussing water supply and adjudication rights on the San Gabriel River, there are points of confusion. In some places it describes how the River is the primary source of local water supply in Southern California (ignoring the groundwater basins all together). In other places it talks about how every single drop of water in the River is adjudicated and/or percolated into the ground (which is not evenly distributed into every groundwater basin). Also, it mentions that the River carries a lot of reclaimed water and rainfall to waste to the ocean. I don't get a consistent message on how the River in fact contributes to all of the underlying groundwater basins, how adjudication rights are impacted by the excess recycled water and rainfall in the river, and how it can all percolate when it's consistently flowing toward the sea. Perhaps some clarification may help?
- 4-6
6. Overall comment for Chapters 2 and 3 - when discussing water supply, the sections frequently itemize local water supply sources as imported, reclaimed, and rainfall. This list leaves off groundwater, which is a crucial source for water supply. Most rainfall is not captured and added into the groundwater basins, and even if it was, it's only a small component of the groundwater aquifer as a source in and of itself. It might be good to clarify the role of rainfall to groundwater basins, and use the more appropriate term of groundwater as a local water supply source.
- 4-7
7. Page 3-10. Last sentence of the only paragraph on the page. It should read "The Central Basin Watermaster and West Coast Basin Watermaster have the same....."
- 4-8
8. Page 2-34. Under the subsection "Central and West Basins" (which will be changed to West Coast Basin per comment #1). The third sentence should read "The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is responsible for recharging water to the basins"

4-9 | 9. Page 2-38. Under the subsection "Imported Water", the Delta is improperly referred to as the San Joachin, when it should be San Joaquin.

Thank you very much. Please let me know if you have any questions,

Jennifer Bender

Water Quality Scientist

Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts

17140 South Avalon Blvd, Suite 210

Carson, CA 90746

310-660-6253 (office)

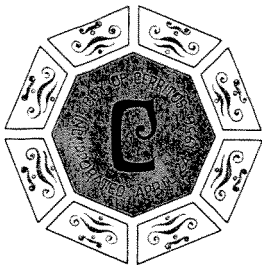
213-200-7233 (cell)

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CITY OF CERRITOS

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May 2, 2005

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Comment Letter No. 5

Subject: **DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT – SAN GABRIEL RIVER CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN**

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you for providing the City of Cerritos with an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan ("Master Plan"). City staff has reviewed the Draft Program EIR and the proposed Master Plan and has determined that the Master Plan's five proposed Concept Design Studies would not generate any significant impacts to the City of Cerritos. However, the City is concerned about potential impacts resulting from the Master Plan's proposed River Enhancement Concepts.

5-1 While the proposed San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan is generally consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Cerritos General Plan Open Space/Recreation Element, any proposal for increasing the amount of existing recreational or open space adjacent to the San Gabriel River within the City of Cerritos would be in direct conflict with the Cerritos General Plan Land Use Element. The San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan cites the acquisition of additional land adjacent to the River for recreation purposes as a long-term goal. The City of Cerritos already maintains a plentiful amount of recreational open space along the River via its award-winning parks and recreational facilities, including Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course, Westgate Park, and Liberty Park, which has been recently renovated to meet the objectives described in the Liberty Park Improvement Project section of the Master Plan.

In addition to these facilities, there exist several residential and commercial developments adjacent to the San Gabriel River that have been developed in a manner consistent with the Cerritos General Plan and with the high-quality design standards required by the Cerritos Municipal Code. Therefore, the City of Cerritos will oppose the conversion of existing residential and commercial developments along the River to other uses, given their importance to the wellbeing of the City and the fact that the City already maintains more than a sufficient amount of recreational open space in the River Corridor area.

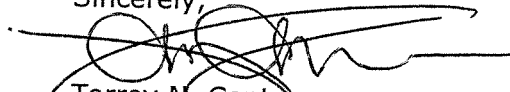
5-2 Another long-term project prescribed by the Master Plan is the installation of gateways to visually identify the River and its connection to adjacent cities. As this proposed project promotes aesthetic enhancements, the City of Cerritos would support this project in concept. However, all improvements will be required to comply with the Cerritos Municipal

5-2
(Cont'd) Code and are subject to the review and approval of the Cerritos City Council and respective Commission prior to their final design and installation.

5-3 According to the Master Plan, the City of Cerritos is located in a portion of the River Corridor that has "very low potential" for the conversion of the existing concrete channel into a more natural habitat setting. It is our expectation that, should such a project be proposed in the future, a separate and more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report will be prepared. The existing Draft Program EIR lacks in detail with respect to this proposed undertaking.

5-4 The City of Cerritos would like to receive any future updates regarding this project. We look forward to working with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in the future. Thank you again for including the City of Cerritos in your planning and review process. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (562) 916-1201.

Sincerely,



Torrey N. Contreras
Director of Community Development

cc Art Gallucci, City Manager
Vince Brar, Assistant City Manager/Public Works
Mike O'Grady, Environmental Services Manager
Robert A. Lopez, Associate Planner



May 13, 2005

Comment Letter No. 6

Rama Rydman
Watershed Management Division
County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

Subject: Comments on the Draft Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan, SCH No. 2003041187

Dear Rama:

On behalf of the City of Santa Fe Springs, please consider the following comments:

Transportation:

6-1

The trails along and connecting to the San Gabriel River are a key part of the regional transportation system in providing alternatives to vehicles. The improvements and impacts to the trail/bikeway system should be addressed. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("MTA") is currently updating their countywide Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan ("BTSP") and considers the San Gabriel River trail as a major regional transportation spine. Therefore the MTA BTSP and related bicycle information should be incorporated. An example of minimum information that should be incorporated is all existing and proposed bikeway connections to the SGR trails.

Water:

EIR Section 4.6 – Hydrology and Water Quality, Page 4.6-23

6-2

1. A statement is made in the second paragraph that states "The major point source dischargers that are potentially contributing to these water quality impairments include: five WRP's located on the River or its tributaries (Table 4.6- 4); including facilities (the Alimitos and Haynes generating stations and Santa Fe Springs Refinery);"

Comment: There is no refinery in the City of Santa Fe Springs named "Santa Fe Springs refinery." All previously operated refineries in Santa Fe Springs have not been in operation for over ten years. The refineries have been removed with soils remediated to state standards, except the former Powerline refinery, which is

San Gabriel River Master Plan EIR Comments

May 13, 2005

Page 2 of 2

6-2
(Cont'd)

currently being removed and remediated. The former Powerline refinery has approval of an interim use for wastewater treatment, but our understanding is that it does not discharge into the storm drain system.

2. The last sentence states "These future TMDL's will most likely include requirements for municipalities to reduce pollutant loads from stormwater runoff."

6-3

Comment: We feel that the statement should be changed to not single out municipalities as the only entity that will most likely be required to implement Best Management Practices to comply with future TDML's. We feel that point sources and non-point sources that discharge to the target water body should be responsible for the implementation of TDML's and should not exclude Federal and State agencies.

The EIR and the Master Plan should consider and clearly explain the responsibilities that Federal, State, and Local agencies will share in the implementation of present and future Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's).

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the EIR and Master Plan and look forward to the implementation of the common visions developed by the Master Plan.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Orpin
Director of Planning and Development

Cc: Fred Latham, City Manager; Ana Alvarez; Don Jensen; Marina Sueiro; Steve Masura;
Tony Olmos

City of Seal Beach



CITY HALL 211 EIGHTH STREET
SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90740
(562) 431-2527 • www.ci.seal-beach.ca.us

April 25, 2005

du/wmd

Comment Letter No. 7

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P. O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

**SUBJECT: CITY OF SEAL BEACH COMMENTS RE: "DRAFT
PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT - SAN
GABRIEL RIVER CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN"**

The City Council, Planning Commission and Environmental Quality Board of the City of Seal Beach have reviewed the "*Draft Program Environmental Impact Report - San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan*" ("DPEIR"). Our staff has been working closely with the Department of Public Works and the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for several years in a cooperative manner to ensure that the concerns, goals and aspirations of Seal Beach are properly set forth both within the "San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan" ("Master Plan") and the subject DPEIR. Our staff has also reviewed the various components of the DPEIR to ensure that the document accurately reflects, at the program level of environmental analysis, the anticipated beneficial and adverse impacts of the adoption of the Master Plan and this DPEIR both to our community and to other areas of a local concern to our community.

7-1 The document provides an adequate level of environmental analysis of the beneficial, potentially adverse, and neutral impacts on the environment of the proposed Master Plan. The areas of environmental concern reviewed in the DPEIR do not fully include all areas of concern as was addressed in our letter of May 28, 2003 on the "Notice of Preparation" for this DPEIR. It was requested at that time that the "*Program EIR should contain evaluations as to how the Master Plan will comply with and be consistent with the NPDES permit requirements of both of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.*" In our review of the areas of environmental concern discussed within the DPEIR, this does not appear to have been accomplished.

7-1
(Cont'd)

The San Gabriel River watershed is within the boundaries of the Los Angeles and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and the Program EIR should contain evaluations as to how the Master Plan will comply with and be consistent with the NPDES permit requirements of both of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. In accordance with Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board permit requirements, local agencies within Orange County are also required to evaluate the following areas of concern in a CEQA document relative to "Hydrology" or "Utilities and Service Systems" that have not been evaluated in the DPEIR document:

7-2

"Potentially impact stormwater runoff from construction activities?

Potentially impact stormwater runoff from post-construction activities?

Result in a potential for discharge of stormwater pollutants from areas of material storage, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas, loading docks or other outdoor work areas?

Result in the potential for discharge of stormwater to affect the beneficial uses of receiving waters?

Create the potential for significant changes in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm?

Create significant increases in erosion of the project site or surrounding areas?"

Would the project include a new or retrofitted storm water treatment control Best Management Practice (BMP), (e.g. water quality treatment basin, constructed treatment wetlands), the operation of which could result in significant environmental effects (e.g. increased vectors and odors)?

7-3

The City also requested in our May 28, 2003 comment letter on the "Notice of Preparation" that the Program EIR evaluate programs and methods of reducing solid waste transport along the River to the Pacific Ocean within the analysis. The impacts upon the City of Seal Beach and also Long Beach are substantial, and create adverse environmental impacts due to wash-up of solid waste materials on the local beaches. During the first three months of 2005 Seal Beach removed in excess of 540 tons of debris for our beaches that had been washed down the San Gabriel River during the storm season. The loss in beach availability, and the resulting adverse economic impacts of decreased visitors to the local beaches should be considered, evaluated, and mitigated within the Program EIR. One methodology of dealing with solid waste within the River is an evaluation of strategically placed debris booms along the length of the River or other appropriate best management practices to trap floating material and intercept that material from reaching the Ocean at various locations upstream. This type of program should specifically be evaluated within the Draft Program EIR.

7-4

Further, several of the proposed "Mitigation Program Measures" require language clarification as indicated below:

☐ Cultural Resources:

7-4
(Cont'd)

- ☐ **MP-C1** – Item 3 should be revised to require all field reconnaissance activities to also include the presence of a “qualified Native American Monitor”.

7-5

- ☐ Geology and Soils:

- ☐ **MP-G1** – the last sentence should be expanded on to indicate that any stormwater not infiltrated due to high groundwater levels that “*would be diverted to storm drains or onto street surfaces or routed to other stormwater management facilities as applicable*” will be required to include best management practices (BMPs) as part of the proposed diversion system to comply with the relevant stormwater discharge permits of the appropriate agency responsible under the applicable Regional Water Quality Board (Los Angeles or Santa Ana Regional Board).

7-6

- ☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

- ☐ **MP-H2** – The last sentence should also include Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base for notification.

The Planning Commission and the Environmental Quality Control Board (EQCB) considered and discussed the DPEIR document on April 6 and April 13 2005, respectively, and the City Council considered the DPEIR document on April 25, 2005. The City Council, Planning Commission, and the EQCB authorized the Mayor and the respective Chairs to sign this letter indicating the official comments of the City of Seal Beach.

7-7

Upon the preparation of the Final Program EIR for this project, please send 4 hard copies and a digital copy, if available, to Mr. Lee Whittenberg, Director of Development Services, City Hall, 211 Eighth Street, Seal Beach, 90740. Thank you for your consideration of the comments of the City of Seal Beach. If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Whittenberg at telephone (562) 431-2527, extension 313, or by e-mail at lwhittenberg@ci.seal-beach.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Paul Yost, Mayor
City of Seal Beach



Phil Ladner, Chairman
Planning Commission



Mario Voce, Chairman
Environmental Quality Control Board

*City of Seal Beach Comment Letter re:
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report –
San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan
April 25, 2005*

Distribution:

Seal Beach City Council
Seal Beach Environmental Quality Control Board

Seal Beach Planning Commission

City Manager
Director of Development Services
Director of Public Works/City Engineer



COUNTY OF ORANGE

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Bryan Speegle, Director

300 N. Flower Street

Santa Ana, CA

P.O. Box 4048

Santa Ana, CA 92702-4048

Telephone: (714) 834-2300

Fax: (714) 834-5188

WMD
085

NL 05-004

Comment Letter No. 8

May 4, 2005

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

SUBJECT: DPEIR for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan (SGRCMP)

Dear Mr. Moreno:

The above referenced item is a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LACDPW). The proposed project area is a 1-mile wide corridor along 58 river miles of the San Gabriel from its headwaters in the San Gabriel Mountains to its terminus at the Pacific Ocean between Long Beach and Seal Beach. The project area includes 19 cities as well as unincorporated areas of Los Angeles and Orange counties, and encompasses a total of approximately 58 square miles. The Master Plan (SGRCMP) is a consensus-based document that recognizes and addresses a renewed interest in recreation, open space, and habitat while also seeking to enhance and maintain flood protection, water conservation benefits, along with existing water rights.

The County of Orange has reviewed the DPEIR and offers the following comments:

FLOOD

Our review was limited to regional surface hydrologic issues impacting facilities that are operated and maintained by the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD).

1. Several OCFCD facilities such as Coyote Creek Channel (A01), Los Alamitos Channel (C01), Los Alamitos Retarding Basin (C01B01), Rossmoor Retarding Basin (C01B02), Los Alamitos Pump Station (C01PS1) and Rossmoor Pump Station (C01P02) are within the project area. Consequently, any modifications to flood control facilities, operated and maintained by OCFCD need to be accomplished only after detailed engineering analyses of hydrologic, hydraulic and structural issues have been made; the potential impacts on

8-1

8-1
(Cont'd)

OCFCD's facilities have been assessed; and all impacts including impacts to upstream and downstream properties appropriately mitigated to the satisfaction of the County's Manager of the Flood Control Division (FCD).

2. Project ID Number R7.04 suggests that a wetland will be created within the Los Alamitos Channel to treat Coyote Creek flows. The use of any OCFCD flood control facility for purposes other than flood control needs to be coordinated with the County's Flood Control Division Manager and must receive his approval before proceeding. We recommend that this project be coordinated with an ongoing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Coyote Creek Watershed Study.

8-2

3. Project ID Number R7.08 suggests that wetlands or a new retarding basin will be constructed near the end of the Los Alamitos Channel to expand flood control capabilities. Instead of a new basin, what is currently being designed is a modification of existing Los Alamitos basin and pump station. As previously mentioned, the use of any flood control facility for purposes other than flood control needs to be coordinated our Flood Control Division Manager and must receive his approval prior to implementation. Similarly, we recommend that this project be coordinated with an ongoing ACOE Coyote Creek Watershed Study.

8-3

4. All work within or adjacent to OCFCD right-of-way should be conducted so as to not worsen OCFCD facilities' structural integrity and hydraulic flow conditions including OCFCD's ability to access facilities for maintenance, repair, and reconstruction. All work within, over and under OCFCD and County of Orange right-of-way should be conducted only after encroachment permits for the proposed work have been obtained from the County.

8-4

WATERSHED

5. The County of Orange, along with the ACOE and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is currently in the initial stages of the Coyote Creek Watershed Management Plan and Feasibility Study (Watershed Plan). Our planning team recognizes the importance of building off of and dovetailing with existing plans and the SGRMP is no exception. The SGRMP is a model project for collaborative efforts on multiple-objective plans and projects. Its' stakeholder-driven approach to planning is one which our Watershed Plan will continue, and projects identified in the SGRMP will be assessed during this study.

8-5

6. The following comments pertain to specific projects identified in the San Gabriel River Master Plan, Chapter 3:

8-6

- a. Project R7.01 - Coyote and Carbon Creeks Watershed Management Plan: The County of Orange and the ACOE are currently developing project R7.01, listed as the "Coyote and Carbon Creeks Watershed Management Plan." The project has since been split into two separate phases with different names. Phase 1, currently now in development is called the "Coyote Creek Watershed

Management Plan” headed by the County of Orange. All interested stakeholder are invited to attend the initial public meeting, Wednesday, May 11, Brea City Hall, either 2:00pm-4:00pm OR 6:00pm-8:00pm. Phase 2, the “Coyote Creek-Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Feasibility Study” in its early stages pending increased funding for the ACOE.

- b. The Phase 1 Management Plan will identify and prioritize potential projects for implementation through stakeholder input and spatial analysis using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The San Gabriel River Master Plan Projects that will be addressed include:

R6.11 – West Branch Greenway Rails-to-Trails

R6.21 – El Dorado Regional Park Wetlands

R6.22 – El Dorado Nature Center Master Plan

R7.03 – Coyote Creek Debris Boom

R7.04 – Los Alamitos Channel Treatment Wetland

R7.05 – Proposed Confluence Bridge

R7.07 – Los Cerritos Wetland Restoration (Bryant & Bixby)

7.08 – County of Orange Flood Control Basin

7.09 – Trail Connections Between Wetlands

7.10 – Hellman Ranch Wetlands Freshwater Marsh Restoration.

- c. Project R7.02 – Coyote Creek Bike Trail Enhancements:
The County of Orange is currently partnering with local non-profit organization Trails4All to request funding from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy to develop the renamed “Coyote Creek Regional Bikeway Improvements” project. This project would involve a Working Group of all landowners along Coyote Creek, including several Cities, the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange, and other key stakeholders to develop a regional Bikeway signage programs and to develop a long-term Trails Needs Assessment and Master Plan.

WATER QUALITY

7. **8-7** | Section 4.6 Page 20 – The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program section should include a discussion of the County of Orange 2003

8-7 | Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP), which will apply to any projects conducted
(Cont'd)

8. | Section 4.6.5.2 Construction Impacts on Surface Water Quality Page 39 – The discussion
8-8 | of CD-W1 should include reference to compliance with the County of Orange 2003
DAMP. Water quality impacts of projects conducted within Orange County should be
evaluated in accordance with the provisions outlined in Exhibit 7-1 of the 2003 DAMP.

9. | Section 4.6.6 Mitigation Measures for Concept Design Studies Page 42 – The discussion
8-9 | of CD-W1 should include reference to compliance with the County of Orange 2003
DAMP. Water quality impacts of projects conducted with Orange County should be
evaluated in accordance with the provisions outlined in Exhibit 7-1 of the 2003 DAMP.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the DPEIR. If you have any questions, please
contact Charlotte Harryman at (714) 834-2522.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Tippetts, Chief
Environmental Planning Division



P.O. Box 23005
Santa Ana, CA 92711-3005

*Dedicated to
the enhancement
of Flyfishing
through Conservation,
Education, & Fellowship.*

Comment Letter No. 9

May 3, 2005

Mr. Marty Moreno
San Gabriel River Watershed Manager
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Post Office Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802

Subject: Comments to San Gabriel River Master Plan EIR – SCH No. 200304117

9-1

The Fly Fishers Club of Orange County (FFCOC) is pleased to submit the following comments to the San Gabriel River Master Plan's Environmental Impact Report. While many of these comments are identical to those submitted in response to the draft Master Plan, the FFCOC believes that it is important to reiterate them formally through the EIR process, as we have found no evidence that our earlier comments have been addressed in the Plan. If there are questions, concerning these comments, please contact Mr. David M. Long, FFCOC's representative on the Stakeholders Committee. Mr. Long can be contacted at (714) 578-0422.

9-2

1. The FFCOC proposed three projects for the Master Plan (Chapter 3.). The Plan shows these as studies only. The FFCOC originally notified the County staff of the need to show these as full projects in August 2003. While it is recognized that initial studies will be needed for each project, and the FFCOC had funded the initial studies, the project definitions and descriptions are for implementation of the projects and not studies alone. The three projects were originally identified in a FFCOC sponsored study to identify recreational opportunities (fishing) in the upper river corridor. That report, provided to the County and MIG should have been included in the recent reports for the river. The identified FFCOC projects are:
 - A. Establishing a "Fisherman's Trail" around or across the LACPWD controlled property at Cogswell Dam – The trail is needed to access the West Fork of the San Gabriel River above the dam. It is noted that the recent closure of the existing access across Cogswell Dam (post 9/11 security claims by County staff) has also cut off access to the Devil's Canyon area and that canyon's stream. A Fisherman's Trail might be able to provide access to both the West Fork and to the existing Forest Service trail into Devil's Canyon. A second trail might be necessary to solve this further access restriction to areas adjacent Cogswell Dam.

9-2
(Cont'd)

- B. Fishing on Morris Dam Reservoir and San Gabriel Dam Reservoir – This FFCOC proposed project consists of providing public access to the reservoirs, by allowing float tubes and un-motorized boats onto the waters and shoreline of these two water bodies.
- C. Establishing minimum in-stream flows below Morris Dam. This project consists of establishing a year round stream with minimum flows from Morris Dam, augmented by delivery of water from MWD into the stream below Morris Dam. The initial study commissioned by FFCOC is in final draft form, and available for review. The study recommends additional evaluation of dam operations (both San Gabriel and Morris) to determine how best to achieve the stated project objective. The study does not resolve the question concerning whether the operations of these two dams are in compliance with State regulations concerning flows allowing the passage of fish.

9-3

The specific issues this raises for the adequacy of the EIR is in the need to evaluate the impacts from implementation of the proposed projects rather than impacts from a study. Clearly the possibility for implementation of the proposed projects would be greatly improved if they were included in this EIR, and not at some later date having to show conformance with Master Plan and EIR.

9-4

2. Policy Recommendations. The FFCOC was very pleased that this section has been developed and placed into the Master Plan. Clearly a number of overarching policies covering habitat, open space and recreation within the river corridor need to be adopted and approved to assure that opportunities are identified and implemented. The FFCOC had suggested the following: A. Any project or maintenance work within the river proper should include a component that improves or enhances the movement of fish & wildlife and distribution of native plants within the corridor. Low flow channels, changes in the design of drop structures, and permitted development of native riparian plants within the channel proper, plantings on and adjacent to flood protection structures (as examples) should be a component of any activity done to maintain flood protection and water distribution. B. Any changes to San Gabriel River's water movement, water storage capacity or water usage (irrigation to potable use or surface water flows converted to ground water storage as examples) should be a required to provide a percentage allotment to maintain or enhance in-stream habitat, wildlife, or recreational opportunities. These habitat/recreation offsets should be maintained within the San Gabriel River system and not transferred to other streams. C. A formal administrative review panel, that includes non-governmental/agency individuals needs to be established, and tasked with review and approval of river corridor projects to verify compliance with Master Plan objectives, and if necessary negotiate changes (or cancellation) to proposed projects/programs if such projects/programs do not adequately address habitat and recreational enhancement opportunities.

9-5

Again with respect to the EIR some evaluation as to the environmental adequacy of current operations and policies needs to be addressed. The FFCOC's sponsored legal opinion (provided by to the County) indicated that the County's current operation of releases from Morris Dam are not consistent with mandated legal requirements for maintaining fish and wildlife. We are confident that this is a correct and reasonable conclusion that the Plam's

9-5
(Cont'd)

EIR must address. Similarly we are equally confident that if the EIR was to address other county run operations within the River corridor, other such infractions of environmental requirements would also be found (as an example passage requirements at the County's inflatable dams.

9-6

4. Comments on Chapter I – The San Gabriel River. The FFCOC suggests that the EIR specifically address:

9-7

- A. That for sections 1.4 and 1.5 - a discussion on the conversion of river water from a free flowing natural stream, to increased water usage for agriculture (first cattle/sheep then to crops), to potable uses and associated impacts to native habitats within the corridor.
- B. It is essential that the EIR for this initial section, provide a concise and accurate description of the water rights to surface and groundwater sources emanating from the River. While admittedly complicated, this component must be described to provide an overlay of water controlling agencies within the basin, and which agency/water district may be impacted from any specific project proposed for implementation within the Plan.

As mentioned in our comments to the master Plan the FFCOC believes that the planning process was purposefully designed to exclude many groups and organization from full participation. We are of the opinion that that the plan process should have been expanded to provide greater access for non-profit volunteer, and private citizen participation in Plan development. The following observations and recommendations are provided:

9-8

The original process of meetings every other month for 4 hours per session, while conducive to agency, municipal, and industry involvement (regular business hours in large blocks of time) - and reduces consultant travel expenses, effectively excludes active, frequent participation by the volunteers of many non-profit or recreational groups, who would prefer evening meetings. Members of these latter groups typically are working during the day and therefore cannot participate. The change to longer sessions further alienates these volunteer based organizations that may have at least a few individuals able to attend meetings by taking a "late lunch". It is observed that the number of volunteer based organizations, and the number of representatives from those organizations attending individual meetings has diminished, while participation by city, county, and special districts has increase with the change to longer sessions. It is also observed, that in other venues where evening meetings are used to discuss recreational issues large numbers of people and organizations show up and provide significant input to the planning process.

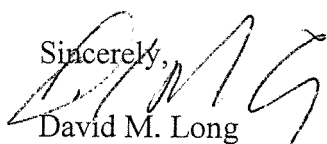
Specific groups that might have been expected to participate regularly in the planning process need to be identified and an outreach effort made to include these groups in the plan review process, and a mechanism developed to incorporate any new perspectives or initiatives. Examples of disenfranchised or under represented organizations (though nowhere complete) are. Boys/Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCA, Boys/Girl Scouts, Audubon, Native Plant Society, Surf Rider Foundation, area hiking clubs, area biking clubs (notable by absence from the plan process), after school programs from any school district in the corridor, area historical societies, State and County Park volunteer organizations, organizations that

9-8
(Cont'd) | currently use local parks, Forest Service volunteer organizations, and area fishing organizations.

9-9 | Lastly, while it is appreciated that the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works has made an effort to reduce the use of paper in dissemination and review of both the Master Plan and EIR, it is noted that reliance on electronic formats is another example of limiting access to those groups with adequate computer capabilities. It is further noted that the format selected is not easily navigated, further limiting access and input into the planning review process.

We believe that the EIR must address these inadequacies and reopen the planning process to address these issues.

Sincerely,



David M. Long
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Fullerton, CA 92838

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SUSAN M. TRAGER

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SUSAN M. TRAGER
OF COUNSEL
FRANCIS D. LOGAN, JR.

May 5, 2005

Comment Letter No. 10

VIA FACSIMILE AND US MAIL

Mr. Jerry Burke
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Re: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River
Corridor Master Plan

Dear Mr. Burke:

This letter sets forth the comments of Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary ("Rose Hills") with regard to the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report ("Draft EIR") for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan ("Master Plan") and the Master Plan itself recently circulated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works ("County").

Rose Hills applauds the County's goals to increase the open space, habitat and recreation opportunities in the San Gabriel River Corridor. Rose Hills writes only to request that the County consider more closely the possible impacts on Rose Hills of two particular projects set forth in the Master Plan and analyzed in the Draft EIR – the San Gabriel River Discovery Center at Whittier Narrows and the Lario Creek Project. Rose Hills also notes that a number of projects relating to recharge in the Master Plan were not studied in this Draft EIR and that these projects including the Whittier Narrows Dam Water Conservation Pool and the Whittier Narrows Nature Center Ecosystem Restoration projects could potentially have very significant environmental effects. Rose Hills requests therefor that the impacts of these recharge projects on Rose Hills and its neighbors are fully studied in the next level of analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq. ("CEQA").

Interest of Rose Hills

Rose Hills owns and operates a 1,400 acre cemetery in the Puente Hills at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. Located southeast of the Interstate 605 freeway near the Whittier Narrows, the cemetery is partially included in the 0.5 mile study area of the Master Plan and Draft EIR. A small portion of the cemetery can be seen, in the lower

10-1
(Cont'd)

Mr. Jerry Burke
May 5, 2005
Page 2

right-hand corner of Figure 3-9: "Preliminary Concept Design - Lario Creek". A satellite map which more clearly shows the cemetery and its proximity to the Lario Creek project is attached.

10-1
(Cont'd)

The Rose Hills cemetery is one of the largest in the world. The size of the facility, coupled with its breathtaking views over the Los Angeles basin, allows Rose Hills to offer solitude, tranquility and beauty to people during emotionally trying times. Rose Hills is committed to ensuring that it can continue to offer this experience to its clientele for many years to come. Rose Hills would oppose any aspect of the Master Plan which would interfere with the expectation of its clients, particularly aspects which might diminish the tranquil setting.

Rose Hills operates in a challenging regulatory environment. It holds permits from virtually every single regulatory agency in the Los Angeles Basin, allowing it to engage in the various functions of a cemetery, including cremation and internment. Rose Hills would object to any project which would make its regulatory compliance more difficult.

The Draft EIR Fails to Consider the Impacts of the Discovery Center and Lario Creek Projects on Rose Hills

Rose Hills notes that the only two projects in the Master Plan and analyzed in the Draft EIR appear to affect it due to their proximity to the cemetery: the Discovery Center and the Lario Creek projects.

10-2

The Draft EIR appears to be inadequate due to its failure to analyze the impacts of the contemplated projects beyond the 1-mile study area. CEQA and its implementing regulations, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15000 et seq. ("CEQA Guidelines") do not allow the County to select an arbitrary boundary of 0.5 miles on either side of the San Gabriel River as the limit of the study area.

An EIR shall identify and focus on the significant environmental effects of the proposed project. ... Direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects.

(CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.2, emphasis added.) The Draft EIR fails in its analysis of the indirect effects of the planned projects, including the possible indirect effects on the operation of Rose Hills.

Mr. Jerry Burke
May 5, 2005
Page 3

10-2
(Cont'd)

The analyses of the Discovery Center project and Lario Creek projects are silent on their regional impacts. But Rose Creek is a special place, requiring quiet and clean air. Both the Discovery Center and Lario Creek projects contain at least the possibility of imposing significant environmental effects on Rose Hills. Possible environmental impacts include the following: noise pollution carrying over to Rose Hills, from increased vehicle traffic and increased human use; air pollution adversely affecting the views available from Rose Hills; and growth-inducing impacts leading to a regional environment inconsistent with Rose Hills' land use. This is not a case in which the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate; the analysis is instead completely absent. This is a straightforward CEQA violation requiring revision and recirculation of the Draft EIR.

In the preparation of a revised Draft EIR, the County at a minimum should conduct acoustic studies, viewshed impact studies, air pollution studies and traffic studies to evaluate the impacts of the proposed projects on Rose Hills.

Deferring Analyses to Subsequent Environmental Studies Is Not Acceptable

10-3

It appears that the Draft EIR tries to accommodate the lack of analysis by asserting that later project proponents will prepare second-tier EIRs. (See Draft EIR, §1-5, at p. 1-6.) The County should not condone such slipshod practice. CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines allow for "program" EIRs, in connection with the issuance of regional plans. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15168.) But the County cannot duck its responsibility to analyze the impacts of the Discovery Center and Lario Creek projects simply because they are part of a larger program. (*Stanislaus Natural Heritage Project v. County of Stanislaus* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 182 [55 Cal.Rptr. 625].) The Discovery Center and Lario Creek projects are far enough along in their planning to obligate the County to engage in a complete CEQA analysis at this stage of analysis.

The CEQA Guidelines point out the need for program level EIRs to be sufficiently detailed. The CEQA Guidelines state:

A program EIR will be most helpful in dealing with subsequent activities if it deals with the effects of the program as specifically and comprehensively as possible. With a good and detailed analysis of the program, many subsequent activities could be found to be within the scope of the project described in the program EIR, and no further environmental documents would be required.

(CEQA Guidelines, § 15168(c)(5).)

Mr. Jerry Burke
May 5, 2005
Page 4

The CEQA Guidelines go on to state:

If a later activity would have effects that were not examined in the program EIR, a new Initial Study would need to be prepared leading to either an EIR or a Negative Declaration.

(CEQA Guidelines, § 15168(c)(1).)

Given this regulatory view of program EIRs, the Draft EIR fails to serve any real purpose. With regard to the Discovery Center and Lario Creek projects alone, the County has failed to study any regional or growth-inducing impacts. All of these impacts will need to be analyzed in a project-level EIR when they should be analyzed in the Draft EIR.

It appears to Rose Hills that the Draft EIR is not adequate even as a program EIR. However, to the extent that the County ends up certifying the Draft EIR as the program EIR for the Master Plan, Rose Hills requests that the project-level EIRs for all projects which could affect Rose Hills, including the Discovery Center and Lario Creek projects, fully comply with CEQA. Rose Hills asks to be notified of the intent to undertake CEQA analysis for both of those plans monitoring of impacts, and possible offsetting mitigation may be required.

The Recharge Projects, Including Whittier Narrows Dam Water Conservation Pool and the Whittier Narrows Nature Center Ecosystem Restoration Projects, Potentially Have Significant Impacts

Rose Hills is extremely concerned about the possible impacts of a rising water table on cemetery operations and on regional soil stability. Liquefaction, leading to landslides; contamination of the groundwater and interference with internment operations are all possible consequences of a recharge program.

The water supply and water quality analysis within the Hydrology section of the Draft EIR does not contain any analysis of the possible environmental impacts caused by a high water table beneath the cemetery. This failure will require that later EIRs for any recharge project go through extensive analysis to ensure that those possibly significant environmental effects are fully mitigated.

The needs of the community for the services provided by Rose Hills and the unique environment offered by the Rose Hills facility, should be respected by the County.

LAW OFFICES OF
SUSAN M. TRAGER
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Mr. Jerry Burke
May 5, 2005
Page 5

10-7
(Cont'd)

We ask that the County take all appropriate steps to preserve the tranquil atmosphere of Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Sincerely,

LAW OFFICES OF SUSAN M. TRAGER
A Professional Corporation


Susan M. Trager

SMT:my

Attachment



1000 N Durfee Ave South El Monte, CA 91733



April 27, 2005

Comment Letter No. 11

Mr. Marty Moreno
Los Angeles County Department
of Public Works
Watershed Management
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan
(SCH No. 2003041187)

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you for providing the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) with a copy of the document entitled "Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan" (Draft Program EIR) dated February 2005. Previously, the Watermaster provided the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LACDPW) with comments dated May 8, 2003 for the Notice of Preparation, November 3, 2003 for the San Gabriel River Master Plan Project Policy and Program Categories, and November 25, 2003 for the San Gabriel River Master Plan Project Administrative Draft. After reviewing the Draft Program EIR, Watermaster has the following comments.

11-1

Table 2-1, Organizations Involved, Page 2-2 lists the San Gabriel River Water Committee under both Water Districts/Agencies and Organizations. It appears that perhaps the San Gabriel River Watermaster is the agency that should be listed under Water Districts/Agencies.

11-2

Table 3-7, Master Plan Concept Design Studies, Page 3-15 lists the five Concept Design Studies and summarizes CEQA project objectives for each of the five studies. The Concept Design Studies should not diminish existing Flood Protection/Water Supply/Water Quality and, wherever possible, should enhance these components.

11-3

Table 4.6-2, Dams on the San Gabriel River, Page 4.6-6 lists the capacity of San Gabriel Reservoir as 41,549 AF, and Morris Reservoir at 39,300 AF. Are these current or original capacities? The data appears to be inconsistent with the LACDPW Hydrologic Reports (HR) for years 1994-97. In HR 1994-96 Morris is listed as having a 21,800 AF capacity and in HR 1996-97 San Gabriel is listed as having 53,344 AF capacity.

Section 3.3.1.2 River Corridor Policies and Programs, Page 3-12.

11-4

The policy as listed, "Create opportunities for stormwater infiltration," should add the phrase "...without adding contamination." As noted in our November 3, 2003 response, creating opportunities for stormwater retention/infiltration through devices such as bio-engineered wetlands, infiltration swales, porous pavement and/or other Best Management Practices may result in unintended groundwater contamination. Until identification and fate of pollutants which would be infiltrated are completely known, caution should be used until protection of the groundwater is assured. Petroleum hydrocarbons and MTBE could contaminate groundwater. Although percolation may be minimal, such projects should be closely monitored and should not interfere with groundwater cleanup activities. Also, the potential impacts of Nitrate contamination should be analyzed, especially at the Woodland Duck Farm site.

Section 3.3.3.1 San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, Page 3-20.

11-5

Watermaster remains concerned about the potential inclusion of a floating island in the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds. As noted in our November 25, 2003 response, constructing a floating island may negatively impact maintenance and operations of the spreading grounds, and these impacts and conflicts should be addressed before adding this component to the project. Ideally, no proposed project should include components that are located within the perimeter of existing spreading facilities. In addition, any project near the spreading grounds must assure security, preserve historic percolation capacity, and ensure no contaminants are introduced to the area.

Section 3.3.3.4, Lario Creek, Page 3-29.

11-6

"...flows can vary at different times from close to zero to over 100 cfs." A cursory review of flow data in Lario Creek, recorded at stream gaging station F313B-R, indicates flows on many days were significantly above 100 cfs and on some days exceeded 200 cfs. The statement should be modified to accurately reflect potential flows. Also, any proposed modification of Lario Creek should include a component to preserve a stream gaging station at all times with accuracy equal to or greater than F313B-R. This station is critical to the analysis of flows between the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo as part of the Long Beach Judgment.

Section 4.6.1.1, Surface Water Features, Page 4.6-5.

11-7

"Average flows range between 40 and 100 cfs..." The study period includes primarily years with below average rainfall and runoff, so the evaluation of flows may be distorted. During water year 2004-05 flows have been in the 1,000's of cfs.

Section 4.6.1.1, Other Discharges, Page 4.6-8.

11-8

The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's outlet discharges directly into the northern pit of the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds and not downstream of the spreading grounds.

11-9

Section 4.6.1.3, Water Rights, Page 4.6-13 states, "SWRCB...has declared the San Gabriel River fully appropriated, i.e. no new users can file for a share of the river water." However, throughout the Draft Program EIR reference is made to capturing and reusing storm runoff. For example page 4.6-32 notes, "...wetlands may be designed with retention, reuse, and/or infiltration of storm water." Capturing and reusing storm water runoff for a beneficial use other than groundwater recharge would be viewed as an appropriation of surface water flow. The San Gabriel River system is fully appropriated and no proposed project should include a direct reuse option. The water rights owned by the San Gabriel Valley Protective Association are used to spread surface water flow in the San Gabriel River Watershed to recharge adjudicated groundwater basins. The water is subsequently produced by groundwater rights holders. The proposed Draft EIR Program projects should not interfere with the fully appropriated surface water rights, although the Draft Program EIR acknowledges the potential impact on surface and ground water rights associated with actions involving groundwater recharge or surface diversions as an "Area of Known Controversy".

11-10

Section 4.6.1.3 Water Rights, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, Page 4.6-14. The list of parties that pump more than 5,000 acre-feet should also include the cities of Alhambra, Azusa and Monterey Park; and delete Pellissier. Also, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster annual Operating Safe Yield is based on a number of factors, including rainfall, groundwater levels, water held in storage, and various other considerations.

11-11

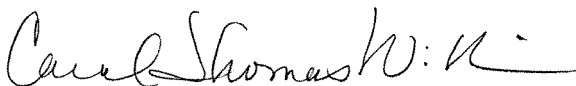
Section 4.6.1.3 Water Rights, San Gabriel Valley Protective Association, Page 4.6-16. The members listed should also include Cadway Inc., East Pasadena Water Company, and Valley County Water District.

11-12

Section 4.6.1.4 Water Quality, Page 4.6-25.
Portions of the South El Monte Operable Unit also overlap the Master Plan study area.

Please call me or Anthony Zampello at (626) 815-1300 if you have any questions.

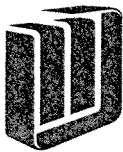
Sincerely,
MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER



Carol Thomas Williams
Executive Officer

cc: Stetson Engineers Inc.
San Gabriel Valley Protective Association
San Gabriel River Water Committee

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MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WMD
085

Executive Office

Comment Letter No. 12

May 4, 2005

VIA FACIMILE

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, California 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has reviewed a copy of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan (Master Plan). Metropolitan provided a comment letter dated May 22, 2003 (attached), in response to the Notice of Preparation for the Draft PEIR. Metropolitan appreciates your efforts to address our concerns; however, the following issues have not been adequately addressed in the Draft PEIR.

12-1

Habitat restoration and enhancement is a major objective of the Plan, as shown in Table 3-1 of the Draft PEIR. Specifically, the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds - Preliminary Concept Design, proposes floating islands in the spreading basins for habitat and educational purposes that could be connected by a cable and weight system to the bottom of the basin, and planted with wetland vegetation providing habitat for breeding and migrating bird species. The Draft PEIR acknowledges potential conflicts between groundwater recharge activities and habitat as an issue requiring further investigation. However, it does not identify potential impacts or mitigation measures stemming from this conflict. Habitat restoration and its consequences could significantly impact Metropolitan's ability to deliver Replenishment Service to recharge basins, and seriously impact water resources and water supply in the Master Plan area.

Increased vegetation in the channels would increase the amount of time that the County would have to devote to brush clearing operations. Such activities are normally undertaken in the late summer and early fall in preparation for the winter storm season. Metropolitan can not deliver Replenishment Service while work is occurring in the channels, and channel clearing activities often coincide with the availability of Replenishment Service. The more time spent in the channel engaging in this activity, the smaller the window of time available for delivery of Replenishment Service.

Mr. Marty Moreno

Page 2

May 4, 2005

As stated in our May 22, 2003 letter, "It is imperative that Metropolitan's member agencies' ability to take imported water for groundwater replenishment is not impacted. Imported water for replenishment is generally available on a seasonal basis and the ability to deliver water to these agencies on short notice can be important both to Metropolitan's operations and the member agencies receiving the imported water." "Deliveries through these connections are often problematic, because the downstream facilities operated and maintained by the County are not always available for the delivery of water to our member agencies. Sometimes when water is available to Metropolitan, the County is unable to facilitate deliveries due to maintenance or basin conditions. Therefore, when water is available and the County has the ability to move the imported water, it is imperative that the water be moved or the opportunity may be lost." Metropolitan again requests that the County ensures Metropolitan's operations are not impacted by the Master Plan.

Habitat restoration might further limit Metropolitan's ability to deliver Replenishment Service by introducing species requiring special protection measures that conflict with Metropolitan's spreading operations. This concern was addressed in our May 23, 2003, letter, as follows: "In order to avoid conflicts with Metropolitan facilities, provisions to allow emergency excavation and repair must be included in the Master Plan. Also, creation of wetland and sensitive habitat within and adjacent to Metropolitan facilities must be avoided and any sensitive habitat and/or revegetation processes must be carefully planned to avoid conflicts with Metropolitan facilities." The Draft PEIR does not include any such provisions; Metropolitan requests that this issue be addressed in the document.

The potential impacts on water supply resulting from limitations of replenishment delivery stemming from this Master Plan should be identified in the Draft PEIR. Water supply in areas overlying the Main San Gabriel Basin and Central Basin is highly dependent on the delivery of imported replenishment water. Replenishment Service often becomes available on very short notice making its delivery to the Main San Gabriel Basin and Central Basin highly dependent on close cooperation between Metropolitan, its member agencies, basin groundwater managers, and the County. Until the recent rains, groundwater levels in these basins were becoming precariously low, further underscoring the importance of delivering Replenishment Service as it becomes available. Any restrictions in Replenishment Service could seriously impact water supply in these areas.

As stated in our May 23, 2003 letter, "...Metropolitan is required to coordinate any activities that might affect groundwater with its member agencies that receive groundwater recharge. The Draft PEIR must include measures to ensure that imported groundwater replenishment operations by Metropolitan's member agencies are not negatively impacted." The Draft PEIR does not include any such provisions; Metropolitan again requests that this issue be addressed in the document.

12-1
(cont'd)

Mr. Marty Moreno

Page 3

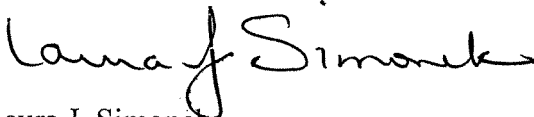
May 4, 2005

12-2

Lastly, Metropolitan has the following request regarding the Master Plan Program Mitigation Measure, Section 4.9.5.3 Utilities, MP-P4. Please change this mitigation measure to require geotechnical investigations during design of stormwater infiltration facilities in the vicinity of Metropolitan facilities to ensure that their integrity is not impacted by changes in soil conditions. If results of the investigation indicate that stormwater infiltration may saturate the soil and may affect the integrity of our pipelines, appropriate mitigation measures would need to be included during the design phase to ensure our pipelines are not compromised.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your planning process and we look forward to receiving a copy of the Final PEIR. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. William Fong at (213) 217-6899.

Very truly yours,



Laura J. Simonek

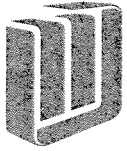
Manager, Environmental Planning Team

LIM/rdl

(Public Folders/EPU/Letters/27-APR-05C.doc – Marty Moreno)

Enclosure: Metropolitan letter dated May 22, 2003

Cc: Rama Rydman
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, California 91802-1460



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

COPY

May 22, 2003

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Notice of Preparation of a
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Master Plan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the San Gabriel River Master Plan (Master Plan). The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW) is the lead agency for this project. The proposed project will be a consensus-based document that will recognize and address a renewed interest in recreation, open space, and habitat, while also seeking to enhance and maintain flood protection, and water conservation benefits, along with existing water rights. The proposed project will focus on the 58-mile long San Gabriel River (River) from Cogswell Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The River corridor is primarily located within Los Angeles County; the mouth of the river is bordered by land within both Los Angeles and Orange counties. This letter contains Metropolitan's response to the Notice of Preparation as both a Responsible Agency and potentially affected agency.

Metropolitan owns and operates various facilities within the boundaries of the proposed Master Plan. The Metropolitan facilities include the following: Old Navy Peninsula, Foothill Feeder-Service Connection USG-3, Fish Canyon Adit to Monrovia Tunnel No. 3 of the Upper Feeder Pipeline, Upper Feeder Pipeline, Middle Feeder Pipeline, Lower Feeder Pipeline, and Second Lower Feeder Pipeline.

These Metropolitan facilities are described as follows:

- Old Navy Peninsula - Metropolitan owns property known as the Old Navy Peninsula on Morris Reservoir. The Peninsula is located on the west side of the reservoir, approximately 500 yards north of the Morris Dam.

- The Foothill Feeder-Service Connection USG-3 has a 200-foot wide permanent easement and is located in Los Angeles County south of Morris Dam. Water is discharged from a 78-inch pipe and provides recharge for the Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts.
- The Fish Canyon Adit to Monrovia Tunnel No. 3 of the Upper Feeder Pipeline is approximately two miles west of Morris Dam and Metropolitan has an access right-of-way that extends from the adit into the River.
- The Upper Feeder Pipeline is a ten-foot inside diameter pipeline with a 200-foot wide permanent easement and approximately 15 to 20 feet of cover at the River invert. It is located in Los Angeles County, just south of Morris Dam and traverses the River in an easterly to southwesterly direction.
- The Middle Feeder Pipeline is a 73-inch inside diameter pipeline with a 50-foot wide permanent easement and approximately 20 feet of cover at the River invert. The Middle Feeder traverses the River in an easterly to southwesterly direction at Ramona Boulevard, located within the cities of Irwindale and El Monte.
- The Lower Feeder Pipeline is a 70-inch inside diameter pipeline with a 40-foot wide permanent easement and approximately 15 to 20 feet of cover at the River invert. The Lower Feeder Pipeline traverses the River in an easterly to westerly direction just south of Firestone Boulevard in the city of Downey.
- The Second Lower Feeder Pipeline is a 78-inch inside diameter pipeline with a 30-foot wide permanent easement and approximately five to ten feet cover at the River invert. The Second Lower Feeder Pipeline traverses the River in an easterly direction from Keynote Street in the city of Long Beach.

Metropolitan is concerned with potential impacts to these facilities that may occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Master Plan. Metropolitan requests that the LADPW consider these facilities in its planning and analyze in the Draft PEIR potential impacts to these facilities that may occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Master Plan.

In order to avoid potential conflicts with Metropolitan's rights-of-way, we request that any design plans for any activity in the area of Metropolitan's pipelines or facilities be submitted for our review and written approval. Metropolitan must also be allowed to maintain its rights-of-way and access to its facilities at all times in order to repair and maintain the current condition of those facilities. The applicant may obtain detailed prints of drawings of Metropolitan's pipelines and rights-of-way by calling Metropolitan's Substructures Information Line at (213) 217-6564. To assist the applicant in preparing plans that are compatible with Metropolitan's facilities and easements, we have enclosed a copy of the "Guidelines for Developments in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern

California." Please note that all submitted designs or plans must clearly identify Metropolitan's facilities and rights-of-way.

It is imperative that Metropolitan's member agencies ability to take imported water for groundwater replenishment is not impacted. Imported water for replenishment is generally available on a seasonal basis and the ability to deliver water to these agencies on short notice can be important both to Metropolitan's operations and the member agencies receiving the imported water. The following service connections can deliver water to the River:

- USG-03 Glendora Tunnel: Capacity maximum is 400 cubic feet per second (cfs); source of imported water is generally the State Water Project (SWP).
- CENB-48 La Verne Pipeline: Capacity maximum is 300 cfs; deliveries can be made to USG through this connection; source of imported water is generally the SWP.
- CENB-28 Upper Feeder Pipeline: Capacity maximum is 120 cfs; source of imported water is mostly a blend of the SWP and Colorado River Water.
- PM-26 Glendora Tunnel: Capacity is 20 cfs; source of imported water is the SWP.

Deliveries through these connections are often problematic, because the downstream facilities operated and maintained by the LADPW are not always available for the delivery of water to our member agencies. Sometimes when water is available from Metropolitan, LADPW is unable to facilitate deliveries due to maintenance or basin conditions. Therefore, when water is available and LADPW has the ability to move the imported water, it is imperative that the water be moved or the opportunity may be lost.

Metropolitan's facilities may also be used to dewater pipelines (blow-offs, pump wells, pressure relief valves) for maintenance or inspection. In addition, facilities along or adjacent to the River may contain pressure relief valves which operate automatically to relieve the pressure on a pipeline to ensure that Metropolitan's distribution system is not damaged by hydraulic transients that can occur due to pressure fluctuations arising from agency service connection problems, system malfunctions, or operator error. In these cases, water is automatically discharged from Metropolitan's system either directly into the River, or into a channel or flood control facility, which interconnects with the River. In the case of dewatering for a pipeline outage, the treated water in the pipeline is mixed with a chemical upon discharge to remove the residual from the disinfectant. When the pressure relief valve(s) open, treated water is discharged. The appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board is notified in either case. LADPW needs to ensure that Metropolitan's operations (imported water deliveries, normal pipeline operations, and emergency discharge) are not impacted by the Master Plan.

Also, Metropolitan is required to coordinate any activities that might affect groundwater with its member agencies that receive groundwater recharge. The Draft PEIR and Master Plan must

Mr. Marty Moreno

Page 4

May 22, 2003

include measures to ensure that imported groundwater replenishment operations by Metropolitan's member agencies are not negatively impacted. The Draft PEIR must also include measures to ensure that recycled water replenishment operations by Metropolitan's member agencies at the Montebello Forebay spreading grounds, near Interstates 605 and 60, are not negatively impacted. Additionally, Metropolitan must be allowed to maintain discharge and other facilities (i.e., service connection USG-3, blow-off structures, air-vacuum valves, etc.) and 24-hour patrol access. The Draft PEIR and Master Plan must clearly and properly address these Metropolitan requirements.

In order to avoid conflicts with Metropolitan facilities, provisions to allow emergency excavation and repair must be included in the Master Plan. Also, creation of wetland and sensitive habitat within and adjacent to Metropolitan facilities must be avoided and any sensitive habitat and/or revegetation processes must be carefully planned to avoid conflicts with Metropolitan facilities. Additionally, engineered protections (i.e., protective slabs) to prevent erosion must be provided in any areas along the River that may be converted to greenbelt areas.


Metropolitan requests that the LADPW analyze the consistency of the proposed Master Plan with the growth management plan adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Metropolitan uses SCAG's population, housing and employment projections to determine future water demand.

Additionally, Metropolitan encourages projects within its service area to include water conservation measures. Water conservation, reclaimed water use, and groundwater recharge programs are integral components to regional water supply planning. Metropolitan supports mitigation measures such as using water efficient fixtures, drought-tolerant landscaping, and reclaimed water to offset any increase in water use associated with the proposed project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your planning process and we look forward to receiving future environmental documentation on this project. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. William Fong of the Environmental Planning Team at (213) 217-6899.

Very truly yours,

Original Signed By
Marty Meisler

 Laura J. Simonek
Manager, Asset Management
and Facilities Planning Unit

LIM/rdl

(Public Folders/EPU/Letters/22-MAY-03C.doc – Marty Moreno)

Enclosure: Planning Guidelines

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Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

April 28, 2005

Comment Letter No. 13

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-4119

Re: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Draft Program EIR for the
San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan

Dear Mr. Moreno:

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan.

The Habitat Authority is a joint powers authority established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. The purpose of the Habitat Authority is to acquire, restore and maintain open space in the Puente Hills as a permanent protection for the native habitat. Currently the Habitat Authority manages and/or owns 3,814 acres of open space. Properties owned and managed by the Habitat Authority lie within the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights, as well as in the County unincorporated area of the Puente Hills known as Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights.

13-1

The Habitat Authority understands the project area includes the length of the San Gabriel River and one-half mile on either side of the river. It is unclear whether or not the lands owned and/or managed by the Habitat Authority are included in this project area. However, in reading the text and viewing the maps, it appears that our lands do have the potential to be affected.

Overall, there are many benefits that can result from the implementation of the River Master Plan such as increasing biodiversity for the region, however below are comments for your consideration:

13-2

Section 2- Introduction, page 2-2, Table 2-1, Draft Program EIR
The Habitat Authority should be reclassified as a County/Regional Government. It currently is categorized as a private organization.

13-3

Section 3 – Project Description, Table 3-1, Draft Program EIR
Under Objective H4, *Maintaining and enhancing wildlife corridors and linkages*, it is unclear how the Performance Criteria H4.3, *Maintains or reduces populations of wildlife meso-predators...and rodents that may transmit vector-borne diseases...*, is consistent with the objective. Although overabundance of mesopredators and mammalian vector species are valid concerns in the urban-wildland interface, consideration needs to be given to the role these species may assume in the larger ecosystem. For example, normal rodent and mesopredator population fluctuations should not always be interpreted as a problem requiring management. The response to undesired numbers of small mammals often includes the use of anticoagulant poisons. These poisons have the potential to harm predators up the food chain, often resulting in the death of large mammals and raptors. Therefore, we recommend that the Master Plan will suggest less toxic approaches, with the goal of a sustainable reduction in pest species achieved through healthy populations of top predators and responsible actions by local property owners to reduce opportunities for pest species. Additional comments about wildlife corridors are provided below.

13-4

Chapter 3, page 3-28, and Chapter 4, page 4-4, Map 4-1, Master Plan:
The suggestion of the R4-23 Puente Hills Western Wildlife Corridor project, which proposes to connect the Puente Hills to the San Gabriel River, needs to have further analysis from wildlife movement experts before consideration of implementation. A study designed and conducted by a biological research institute is recommended before terrestrials are reintroduced to the river area. We agree the connection has the potential to increase biological diversity for the area. However, this project also has the potential to create human wildlife interactions that could result in the euthanization of small mammals such as skunks, coyotes or raccoons. The precautions mentioned on page 4-4 such as wildlife-proofing trash cans, creating buffers and dispersing educational materials are good suggestions, but more needs to be done to prevent coyotes and other wildlife from being invited into picnic areas or other public recreational areas. Educational materials about co-existing with wildlife also need to be made available to park visitors, in addition to local residents as suggested. Littering, unkempt picnic areas, and dogs off leash all have the potential to generate unfortunate human-wildlife interactions. It is unclear from Map 4-1 how the wildlife movement from the Puente Hills would be northbound only and not southbound. If the route of travel was north, measures would need to be taken to ensure that wildlife would have not only a wildlife movement corridor available to them but also core habitat areas for their use along the way until the Angeles National Forest is reached 12 miles away.

13-5

Chapter 3, page 3-28, Master Plan:
In regards to R4.24 Equestrian Facilities Enhancement project which involves water quality runoff mitigation measures, we recommend that a situation not be created that will negatively impact wildlife. For instance, if wetland habitat is created, wildlife would be attracted. If the habitat consists of vegetated wetland, there is the potential that certain bird species may utilize the area for nesting. A situation could inadvertently be created where vector control or whoever is managing the wetland may need to disturb or clear the


13-5
(Cont'd) | habitat for public safety reasons. If this occurred, the wildlife would be negatively affected if it occurred during nesting season.

13-6 | Chapter 4, Map 4-9, page 4-23, Master Plan:
According to Map 4-9, the Groundwater Recharge Opportunities project has the potential to impact lands the Habitat Authority manages. The area known as Sycamore Canyon, which is owned by the Habitat Authority, is highlighted on the map as being a possible location for this project. Implementation of any project of this nature would need to be coordinated with this agency to avoid impacts to park operations and wildlife, and to avoid conflicts with utility or conservation easements in the area with possible surface area recharge activities. Recharge into the existing creek is a more feasible option which would require further analysis such as with the level of pollution found in the water or rate of water flow for consideration.

The Habitat Authority is in the process of preparing a Resource Management Plan with long-term goals for habitat restoration, wildlife connections, trails, education and overall management of our jurisdiction. It is expected to be completed in the year of 2006. This document can be made available for your future reference. Also, enclosed is the brochure, Western Puente Hills Access Guide, for background information about the Habitat Authority.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Feel free to contact me at (562) 945-9003 to answer any questions or for discussion.

Sincerely,


Andrea Gullo
Executive Director

Enclosure

Cc: Board of Directors
Advisory Committee

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SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATER COMMITTEE

729 N. Azusa Ave. #5
Azusa, CA 91702-2528
(COMMITTEE OF NINE) FOUNDED 1889

April 29, 2005

Comment Letter No. 14

Mr. Marty Moreno
Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

AZUSA AGRICULTURAL WATER
COMPANY

AZUSA VALLEY WATER
COMPANY

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER
COMPANY

COVINA IRRIGATING COMPANY

MONROVIA NURSERY
COMPANY

Re: Draft EIR San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan

Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you the opportunity to respond to the draft EIR. San Gabriel River Water Committee has had a representative attend County Master Plan meetings for years, in fact from the Master Plan's inception. We would like to think that comments made in the meetings have been recognized and incorporated into the Master Plan. Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster has also had representatives in attendance at almost all meetings and their comments have been greatly appreciated. Following review of the draft EIR the Committee has the following comments:

14-1

On page 3-12 Section 3.3.1.2 It should be noted that storm water infiltration should only be considered if it can be shown that this process will not add contamination to the underground water supply. Also see Page 4.6-32 Projects that increase impervious surfaces or change drainage patterns encourage onsite collection of storm water for irrigation and percolation must be **consistent with water rights**.

14-2

On page 3-15 Table 3-7 Concept design studies should enhance Water Supply, Water Quality, Ground Water Recharge, Water Conservation and Flood Protection per Page 1-2 Section 1.2 Project Objectives, Executive Summary.


14-3

On page 3-20 Section 3.3.3.1 San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds plans to include a floating island should proceed through a study and review period to assure no negative impacts to current operations.

Mr. Marty Moreno
April 29, 2005
Page 2

- 14-4 On page 4.6-5 the average flow at Foothill Blvd. is listed as between 40 cfs and 100 cfs. This data may be accurate, but it should also be stated that there are storm release flow rates, such as this current winter, that exceeded 20,000 cfs. This information should be included so that plans can be formulated from actual flows, not just average figures.
- 14-5 On page 4.6-8, Section 4.6.1.1 Other discharges lists San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's diversion as downstream of the spreading grounds, but in fact, the discharge point is into the northerly spread pit.
- 14-6 On page 4.6-14 Section 4.6.1.3 Water Rights, Main San Gabriel Basin Water master lists parties who pumped in excess of 5,000 ac.ft. in fiscal year 2001-2002. City of Azusa has not been included on this list so please verify this info with Watermaster.

Sincerely,
SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATER COMMITTEE


Don Berry, Administrator

SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERMASTER

FOR
CITY OF LONG BEACH ET AL VS SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WATER CO. ET AL
CASE NO. 722647-LOS ANGELES COUNTY

WATERMASTERS
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April 19, 2005

Comment Letter No. 15

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P. O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Subject: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan

Dear Mr. Moreno:

The San Gabriel River Watermaster has participated in the planning process for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan. We offer the following comments regarding the EIR.

- 15-1 1. We note the EIR recognizes the importance of existing use of the conveyance and conservation system for water supplies in the form of water rights, the need to make proper arrangements regarding the acquisition of water for new projects and protection of existing flood control capacities.
- 15-2 2. **Water Rights.** The EIR indicates existing water rights will be protected. What is not conveyed in the document is that the great majority of the water rights are held by water purveyors who provide municipal water service in the region. Thus, this water is currently managed for the direct use of the people of the area. This water is stored in the groundwater basins and withdrawn at time of water demand by the purveyors for delivery to the users. The local water supplies provide less than half of the total municipal water use in the San Gabriel River area. Additional water is imported through statewide importation conveyance facilities. The value of this local water source cannot be underestimated in risk management of the local municipal water supplies. In a land of earthquake and drought, the availability of this local source of stored potable groundwater is of immense value.

**Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor
Master Plan**

April 19, 3005

Page 2

3. **15-3** | **Lario Creek.** The EIR should state that the existing gaging station on the Zone 1 Ditch must be maintained or replaced by a suitable station. This gaging station is extremely important in the operations of the San Gabriel Watermaster.
4. **15-4** | The groundwater spreading grounds need to be maintained. Maintenance requires periodic cleaning, clearing, disking and silt removal. We are concerned that development of the adjacent areas will reduce or prohibit the ability of the County to maintain the spreading grounds so that the existing percolation rates can be maintained.

We commend you on the preparation of the EIR document, especially considering all of the stakeholders and interests.

Very truly yours,



Richard A. Rhone
for San Gabriel River Watermaster

cc. Glen Brown
Steve Johnson
Tom Stetson



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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West Covina, California 91790
(626) 814-9466 • FAX (626) 337-5686
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Steve West
District Manager

Kenn K. Fujioka, Ph.D.
Assistant Manager

Cities of:

Comment Letter No. 16

Alhambra

Arcadia

Azusa

Bradbury

Claremont

Covina

Duarte

El Monte

Glendora

Industry

Irwindale

La Puente

La Verne

Monrovia

Monterey Park

Pomona

Rosemead

San Dimas

San Gabriel

Sierra Madre

Temple City

Walnut

West Covina

County of
Los Angeles

April 25, 2005

Mr. Marty Moreno
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a special district charged with protecting public health within approximately 250 square miles of the San Gabriel Valley, encompassing the upper reaches of the San Gabriel River and its tributaries. We take this responsibility very seriously. As such, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Program EIR for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan.

16-1

We were pleased to note that our concerns relating to habitat enhancement that may encourage or facilitate the reproduction of mosquitoes and other vectors capable of endangering public health were addressed in this document. As this is a Program EIR, project developers will be encouraged to coordinate with the vector control districts in their jurisdiction – a critical first step!

After careful review of the Draft EIR, we ask consideration of the following points: *(for ease of description, some sections have been reproduced below. Requested additions are typed in bold, text removals in strikeout, and notes to EIR editors in italics)*

SECTION 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 16-2 Many significant points of clarification and requested amendments to **Section 2 – Section 5** are listed below. It is imperative that any changes to those sections are reflected in **Section 1.8** and **Tables 1-2 and 1-3** respectively.

SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION

- 16-3 Several agencies that have been participants in the Stakeholder process for the San Gabriel River Master Plan were inadvertently left off of **Table 2-1**.

Please add: **California Department of Health Services** under State Government
Please add: **Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District** under County/Regional Governments

SECTION 2.7 AREAS OF KNOWN CONTROVERSY

- 16-4 The implementation of habitat enhancement projects along the San Gabriel River have the potential to increase risks to public health from a variety of vectors – not just mosquitoes (i.e. fleas, ticks, black fly, midges, and rodents) (*please note: the common name of the insect is correctly written as two separate words*) In addition, improving habitat for wildlife in close association to urban development increases the risk of vector-borne disease transmission to the public. *Please amend the third bullet point to read:*

- Potential impact on public health from increase in mosquito **and other vector** breeding conditions associated with the creation of constructed wetlands, **surface or underground stormwater capture/treatment devices**, other ~~surface~~ water features, **and corridor enhancement projects in close vicinity to urban development**.

SECTION 4.5 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- 16-5 As above, the introductory paragraph should be *amended to read:*

“Hazards and hazardous materials... public health hazards from insect **and other vector species**, ...”

SECTION 4.5.1.4 INSECT VECTORS

As above, many other arthropod and vertebrate species can be vectors of human disease or a source of significant discomfort. *Please amend this title to read:*

- 16-6 **4.5.1.4 Vectors of Public Health Concern**

The informational overview for this section inadequately addresses the seriousness of vector-borne disease transmission. *We recommend the text be amended as follows:*

~~Uncontrolled~~ Populations of ~~insect~~ vectors such as mosquitoes can pose a public health hazard by transmitting viruses and other disease-causing agents. In addition, ~~uncontrolled populations of~~ vectors can be a nuisance or source of **significant** discomfort for humans.

Division 3, Chapter 1 of the California Health and Safety Code defines a vector as any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, and rodents and other vertebrates.

California Health & Safety Code §2000-2067 gives mosquito and vector control agencies broad authority and substantial powers aimed at protecting public health. Parties responsible for any activity that supports the development, attraction, or harborage of vectors, or that facilitates the introduction or spread of vectors may be liable for civil penalties up to \$1,000 per day plus the cost of abatement.

16-6
(Cont'd)

The Master Plan Concept Design Studies and other future projects may include new or modified water features such as stormwater treatment wetlands. Mosquitoes are the vector of primary concern for the Master Plan, since they require aquatic habitats for **breeding to complete their lifecycle** and are known to transmit agents that cause disease in humans **and other animals. Wetlands attract mosquitoes as well as resident and migrant bird species perpetuating bird-mosquito disease transmission cycles. Infected mosquitoes can disperse up to ten miles (depending on species) from these aquatic habitats into adjacent residential neighborhoods thereby increasing disease risks to surrounding communities and the visiting public.**

Additional **aquatic** vectors of concern for the Master Plan are **black flies** and midges, which also require aquatic habitats for breeding and ~~can be~~ **are** a **public** nuisance. ~~However,~~ In the U.S., **black flies** do not generally carry disease-causing agents **to humans, however painful bites from some species can cause extensive swelling, allergic reaction, and secondary infection. Most midges do not bite, however, large populations are known to cause allergic reactions and have negative economic impacts on local residents and businesses.**

Finally, various rodent and larger wildlife species and the parasites they harbor can cause disease in humans and other animals. In California, over 45% of human diseases reportable to the California Department of Health Services are diseases of animals transmissible to people (zoonoses) (Los Angeles Department of Health Services *Zoonoses Manual* Updated: 1/6/2005, available at:

<http://search.ladhs.org/vet/guides/vetzooman.htm#Zoonoses%20Wildlife>).

Increasing corridor/habitat connections will, by design, increase movement and dispersion of wildlife adjacent to and into urban areas thereby increasing human-wildlife interactions and disease transmission risks to the public.

Vector control **and disease surveillance** in the Master Plan study area is carried out by three vector control districts, **and the City of Long Beach Vector Control Program, and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Vector Management Program.** ~~which are agencies created under the California Health and Safety Code.~~ The vector control agencies and their respective service areas within the Master Plan study area are listed below and shown in **Figure 4.5-1:**

Please include the following agency in table 4.5-1

- **County of Los Angeles Vector Management Program – entire county area.**

(the information below relating to WNV has been updated)

Mosquitoes. In California, there are several species of mosquitoes known to transmit agents that cause mosquito-borne diseases, such as **West Nile virus**, western equine encephalomyelitis, St. Louis encephalitis, and malaria. **The primary mosquito species in urban Los Angeles County responsible for disease transmission to humans (*Culex spp.*) are also the most abundant and are considered ‘bridge vectors’ due to their predilection for biting both birds and humans thereby serving to vector avian encephalitis-causing viruses to humans.**

Since the introduction of the West Nile virus into the Western Hemisphere in 1999, this mosquito-borne virus has spread ~~to most of~~ **throughout** the continental United States, with human cases detected in 47 states and the District of Columbia (CDC, 2004). According to the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), ~~612~~ **830** human cases ~~have been~~ **were** reported in California in 2004, ~~(as of March 17, 2005),~~ including ~~245~~ **331** cases in Los Angeles County and ~~36~~ **64** cases in Orange County. **In 2004, there have been 17 were 28** West Nile virus-related fatalities ~~to date~~ in California (in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Glenn, **Kern, and Tehama** counties) (CDHS, 2004). According to the ~~CDHS~~ **CDC** (2004), Most people who are bitten by a mosquito ~~with~~ **carrying** the West Nile virus will not become ill. People who do ~~become ill~~ may experience ~~mild to moderate~~ **to significant flu-like illness exhibiting** symptoms such as fever, rash, headache and body ache **with symptoms lasting a few days to several weeks.** It is estimated that less than 1 percent of the people who are infected with the virus become severely ill and require hospitalization. **Severe illness often results in long-term or permanent neurologic**

damage and can be fatal. The elderly and people with compromised immune systems are particularly susceptible to severe illness caused by the virus. **West Nile virus and other encephalitis-causing viruses are endemic to California and will continue to be transmitted and cause disease in humans and other animals.**

Mosquitoes require standing water to breed and complete the life cycle, which takes about 7 days during warm weather. Mosquito control methods include elimination of potential breeding sources through water and vegetation management, **public education and source reduction**, and the use of biological controls and chemical insecticides, **and legal abatement (California Health & Safety Code §2000-2067).**

Water and Vegetation Management. Water and vegetation management to minimize areas of stagnant water **and improve water quality are** the first considerations for mosquito control in constructed wetlands and other water features. Overgrowth of emergent vegetation (e.g., cattails), which can create stagnant water around the margins of constructed wetlands and lakes, can be prevented by periodic removal of vegetation, **the use of herbicides**, and/or by managing water depth and flow patterns. In addition, water motion can be encouraged by allowing the water to be exposed to wind, altering water depth, and/or by controlling flow patterns.

For example, the 45-acre San Joaquin Marsh on San Diego Creek (Orange County) was designed so that portions of the marsh can be drained selectively, and a system of water pumps and weirs are used to manage the water levels for mosquito control (Denger and Brandt, pers. comm., 2003). At the Rio Hondo Coastal and San Gabriel Coastal Spreading Grounds, LADPW removes vegetation periodically to minimize areas of stagnant water. **While helpful, these solutions do not mitigate all mosquito problems and routine mosquito surveillance and control is required. In addition, densely vegetated areas (such as the San Joaquin Marsh) often require adult mosquito suppression due to the large numbers of mosquitoes produced (pers. comm. Richard Meyer, OCVCD, 2005).**

Mosquitofish. Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) are small, guppy-like fish that feed on mosquito larvae, and are stocked in ponds, lakes, and other water features as a safe and effective **biological mosquito control method.** ~~However,~~ **Some research indicates that** mosquitofish may disrupt the aquatic ecosystems if introduced into natural streams, lakes, or ponds, **however the alternative need for increased chemical control measures must be weighed if their use is questioned.**

Enhancing populations of natural aquatic mosquito predators (dragonfly & damselfly larvae, aquatic beetles, native fish) in lieu of mosquitofish, although beneficial, will not suffice to mitigate mosquito concerns. Although mosquitofish are present throughout the U.S. in natural bodies of water, many Districts advocate only placing mosquitofish in closed systems to alleviate potential concerns.

16-6
(Cont'd)

Bti/Bs. *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (Bti) and *Bacillus sphaericus* (Bs) and ~~is a~~ **are naturally occurring soil-borne bacteria** that affect the digestive systems of mosquito larvae, and ~~is a~~ **are commonly used larvicides**. Bti/Bs can be broadcast onto the water surface by a hand crew or from a vehicle ~~or~~ boat, depending on environmental conditions and site access. Bti/Bs is ~~species-~~highly specific and does not pose risks to wildlife, non-target species, or the environment (EPA, 2002a).

Methoprene. Methoprene is a mosquito juvenile growth hormone mimic that **artificially extends the larval stage of mosquitoes and prevents normal maturation to adulthood**. Methoprene is often used in larval mosquito control (sometimes in combination with Bti) and is a **highly specific, targeted option for mosquito control**. Methoprene has the added benefit of maintaining mosquito larvae as a food source for native fish and invertebrates while still fulfilling public health objectives.

Although other products are available for immature mosquito control, the above are the most environmentally sensitive and most likely to be used in naturalized systems in the Los Angeles basin.

Adult Mosquito Control. When the above ~~non-chemical~~ control measures are infeasible or ineffective for reducing the adult mosquito population, adulticides (chemicals used to control adult mosquitoes) may be used. Chemical adulticides are applied by **hand-held**, truck-mounted, or aircraft-mounted sprayers ~~near population centers~~. Chemical adulticides are not species-specific and can have adverse effects on non-target insects. In addition, **both larvicide and adulticide** applications of ~~chemical agents~~ can lead to resistance in the vector population. A ~~sometimes suggested~~ biological control method for adult mosquitoes is installation of nesting or roosting houses to attract insectivorous bats or birds that feed on adult mosquitoes. **This option has very limited overall value and may artificially increase bat populations risking rabies transmission in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.**

Black flies. Black flies are common in the San Gabriel Valley, but are not known to transmit **human** disease locally. They can, however, be a nuisance by causing **allergic reaction**, discomfort and irritation to humans due to their biting habits and/or presence in large numbers (i.e., flying into eyes, ears, and noses). In two of the three species that are locally present, females will bite mammals, including humans. Black flies breed in oxygenated, flowing water, such as dam spillways, rivers and streams with rocky beds, and pipe seepages. Black fly populations are present ~~during spring, summer, and fall,~~ **throughout the year**, peaking in late spring and summer.

Black fly control is typically performed on larvae **immature stages** rather than adults. The primary method is to interrupt the flow of water for 24 to 48 hours so that the larvae are deprived of oxygen and/or desiccate. If this is not feasible or

ineffective, Bti may be applied. For example, at the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, the SGVMVCD works with LADPW to periodically shut off the outflow from Morris Dam during weekends to dry out black fly larvae. This allows the District to minimize the need to apply Bti (Fujioka, pers. comm., 2003). Black fly adults tend to be difficult to **control** ~~eradicate because they resist airborne pesticide~~ (SGVMCD, 2003a).

Midges. Midges are widespread in the San Gabriel Valley. Though they are often confused with mosquitoes, midges do not bite ~~or cause disease~~ **but may contribute to allergies and large populations can result in economic impacts**. Midges can be found hovering in swarms on warm summer evenings. ~~Like black flies,~~ They breed in **standing and flowing waters, and prefer the water can often be found in watercourses and storm drain systems.** ~~In the San Gabriel Valley,~~ **Throughout the Master Plan area,** control measures are undertaken when there are extremely high numbers of adult insects. The larvicidal agents used for mosquito control are also **generally** effective for midges (SGVMCD, 2003a).

We request the addition of the following section:

16-6
(Cont'd)

Fleas, Ticks, and other Vectors of Concern. Changes in vertebrate and invertebrate populations through either natural or man-made perturbations threaten to increase public health risks. In California, 45% of the 83 human diseases reportable to the California Department of Health Services are zoonotic (animal diseases transmittable to people). Many of these diseases are present in southern California, require diligent monitoring, and in many instances have resulted in human disease.

High raccoon densities in urban environments (a result of abundant anthropogenic food sources) increase the risk of transmission of raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*). This is a density dependent disease and the cause of serious or fatal larval migrans in humans and animals.

Lyme disease (LD) is a significant vector-borne disease in California, and although rare in Los Angeles County, has been identified (LACDHS, 2004). The tick species responsible for its transmission is found in our local foothills. The predominant host of larval ticks (*Peromyscus spp.*) commonly inhabit disturbed or transitional coastal sage scrub habitat. Both larval and adult ticks are capable of traveling into urban areas via animal movements. Researchers in Maryland found a strong correlation between increased LD risk and vegetative corridors through urban development (Frank, et.al, 2002).

(Reference: Frank C, Fix AD, Peña CA, Strickland GT. 2002. Mapping Lyme Disease Incidence for Diagnostic and Preventive Decisions, Maryland. Emerging

Infectious Disease, April 2002 Vol.8, No.4: 427-429. Available at URL: www.cdc.gov/eid.)

Probably of greater concern is the risk of plague and murine typhus in southern California. Plague is detected in Los Angeles County wildlife nearly every year with ground squirrels (and their associated fleas) being the most important source of human exposure. Although rare, human plague cases do occur in this area (LACDHS, 2000). A suburban cycle of murine typhus has been identified involving opossums, rat fleas, and cats that is readily transmittable to humans. Ten human cases were reported on average each year from 1993-2002 (Ramirez, 2003).

16-6
(Cont'd)

(Reference: Ramirez, Joe. 2003. Murine (Endemic) Typhus in Los Angeles County. Mosquito & Vector Control Association Southern Region Continuing Education Program: #03-00240).

Increasing interactions (and disease transmission) between wildlife, domesticated animals, and humans is of growing concern in urban and suburban areas. Surveillance and control methods vary and are typically undertaken if disease activity is detected and the public's health is at risk. Reducing human-wildlife interactions are best accomplished by discouraging overpopulation due to abundant food and water resources and with extensive educational outreach geared towards reducing "keeping wildlife wild".

4.5.2 SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA

Please edit the last bullet point to read:

- Created insect-vector breeding conditions in an amount that would require increased levels of mosquito **and other vector** abatement programs to **control** maintain mosquito vector populations at pre-project **below** levels at which public health may be at risk

16-7

4.5.3 IMPACTS OF ADOPTING THE MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

In the second paragraph, second sentence, *please edit to read* "mosquito **and other vector** breeding areas **habitats and creation of ecological habitats conducive to mosquito-borne disease propagation...** that retain water (...) **or increase animal movements into urban areas**"

16-8

16-9 *** Please Note: Although we truly appreciate the considerations in the current Draft EIR to the public health issues raised, we are concerned that any and all mitigation*

16-9
(Cont'd)

measures still may not reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant as outlined. In addition, environmental conditions beyond our control routinely increase risks of vector-borne disease to humans and can not be truly factored into this equation.

Table 4.5-2

Habitat Element section: the “Potentially Adverse:” section *must be updated* to identify the other vector-borne disease and corridor enhancement concerns noted above.

Also add: **Under the California Health and Safety Code Division 3, Chapter 1 §2000-2067, parties responsible for any activity that supports the development, attraction, or harborage of vectors, or that facilitates the introduction or spread of vectors may be liable for civil penalties up to \$1,000 per day plus the cost of abatement.**

In addition, the information related to vector potential should be a separate and distinct paragraph not tied to the bird/wildlife strike hazard information.

16-10

Open Space Element: *please incorporate the following information* into the “Potentially Adverse” section:

Increasing open space elements within the urban matrix has the potential to increase vector populations and human-wildlife interactions within and surrounding these projects.

Flood Protection Element: *please incorporate the following information* into the “Potentially Adverse” section:

Please edit the first sentence in the third paragraph to read: “Projects with constructed wetlands... and other **above and below ground** facilities designed...~~could~~**would** impact on public health in violation of California Health and Safety Code §2000-2067.”

Water Supply and Water Quality Element: *please incorporate the following information* into the “Potentially Adverse” section:

The second sentence of the second paragraph should be *amended to read*: “Maintenance activities...sediments **and potentially large amounts of aquatic vegetation...**”

16-11

4.5.4.1 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Disposal of Sediments...

Please amend sentence three to read: “Maintenance activities...removal of sediments **and aquatic vegetation...**”

4.5.4.2 BIRD/WILDLIFE AIRCRAFT STRIKE HAZARD

16-12

The assumption that bird populations would not substantially increase in areas where wetland habitat is created must be reevaluated. Birds, especially migratory waterfowl, will take advantage of newly created habitat due to the critical foraging opportunities they will afford. One needs only review data for the Salton Sea, and Whittier Narrows areas for examples.

4.5.4.3 INSECT VECTORS

*Please amend this heading to read: “**Vectors of Public Health Concern**” for uniformity with **Section 4.5.1.4***

16-13

This section discusses only “uncovered” stormwater detention devices that may be utilized at project sites. *This EIR must also specifically address “covered” or underground stormwater capture and treatment devices* as they are a very commonly selected in urban development and may be considered for many projects incorporating buildings and facilities into their project. These units additionally pose risks to public health as many are designed to hold water in a vault or sump unit indefinitely until pumped annually or bi-annually during routine maintenance. These devices have the potential to breed tremendous numbers of mosquitoes and pose significant risks to public health.

In addition, although your review found that many of these “uncovered” stormwater retention facilities pose low risks for mosquito reproduction, we ask you to review the following documents.

Managing Mosquitoes in Stormwater Treatment Devices, Publication 8125, 2004.

Managing Mosquitoes in Surface-Flow Constructed Treatment Wetlands, Publication 8117, 2003.

Both are available online at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.

Supporting research can also be provided that shows many devices *designed* to drain rapidly, or rarely hold water, often fail to drain as designed and breed tremendous numbers of mosquitoes as a result of the routinely high nutrient/organic content of stormwater runoff. We ask you to seriously reconsider the vector potentials of both covered and uncovered stormwater treatment devices.

16-14

Catch Basins. *Please edit the second sentence to read: “Catch basins are typically ~~must be~~ designed so that all runoff...”*

16-15

Shallow depressions... *Please edit the third sentence to read: “During large storms... ~~but would likely~~ must be designed to infiltrate into the ground*

16-15
(Cont'd) ~~within 72 hours. In addition, stormwater would be present primarily in winter, when mosquitoes are less active. (note: we have various species of mosquitoes that breed and appear to transmit WNV year-round in southern California)~~ **Irrigation in the vicinity has the potential to maintain standing water in these basins for extended periods of time.**

*Please replace the last sentence with: **Improperly constructed or poorly managed depressions have the potential to create mosquito-breeding conditions.***

16-16 **Retention Basins.** *Please remove the second and third sentences as this is often not the case. The next sentence should read: “In the event... periods. depending on the basin capacity. **Additionally, inadequately sloped edges have the potential to support dense growths of emergent vegetation unless properly maintained.**” In the last sentence, please replace “some” with “the”.*

16-17 **Stormwater Wetlands.** *Please amend the second sentence to read: “However, in some areas, **Regardless, ... wetland vegetation, pump failure, or problems with design or maintenance.** Therefore, stormwater wetlands have some significant potential...”*

16-18 **Permanent Lakes.** *Please add the following sentence to the end of paragraph one: “**Lakes and ponds with shallow sloped edges will support vegetation which is conducive to mosquito reproduction and can make control measures ineffective if too dense.**”*

16-19 *** Please Note: Any and all possible mitigation measures still may not reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant as outlined. In addition, environmental conditions beyond our control routinely increase risks of vector-borne disease to humans which can not be truly factored into this equation (i.e. new pathogen introductions such as WNV, and weather).*

16-20 *Please remove sentence two in paragraph three and replace with: **Breeding of any vectors of public health significance as defined in California Health and Safety Code Division 3, Chapter 1 §2000-2067 is a public nuisance.***

16-21 *In the final paragraph in this section, it might be good to note yellow jackets, fleas, ticks, and wild rodents into the list of wildlife hazards.*

4.5.5.2
16-22 **INSECT VECTORS.** *Please amend this heading to read: “**Vectors of Public Health Concern**” for uniformity with Section 4.5.1.4*

16-23

In the last sentence of the introductory paragraph, *Please replace* “insect” with “all”

MP-H1 please replace “district” with the more appropriate term “agency” in the first sentence.

16-24

- *Please amend bullet one to read:* “Design to... stagnant water **as specified by the vector agency. Ensure slope characteristics are such that dense stands of emergent vegetation will not develop.** (Perhaps a reference here to *Managing Mosquitoes in Surface-Flow Constructed Treatment Wetlands* referenced above)
- *Please amend bullet three to read:* “Work with... mosquito-eating fish...”
- *Please amend bullet four to read:* “Provide... site access **to vector control agency specifications...**”
- *Please eliminate this bullet.* This is an unsound solution that may in itself pose public health risks from diseases such as rabies. Enhancement of habitat quality will result in increased natural predator populations that are within the carrying capacity of the environment to support.
- *Please add a bullet to read:* “**Stormwater retention facilities/devices must be designed to drain completely within 72 hours and be equipped with the ability to be dewatered rapidly if needed.**”
- *Please add a bullet to read:* “**Incorporate measures into project designs that serve to educate the public about wildlife safety and vector-borne disease issues, prevent wildlife-human interactions, and prevent wildlife access to trash and unnatural food and water sources that are likely to result in unnatural population levels.**”
- *Please edit the last bullet to read:* “Incorporate... project funding or ~~develop a plan for~~ **implement a secure and** reliable funding source for vector management activities **through the life of the project.**”

CD-H1 *Please amend bullet points as in MP-H1.*

SECTION 4.6 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

16-25

As noted above, any project utilizing stormwater capture devices or treatment options that hold water longer than 72 hours risk breeding mosquitoes and endangering public health. The California Health and Safety Code Division 3, Chapter 1 §2000-2067, states that parties responsible for any activity that supports the development, attraction, or harborage of vectors, or that facilitates the introduction or spread of vectors may be liable for civil penalties up to \$1,000 per day plus the cost of abatement. These concerns should be addressed or cross referenced with the information provided above.

SECTION 4.9 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Implementation of projects in the Master Plan will impact mosquito and vector control districts in the following way:

- Underground utility vaults (for cable, telephone, & electricity) mandated by current FCC regulations often retain standing water and breed mosquitoes thereby risking public health (pers. comm. Charles Myers, CA DHS, 2005) (*I also have a CA DHS study from 1975(?) that I can provide as reference*). This concern must be addressed in this section.

SECTION 5.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The recent increase in both public support and funding to restore watersheds, increase open space, and improve habitat connectivity has triggered interest in a regional approach to planning and project implementation often spanning various jurisdictions and involving many entities. These efforts will most certainly result in more successful projects but will require a more thorough evaluation of all possible implications.

- **Section 5.3.2.4** incorrectly states that none of the related projects (not included in the Master Plan) identified would create mosquito habitat. Projects (outlined in the Master Plan, and related) will incorporate either above ground water features and/or below ground stormwater treatment devices (as required by law for projects larger than 1 acre). *Therefore, there is a potential for cumulatively considerable risks to the public's health due to vector reproduction and disease transmission resulting from the implementation of the Master Plan.*
- In California, over 45% of human diseases reportable to the California Department of Health Services are diseases of animals transmissible to people (zoonoses). Increases in habitat quality and connectivity may pose *cumulatively considerable risks to public health resulting from increased animal movement into and through densely populated urban areas.*

As requested in the Notice of Document Availability, the contact for further inquiries related to the above mentioned Comments on the Draft EIR for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan is:

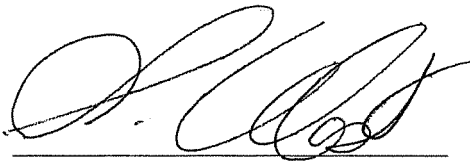
Kelly Middleton
Public Information Officer
San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District
1145 N. Azusa Canyon Road
West Covina, CA 91790
626.814.9466
kmiddleton@sgvmosquito.org

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
SAN GABRIEL RIVER CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN**

SIGNATURE PAGE

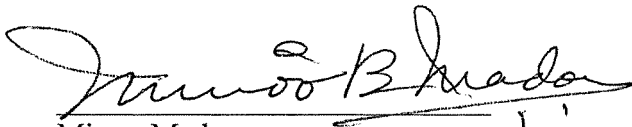
I, Steve West, District Manager of the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, do hereby certify the foregoing Response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan.

We are interested in assisting the County of Los Angeles Department in achieving its goals while providing maximum protection to the public's health. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input in this process and are available for consultation and request the opportunity to participate and serve on future committees



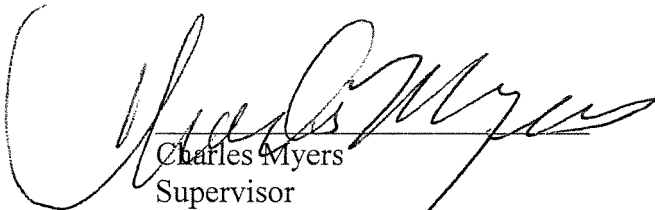
Steve West
District Manager

05/04/05
Date



Minoo Madon
Scientific Technical Services Director
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

05/05/05
Date



Charles Myers
Supervisor
California Department of Health Services
Vector-Borne Disease Section

4/29/05
Date

Rydman, Rama

From: Alarcon, Christian [CAlarcon@lacsds.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2005 2:02 PM
To: Moreno, Martin
Cc: Rydman, Rama; Rincon, Martha; Gasca, Monica
Subject: Comments on Draft San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan

Marty,

Comment Letter No. 17

The following presents the Districts' comments on the Draft San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan and Draft Program Environmental Impact Report.

Comments on Draft San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan

17-1 The Districts request that the plan refer to the "County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County" or "Sanitation Districts".

Section 2.3.1 Biological and Physical Resources

- 17-2** • Page 2-34: The second paragraph under the Spreading Grounds heading states that "the quantity of reclaimed water used for recharge each year is governed by waste discharge permits." This statement should be corrected to say that recharge is governed by water reclamation requirements.
- 17-3** • Page 2-37: The Districts believe that the available reclaimed water flow shown on Map 2-11 should be corrected for the Pomona WRP. As discussed on Page 2-38, nearly 100% of the reclaimed water is used either for direct reuse or for groundwater recharge. The Pomona WRP flow should be listed as zero to be consistent with the flow shown for the Whittier Narrows WRP, which also reuses nearly 100% of the flow. Also, the spreading ground should be labeled on the map.
- 17-4** • Page 2-38: The Districts would like to clarify that the Pomona WRP discharges to the South Fork San Jose Creek, which is tributary to the San Jose Creek.
- Page 2-42: The beneficial uses for the Main Stem of the San Gabriel River (Unit 405.43) in Reach 2 do not include the Wetlands Habitat use. It should be changed to Spawning use.
- 17-5** • Page 2-42: The beneficial uses for the San Gabriel River (Unit 405.41) in Reach 4 should include the Warm Freshwater Habitat use as an intermediate use.
- Page 2-42: The beneficial uses listings are not consistent with Table 4.6-9 of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (page 4.6-18).
- Page 2-44: The impaired reaches listings are not consistent with Table 4.6-13 of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (page 4.6-24).

Section 3.7.2 River Corridor Policies and Programs

- 17-6** • Page 3-40: The Districts request that the caption for Figure 3-48 be corrected. It should read, "San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant".

Section 3.8.2 Woodland Duck Farm

- Page 3-59: The Districts request that Map 3-13 be corrected. The label referring to the use of reclaimed water at the golf course should read, "San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant".

Section 3.8.4 Lario Creek/Zone 1 Ditch

- 17-7** • Page 3-64: The second paragraph under the Opportunities heading describes the Zone 1 Ditch as "a functional, human made 85-mile waterway." The Districts do not believe that the waterway is 85-miles long and should be corrected.

17-8

- Page 3-65: The second paragraph under the Design Concepts heading should include a reference to the "San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant".

17-9

- Pages 3-66 and 3-67: The Districts request that Maps 3-16 and 3-17 for the Lario Creek Concept Design include the Whittier Narrows WRP discharge pipeline from the treatment plant to the San Gabriel River. The construction plans showing the location of this pipeline have been presented to North East Trees.

Section 3.8.5 El Dorado Regional Park

17-10

- Page 3-69: The last paragraph under the Challenges heading states that "using reclaimed water coming directly from the treatment plant is not acceptable for lakes that are stocked with fish, according to U.S. Department of Fish and Game standards." The Districts are unsure as to what Department of Fish and Game guidelines the document is referencing and request that this be clarified.

17-11

- Page 3-69: The second paragraph under the Design Concepts heading states that "reclaimed water would need to be pumped up into the wetlands area to be cleansed of nutrients before flowing into the second lake." The WRPs consistently comply with NPDES limits for nutrients, which are intended to protect all beneficial uses. Wetlands do provide additional nitrogen removal that could improve water quality but not because it is necessary.

17-12

Section 4.9 Flood Channel Enhancements

- Page 4-21: The first paragraph under the Spreading Grounds heading should clarify that the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds are located in Azusa.

Comments on Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

17-13

The Districts maintain facilities along the San Gabriel River that may be affected by individual projects proposed in the Draft San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan. Approval to construct improvements within a Districts' sewer easement and/or over a Districts' sewer is required before construction may begin. The Districts request to review proposed projects in order to determine whether or not Districts' truck sewers will be affected.

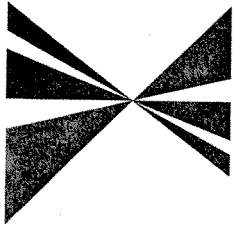
Section 4.6.1.1 Surface Water Features

17-14

- Page 4.6-9: The Districts request that Table 4.6-4 be corrected. The Pomona WRP permitted capacity should be identified as 15 MGD and not 13 MGD. The Pomona WRP discharges to South Fork San Jose Creek, which is tributary to San Jose Creek. The San Jose Creek WRP can also discharge to the San Gabriel River, downstream of the confluence with San Jose Creek, as well as in San Jose Creek. Footnote 1 for Table 4.6-4 should also be corrected to state that the San Jose Creek WRP can discharge to the San Gabriel River.

Christian Alarcon
Civil Engineer
Monitoring Section
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Phone: (562) 699-7411, Ext. 2814
Fax: (562) 908-4293

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Orange County Transportation Authority: Lou Irreia, County of Orange

Riverside County Transportation Commission: Robin Lowe, Hemet

Santa Clara County Transportation Commission: Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

May 6, 2005

Mr. Marty Moreno

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Watershed Management Division

P. O. Box 1460

Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Comment Letter No. 18

RE: SCAG Comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan - SCAG No. I 20050137

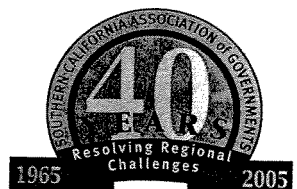
Dear Mr. Moreno:

Thank you for submitting the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for review and comment. SCAG's responsibility as the region's clearinghouse per Executive Order 12372 includes the implementation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15125 [d]. This legislation requires the review of local plans, projects and programs for consistency with regional plans.

It is recognized that the proposed project area is a 1-mile wide corridor along 58 river miles of the San Gabriel River that includes 19 cities as well as unincorporated areas of Los Angeles and Orange counties, and encompasses a total of approximately 58 square miles. The Master Plan is a consensus-based document that recognizes and addresses a renewed interest in recreation, open space, and habitat, while also seeking to enhance and maintain flood protection, water conservation benefits, along with existing water rights.

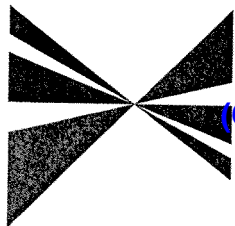
SCAG staff has evaluated your submission for consistency with the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG) and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Section 6.3 of the DEIR provides a thorough discussion of the proposed Project's lack of conflict with the Air Quality Management Plan, and its consistency with local zoning and general plans, and the SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG). In addition, Table 6-3 cites SCAG's RCPG policies with side by side corresponding project consistency statements.

We sincerely appreciate your thorough review of SCAG's regional guidelines and the accompanying discussion of your project's consideration as well. This approach to discussing consistency or support of SCAG policies is commendable and we appreciate your efforts.



May 6, 2005
Mr. Marty Moreno
Page 2

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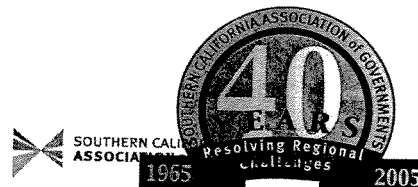
18-1
(Cont'd)

Based on the information provided in the Draft EIR, we have no further comments. A description of the proposed Project was published in the April 1-15, 2005 Intergovernmental Review Clearinghouse Report for public review and comment.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 236-1852. Thank you.

Sincerely,

April Grayson
Associate Regional Planner
Intergovernmental Review



May 4, 2005

Maryann Reyes
Director of Public Affairs

Comment Letter No. 19

Mr. Marty Moreno
Watershed Management Division
Department of Public Works
County of Los Angeles
900 South Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBJECT: Southern California Edison Company Comments on the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (March 2005)

Dear Mr. Moreno:

On behalf of Southern California Edison Company (SCE), I am pleased to submit the comments contained herein in response to Los Angeles County's San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) dated March 2005. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this important effort.

19-1 SCE, the County of Los Angeles, and other involved parties have worked well together over the years on projects of mutual interest along the river corridor and SCE rights-of-way and which are compatible with SCE's vital operating system requirements. SCE owns or controls a significant portion of the property along the entire San Gabriel River corridor; its primary use is for SCE's operating systems, transmission lines and related facilities. Just as with critical lands the County owns and manages for important public facilities and infrastructure, SCE must be equally protective of its critical operating system property.

SCE is committed – in the future as it has been in the past – to working closely with the County and other parties to consider compatible and appropriate uses within its rights-of-way. Some projects (described below) are viable and fit well with SCE's system operating requirements. Other projects, however, may not be suitable for or compatible with SCE's property and its operating requirements. In either case, SCE urges project proponents to communicate early in the conceptual planning stage to ensure a project is appropriate for the site, and work in close collaboration with SCE thereafter to ensure a successful outcome for all involved parties.

SCE's comments to the Master Plan and DEIR are divided into three sections: 1) SCE's Operating System and Secondary Land Use Program Objectives, provided for background; 2) SCE's and Los Angeles County's Shared Goals for a Balanced River Plan; and 3) SCE's Recommended Revisions to specific sections of the Master Plan

and DEIR. The comments contained herein supersede those SCE submitted on any previous documents related to the Master Plan or related environmental documents. We anticipate that comments SCE submits to either the Master Plan or DEIR will be reflected consistently in the final versions of both documents.

1) SCE's Operating System Needs and Secondary Land Use Program Objectives.

19-2 SCE's rights-of-way along the San Gabriel River corridor and throughout its entire 50,000-square-mile central, coastal, and southern California service territory are the backbone of its electrical power operation and transmission system and are vital to providing electric service to hundreds of communities and millions of customers. The safe and reliable operation of its electrical system is SCE's paramount responsibility and obligation. With demand for electricity increasing throughout southern California and the entire state, and with increasing state legislative and regulatory requirements imposed upon us to meet that increasing demand, SCE must meet its stewardship and regulatory obligation to ensure that its existing rights-of-way corridors are available for safe and efficient operation of these transmission lines and future expansion of its facilities and electric transmission lines.

SCE is committed to a balance of uses within our rights-of-way to help SCE and the County achieve our respective goals. SCE's Secondary Land Use Program – where certain low-intensity, non-utility uses are allowed in compatible locations within our rights-of-way – has been in existence for over 50 years. Though it involves a relatively small proportion of SCE's total operating property, this program was established to benefit our ratepayers by lowering our operating costs and, where possible, to produce from third parties extra revenue that may offset still more costs, and thereby help keep SCE's electric rates lower than they otherwise could be.

SCE's Secondary Land Use Program objectives are designed to achieve a balance of uses, in particular low-intensity, green/passive recreational uses, and low-intensity economic development uses that can provide desirable and viable benefits for local residents, neighborhoods and communities, as well as to SCE and its ratepayers. SCE's Secondary Land Use Program is guided by California Public Utilities Commission regulations (General Order No. 69-C), which define the need to protect utility system operations, and provide guidance on overall uses of the right-of-way, the types of agreements allowed, and related provisions.

2) SCE and Los Angeles County's Shared Goals Support a Balanced San Gabriel River Master Plan.

19-3 SCE and Los Angeles County share many common goals for secondary uses of SCE's property along the San Gabriel River. The County has articulated a number of proposed projects in the draft Master Plan and DEIR, many of which are compatible with SCE's requirements, but some of which may not be suitable and are described in the next section. To ensure full understanding and further the spirit of cooperation, SCE and the County should discuss why certain projects may not be compatible.

Based on SCE's operating requirements and obligations, appropriate and compatible uses generally include the following:

- Low-Intensity, Green/Passive Recreational Uses, such as horticultural and agricultural; parks; and hiking and non-motorized biking trails
- Low-Intensity Economic Uses, such as vehicle, boat and recreational vehicle parking; material, equipment and self-storage; and light industrial facilities

In addition to SCE's approach, key elements of the County's Master Plan and DEIR support this collaborative and balanced approach. That language states that the "Master Plan was intended to respond to three major goals of habitat, recreation and open space identified by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors...as well as the need for economic development..."

There are approximately 393 acres of property along the river corridor that SCE owns in fee or for which it has acquired an easement. It is important to note that the terms of our easements usually impose restrictions on the other uses to which the property's fee owner may put that property, again to preserve SCE's operational access to the property and the potential need to develop new facilities. According to the County's draft Master Plan and DEIR, SCE owns or leases approximately 85 percent of the open space land along the San Gabriel River. Certain sites on SCE's rights-of way may be compatible with and appropriate for low-intensity, green/passive recreational uses, while others may be compatible with and appropriate for low-intensity economic uses, which can also possibly include some limited portion of the property for hiking and biking trails, trail access points and other green/recreational uses where appropriate and compatible.

To assist in project conceptual design and planning, and moreover to ensure projects are compatible with SCE's rights-of-way and system operating requirements, SCE has developed the document enclosed with this letter entitled, "Southern California Edison Rights-of-Way Constraints Guidelines." The Guidelines are designed to provide overall guidance and specific design criteria that should be factored into any proposed project. SCE encourages those who wish to propose projects within SCE rights-of-way to review the Guidelines early; SCE further requires that project proponents meet with SCE early in the project conceptual stage. Such an early collaborative approach will help in the planning and project development process and will also more likely ensure project success.

SCE has been working for many years with various local jurisdictions and communities on master planning appropriate uses within its rights-of-way. Such an approach enables a balance of uses to be achieved, and ensures involvement by the local jurisdiction and local residents and community organizations in helping to plan balanced uses and achieve important mutual objectives. It's a winning approach for all involved.

19-3
(Cont'd)

19-3
(Cont'd)

For example, SCE has been working with the City of Long Beach and other interested parties on a package of three sites along the river, two of which would be mitigation sites and devoted to City parkland expansion while the other site would be used for a self-storage project. This approach enables the City to achieve its objective of parkland expansion and for SCE to achieve economic development value for its ratepayers with an appropriate and compatible use. In addition, SCE has been working with the County and other interested parties on the Woodlands Duck Farm property to address access and compatible use matters, which are important issues to SCE due to their potential impacts on its rights-of-way and system operations. SCE has also been working with the cities of Lakewood, Bellflower, Pico Rivera and others on similar balanced uses that help achieve mutual objectives.

19-4

3) SCE's Recommended Revisions to the Draft San Gabriel River Master Plan. SCE and the County share many common goals that are consistent in most areas. In addition, both parties are committed to working in collaboration to achieve a balance of compatible uses along the San Gabriel River. There are certain recommendations proposed in the draft Master Plan and DEIR that pose potential problems and impacts to, and may not be compatible with SCE's rights-of-way and operating system. SCE proposes revisions to these sections to remove and/or mitigate potentially adverse impacts to its system operations. Moreover, with these proposed projects and others in the future, early communication with SCE is essential and will greatly enhance the project planning process, and the likelihood for SCE approval and project success.

19-5

SCE's two overriding requirements relate to any project proposed on its property that might impact its operating system or emergency response capability:

- SCE requires ongoing, complete access to its rights-of-way in order to perform routine maintenance and any required emergency repair or restoration of the facilities located there. No project, facility or operation can be allowed within its rights-of-way that would limit or impede such essential access or impact SCE's existing and future operating systems whether in the immediate project area or anywhere else in our rights-of-way and operating system.
- Establishing new wetlands or other similar natural habitat, vegetation or related natural plant areas within SCE's rights-of-way may be incompatible with SCE's operational requirements because they impede access to our operating systems and potentially impact the integrity of electric system operations. Such projects should be sited elsewhere in more appropriate locations. Prior to planning such projects, proponents must discuss any such proposals with SCE. SCE reserves the right of final approval for any projects utilizing SCE rights-of-way.

Following are comments addressing specific sections of the draft Master Plan that SCE believes need to be clarified or revised, discussed through our on-going collaborative process, or that SCE believes are incompatible with its system operating needs and responsibilities:

- 19-6** | A. **Wilderness Park Reclaimed Water & Open Space Park/City of Downey.** Six acres of land SCE leases to the City of Downey are identified for passive recreational use, using plants that are native habitat species. County, City and SCE need to continue to work on specific details to ensure compatibility with SCE operating requirements.
- 19-7** | B. **H. Byrun Zinn Park Improvements/City of Bellflower.** Four acres of existing parkland located adjacent to the San Gabriel River and within the SCE right-of-way are identified for passive, low-impact recreation use, including pedestrian paths, trees and benches. The County, City and SCE will continue to work together on specific details to ensure compatibility with SCE operating requirements.
- 19-8** | C. **El Dorado Regional Park Wetlands & Master Plan Update/City of Long Beach.** SCE has three sites in this project area and has been working in collaboration with the City and other interested parties on the use of two of the most accessible sites, located adjacent to the City's existing park, for use as expanded passive City parkland. The third site, farther south and on the east side of the river, has been identified for a self-storage facility given its limited access, distance from parkland, compatible use within the right-of-way and other related factors. This approach is a good example of a balanced approach to uses of SCE property. Two other proposals related to this area include possible use of some of SCE's land on the east side of the river for wetlands and related habitat areas and relocating SCE power lines further into El Dorado Park. Such proposals may be incompatible with SCE's right-of-way system requirements, as described above, and must be discussed with SCE early in the project conceptual stage..
- 19-9** | D. **Habitat Restoration and Linkages Opportunities.** The County and SCE will need to work on specific details related to proposed habitat restoration opportunities in the Reach 4 area, especially as it relates to any potential development of open space as a habitat easement within SCE's rights-of-way. SCE does not believe such uses are completely compatible with its operating obligations, nor does it believe that proposed "safe harbor agreements" provide sufficient legal or operational safeguards essential to SCE's operating requirements. Further discussion is required with SCE prior to the County or anyone else making any commitment of resources and SCE approving any project proposals.
- 19-10** | E. **Trail Enhancement Opportunities.** Trail enhancements, in particular for hiking and non-motorized biking, are feasible in many locations within SCE's rights-of-way and collaborative efforts have been and will continue to be pursued as appropriate and viable. In terms of the Master Plan's proposal for additional lighting, fencing and screening and other related security measures

19-10
(Cont'd)

for both open space and economic development projects within SCE rights-of-way, it will be important for SCE, property users, local jurisdictions and others to address such needs on a project-specific basis based on need, viability and compatibility.

19-11

F. **Open Space Opportunities.** SCE does in fact own in fee or has acquired an easement affecting approximately 85 percent of the land along the river corridor described as open space in the Master Plan. This property is in fact SCE developed operating property. SCE has a responsibility and obligation to manage it in an appropriate manner to ensure the integrity of its operating system. SCE is also committed to achieving a balance of uses within its rights-of-way, including economic uses such as light industrial and storage facilities, which then allows SCE to offer the use of other portions of its property for green/passive recreational uses. In certain instances green/passive recreational use sites are viable only if they are able to compete economically with identified and desirable economic uses. Such a balanced approach is important and helps achieve the mutual goals of all involved parties. Protecting existing available green/passive recreational uses and creating new opportunities through acquisition and land use conversion projects, as described in the draft Master Plan, is an important objective shared by both the County and SCE. This objective can best be achieved through the balanced approach SCE has been pursuing working with the County, local jurisdictions, communities and others and that the County has articulated in its draft plan. However, commitment of any SCE rights-of-way property for use as wetlands or other significant habitat or natural vegetation areas may be incompatible with its system operating requirements, as described above. Conservation easements and "safe harbor agreements" may also not be suitable with SCE's system operating requirements, as described above. These issues must be addressed by the County and SCE prior to SCE making any final decision or approving any proposed project.

19-12

G. **Flood Control Enhancement Opportunities.** SCE has been working with the City of Long Beach and other interested parties on three sites in the El Dorado Regional Park area, as identified above. SCE has provided for expanded hiking and non-motorized biking trail use opportunities along the site slated for self-storage, the so-called south of Willow site on the east side of the river. However, there are limitations on the amount of additional SCE land available for expansion of river corridor-related projects at that site due to an existing power line that runs adjacent to the river and trail. In addition, any proposal for wetlands projects, as indicated elsewhere in this document, may be incompatible with SCE's operating requirements. SCE and the County must work closely together on any proposed plans related to proposed expansion of the channel, removal of concrete from the river channel or any other activities that may impact SCE's system operations and the structural integrity of its land and operating systems.

19-13

H. **Bio-Engineered Wetlands Opportunities.** As described above, proposed wetland uses within SCE rights-of-way may be incompatible with its operating system requirements since they may adversely impact SCE's operations and access. Such projects on nearby or adjacent property, while utilizing SCE property for supported and expanded green/passive recreational uses, where appropriate and viable, are an option that SCE may consider. Given the amount of SCE property along the river, SCE is committed to working with the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy and others as the Watershed Management Plan above Whittier Narrows and other plans are prepared, to identify possible areas where SCE can be of assistance. It is essential that project proponents contact SCE early in the planning stage, before a commitment of resources is made, to ensure the Plans are compatible with SCE's system operating requirements.

19-14

I. **River Corridor Policies and Design Guidelines.** SCE is committed to working closely with the County on policies related to design and uses that are compatible with SCE's operations and do not impose unnecessary operational or financial burdens on the company or the users of its property. To the extent appropriate and feasible, SCE and its users will collaborate with the County on reasonable and necessary guidelines and policies.

19-15

J. **Woodland Duck Farm.** SCE has had extensive discussions with the County and other interested parties on appropriate uses of its rights-of-way within the Woodland Duck Farm property. SCE will continue to collaborate to ensure compatible and viable use of this important property and to ensure there are no adverse impacts to SCE operations and access. As identified earlier, wetlands and related habitat areas may be incompatible uses, and this issue must be addressed early in these discussions. More appropriate locations for wetlands and related uses may be on adjacent or nearby property. In addition, "safe harbor agreements" may not necessarily be adequate mechanisms to ensure SCE preserves its essential open access to its operating property, as described in earlier sections of this letter. SCE looks forward to continued dialogue on these important matters.

19-16

K. **Lario Creek Project.** The currently proposed rendering of the alignments for Lario Creek depicts several meandering stream crossings over SCE's rights-of-way. These proposed designs impose a greater burden on SCE's existing rights-of-way and accompanying access roads in comparison with the existing river alignment. The existing alignment must be maintained with SCE's rights-of-way area in order to ensure SCE's ability to maintain, operate, and possibly expand its existing facilities in a safe, expeditious and cost-effective manner. SCE also has concerns that the proposed increase in the stream's volume and velocity will pose added safety risks to the visiting public. These additional potential risks need to be address with appropriate safety

19-16
(Cont'd)

measures. Once the County provides more complete information and plans for this project, SCE will proceed with reviewing hydrology reports and design of the stream (including the proposal to substantially increase its width) regarding impact to SCE's rights-of-way.

19-17

In addition to the specific projects and issues mentioned above, SCE will require additional information for all areas where proposed developments cross SCE's rights-of-way. Based on the information provided, it is unclear what impacts the proposed projects, including such projects as the Discovery Center and San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, will have on SCE's facilities, access, and rights-of-way, SCE cannot consider any project proposal that may impose additional constraints on its ability to maintain and operate its facilities and that may interfere with any future facility expansion. Finally, in working together to address project requests and proceeding with approved projects, it is essential that the County understands and agrees that SCE project administration and related costs will be applicable and will be addressed and agreed to early in the discussion phase.

19-18

Conclusion

SCE believes there are many areas where the County and SCE can continue to collaborate on a balance of desirable and appropriate uses along the San Gabriel River and where SCE can offer the use of needed property to the County and other involved parties to help achieve many of the goals described in the draft Master Plan. SCE is committed to continue its collaborative work with the County to address these matters and retain the shared vision and objectives important to this Master Plan and SCE's operational and maintenance requirements and responsibilities for existing and future facilities. However, as described herein, there are some recommendations in the draft plan that are not compatible with SCE's utility rights-of-way and may adversely impact SCE's operations. It is imperative that SCE's critical operational and maintenance requirements are recognized by all parties and are not interfered with, lest our ability to provide safe, reliable electric service be impaired. SCE appreciates the County's understanding of these critical requirements and obligations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the County's draft Master Plan for the San Gabriel River Master Plan. We look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Maryann Reyes
Director of Public Affairs

Attachment: Southern California Edison Company Rights-of-Way Constraints Guidelines

Southern California Edison Right-of-Ways Constraints Guidelines

Objectives

- Ensure SCE's system operating requirements remain the primary priority of its right-of-way and related operating property. This means access to our facilities for maintenance and system restoration following natural disasters affecting those facilities.
- Where appropriate, provide opportunities for secondary land uses, and compatible with SCE's system operating requirements, within its right-of-way property, as long as SCE is engaged by the project proponent early in the proposed project concept design and planning process.
- Establish a collaborative process where SCE and interested parties can work together to explore project options and provide general parameters helpful to all involved.

Transmission Corridors are Vital

SCE owns transmission corridors for the purpose of locating current and planned electrical facilities – towers, wires, substations and related equipment. The need for new transmission corridors is very high right now and for the foreseeable future because of increased electricity demand and usage in SCE's service territory, and the accompanying need to build new power plants and enhance electricity transmission facilities in California. Acquiring new land for transmission lines is increasingly difficult because of the dwindling availability of land, environmental requirements, and the costs and perceived impacts on adjacent property uses. Thus, though this is not the sole answer, SCE will likely be relying more than ever on locating new and upgraded facilities in our current transmission corridors to serve the growing demand for electricity.

Expanded Use of SCE Property

There are some constraints on additional use of the lands where SCE facilities are located, based on who owns them. Some of the property is owned in fee by SCE; the remaining property is held in exclusive easements. These easements frequently impose restrictions on other uses to which the owner of the underlying fee interest can put the land. In both cases, the use of all the SCE's transmission corridor property is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission since the CPUC oversees the spending of ratepayers' money. To minimize this ratepayer expense, SCE's usual practice is to buy the minimum amount of land necessary for electric system operating and support purposes. This typically means there is no excess land available for other uses in these corridors.

Property that SCE owns outright is under the scrutiny from the CPUC, which has the authority to approve additional secondary uses under Public Utilities Code Section 851. Some of the property currently under contract includes sites used for nurseries, self-storage, and boat and RV storage. In these projects there is more flexibility with possible secondary land uses.

For property which SCE has purchased in exclusive easements, secondary land use is more problematic may not be allowable. For each piece of property there is a separate easement agreement with various terms and conditions agreed to by the parties at purchase that stay with the property in perpetuity. These easement agreements can include restrictions on the secondary land uses to which the property's underlying fee owner can put that land. Each transmission corridor is a patchwork of these agreement-governed lands, and so any project for secondary land use must be evaluated on a project-by-project basis. As such, each project must be consistent with regulatory constraints and the rights SCE purchased under the terms and conditions of the easement agreement.

SCE has a number of agreements with companies, individuals and government agencies for secondary land uses. These agreements may vary in length depending on the use and type of contract. License Agreements, typically are shorter terms, while Lease Agreements are longer in term, if the CPUC approves them. Sometimes these agreements are renewable, but often they are not. The ultimate decision is based on SCE's electric operating system needs for that property.

Constraints on SCE Land Uses

Highlighted below are some general guidelines that are intended to be helpful in considering possible project concepts. They are intended to assist those parties interested in pursuing possible projects in the early stages to save time and resources:

- SCE's access to its property and facilities must be maintained and cannot be encumbered, in order to ensure SCE's access for system operations, maintenance and emergency response.
- Adequate clearance around SCE towers and poles shall be maintained:
 - 50- or 100-foot radius from tower footings (depending on type of tower)
 - 10-foot radius around anchors/guy wires, tubular steel poles and wood poles
- Adequate clearance from overhead lines (conductors) to the ground.
- Access roads must be fully available with a minimum of 16 feet usable width and capable of supporting 40-ton, three-axle trucks:
 - All curves shall have a radius of not less than 50 feet measured at the inside edge of the usable road surface
 - Maximum cross slope for all access roads shall not exceed 2% and shall slope to the inside
- Limitations on landscaping, including the size and location of trees, bushes and other vegetation shall be followed.
- Restrictions on any underground facilities, such as irrigations systems, with any proposed facility required to have a minimum cover of three feet from the top of the facility and be able to withstand a gross load of 40 tons.

Wetlands or other similar natural habitat, vegetation or related natural plant areas within SCE's Right of Way are incompatible with SCE's operational requirements and should be sited elsewhere in more appropriate locations.

The use of SCE's property is guided by California Public Utilities Commission regulations (General Order No. 69-C) which define the need to protect utility system operations, and provide guidance on overall uses of the right-of-way, the types of agreements allowed, and related approval processes.

Project Proposals

On a case-by-case basis, SCE will consider compatible, low-intensity secondary uses that do not impose additional constraints on SCE's ability to maintain and operate its current facilities and that do not interfere with any future operating facility needs. Examples of possible low-intensity uses include bicycling and hiking trails, landscaping, and park and similar green use.

It is essential and most productive for all involved parties to contact SCE as soon as possible in the project concept stage. SCE must approve any proposed project design and construction plan in writing before the project can proceed. Jose Ulloa, SCE's Manager of Right of Ways (714-895-0367), should be contacted with all requests. Depending on the nature and scope of the project, SCE may require fees to be paid to cover planning, research and other project-related costs. In addition, a license or consent agreement and related fee will be required for any secondary use. All details and questions can be addressed during the project concept and approval process.

Note: The following three-page document entitled “Southern California Edison Rights-of-Way Constraints Guidelines (June 2005)” was submitted by Southern California Edison (SCE) to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in June 2005 after the public review period for the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan Draft Program EIR. This document supersedes the previous three pages, which was attached to SCE’s comment letter on the Draft Program EIR (dated May 4, 2005).

**Southern California Edison Rights-of-Way
Constraints Guidelines
(June 2005)**

Objectives

- Ensuring that SCE's system operating requirements are met remains the primary priority for its right-of-way and related operating property. This means access to our facilities for maintenance and system restoration following natural disasters affecting those facilities.
- Where appropriate, SCE is committed to providing opportunities for secondary land uses, compatible with SCE's system operating requirements, within its right-of-way property, as long as SCE is engaged by the project proponent early in the proposed project concept design and planning process.
- SCE is interested in establishing a collaborative process where SCE and interested parties can work together to explore project options and provide general parameters helpful to all involved.

Transmission Corridors are Vital

SCE owns transmission corridors for the purpose of locating current and planned electrical facilities – towers, wires, substations and related equipment. The need for new transmission corridors is very high right now and for the foreseeable future because of increased electricity demand and usage in SCE's service territory, and the accompanying need to build new power plants and enhance electricity transmission facilities in California. Acquiring new land for transmission lines is increasingly difficult because of the dwindling availability of land, environmental requirements, and the costs and perceived impacts on adjacent property uses. Thus, though this is not the sole reason, SCE will likely be relying more than ever on locating new and upgraded facilities in our current transmission corridors to serve the growing demand for electricity.

Expanded Use of SCE Property

There are some constraints on additional use of the lands where SCE facilities are located, based on who owns them. Some of the property is owned in fee by SCE; the remaining property is held by way of easements and other property rights. These easements frequently impose restrictions on other uses to which the owner of the underlying fee owner's use of the land. In both cases, the use of all the SCE's transmission corridor property is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to protect the interests of SCE customers. To minimize the expense to its customers, SCE's usual practice is to buy the minimum amount of land necessary for its electric system operating and support purposes. This typically means SCE has no excess land available for other uses in these corridors.

Property that SCE owns outright is under the scrutiny of the CPUC, which has the authority to approve additional secondary uses under Public Utilities Code Section 851. Some of the properties that SCE currently has under contract include sites for nurseries, self-storage, and boat and RV storage. SCE has more flexibility with possible secondary land uses on property it owns.

For property which SCE has purchased easements, secondary land use is more problematic and may not be allowable. For each piece of property there is a separate easement agreement with various terms and conditions agreed to by the parties at the time of purchase that stay with the property in perpetuity. These easement agreements can include restrictions on the underlying fee owner's permissible land uses.

Each transmission corridor is a patchwork of fee owned property and other rights and so any project for secondary land use must be evaluated on a project-by-project basis. As such, each project must be consistent with regulatory constraints and the rights SCE purchased.

SCE has a number of agreements with companies, individuals and government agencies for secondary land uses. These agreements may vary in length depending on the use and type of contract. License Agreements typically are for shorter terms, while Lease Agreements are longer in term, if the CPUC approves them. Sometimes these agreements are renewable, but often they are not. The ultimate decision on whether to allow secondary land uses, and if so, under what terms and conditions, is based on SCE's electric operating system needs for that property.

Constraints on SCE Land Uses

Highlighted below are some general guidelines that are intended to be helpful in considering possible project concepts. They are intended to assist those parties interested in pursuing possible projects in the early stages to save time and resources:

- SCE's access to its property and facilities must be maintained and cannot be encumbered, in order to ensure SCE's access for system operations, maintenance and emergency response.
- Adequate clearance around SCE towers and poles shall be maintained:
 - 50- or 100-foot radius from tower footings (depending on type of tower)
 - 10-foot radius around anchors/guy wires, tubular steel poles and wood poles
- Adequate clearance from overhead lines (conductors) to the ground.
- Access roads must be fully available with a minimum of 16 feet usable width and capable of supporting 40-ton, three-axle trucks:
 - All curves shall have a radius of not less than 50 feet measured at the inside edge of the usable road surface
 - Maximum cross slope for all access roads shall not exceed 2% and shall slope to the inside
- Limitations on landscaping, including the size and location of trees, bushes and other vegetation shall be followed so as not to interfere with SCE operating facilities; specific information will be provided during initial meetings.
- There are restrictions on underground facilities, such as irrigations systems, with any proposed facility required to have a minimum cover of three feet from the top of the facility and be able to withstand a gross load of 40 tons.

Wetlands or other similar natural habitat, vegetation or related natural plant areas within SCE's Right of Way may be incompatible with SCE's operational requirements because they impede access to our operating systems and potentially impact the integrity of electric system operations. Such projects should be sited elsewhere in more appropriate locations. Prior to planning such projects, proponents must discuss any such proposals with SCE. SCE reserves the right of final approval for any projects utilizing SCE rights-of-way.

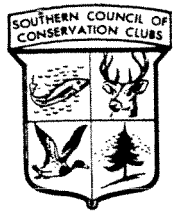
The use of SCE's property is guided by California Public Utilities Commission regulations (General Order No. 69-C) which define the need to protect utility system operations, and provide guidance on overall uses of the right-of-way, the types of agreements allowed, and related approval processes.

Project Proposals

On a case-by-case basis, SCE will consider compatible, low-intensity secondary uses that do not impose additional constraints on SCE's ability to maintain and operate its current facilities and that do not interfere with any future operating facility needs. Examples of possible low-intensity green/passive recreational uses include horticultural/agricultural; parks; and hiking and non-motorized biking trails. Examples of possible low-intensity economic uses include vehicle, boat and recreational vehicle parking; and material, equipment and moveable self-storage facilities.

It is essential and most productive for all involved parties to contact SCE as soon as possible in the project concept stage. SCE must approve any proposed project design and construction plan in writing before the project can proceed. Contact Jose Ulloa, SCE's Manager of Right of Ways (714-895-0367), with all requests. Depending on the nature and scope of the project, SCE may require fees to be paid to cover planning, research and other project-related costs. In addition, a license or consent agreement and related fee will be required for any secondary use. All details and questions can be addressed during the project concept and approval process.

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Comment Letter No. 20

Southern Council of Conservation Clubs, Inc.

"IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH"



20-1

THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER REPORT
WAS WELL DONE. WE AGREE WITH
1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 - MAXIMUM HABITAT
ALTERNATIVE AND WANT HUNTERS AND
FISHERMEN INVOLVED

Lin F. FLYNN
PRESIDENT

20-2

P. S. WHAT A THANK YOU
MUST BE ADDRESSED
IS THE PROBLEMS
THAT BERNARD
SHEEP HAVE WITH MOUNTAIN
LIONS.

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UNITED ROCK PRODUCTS

Comment Letter No. 21

May 4, 2005

Martin Moreno
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
900 South Fremont Ave., 11th Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

RE: San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan Draft Program Impact Report

Dear Mr. Moreno,

21-1

As a quarry owner that has participated in this process, we request that we be notified, as projects that affect our quarries are advanced. We wish to be included at the inception of these activities so that we may have full participation in the development of these important projects. As you know, many of the proposals will have a direct impact on the way in which we conduct our business. It is imperative that our mining concerns be accommodated as projects are being developed.

United Rock Products appreciates having been included in the development of the San Gabriel River Master Plan. We look forward to working with the County Department of Public Works in the future. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Barker".

Ken Barker
Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Manager
United Rock Products Corporation

Copy: Rama Rydman, L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
Jerry Burke, L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
Daniel Iacofano, Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc

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Vulcan
Materials Company
Western Division

May 4, 2005

Comment Letter No. 22

Ms. Rama Rydman
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Watershed Division
900 S. Freemont, 11th Floor
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

RE: DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SAN
GABRIEL RIVER CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN REQUEST FOR COMMENTS.

Dear Ms. Rydman,

This letter is in response to your Request for Comments on the above referenced Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Corridor and Master Plan. Vulcan Materials Company, Western Division ("Vulcan") has several operations adjacent to the 58-mile long San Gabriel River Corridor in the cities of Azusa and Irwindale. We understand that portions of the Master Plan incorporate existing sand and gravel quarries that are either active or inactive. A number of our quarries along the San Gabriel River Corridor remain active, and will be for the foreseeable future.

22-1

Vulcan's main concern is that the Master Plan is consistent with the overall land uses within each city. The consistency must include end land use, the right to continue mining operations pursuant to approved land use permits and reclamation plans, and the appropriate co-existence between each project in the Master Plan and these mining operations.

22-2

As stated in previous communications it is important to re-emphasize that Vulcan's sand and gravel mining operations along the San Gabriel River occur on privately-owned land, conducted by a privately-owned business organization, governed by regulations promulgated by appropriate federal, state, county and local authorities. Also, Vulcan holds extensive water rights in the San Gabriel Valley Basin and other areas which might adversely affect the stated projects.

22-3

It is apparent by Vulcan's past and present mining reclamation projects that we have clearly demonstrated our commitment to enhancing the river system and restoration of the waterways and plans to continue with this enhancement once our mining operations cease along the San Gabriel River.

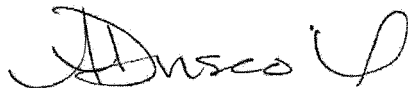
On November 23, 2003, Steve C. Cortner, Vice President, Resources for Vulcan Materials, Western Division submitted comments on the Master Plan; we are again submitting them for inclusion into the official comments.

Page 2
Ms. Rama Rydman
County of Los Angeles

22-4

Vulcan request that we be placed on the mailing list for all projects contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Master Plan.

Sincerely,
VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY, WESTERN DIVISION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Driscoll", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angela Driscoll,
Principle Government and Permitting Analyst

attachments



Western Division

STEVE CORTNER
VICE PRÉSIDENT, RESOURCES

3200 SAN FERNANDO ROAD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065
TELEPHONE 323 474-3225
FAX 323 258-3289
E-MAIL cortners@vmcmail.com

November 24, 2003

Mr. Daniel Iacofano
Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc.
800 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710

RE: SAN GABRIEL RIVER DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Dear Mr. Iacofano:

CalMat Co. dba Vulcan Materials Company, Western Division ("Vulcan") owns and operates various quarries in close proximity to San Gabriel River or its tributaries thereto. Vulcan is the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates, a leader in production of other construction materials, and a manufacturer of chemicals. Vulcan is an S&P 500 company and is listed and traded in the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol VMC. Vulcan has over 10,000 employees nationwide.

Based on my meetings between you, Martin Moreno Senior Civil Engineer Watershed Management Division County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works and Rama Tallamraju Watershed Management Division of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, I will reduce to writing those issues and comments that Vulcan has with the above-mentioned Draft Master Plan. I request that these comments be incorporated into the draft document prior to this draft going to the general public for its review. Before I get into the text of the Draft Master Plan, I would like to discuss some mining history of the San Gabriel Valley.

As you may know, the San Gabriel Valley has been the "mother lode" of Southern California's richest aggregate. Early in the 20th Century, local rock, sand and gravel producers realized that the aggregates found in the area comprises the cities of Azusa, Duarte, Irwindale and Baldwin Park has the perfect combination of minerals for the use in construction. The San Gabriel River at the base of the 9,399 foot elevation Mt. Baden Powell peak of the San Gabriel Mountain Range, has for centuries transported an abundant amount of construction grade aggregates resources (more commonly known as rock, sand and gravel) from a 439 square mile watershed area of rugged mountainous terrain to the valley floor after completing a 20-mile course through the mountains.

The aggregate rich "San Gabriel River Alluvial Fan," is the State of California's, and some say the world's greatest and most abundant aggregate resources. It is comprised of material from the Holocene and Pleistocene era, which aggregate is very durable and perfect for making concrete and asphalt. In the headwater area of the San Gabriel River, where most of the aggregate production sites are located, the larger of the natural gravel is about 6 feet in diameter huge boulder-sized gravel.

Since those days in the early 1900s, Vulcan and its predecessor companies and competitors have produced well over a billion tons of aggregate for the general Los Angeles area. These materials were the basis for the development of not only our local San Gabriel communities, but the entire Los Angeles region as well. Virtually all of our most famous local landmarks in our area including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Los Angeles Harbor, and our extensive networks of freeways could not have been built without the local aggregates that the San Gabriel Valley plants produced.

As a major participant in the growth of the San Gabriel Valley, Vulcan and its predecessors have seen the area change from a community of sleepy citrus-growing private landowners to vibrant cities. As our communities evolved, Vulcan has become much more involved in partnering with our neighbors to achieve shared goals. In the early days, our involvement was primarily comprised of providing jobs and supporting the growth of communities through property taxes and excavation fees. Today we understand that partnering with our communities is a corporate and civic mission. By partnering with the communities in the San Gabriel Valley, Vulcan is better able to responsibly reclaim its production sites when mining is complete. For example, Vulcan's current Fish Creek restoration project will permanently restore a previously mined portion of Fish Creek to its original pre-mining location while at the same time recreating a high-quality aquatic and riparian habitat.

Clearly the early aggregate producers anticipated that the San Gabriel area was going to grow and develop due to its location, one of California's greatest resources, however, none of them realized how important their role would be in the San Gabriel Valley to support the very backbone of our infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles area.

WHAT IS AGGREGATE?

The average person typically does not give much thought to the subject of aggregate and its value. In fact, the United States Geological Survey has stated that "natural aggregate is one of the nation's most poorly understood resources." Yet, aggregate resources are required by all urbanites as modern construction techniques rely heavily on a wide variety of products made from these materials.

Aggregate is different types of rock fragments, such as rock, sand and gravel. These materials are obtained from the earth through a process called "surface mining," or otherwise called "open-pit mining." After these materials are mined, they are usually washed and sorted by size before they are sold to the market.

"Gravel" refers to all sizes of natural aggregates larger than sand or any rock larger than "quarter inch." Gravel is generally divided into 1½", 1", 3/8" nominal sizes. Cobble gravel is generally 2.5" to 10" and boulders are anything larger than 10". Sand sizes are between ¼" and finer. "Rock" is a general term and does not have a size range. However, most crushed rock used in aggregate base and asphalt are ¾" in size and smaller.

In cases where natural sand and gravel are unavailable, commercial aggregate is created by crushing large stones or by drilling and blasting massive rock formations and producing them into various sizes of rock and manufacture of sand. This process is called "quarrying," when drilling and blasting of massive rock formation is required to produce aggregate and all the materials produced by this process are called "crushed stone." Unlike smooth, natural aggregate, crushed stone tend to be angular with sharper edges.

In Southern California, natural aggregate deposits are formed by the erosion of bedrock and the subsequent transport, operation and deposition of these rock fragments by the waters of the creeks, streams and rivers flowing from the local mountains and valleys. Commercial quality and quantity of aggregate resources are generally abundant within and around natural river and stream courses as well as in the alluvial fans of these rivers and streams which tend to form at the base of mountains and hills. Accordingly, natural aggregates must be obtained from these naturally occurring locations such as rivers, streams and alluvial fans.

WHY DO WE NEED AGGREGATES?

Aggregate resources are used to make many features of the urban landscape that we depend on in our daily lives. For instance, rock, sand and gravel are each an integral component of "Portland Cement Concrete" (PCC) which is used to build houses, schools, churches, sidewalks, water and sewer systems, bridges, airport runways, commercial buildings, streets, highways and other common projects. Aggregate resources are also a key ingredient of asphalt concrete (AC), as well as the base and fill material required to repair and build streets, highways and parking areas. Portland Cement is a mixture of rock, sand, gravel, cement, water and other "ad mixtures." Asphaltic Concrete is a mixture of crushed rock, manufactured natural sands and hot, liquid asphaltic oil.

In California, the supply and demand for aggregate resources are tracked by the California State Department of Conservation's "Division of Mines and Geology" (DMG). The DMG regularly analyzes the supply and demands of aggregates in California and publishes special reports indicating the past and anticipated future needs for regional aggregate supplies.

The DMG has found that each Los Angeles resident, including every man, woman and child, requires approximately 3.7 tons of new aggregate resources per year for the construction of streets, schools, shopping centers, homes and all other basic structures that our society uses. The entire Los Angeles region consumes about 48 million tons of aggregate per year. By

comparison, the entire State of California consumes more than 180 million tons of aggregate per year. Our society simply has a tremendous need for aggregates!

VULCAN'S PREDECESSORS SINCE THE EARLY 1900s

Vulcan has operated within the San Gabriel Valley since the 1900s. (Vulcan's predecessors and subsidiary companies are listed below.)

1. Vulcan Materials Company, Western Division
2. CalMat Co.
3. Conrock Co.
4. Consolidated Rock Products Company
5. Union Rock Company
6. Reliance Rock Company
7. Russell Green Foell Corporation
8. Southern California Rock and Gravel Company
9. Los Angeles Rock and Gravel Company
10. Azusa Rock Products
11. Kirst Construction
12. Pacific Rock and Gravel Company

After a brief review of the construction aggregates' long history in the San Gabriel Valley, one should give credence to its extreme importance in supplying the backbone of the infrastructure for the greater Los Angeles area notwithstanding its past, present and continued use in and around the San Gabriel riverine system.

The following comments will focus on the draft master plan specific to language found within the plan's text. A very important point to understand when addressing the numerous quarry locations contained in the draft document is that the gravel quarries are located on private property. More specifically the quarries are owned by the operators, operating under various entitlements such as CUPs, vested rights, reclamation plans and other ancillary permits required for the lawful operation of such quarries. The future of sand and gravel operations throughout the San Gabriel Valley is projected to continue for the next 30 to 40 years. Some operations will exhaust their resources prior to other operations. Clearly, mining activity will exist at least three to four decades from the date of this San Gabriel River Master Plan. Additionally, most operators are undergoing negotiations with the respective cities of Azusa and Irwindale on changes to their reclamation plans and potential changes to their operational permits. These changes may reflect different pit configurations, greater depth or changes to the end-use called out in the existing reclamation plans. Past reclamation plans represent end uses that will not be the ultimate end use due to changes in population, geographic area and property values, as some reclamation plans were originally created years ago. Local cities, such as the City of Irwindale, have a keen interest in development for commercial and industrial property and to some extent residential development in areas of exhausted pits or ones that will be exhausted sometime in the

future. Because negotiations continue today, Vulcan cannot indicate the precise use of any of its quarries until agreements are finalized within our operating areas.

3.5.3 Reach No. 3 – Upper San Gabriel Valley – R3-09-Pedestrian Bridge

The City of Azusa has indicated to Vulcan that they would like to investigate the use of the conveyor belt that traverses across the San Gabriel River as a potential bicycle and/or pedestrian bridge. Although Vulcan does not have any objections to the use of this bridge at some point when mining is completed, Vulcan has not engaged in negotiations with the City to discuss potential liability and cost relative to the conversion of this conveyor crossing to a bicycle and/or pedestrian bridge overcrossing.

R3.10 – West River Bank Tree Planning Project at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club

Current negotiations are ongoing with the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club to mitigate noise emanating from the Club into residential receptors. These negotiations are not complete but involve individuals from the City of Azusa, representatives of Vulcan and representatives from the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club. Accordingly, Vulcan has not included these trees as potential mitigation to noise impacts.

R3.11 - Azusa Rock Quarry Restoration

Vulcan is currently pursuing a revised reclamation plan for the Azusa Rock Quarry. The existing reclamation plan is a subject of negotiations between Vulcan and the City of Azusa. A revised reclamation plan would change the quality of reclamation that currently exist at this quarry site.

R3.12 – Fish Creek Restoration and Public Access

Vulcan is currently working with the City of Duarte and discussing with the City of Azusa a limited public access through the Azusa Rock Quarry along Fish Creek. This access could occur on a limited basis, potentially on weekends and holidays. Due to safety and liability reasons, Vulcan will have to limit access to daylight hours and non-operational hours of the quarry operation. These discussions are ongoing and no agreement has been reached to date between the City of Azusa, the City of Duarte and Vulcan. There has been no discussion nor does Vulcan have any knowledge of any bicycle and pedestrian connection to Fish Creek from the San Gabriel bike trail and City of Azusa. Accordingly, the first part of the sentence in the provision of bicycle and pedestrian connection to Fish Creek from San Gabriel bike trail and the City of Azusa is speculative at best and Vulcan knows of no way of providing access across the river that would be safe and appropriate for such a crossing. It would best be left out of the text.

R3-16 – Azusa – Largo Pit

The Azusa Largo Pit appears to be in reference to Vulcan's quarrying operation north of Foothill Blvd. This pit houses our current aggregate production facility as well as shop facilities and asphalt plant production facilities. The plant at the Azusa Largo Pit produces material from the area in which it exists as well as material that is transported via conveyor system from Azusa Rock Quarry. The existence of this operation will exceed 40 years. Although the ultimate reclamation plan is under consideration between the City of Irwindale and Vulcan, this operation will supply aggregate, construction grade materials as well as asphalt materials to the general area for over 40 years. Ultimate end land use post-mining will be determined at a later date subject to negotiations between the City of Irwindale and Vulcan.

R3.17 – Reliance Pit No. 2

The reference of this pit appears to be the existing landfill located south of Foothill Blvd. bordered by the 210 Fwy. and bounded to the east by Irwindale Avenue. This operation is currently being used to facilitate silt deposition from the existing Reliance Plant and operating as a landfill facility to ultimately fill and use for some commercial activity. Currently, the Reliance No. 2 Pit is a subject of negotiations between the City of Irwindale and Vulcan in determining potential ultimate land use and other issues surrounding this pit. The time to complete the landfill is unknown at this time.

R3.20 – Route 66/Foothill Blvd. Gateway

Vulcan is unclear as to what this gateway means to the San Gabriel River post-mining and what river landscape enhancements are currently underway. Vulcan is assuming that this is the area that borders the Azusa Largo Pit extending to the reaches of the confluence of Fish Creek. Vulcan would appreciate understanding what is meant by "a potential future city of Duarte gateway to the San Gabriel River after mining is complete and river landscape enhancements are underway."

3.5.4 Reach No. 4 – Lower San Gabriel Valley

R4-01 Multi-Objective Gravel Quarry Reclamation Study

The Multi-Objective Gravel Quarry Reclamation Study has not come to any conclusions nor has it analyzed the feasibility of using gravel pit quarries for multiple purposes which would include storm water capture and cleanup, recharge of storm and imported water, flood reduction, recreation and habitat restoration, as well as aesthetic appearances. The study has not reached a point where any conclusions can be drawn nor have the study proponents had any meaningful or substantive conversations with the mine operators to get the mining communities' input on such

a study. Vulcan requests that this multi-objective gravel quarry reclamation study be removed or at least explained that this study is not complete and any implementation of this study into the San Gabriel River Master Plan would require future environmental review and cannot be analyzed under the existing environmental review of this document. Clearly, Vulcan is unable to comment on a study that has not occurred, a study that has not come to any conclusions, and a study that is not understood as to its impacts or effects it will have on any of Vulcan's properties.

R4-07 Durbin Quarry

The Durbin Quarry is an ongoing mining operation owned and operated by Vulcan. The Durbin Quarry is undergoing negotiations between the City of Irwindale and Vulcan as to final reclamation and landform. Irwindale is keenly interested in the potential of its economic development opportunity, however, Vulcan and Irwindale have not come to any conclusions as to the final land use development for this property. Clearly, the Durbin Quarry will be an ongoing operation for the next three to four decades. Any opportunities at the Durbin Quarry will have to be negotiated with Vulcan after mining is exhausted. Development of the Durbin Quarry would occur significantly subsequent to the cessation of mining due to the extensive fill requirements necessary to bring the Durbin Quarry back up to a developable level.

3.6.1 Habitat Restoration and Linkages Opportunities

Future Opportunities

Fish Creek Restoration and Public Access (R3.11)

Vulcan has recently implemented restoration of Fish Creek on approximately the upper one third of Fish Creek in the area that is owned by Vulcan. The restoration was extensive and brought the creek back to its estimated original location prior to the commencement of mining. The subsequent plan Vulcan is working on with the City of Azusa in creating new mining and reclamation efforts at the Azusa Rock Quarry will incorporate restoration of the remaining portions of Fish Creek existing on Vulcan's site. The ultimate restoration of Fish Creek will be incorporated into the reclamation plan phasing under discussion between Azusa and Vulcan.

3.6.2 Trail Enhancement Opportunities

Future Opportunities

Under this broad category, fencing is discussed throughout this area of text. Understanding that fencing can take on many different appearances certainly should be considered when trying to enhance the overall aesthetic value of the river system. Vulcan would like to remind you that some fencing that aesthetically enhances the overall riverine system may not serve to be the

appropriate fencing for Vulcan's purpose. Fencing must provide safety to the general public from certain conveyor systems and other operations Vulcan may have along the river adjacent to or contiguous with the river. Accordingly, Vulcan would request that the author of this master plan would understand that certain fencing desires would not be appropriate as the mining companies must protect themselves from liabilities resulting from trespass onto their property.

3.6.3 Bridges, Gateways, and Connections Opportunities

Future Opportunities

Under Reach 3 again there is a discussion of future pedestrian bridge (R3.9) at site of the existing Vulcan Materials conveyor belt. I would like to refer to the discussion on (R3.9) in that Vulcan Materials has no issue with this concept, however, no final negotiations or agreements are entered into between the City of Azusa and Vulcan relative to the use of said conveyor belt.

Under the same Reach 3 area, a paragraph discussing the Vulcan conveyor belt operation for another three decades should be corrected and replaced with four decades.

3.6.4 Interpretive (Education) Center Opportunities

Future Opportunities

In the text exists a discussion of geology, mining and quarry operations which could be a significant interpretive theme in Reach 3. Vulcan has always been proactive in education and the promotion and understanding of mining and its host of ancillary uses. Although the scheme of an "interpretive theme" is nebulous at best, Vulcan would be interested in looking at the concept of such an interpretive theme or center to gain a better understanding of same.

3.6.5 Park Development Opportunities

Future Opportunities

There is a discussion on Reach 3 on future park development and discussion that quarry reclamation offers huge potential for new parks. It further discusses the balance between economic development opportunities with the local municipalities. Examples given, however not exhaustive, are the Azusa Rock Quarry Restoration (R3.10) and Fish Creek Restoration and Public Access (R3.11). Clearly, there is a potential that Azusa Rock Quarry Restoration and the ultimate Fish Creek Restoration and Public Access are a function of the ongoing negotiations Vulcan is engaged with Azusa. The proposed amendments to that operation would provide for such potential. To reiterate, this quarry area is a subject of current negotiations between the City of Azusa and Vulcan and its final outcome and reclamation plan/end land use will not be determined prior to the creation of this document.

3.6.6 Open Space Opportunities

Future Opportunities

Discussion under future opportunities again in Reaches 3 and 4 discuss gravel quarry land reclamation representative of significant opportunities to create additional open space that might be used for recreation and habitat purposes. Some examples given in this text, but not limited to, are Azusa Rock Quarry restoration (R3.10) and the Durbin Quarry (R4.04). Discussion is given to the Azusa Rock Quarry mentioned above and earlier in the explanation of the potential future for Durbin Quarry. Notwithstanding the fact that both quarries are in a state of flux due to ongoing negotiations with the respective cities in which these quarries operate and exist, it is important to understand that these quarries are private property and certain quarries such as the Durbin Quarry exist in very valuable commercial and industrial areas. Local cities are extremely interested in the development of property that will create a tax base and offer legitimate and appropriate highest and best use for the property considering the geographic area in which it exists.

3.6.7 Land Reclamation

Future Opportunities

Acknowledgment in your text is given to the gravel quarries constituting the most significant land reclamation opportunity in San Gabriel River corridor. Further discussion is the quarry reclamation development study (R4-01) being conducted to more precisely determine the land use, land reclamation potential of these projects. Again, four of Vulcan's projects are discussed; the Azusa Rock Quarry Restoration (R3.11), the Azusa Largo Pit (R3-16), the Reliance Pit No. 2 (3.17) and the Durbin Quarry (R4.07). The gravel quarry reclamation development study has reached no conclusions. I believe very little activity has occurred to affect the ultimate results of this study. Certain quarries that Vulcan owns may fit in the overall scheme of the land reclamation opportunity for the San Gabriel River Corridor. However, it is clear that the Azusa Largo Pit, the Reliance Pit No. 2 and Durbin Quarry have much less potential to offer land reclamation that would complement the desire of this master plan, e.g. to enhance the river corridor. Azusa Largo, Reliance and Durbin will ultimately be developed into commercial or industrial type uses.

3.6.8 Flood Channel Enhancement Opportunities

Future Opportunities

Text in the section on quarry reclamation uses San Gabriel spreading grounds in Azusa as an example for re-use or retention/detention areas for floodwaters and include various quarries

along the river. I believe that the Azusa Rock Quarry Restoration (R3.10) would not serve as a good spreading ground or water detention or retention type facility due to its mountainous terrain and lack of alluvial deposition that would be useful for capture of storm water and the recharge into the local groundwater basin. The Durbin Quarry (R4.04) is also slated for potential commercial development due to the interest that the City of Irwindale has relative to use for the property being the highest and best use along the 605 corridor.

In the same section, discussions of stream restoration projects that can serve multiple purposes including providing habitat, improving water quality and reducing peak flows give examples one of which is at Fish Creek Restoration Public Access (R3.11). As to the Fish Creek area that exists on the Vulcan property, no public access has been negotiated at this time, however, Vulcan is working with the cities of Duarte and Azusa to accomplish some type of limited access by the public through the Vulcan properties, more generally along the stream thalweg of Fish Creek. However, Fish Creek does not offer reduction in peak flows but does however offer increased habitat and a potential for public access if Vulcan reaches an agreement between the cities of Duarte and Azusa.

Under bridge project opportunities, maps XX depict a future pedestrian bridge. Again, Vulcan has no objection with the concept of allowing the City of Azusa to provide pedestrian traffic over the conveyor section that crosses the San Gabriel River. However, it is important to understand that certain modifications will have to take place to create a pedestrian bridge versus the use for a conveyor system. Accordingly, Vulcan and the City of Azusa will have to negotiate the use thereof. Any discussion on this pedestrian bridge in the future or otherwise should have a caveat that it is a potential but it does not exist at this time.

The map of interpretive centers, map XX discusses the Vulcan Quarry interpretive exhibit on the San Gabriel River. Again, Vulcan has no objection to the concept of an interpretive exhibit but would like to further understand what that exhibit is, what it represents and the location of the interpretive exhibits' existence. Under the map XX of the San Gabriel canyon spreading grounds, top right hand corner is an arrow that depicts future reclamation connects to Fish Canyon trails. I am assuming that the future reclamation connect to Fish Canyon trails means that there will be a connection and the trail itself will follow Fish Creek through the Vulcan operation. Again, this is subject to the approval of Vulcan and the negotiations between the cities of Duarte and Azusa. Vulcan would appreciate you putting future reclamation connecting Fish Canyon trail subject to ultimate Vulcan approval.

Vulcan appreciates the opportunity to comment on this draft document. It is my understanding from you, Martin Moreno and Rama Tallamraju that you will incorporate my comments in this letter and include Vulcan on the mailing list when the Master Plan draft goes out to the public. Vulcan desires to work with the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works on this Master Plan in hopes that when the Master Plan comes to the public, Vulcan can respond in an affirmative posture rather than a negative position.

Vulcan also wishes to have you incorporate into the body of this San Gabriel Master Plan certain land use designations for mining that were created and mandated by the state of California,


Mr. Daniel Iacofano
Page 11

Department of Mines and Geology. The Department of Mines and Geology is required by statute to incorporate land use designations that have proven mineral deposits that are to be used for the development of aggregate resource. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act ("SMARA") provides for mineral land classification in Sections 2711, 2712, 2761, 2762, 2763 and 2764 of the Public Resources Code. Accordingly, we have incorporated maps depicting the Mineral Land Classification areas within the San Gabriel Valley. Hopefully these maps will be helpful to the County when implementing this master plan and its incorporation of mining within the plan.

Additionally, I have enclosed mineral land classification of the Fish Canyon Quarry, Azusa Quarry, Azusa Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California. This mineral classification was added December 1988 which includes the entire area in the Fish Canyon area owned by Vulcan.

Vulcan appreciates the opportunity to comment and would welcome any questions that you or the County Department of Public Works may have relative to any of the issues discussed within the contents of this letter or otherwise.

Sincerely,



Steve C. Cortner
Vice President, Resources

SCC:mx

Enclosures: Maps

Copy: Rama Tallamraju, L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
Martin Moreno, P.E. Senior Civil Engineer, Watershed Management Division,
County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Ave.,
11th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

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4/28/05

www.sangabrielriver.com

WHD
800

Department of Public Works
County of Los Angeles
Po Box 1460
900 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, Ca 91802-1460

Comment Letter No. 23

Re: 1. San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan, Public Comments
2. E.I.R. File: WM-6, Public Comments

Dear Department of Public Works:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report.

First, I'd like to support any and all efforts to improve and enhance the 58 mile, San Gabriel River Corridor's environmental quality and recreational opportunities. Also, that the E.I.R. is adequate and meets C.E.Q.A. requirements.

23-1

The River Corridor has regional importance. Three million urban weary residents seek the best of what is left of the San Gabriel River Corridor. While I live in the City of La Habra, in Orange County, I utilize the San Gabriel River Corridor for recreation, biking and hiking.

As all of the town of La Habra is in the San Gabriel River Watershed, I am very concerned about storm water pollution of the river and ocean by inland cities, especially the Coyote and La Mirada Creeks in La Habra which drain into the San Gabriel River.

23-2

Second, improving the aesthetics and environmental quality of the Corridor is a high priority. I support the reclamation and remediation of surface mining operations. I also support the return of the River Corridor to a more natural flood control channel where feasible, utilizing the latest in natural flood control engineering techniques. Improving the riparian habitat is a priority. Adding new, and improving existing educational nature centers is a great idea.

23-3

Third, I would like to support improving and enhancing the River Corridor Bike Lane and support development of regional bike trail linkages. Utilizing the old Huntington "Redcar" Railroad Corridor for a bike lane from the town of Brea, west, through downtown La Habra and Whittier to the River Corridor Bike Trail should become a major east-west bike trail connection. The city of La Habra is currently working on this issue. Please add the historic "Redcar" Train Depot in La Habra to your plan. Extending the Coyote Creek Bike Lane north to La Habra is a priority. Bike lane improvements should include landscaping, many shade trees, and rest areas where possible. Increasing access is a priority.

23-4

Fourth, Land Use regulations need to be implemented to enhance the River Corridor's natural character and protect it from further urban deterioration.

Sincerely,



Robert Dale
1401 Sierra Vista Dr.
La Habra, CA 90631

cc City of La Habra; Orange County Trails Advisory Committee.
La Habra Historical Society.

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Rydman, Rama

From: townsquare@migcom.com
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 8:19 AM
To: info@sangabrielriver.com
Subject: SGRMP: General Comments

Comment Letter No. 24

Comment Submitted by:

Lester Kau
Residents of Azusa
lk@ecoplanet.com

Subject:

SGRMP: General Comments

Comment:

Hello,

24-1

The city of Azusa has recently rezoned the property that the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club sits on to open space. This property is right along the San Gabriel river. Part of the land is owned by Vulcan Materials (who supports Azusa's decision) and another portion of the property is owned by some Federal Organization. I think that it may be the Army Corp of Engineers. But I'm not sure. This land is right against the San Gabriel river, if not partially in the river bed. The corridor plan is designed to encourage more people to enjoy the natural beauty of the river as well as to protect a natural resource. Having a gun club next to the river increases the risk of lead pollution, as well as the problems with the noise pollution. I ask that you openly support the city of Azusa's plan to rezone the land to open space.

In addition, there are approximately 15 homeless people living in that area of the riverbed and there is concern that a stray bullet may hit them, or one of the people walking along the bike path along the river.

The gun club will be fighting to stay and the city needs all the support it can get. We would appreciate it if you could offer some kind of support of the zoning change to open space in writing.

One of the gun clubs plans is to try and move all of it onto the federal land, which is in the riverbed area. There are other gun clubs in the area, including Burro Canyon, which these gun members can use. They just don't want to bother with driving a little farther and would rather fight the city.

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Responses to Comment Letter No. 1

California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources

- 1-1 Maps for future Master Plan projects will identify oil and gas wells on or in close proximity to project boundaries. As noted in Mitigation Measure MP-W8 (page 4.6-41), a Phase I ESA shall be completed for all projects involving substantial ground disturbance where prior land use is unknown and the potential for soil contamination from previous land uses exists. MP-W8 has been revised to state that the Phase ESA would specifically include review of California Oil and Gas Well Locations as documented by the Department of Conservation.
- 1-2 Per your comments, Mitigation Measure MP-W8 has been revised to incorporate the Division's procedures for project site review and well abandonment. In addition, Table 2-2 (page 2-6) (List of Permits, Approvals, and Coordination Potentially Relevant to Future Projects in the Master Planning Area) has been revised to reference the Division.

Appendix F – Comments and Responses

Responses to Comment Letter No. 2 California Department of Fish and Game

- 2-1 Per your comment, Mitigation Measure CD-B4 (page 4.2-46) has been revised to require a survey for nesting/breeding native bird species one week prior to construction and clearing activities. The measure has been further modified to extend the survey zone to within 300 feet (within 500 feet for raptors) of the construction zone. It is also noted that construction can proceed if no active avian nests are located during this survey. The Final EIR contains the revised text for Mitigation Measure CD-B4.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 3 California Department of Transportation

- 3-1 As relevant, project proponents for future Master Plan projects will be responsible for obtaining encroachment permits for activities in Caltran's rights-of-way. Please note that Table 2-2 (page 2-6, List of Permits, Approvals, and Coordination Potentially Relevant to Future Projects in the Master Planning Area) identifies Caltrans as a potentially applicable permit agency.
- 3-2 Your agency's e-mail address will be added to the Master Plan mailing list so that your agency will be informed of Steering Committee meetings, project website updates (www.sangabrielriver.com) and future CEQA notices for second-tier environmental documentation.

Appendix F – Comments and Responses

Responses to Comment Letter No. 4 Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts

- 4-1 Per your comment in reference to the groundwater basin, “West Basin” is now consistently referred to as the “West Coast Basin” throughout the Master Plan.
- 4-2 Per your comment, the “Metropolitan Water District” is now referred consistently throughout the Master Plan as the “Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.”
- 4-3 Per your comment, “Water Reclamation Plant” is now used consistently throughout the Master Plan instead of the acronym WRP.
- 4-4 Please see response to comment 17-1. The Sanitation Districts requested that the Master Plan refer to the agency either as the “County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County” or “Sanitation Districts.” The Master Plan has been revised accordingly.
- 4-5 In response to your comment, text in the Master Plan on page 2-32 has been revised to clarify the relationship between the San Gabriel River and the groundwater basins as a water supply source. Text revisions and additions on pages 2-39 and 3-10 clarify the nature of adjudicated water rights and the relationships between the different groundwater basins. Revisions on page 2-30 modify text that may have given the impression that all stormwater is lost to the sea before it has a chance to percolate into the soil.
- 4-6 In response to your comment, the Master Plan has been revised to clarify the role of rainfall to groundwater basins, and groundwater is identified as a local water source. In the “Water Supply” section beginning on page 2-32, “surface and groundwater supplies” replace “rainfall” as one of the three main water supply sources, with reclaimed and imported sources as the other two. The Master Plan goes on to explain, “the local water supply begins as rainfall that percolates naturally into the underlying groundwater basins, or results in surface runoff.” Similar changes were made elsewhere in the Master Plan to clarify the relationship between rainfall and the groundwater basins.
- 4-7 Per your comment regarding Master Plan page 3-10, the correction has been made so that the sentence reads the “Central Basin Watermaster and the West Coast Basin Watermaster have the same....”
- 4-8 Per your comment, under the newly revised subsection heading “Central and West Coast Basins” the third sentence has been corrected.
- 4-9 Per your comment on Master Plan page 2-38 under the subsection “Imported Water”, the spelling for San Joaquin Delta has been corrected.

**Responses to Comment Letter No. 5
City of Cerritos**

- 5-1 Table 4.7-1 (page 4.7-4) has been revised to add the City of Cerritos determination of Master Plan consistency with the City's General Plan Land Use Element. The Master Plan does not include any specific plans for land acquisitions or land use conversions in City of Cerritos. Land acquisitions or land use conversions for enhancement and/or protection of open space are envisioned to occur at abandoned or under-utilized properties (not at existing commercial or residential developments). The Master Plan Open Space element includes Performance Criteria O1.1 (Establishes priorities for land acquisition, coordinating targeted land acquisitions with land use planning), which is intended to encourage future project proponents to coordinate and prioritize efforts in areas that currently lack or are deficient in open space and recreational facilities. Please also note that the Master Plan goals, objectives, and performance criteria are not intended to amend or replace any existing land use regulations established by the local municipalities.
- 5-2 As noted in Table 2-2 (page 2-7), future Master Plan projects (including aesthetic enhancement projects such as gateways) may require various land use approvals (e.g., Conditional Use Permits, architectural reviews, building permits, and grading permits) from the relevant local municipality with jurisdiction over the project site. Individual project proponents would be responsible for obtaining the necessary approvals prior to final design and installation.
- 5-3 As noted in Mitigation Measures MP-W1 (page 4.6-39), MP-W3 (page 4.6-40) and MP-W5 (page 4.6-40), future projects that propose modifications to an existing flood control channel will include detailed engineering studies and agency consultations to assess potential impacts on flood control and water quality during construction and operation and identify mitigation measures as applicable; the results of these evaluations would be included in second-tier CEQA documentation prepared by the project proponent.
- 5-4 Your agency's e-mail address will be added to the Master Plan mailing list so that your agency will be informed of Steering Committee meetings, project website updates (www.sangabrielriver.com) and future CEQA notices for second-tier environmental documentation.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 6 City of Santa Fe Springs

- 6-1 A description of the trails along and connecting to the San Gabriel River is provided in Section 4.10.1.1 (page 4.10-2, Recreation), and a map of bike trails and trail connections is provided in the Master Plan (Chapter 2, Map 2-3). Per your comment, Section 4.10.1.1 (page 4.10-2) has been revised to incorporate information on MTA's Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan that is currently in preparation. The Master Plan includes the Recreation objective RC-2 (Connect open space and recreation areas with a network of trails). Implementation of future Master Plan projects in a manner consistent with this objective would result in improved bike trails, development of regional bike trail linkages, and increased access, a beneficial impact on recreation (see Sections 4.10.3 and 4.10.4.2). Per your comment, Section 4.11.4 (page 4.11-14) has been revised to describe the potential for new or improved bike trails to promote bicycling as an alternative to vehicles, a beneficial impact on transportation.
- 6-2 Per your comment, Sections 4.6.1.1 and 4.6.1.4 (pages 4.6-8 and 4.6-23) have been revised to delete references to the refinery as a discharger to the River. The former refinery has ceased discharges to Coyote Creek, and the Regional Board rescinded the NPDES permit in March 2004 (LARWQCB, 2004). (The name "Santa Fe Springs Refinery" was used in the NPDES permit to refer to the refinery, which was formerly owned by Powerine Oil Company and is now owned by Cenco Refining Company.)
- 6-3 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1.4 (page 4.6-23) has been revised to indicate that dischargers other than municipalities would also be considered in future TMDLs. A summary of the responsibilities of state and federal agencies regarding TMDLs is also provided in Section 4.6.1.4 (page 4.6-23).

**Responses to Comment Letter No. 7
City of Seal Beach**

- 7-1 The Master Plan is an overall conceptual plan that focuses primarily on developing the river corridor as an integrated watershed system that enhances habitat, provides recreational benefits, and protects open space, while maintaining and enhancing flood protection and water resources. The Master Plan was not developed as a regional strategy for NPDES or TMDL compliance. However, the Master Plan goals include improvements to surface water quality including stormwater flows, consistent with the goals of the municipal NPDES permits. Section 4.6.1.4 (page 4.6-20) describes the three applicable NPDES stormwater municipal permits for the project area. In response to your comment, Table 2-2 (page 2-7) has been revised to identify that review of the existing NPDES stormwater municipal permits would be required to determine if future Master Plan projects trigger the implementation of BMPs.
- 7-2 Regarding project-related impacts from stormwater runoff during construction activities, please see Section 4.6.3 (beginning on page 4.6-27). Please also note that Mitigation Measures MP-W2 (page 4.6-39) and CD-W1 (page 4.6-42) require preparation and implementation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans. Please note that future Master Plan projects could result in a reduction of impervious surfaces thus reducing urban runoff and stormwater pollutant discharges to surface waters, a beneficial impact.
- Regarding potential increases in vectors or odors from Master Plan projects, please see Sections 4.5.3, 4.5.4.3 and 4.1.4.3.
- 7-3 Debris wash-down from the San Gabriel River to Seal Beach beaches is an existing problem. The loss of beach availability and resulting adverse economic impacts are not project-related impacts to be considered, evaluated and mitigated within the Program EIR. Future Master Plan projects are anticipated to reduce trash and other stormwater pollutants, a beneficial impact on downstream beaches. A debris boom is one of the potential best management practices for the control of solid waste within the river. The Master Plan is intended to encourage implementation of projects that would improve water quality. However, the Master Plan does not prescribe or mandate any specific projects or methods. If debris booms are proposed by individual project proponents, environmental impact would be evaluated in second-tier CEQA documentation.
- 7-4 The Master Plan Mitigation Measure MP-C1 (page 4.3-14) includes consultation with Native American Heritage Commission as part of initial project site evaluation for cultural resources. Some municipalities may require the presence of a qualified Native American monitor during field reconnaissance activities for future Master Plan projects under their jurisdiction. For County projects, presence of a Native American monitor during reconnaissance is not required or proposed.
- 7-5 Per your comment, Mitigation Measures MP-G1 and CD-G1 (pages 4.4-14 and 4.4-15) have been revised to indicate that storm flows will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the relevant NPDES municipal stormwater permits.

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7-6 Per your comment, Section 4.5.1.3 (page 4.5-3) and Mitigation Measure MP-H2 (page 4.5-20) have been revised.

7-7 The County will provide copies of the Final EIR to Mr. Whittenberg as requested.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 8**County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department**

- 8-1 Per your comment, Table 2-2 (page 2-8) has been revised to include County of Orange as a potentially applicable review agency. Please note that Mitigation Measure MP-W1 (page 4.6-39) states that future projects that propose modifications to an existing flood control channel will include detailed engineering studies, including hydrologic and hydraulic modeling as applicable, to assess potential impacts on the channel's flood control capacities and effects on upstream and downstream floodplain properties and recommendations to avoid or minimize these impacts.
- 8-2 As indicated in Master Plan Chapter 3, Project ID Number R7.04 (Los Alamitos Channel Treatment Wetland) is proposed by Orange County as part of the ACOE Coyote Creek Watershed Study.
- 8-3 Per your comment, the Master Plan text regarding Project R7.08 has been revised.
- 8-4 Per your comment, Table 2-2 (page 2-8) has been revised.
- 8-5 We look forward to continuing to work with the County of Orange on the Coyote Creek Watershed Management Plan. The County intends to continue outreach to the stakeholders via periodic Steering Committee meetings and project website updates (www.sangabrielriver.com), including the County of Orange.
- 8-6 Per your comment, the Master Plan text regarding Projects R7.01 and R7.02 have been revised.
- 8-7 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1.4 (page 4.6-20) has been revised to describe the County of Orange 2003 Drainage Area Management Plan.
- 8-8 The mitigation measures listed under Section 4.6.5.2 are MP-W2 and MP-W3, not CD-W1. We understand your intent and have modified Table 2-2 (page 2-8) to indicate that future Master Plan projects located in Orange County would be required to comply with the DAMP.
- 8-9 Section 4.6.6 Mitigation Measure CD-W1 (page 4.6-42) applies only to the Concept Design Studies identified in the Master Plan. Since all five Concept Design Studies are located within Los Angeles County, the County of Orange 2003 DAMP would not be applicable; however, the Los Angeles County's Manual for the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP; LADPW, 2002b) would be applicable if any of the Concept Design Studies were defined per the SUSMP as development/redevelopment projects. However, Table 2-2 (page 2-8) has been revised to indicate that future Master Plan projects located in Orange County would be required to comply with the DAMP.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 9 Fly Fishers Club of Orange County

- 9-1 Earlier comments provided in your email correspondence of December 2003 in response to an earlier draft of the Master Plan were used to help prepare the Public Review Draft. Changes included significant expansion and revision of the descriptions for R1.01 Fisherman's Trail above Cogswell Dam, R2.05 Float Tubing and Fishing Study, and R2.07 Flow Study below Morris Dam. Also, the river corridor policy PP15 Habitat Integration was added to the Public Review Draft due to input provided by the Fly Fishers Club of Orange County (FFCOC). As this correspondence was used to make these and other changes to the Master Plan, it is cited as a reference in the bibliography of the Master Plan.
- 9-2 On February 7, 2006, the County met with several stakeholders to discuss the concerns associated with the three FFCOC proposals. It was mutually agreed to identify the proposals as follows:
Trail Above Cogswell Dam: Project
Fishing at Morris and San Gabriel Reservoirs: Study (with a feasibility study funded by Public Works and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)
Minimum Stream Flows Below Morris Dam: Due to the number of complicated issues relevant to this proposal and the difficulty reaching a consensus, it was agreed to remove this proposal from the Master Plan.

The report FFCOC sponsored was only in a specific reach of the river and focused on fishing. We chose to leave out the report because the San Gabriel River Master Plan is a document with guiding principles and vision to help project sponsors successfully implement their projects regardless of the focus.

As there is strong interest in the FFCOC proposals, the County and the Steering Committee have formed a special subcommittee, the Rivers and Recreation Technical Subcommittee, so that all parties that might be impacted can collaboratively pursue the issues raised by these proposals. The subcommittee has met in the past and will meet again in the near future to discuss recent fact-finding investigations of other reservoirs that include recreational activities.

- 9-3 This document has been prepared as a Program EIR to consider the environmental impacts, mitigation measures and alternatives of the proposed Master Plan as a whole, not each individual project. Successful implementation of a project is not dependent on being named as part of the Master Plan but rather with complying with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and/or any other regulatory agency requirements. Evaluation of impacts considered the Master Plan elements (goals, objectives and performance criteria), with more detailed analysis provided for the Concept Design Studies. As future Master Plan projects are proposed for implementation, project proponents will prepare a second-tier CEQA document (a Negative Declaration or an EIR) for each project, which will analyze the site-specific

impacts of those proposals. This is the case for all Master Plan projects whether they are referred to as studies, projects, or concept design studies.

- 9-4 Habitat enhancement is one of the Master Plan goals. However, it may not be possible to incorporate habitat enhancements in all projects and maintenance activities due to the need to balance various project and stakeholder goals, which include flood control and water conservation. Future County-sponsored Master Plan projects may incorporate habitat enhancements (including movement of fish and wildlife and distribution of native plants) as feasible.

Regarding water allotments to maintain or enhance instream habitat, wildlife or recreational opportunities, water in the River is fully appropriated. Future Master Plan projects would incorporate water for habitat enhancements as feasible and consistent with existing water rights.

During the development of the Master Plan, the Master Plan Steering Committee was formed to share information regarding projects in the River corridor and funding opportunities. The Steering Committee is composed of a broad range of stakeholders, including: cities along the river; water and regulatory agencies; interested community, business, and environmental groups; and other interested individuals. However, the authority to implement Master Plan projects rests with individual municipalities and regulatory agencies. Prior to project approval, each municipality would be responsible to prepare the appropriate project-specific second-tier CEQA document. Likewise, applicable permits from various regulatory agencies such as California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Regional Water Quality Control Board must be obtained for construction and maintenance. These agencies are mandated to protect wildlife and habitat and, through the permitting process, would assure project conformance with applicable regulations.

Since the existing Steering Committee serves as a consensus-based forum for coordination along the River corridor, a formal administrative review panel is not proposed. However, one of the main objectives of the Steering Committee is to bring various project proponents together in order to collaboratively review and promote one another's projects.

- 9-5 The purpose of the Program EIR is to present the results of an analysis of the environmental effects of the Master Plan. As relevant, current operations are described in the Program EIR as part of existing conditions. Current operations and policies are reviewed and modified periodically when required to conform to changing operational or regulatory agency requirements. The Department of Public Works has reviewed the operations and policies at our facilities and believes it is in compliance with all state and federal regulations.
- 9-6 Section 4.6 of the Program EIR discusses the water rights and uses of the water in the San Gabriel River.

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- 9-7 Please note that a detailed description of the water rights to surface and groundwater sources is provided in Section 4.6.1.3 of the EIR.
- 9-8 The Steering Committee has been meeting every other month, and now approximately once a quarter, for over four years during regular business hours. It was the consensus of the 80+ Steering Committee members attending these meetings and representing a very broad spectrum of stakeholders along the river corridor that this was the most effective way for them to work together as a group to shape a consensus around which the Master Plan could be developed. During this period, no other complaints were received regarding the working schedule. This consistent schedule has allowed the Steering Committee to function effectively throughout this extended time period, as evident in the continuing high level of attendance at each meeting of the Steering Committee. Additionally, email and an internet website (www.sangabrielriver.com) were used as a mechanism to reach as much of the public as feasible.
- 9-9 The Master Plan and the Draft Program EIR are available in both electronic and hard copy formats. In response to each request for a copy of the Master Plan and Draft Program EIR, a CD containing an electronic version was provided. During this period, no one requested that we instead provide them with a hard copy of the Master Plan and the Draft Program EIR. Hard copies of the Master Plan and the Draft EIR were available for public review at 19 libraries in or near the San Gabriel River corridor and at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works headquarters in Alhambra.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 10
Law Offices of Susan M. Trager

10-1 The specific concerns outlined in your letter are addressed below.

10-2 The Master Plan is a set of policies and actions to increase open space, habitat, and recreation opportunities in the San Gabriel River corridor. A Program EIR was prepared to consider the environmental impacts, mitigation measures and alternatives of the proposed Master Plan as a whole. Impact assessment was not limited to the 1-mile wide River corridor, but considers the area applicable to each environmental topic. Please note that specific reference (by name) to individual properties within the region, such as Rose Hills, is not needed in order to adequately describe the environmental impacts.

Regarding indirect effects, CEQA requires an evaluation of indirect effects that are caused by the project and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

An understanding of the regional setting was integral to the evaluation of environmental impacts of the Concept Design Studies, including the Discovery Center and Lario Creek projects. Significant environmental impacts were not identified for either of these projects. Specifically for the topics identified in your comment letter:

- Noise impact analysis considered impacts to the closest noise sensitive receptor (a school located across the street from the Discovery Center). Since impacts on this receptor were determined to be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures, impacts at Rose Hills, which is located more than five times the distance away from the project site and on the other side of the Interstate 605, an existing major noise source, would be less than significant.
- Air emissions during construction and operation were estimated for each of the Concept Design Studies including the Discovery Center and Lario Creek projects. Air pollutant emissions were estimated to be below thresholds established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District in consideration of impacts to the South Coast Air Basin as a whole. Air pollutants potentially affecting views include smog-forming compounds and dust. The analysis included these parameters, and again, impacts were found to be less than significant. To further reduce project-related air quality impacts, mitigation measures were identified to reduce dust emissions during Concept Design Study construction.
- As noted in EIR Section 6.2, the Master Plan does not involve construction of new homes or businesses and does not include construction of new,

potentially growth-inducing, infrastructure such as roads or potable water or wastewater systems. The Master Plan would provide recreation and open space benefits to areas that have already been developed with residential, commercial, and industrial uses. Therefore, it would not result in the elimination of obstacles to growth. No growth inducing impacts would occur.

- Traffic impact analyses were conducted for the Discovery Center and Lario Creek Concept Design Studies. The analyses and summaries are explained in detail in Section 4.11 of the report. The analyses included existing and future traffic volumes and the impacts were found to be less than significant.

The Concept Design Studies were defined to illustrate the types of multi-purpose projects to be fostered by the Master Plan. The conceptual project descriptions detailed in the Master Plan and the EIR are the result of a Steering Committee exercise to help provide tangible examples of how the Master Plan multi-objective approach might apply to projects in the San Gabriel River corridor. These studies are intended for illustration purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the intent of the project sponsors. Environmental analysis in this Program EIR is based on the conceptual project descriptions in the Master Plan. The final project concepts for Lario Creek and the Discovery Center are still under development. Therefore, it would be too speculative at this time to complete the detailed analysis recommended. Further environmental documentation for Concept Design Studies will be conducted when the project descriptions for these proposals are formalized. Additional noise, aesthetic, air quality and/or traffic studies may be conducted at that time as necessary.

- 10-3 Since the project descriptions for the Concept Design Studies are conceptual and are subject to change, the Program EIR is not a project-level review of the Concept Design Studies, but instead analyzes their impacts (as best as can be determined at this preliminary stage in their design) as examples of Master Plan projects and the types of impacts expected. Further environmental documentation for Concept Design Studies will be conducted when the project descriptions for these proposals are formalized.
- 10-4 The purpose of the Program EIR was to evaluate the impacts of the Master Plan as a whole. The data on existing conditions, CEQA thresholds of significance, and the programmatic analyses and mitigation measures presented in the Program EIR will serve as a source of background information and model to guide further project-level CEQA review for the Concept Design Studies, and other Master Plan projects. The Program EIR will streamline the environmental review and documentation process for future Master Plan project proponents in the river corridor.
- 10-5 Rose Hills will be added to the notification list for CEQA documentation for all County-sponsored Master Plan projects.
- 10-6 Potential impacts from a rise in the groundwater table related to increased recharge are described in Sections 4.6.3, 4.4.3, and 4.6.4.5. Quantification of these impacts through modeling or other analysis can only be completed when specific recharge locations and

water volumes are defined. Since these specifics are not yet defined, Mitigation Measure MP-W7 (page 4.6-41) was defined to require consideration and mitigation, if applicable, of existing groundwater contamination and potential contaminant sources. Under Mitigation Measure MP-W7, project-specific analysis for future groundwater recharge projects would consider the aerial extent of any groundwater mound created by recharge and the potential for changing groundwater levels below your property. Please see minor revisions to MP-W7 to clarify that all contaminant sources, not just landfills, will be considered. Similarly, Mitigation Measures MP-G1 (page 4.4-14) and CD-G1 (page 4.4-15) require consideration, and mitigation if applicable, of increases in liquefaction potential associated with recharge projects.

Additionally, the monitoring well which is located within 200 feet of Rose Hills has an average elevation of 100 feet. The highest elevation recorded for this well is 103 feet in 1963. At 103 feet, the elevation of the water table is still more than 10 feet below the surface of Rose Hills.

- 10-7 The County is committed to recognizing the concerns of all stakeholders as part of the Master Plan process.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 11 Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster

- 11-1 Table 2-1 (page 2-7) has been revised to incorporate your correction.
- 11-2 The Concept Design Studies were defined by the Steering Committee to protect and enhance, whenever possible, flood protection, water supply and water quality. Table 3-7 (page 3-15) indicates that flood protection, water supply and water quality are objectives of each of the Concept Design Studies.
- 11-3 Table 4.6-2 (page 4.6-6) has been revised to indicate the approximate capacities as determined by the most recent surveys of the reservoirs.
- 11-4 Master Plan projects that include stormwater infiltration would be designed to protect or enhance groundwater quality. Per your comment, the policy listed in Section 3.3.1.2 (page 3-12) of the EIR (and PP11 in the Master Plan) has been revised to clarify this intent.

Regarding groundwater monitoring, please note that Mitigation Measures MP-W6 (page 4.6-40) and CD-W5 (page 4.6-43) provide for development and implementation of a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program. These monitoring programs would include measurement of all applicable parameters, including nitrate.

Please also note that Mitigation Measure MP-W7 (page 4.6-41) provides for evaluation of potential impacts to existing groundwater contamination plumes and implementation of measures to avoid interference. As part of the investigation, relevant agencies, including the Regional Board, Watermasters, and agencies involved in groundwater clean-up activities (e.g., EPA and WQA), will be consulted.

- 11-5 The Concept Design Studies were defined to illustrate the types of multi-purpose projects to be fostered by the Master Plan. The conceptual project descriptions detailed in the Master Plan and the EIR are the result of a Steering Committee exercise to help provide tangible examples of how the Master Plan multi-objective approach might apply to projects in the San Gabriel River corridor. These studies are intended for illustration purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the intent of the project sponsors. Environmental analysis in this Program EIR is based on the conceptual project descriptions in the Master Plan. Further environmental documentation for Concept Design Studies will be conducted when the project descriptions for these proposals are finalized.

As described in Section 3.3.3.1, a floating island is a potential element of the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds Concept Design Study. If a floating island is included in the final project description, any conflict with the existing operation and maintenance activities for groundwater recharge (including water quality, water supply, and regulatory issues) would be considered.

Implementation of the Master Plan would have a beneficial impact on groundwater recharge by encouraging projects that reduce runoff discharges into waterways and/or expand reclaimed water use. Throughout our system of groundwater recharge facilities, the County is committed to maintaining or increasing total percolation capacity. Regarding security at the San Gabriel Spreading Basins, public access will remain restricted near the basins and the City of Azusa parcel to maintain public safety and water quality.

In response to your comments, an additional performance criterion was added to the Habitat Element (H2.10), which reads “Encourages development of new habitats without compromising essential public services including groundwater recharge, flood protection, or electrical power transmission by offering legal and operational safeguards such as memoranda of understanding that allow access for regular maintenance and emergency operations.”

- 11-6 Per your comment, Section 3.3.3.4 (page 3-29) has been revised to note that the maximum recorded flow at F313B-R was 227 cfs (recorded on 12/28/2002).

The Lario Creek Concept Design Study project description in the Master Plan was intended for illustration purposes only and is not considered the final project description. Therefore, the necessity for modifying gaging station F313B-R is undetermined at this time. However, the County is committed to providing accurate data necessary for flow analysis to the Watermaster.

- 11-7 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1.1 (page 4.6-29) has been revised to note that flows significantly above 100 cfs have also been recorded during storm events. The maximum recorded flow at station E322 on the San Gabriel River at Peck Road was 24,800 cfs (recorded on 1/26/1969).

- 11-8 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1.1 (page 4.6-8) has been revised.

- 11-9 The Master Plan goals include maintenance of existing water and other rights while enhancing water quality, water supply, groundwater recharge, and water conservation. However, since the overall impact of the Master Plan would be to reduce ocean discharge of valuable freshwater resources, the implementation of projects with features that retain, reuse and/or infiltration stormwater would have an overall beneficial impact on groundwater volumes. Prior to implementation of County-sponsored Master Plan projects with reuse of stormwater runoff, the County will consult with the Watermaster.

- 11-10 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1.3 (page 4.6-14) has been revised.

- 11-11 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1.3 (page 4.6-16) has been revised.

- 11-12 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1.4 (page 4.6-25) has been revised.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 12 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

- 12-1 Maintaining and enhancing water resources is one of the Master Plan goals. Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised to acknowledge protection of groundwater recharge capacity (see Performance Criteria H2.5). The overall implementation of the Master Plan would have a beneficial impact on groundwater recharge by encouraging projects that reduce runoff discharges into waterways and/or expand reclaimed water use. Regarding the potential for development of floating islands at the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds, please also see response to comment 11-5.

For projects involving habitat enhancements, the project proponents would be responsible to consult with applicable wildlife and regulatory agencies and obtain operations and maintenance agreements that address the potential for habitation by sensitive species as a direct result of the habitat enhancements. Please note that Table 2-2 (page 2-6) has been revised to clarify that this type of coverage for operation and maintenance activities may be applicable.

In response to your comments, an additional performance criterion was added to the Habitat Element (H2.10), which reads “Encourages development of new habitats without compromising essential public services including groundwater recharge, flood protection, or electrical power transmission by offering legal and operational safeguards such as memoranda of understanding that allow access for regular maintenance and emergency operations.”

- 12-2 Mitigation Measure MP-G1 (page 4.4-14) requires future Master Plan projects that include infiltration to conduct geotechnical investigations. Per your comment, Mitigation Measure MP-G1 has been revised to specifically reference pipelines.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 13

Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority

- 13-1 In response to your comment, the following clarification regarding the project boundary has been added to the Master Plan text on page 1-7 and EIR Section 3.2.1 (page 3-1): “This one mile wide corridor provides a necessary focus for the Master Plan study area but is not meant to be a totally exclusive boundary. Some projects and programs located nearby but outside the one-mile wide study area are included if they are designed to contribute to the vision and goals of the Master Plan.”
- 13-2 Per your comment, Table 2-1 (page 2-7) has been revised.
- 13-3 In response to your comment, Performance Criteria H4.3 (EIR Section 3.3.1.1, page 3-7) has been revised to read as follows, “Utilizes ecologically responsible techniques to maintain or reduce populations of wildlife meso-predators (raccoon, feral cats, opossum, skunk) and rodents that may transmit vector-borne diseases and discourages wildlife encroachment into surrounding urban areas.”
- 13-4 Per your comment, your suggestion has been incorporated into the description for project R4.23 Puente Hills Western Wildlife Corridor. Per your comment, the Master Plan Chapter 4.2 has been revised to include park visitors as target audience for the educational materials regarding co-existing with wildlife. Please note that Map 4-1 shows both northbound and *southbound* wildlife movements.
- 13-5 For future Master Plan projects that involve vegetated wetlands or other potential wildlife habitat, balancing the various project objectives (water quality improvement, groundwater recharge, and/or habitat) and operational and maintenance needs of the facilities (vegetation management for vector control, etc.) would be part of the project planning process. While maintenance activities would temporarily anticipated newly vegetated or enhanced areas, the overall impact of the Master Plan on biological resources would be beneficial as compared to existing conditions. In addition, the description for project R4.24 Equestrian Facilities Enhancement has been modified to address these concerns.
- 13-6 The County acknowledges the Authority’s concerns related to potential future Master Plan projects involving groundwater recharge that may be located within lands owned/managed by the Habitat Authority. As noted in Section 2.3.2 (page 2-4), as future Master Plan projects are proposed for implementation, project proponents will prepare a second-tier CEQA document (a Negative Declaration or an EIR) for each project, which would include evaluation of potential impacts (including park operations, wildlife, utilities and conservation easements, as relevant). Project proponents would also be responsible for coordination with various agencies that have jurisdiction over project sites or activities. Per your comment, Table 2-2 (page 2-7) has been revised to add the Authority as potentially applicable reviewing agency.

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Responses to Comment Letter No. 14 San Gabriel River Water Committee

- 14-1 Please see responses to comments 11-4 and 11-9.
- 14-2 Please see response to comment 11-2.
- 14-3 Please see response to comments 11-5 and 12-1.
- 14-4 Please see response to comment 11-7.
- 14-5 Please see response to comment 11-8.
- 14-6 Please see response to comment 11-10.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 15 San Gabriel River Watermaster

- 15-1 Comment noted. As noted in Section 4.6.4.7, groundwater use included as part of a future project design would be implemented within the confines of existing groundwater rights. Similarly, water consumption associated with future projects that include planting of riparian vegetation in existing channels (i.e., increased evapotranspiration) would be implemented within the confines of existing surface water rights.
- 15-2 Per your comment, Section 4.6.1 (page 4.6-1) has been revised. Please note that, overall, implementation of the Master Plan would have a beneficial impact on groundwater recharge by encouraging projects that reduce runoff discharges into waterways and/or expand reclaimed water use. Therefore, the County considers the Master Plan to be consistent with preservation of the valuable local water sources.
- 15-3 The Lario Creek Concept Design Study project description in the Master Plan was intended for illustration purposes only and is not considered the final project description. Therefore, the necessity for modifying gaging station F313B-R is undetermined at this time. However, the County is committed to providing accurate data necessary for flow analysis to the Watermaster.
- 15-4 Please see responses to comments 11-5 and 12-1.

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Responses to Comment Letter No. 16

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

- 16-1 As noted in Table 2-2 (page 2-7, List of Permits, Approvals, and Coordination Potentially Relevant to Future Projects in the Master Planning Area), the County would consult with relevant vector control agencies for applicable County-sponsored Master Plan Projects. For other Master Plan projects, the individual project proponents would be responsible for consulting the vector control agencies.
- 16-2 Section 1 has been revised to reflect the changes made to the other sections of the EIR per your comments.
- 16-3 Per your comment, Table 2-1 (page 2-2) has been revised.
- 16-4 Per your comment, Section 2.7 (page 2-9) has been revised.
- 16-5 Per your comment, the introductory paragraph to Section 4.5 (page 4.5-1) has been revised.
- 16-6 Section 4.5.1.4 (beginning on page 4.5-4) has been revised to incorporate your comments and suggested text, with some editorial changes.
- 16-7 Per your comment, Section 4.5.2 (page 4.5-10) has been revised, with the exception of the deletion of “at pre-project levels.” Please note that CEQA review is focused on adverse impacts resulting from projects as compared with existing conditions.
- 16-8 Per your comment, Section 4.5.3 (page 4.5-10) has been revised.
- 16-9 The County of Los Angeles appreciates the concerns of the vector control agencies, and is committed to promoting appropriate vector control procedures at all relevant Master Plan projects. Please note, however, that with implementation of the outlined mitigation measure, the increase in vector-related public health impacts from the Master Plan would be less than significant as compared with existing conditions. However, this CEQA impact determination is not intended to imply that the Master Plan mitigation measures will mitigate existing vector conditions throughout the study area and alleviate all public health risks.
- 16-10 Per your comment, Table 4.5-2 (beginning on page 4.5-11) has been revised. Please note that the reference to the Health and Safety Code has been incorporated into Section 4.5.1.4 (Existing Setting).

Your comment that constructed wetlands and other facilities would impact public health in violation of the Health and Safety Code has not been incorporated since the reference to the Health and Safety Code has been incorporated in Section 4.5.1.4 (page 4.5-4) as noted above.

- 16-11 Per your comment, Section 4.5.4.1 (page 4.5-15) has been revised.
- 16-12 The County's determination that the risks of the bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard would be less than significant at the Woodland Duck Farm and the El Dorado Regional Park Concept Design Study sites is based on existing bird use of the site and the relative sizes of the proposed habitat enhancements. Due to the highly urbanized nature of the project area and the continuing influence of human activity thus reducing the attractiveness of the created habitat to wildlife, a substantial increase in waterfowl population is not anticipated.
- 16-13 The County acknowledges the vector control agencies' concern regarding covered or underground stormwater capture/treatment devices. Section 4.5.4.3 (page 4.5-17) has been revised to reflect your comments. Please note, however, that surface (as opposed to underground or covered) stormwater control/treatment features are more likely to be implemented as part of future Master Plan projects since the Master Plan promotes multi-objective projects and surface features have the potential to provide multiple benefits (recreation, habitat, aesthetic, flood control, and/or water quality). Please also see responses to your comments below regarding Section 4.5.4.3.
- 16-14 Per your comment, Mitigation Measures MP-H1 (page 4.5-20) and CD-H1 (page 4.5-21) have been revised to add that catch basins must be designed so that all runoff would flow into the downstream facilities without ponding.
- 16-15 Per your comment, Mitigation Measures MP-H1 (page 4.5-20) and CD-H1 (page 4.5-21) have been revised to incorporate your comments.
- 16-16 Per your comment Section 4.5.4.3 (page 4.5-17, Retention Basins) has been revised to incorporate your comments. The second sentence has not been deleted since retention basins (as opposed to detention basins) would be designed to infiltrate.
- 16-17 Per your comment Section 4.5.4.3 (page 4.5-17, Stormwater Wetlands) has been revised.
- 16-18 Per your comment Section 4.5.4.3 (pages 4.5-17 and 18, Permanent Lakes) has been revised.
- 16-19 Please see response to comment 16-9.
- 16-20 Per your comment Section 4.5.1.4 (page 4.5-4, Existing Setting) has been revised to incorporate a reference to the California Health and Safety Code. Your suggested text change to the second sentence in the third paragraph has not been incorporated. The County acknowledges that increases in midges and black flies would constitute a nuisance, but the impact of the Master Plan related to this nuisance would be less than significant since they do not transmit diseases to humans.
- 16-21 Per your comment, the last paragraph of Section 4.5.4.3 (page 4.5-18) has been revised.

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- 16-22 Per your comment, Section 4.5.5.2 (page 4.5-19) has been revised.
- 16-23 Per your comment, Section 4.5.5.2 (page 4.5-19) has been revised to delete the word “insect”.
- 16-24 To be consistent with the California Health and Safety Code, the term “district” will be utilized throughout the document.
- 16-25 Section 4.6.1.4 (page 4.6-20) has been revised to cross-reference Section 4.5.1.4, where a reference to the California Health and Safety Code has been added per your comment.
- 16-26 Per your comment, Section 4.9.1.3 (page 4.9-5) has been revised to add a cross-reference to Section 4.5.4.3, where text has been added regarding the potential for underground utility vaults to breed mosquitoes. In addition, Mitigation Measure MP-H1 (page 4.6-20) has been revised to incorporate your comment.
- 16-27 Per your comment, Section 5.3.2.4 (page 5-10) has been revised to acknowledge that any of the related projects may include stormwater best management practices that could create mosquito habitat. However, since the Master Plan incorporates mitigation measures for vector control, and the extent of mosquito habitat potentially created by any stormwater BMPs associated with the related projects is not known, a cumulatively considerable increase in vector-related public health risks is not anticipated based on available information.

The Master Plan goals include balancing enhancements to habitat, recreation, and open space while maintaining and enhancing flood protection and water resources; therefore, the extent of habitat enhancements that can be achieved along the River corridor would be moderated by these other objectives. Furthermore, the Master Plan Habitat element includes Performance Criteria H.2.5 and H.4.3, which are intended to encourage future Master Plan project proponents to consider the public health implications of habitat enhancement projects early in the planning process. Therefore, the Master Plan would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase in risks to public health associated with increased human-wildlife interactions.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 17
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

- 17-1 Per your comment, the Master Plan and the EIR have been revised.
- 17-2 Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised.
- 17-3 Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised.
- 17-4 Per your comment, the Master Plan and the EIR have been revised.
- 17-5 Per your comments, the Master Plan and the EIR have been revised.
- 17-6 Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised.
- 17-7 Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised.
- 17-8 Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised.
- 17-9 Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised.
- 17-10 In response to your comment, the reference to Department of Fish and Game standards has been deleted from page 3-69 of the Master Plan.
- 17-11 In response to your comment, the text on Master Plan page 3-69 has been modified.
- 17-12 Per your comment, the Master Plan has been revised.
- 17-13 Table 2-2 (page 2-8, List of Permits, Approvals, and Coordination Potentially Relevant to Future Projects in the Master Planning Area) has been revised to reference the Districts. Please also note that for future projects that include construction of pipelines or other underground structures, Mitigation Measure MP-P3 (Section 4.9.5.3, page 4.9-16) requires consultation with relevant utilities (including sewers) to identify existing and proposed buried facilities in affected areas.
- 17-14 Per your comment, Table 4.6-4 (page 4.6-9) has been revised.

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Responses to Comment Letter No. 18 Southern California Association of Governments

- 18-1 The County appreciates your acknowledgement of the discussion provided in the Program EIR regarding the Master Plan's consistency with SCAG plans and policies.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 19
Southern California Edison

- 19-1 The County will involve Southern California Edison (SCE) early in the conceptual planning stage for all Los Angeles County sponsored projects along the river corridor that may be located in or near SCE's right-of-way. Other project sponsors would be responsible for consulting SCE for applicable projects. Per your comment, Table 2-2 (page 2-8, List of Permits, Approvals, and Coordination Potentially Relevant to Future Projects in the Master Planning Area) has been revised to include SCE.

We commend your willingness to collaborate with the County to provide a higher quality of life for the citizens of Los Angeles County. We also encourage SCE to explore the possibility of expanding the realm of the possible within SCE's properties or easements. Developing partnerships and collaborations among agencies will ensure mutual benefits for all.

- 19-2 The County is fully aware of and acknowledges the vital importance of SCE's stewardship and regulatory requirements. We believe that SCE's Secondary Land Use Program objectives to achieve a balance of uses, including low-intensity, green/passive recreational uses, and low-intensity economic development, are compatible with the multi-objective character of the Master Plan. The Master Plan also strives to achieve a balance among the several objectives of habitat, recreation, open space, and economic development, along with flood protection, water quality, and water conservation.

Given these similar underlying principles, the County looks forward to working closely with SCE over the coming years in finding ways to introduce habitat, recreation, open space as well as economic development uses to the river corridor in ways that are fully compatible with both the vision of the Master Plan and essential utility system operations, and stewardship requirements of SCE.

- 19-3 In addition to consulting with SCE on a regular basis for future County-sponsored projects that may be in or near SCE rights-of-way, we will also rely on the guidance and design criteria provided in "Southern California Edison Rights-of-Way Constraints Guidelines."

We will also recommend to other project sponsors within the river corridor that they refer to this same document in the design and development of their respective projects. It is also suggested that this be a topic at a future meeting of the Master Plan Steering Committee, at which representatives of SCE could present these guidelines to members of the Steering Committee as well as distribute the official SCE guidelines document to all interested stakeholders. Your recent collaborations with the City of Long Beach, as well as the Woodlands Duck Farm, could also be presented as positive working models for future partnerships.

- 19-4 The County acknowledges its shared commitment with the SCE to work together to achieve a balance of compatible uses along the San Gabriel River, and welcomes its input

regarding the Master Plan. The County believes most of the proposed projects within the Master Plan are compatible with SCE operations and maintenance requirements but that all proposed projects would be subject to possible revision to avoid potential problems and impacts. Such revisions would likely stem from the following two requirements as set forth in your letter dated May 4, 2005:

- SCE requires ongoing, complete access to its rights-of-way in order to perform routine maintenance and any required emergency repair or restoration of the facilities located there. No project, facility or operation can be allowed within its rights-of-way that would limit or impede such essential access or impact SCE's existing and future operating systems whether in the immediate project area or anywhere else in SCE's existing and future operating systems whether in the immediate project area or anywhere else in our rights-of-way and operating system.
- Establishing new wetlands or other similar natural habitat, vegetation or related natural plant areas within SCE's rights-of-way may be incompatible with SCE's operational requirements because they impede access to SCE operating systems and potentially impact the integrity of electric system operations. Such projects should be sited elsewhere in more appropriate locations. Prior to planning such projects, proponents must discuss any such proposals with SCE. SCE reserves the right of final approval for any projects utilizing SCE rights-of-way.

In principle, the County accepts and acknowledges these requirements and welcomes the opportunity to work with SCE and other involved project sponsors on any of the specific projects identified to ensure their compatibility with SCE operating requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, the following three projects:

- R5.16 – Wilderness Park Reclaimed Water and Open Space Park
- R6.03 – Byron Zinn Park Improvement
- R6.21 and R6.23 – El Dorado Regional Park Wetlands and Master Plan Update

It also extends to other projects and programs that may cross SCE rights-of-way, but whose potential development can be compatible with SCE operating requirements if they can be designed to meet the critical design and siting principles outlined above.

The County will work with SCE and recommend that all project sponsors work with SCE from the conception to completion stage to ensure all your concerns are adequately addressed.

- 19-5 The County looks forward to further discussions with SCE regarding proposed habitat restoration opportunities in the Reach 4 area, as it relates to any potential development of open space as a habitat easement within SCE's rights-of-way. Such discussions can further explore the extent of the potential constraints you have identified and whether and/or to what extent proposed "safe harbor agreements" might provide the legal or operational safeguards essential to SCE's operating requirements.

- 19-6 The County welcomes your assessment that trail enhancements, in particular for hiking and non-motorized biking, are feasible in many locations within SCE's rights-of-way. The County will also work closely with SCE in the development of all such trail enhancements on a project-specific basis, and will recommend that all other project sponsors follow the same collaborative practice as well.
- 19-7 The County and SCE do share the goals of using a balanced approach to protect existing green/passive recreational open spaces and creating new opportunities for such spaces along the river corridor where they are compatible with SCE system operating requirements. The County also recognizes your concern that conservation easements and "safe harbor agreements" may not be suitable with SCE's system operating requirements, but also believes the likely benefits and possible drawbacks of such agreements should be further explored with SCE before reaching a final decision on their potential application in any future projects.
- 19-8 The County agrees that it must work closely with SCE on any proposed plans related to the expansion of the river channel and/or removal of concrete along the river channel, as referred to in the El Dorado Regional Park area, or any other activities that could impact SCE's system operations. Please note that these are only proposals and the viability of such proposals depends on an assessment of a range of factors, of which compatibility with SCE operating requirements is only one of many.
- 19-9 The County acknowledges SCE concerns regarding the development of wetlands or other similar habitats within SCE rights-of-way, which may be incompatible with SCE's operations and access. The County welcomes SCE willingness to consider the option of supporting such projects on other nearby or adjacent properties by possibly providing expanded green/passive recreation uses on SCE property along the river where appropriate and viable. Given the extent of SCE property along the river, the County further welcomes SCE commitment to work with the County and other stakeholders to identify possible areas where SCE can be of assistance.
- 19-10 The County acknowledges and welcomes the SCE commitment to work closely with the County on crafting policies related to designs and uses along the river corridor that are compatible with SCE's operations and that do not impose unnecessary operational or financial burdens on the company or the users of its property.
- 19-11 The County acknowledges SCE concerns regarding the possible incompatibility of SCE operations and access with the proposed development of wetlands and related habitat areas on this property, and that "safe harbor agreements" may not be sufficient mechanisms to ensure SCE access to its operating property. The County welcomes SCE's continued willingness to work closely with the County on further exploring these questions.
- 19-12 The County acknowledges SCE's concerns regarding proposed alignments for Lario Creek. Given the need to ensure SCE's ability to maintain, operate, and possibly expand

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its existing facilities within its rights-of-way, and to address potential safety risks to the visiting public, the County will consult closely with SCE regarding all these issues.

- 19-13 The County acknowledges that SCE will require additional information for any proposed project along the river corridor that crosses SCE's rights-of-way, in order to assess potential impacts on SCE's operations. For County-sponsored projects, the County will provide that information to SCE and work closely with SCE on exploring ways in which such projects might be able to function within SCE's rights-of-way without substantial interference with SCE's operations. The County will also recommend that sponsors of other projects that may cross SCE's rights-of-way work closely with SCE by providing all needed information for assessment of potential impacts.

The County also acknowledges that there will be costs incurred by all stakeholders in the development of Master Plan projects. We will encourage all project sponsors to consider these costs in the beginning stages of each project.

- 19-14 The County also believes there are many areas along the San Gabriel River corridor where it will be possible for the County and SCE to collaborate on achieving a balance of desirable and appropriate uses, and where SCE can offer the use of needed property to the County and other involved parties to help achieve the vision and goals of the Master Plan. The County acknowledges that there may be some projects in some locations that may not be compatible with SCE's operational and maintenance requirements and responsibilities for existing and future facilities. Given the critical nature of these facilities, the County looks forward to working with the SCE on a continuing basis to ensure that the vision of the Master Plan can move forward but in full alignment with SCE's operational and maintenance requirements.

The County understands SCE's need for operation and maintenance of their facilities within the Master Plan project area. The County has always and will continue to partner with SCE to work together for a successful completion of projects which benefit and enhance each others operations as well as encourage other stakeholders to do the same.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 20 **Southern Council of Conservation Clubs**

- 20-1 The County acknowledges your concurrence with the Master Plan and your support for the maximum habitat alternative. Please note, however, that the maximum habitat alternative is not selected as the proposed project since it would fail to meet the goal of balancing habitat, recreation, and open space, as intended by the Board of Supervisors' resolution and as defined by the project objectives (see Section 6.1.2, beginning on page 6-5).

The County is committed to continuing to involve all stakeholders, including hunters and fishermen.

- 20-2 While some future Master Plan projects may involve habitat enhancements in areas where mountain lions and/or bighorn sheep may be present (West Fork of the River and associated canyons in the San Gabriel Mountains), implementation of the Master Plan would not affect the ecological relationship that has always existed between mountain lions and bighorn sheep.

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Responses to Comment Letter No. 21 United Rock Products

- 21-1 The County acknowledges your concerns regarding future projects that may impact your operations and welcomes your continued participation in the Master Plan process. Future notifications to stakeholders (including United Rock Products) by the County will include e-mail notification of Steering Committee meetings, project website updates (www.sangabrielriver.com) and future CEQA notices for second-tier environmental documentation.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 22
Vulcan Materials Company Western Division

- 22-1 As noted in Section 4.7.1 (page 4.7-3), the Master Plan goals, objectives, and performance criteria are not intended to amend or replace any existing land use regulations. As described in Section 4.7.3 (page 4.7-15), the Master Plan envisions that future Master Plan projects that involve mine reclamation would be implemented based on negotiation and partnership with the current owners and operators. Therefore, such projects under the Master Plan are anticipated to take place after extraction of mineral resources has been completed. However, if a future Master Plan project involves development of facilities that would result in the restriction of future mineral extraction operations, the potential impact of the project on mineral resources would be evaluated and disclosed in second-tier CEQA documentation (see Section 4.7.5.1).

The Master Plan goals include maintenance of existing water and other rights while enhancing water quality, water supply, groundwater recharge, and water conservation. Please also see response to comment 11-9.

- 22-2 The County acknowledges Vulcan's commitment to enhancing the River system and welcomes Vulcan's continued participation in the Master Plan process.
- 22-3 The comments originally submitted by Vulcan Materials Company on Nov 23, 2003 were used to help revise an earlier draft of the Master Plan, and for that reason are cited as a reference in the bibliography.
- 22-4 Future notifications to stakeholders (including Vulcan) by the County will include e-mail notification of Steering Committee meetings, project website updates (www.sangabrielriver.com) and future CEQA notices for second-tier environmental documentation. The County welcomes Vulcan's continued participation in the Master Plan process.

Responses to Comment Letter No. 23

Mr. Robert Dale

- 23-1 The County acknowledges your support for efforts to improve the river corridor's environmental quality and recreational opportunities. The Master Plan's vision is to develop the River corridor as an integrated watershed system that enhances habitat, provides recreational benefits, and protects open space while maintaining and enhancing flood protection and water resources. Please also see response to comment 10-2.

Implementation of Master Plan projects in a manner consistent with the Master Plan's Water Quality and Water Supply goal would reduce urban runoff and stormwater pollutant discharges to surface waters. In addition, the County of Orange is developing the Coyote and Carbon Creek Watershed Management Plan, listed as project R7.01 in the Master Plan, which will directly address urban runoff from inland communities in Orange County, including La Habra.

- 23-2 The Master Plan includes the Flood Control goal, which is intended to encourage projects that improve flood protection using natural processes and/or improve the aesthetics of flood control facilities. The County also acknowledges your support for improving riparian habitat and new or improved educational nature centers.

- 23-3 The County acknowledges your support for improved bike trails and linkages. The Master Plan includes the Recreation objective RC-2 (Connect open space and recreation areas with a network of trails). Implementation of future Master Plan projects in a manner consistent with this objective would result in improved bike trails (including more amenities such as shade trees, landscaping and rest areas), development of regional bike trail linkages, and increased access.

The Master Plan encourages the development of east-west trail connections to the San Gabriel River Bike Trail. This includes project R5.05 Whittier Greenway Trail and Connection being built along an abandoned railroad right-of-way, which, when completed, would extend from the San Gabriel River in Whittier through the City of La Habra to the City of Brea.

Per your comment regarding extending the Coyote Creek Bike Lane north to La Habra, please note that the project description for R7.02 Coyote Creek Regional Bikeway Improvements has been updated based on new information provided by the County of Orange.

- 23-4 While the Master Plan goals, objectives, and performance criteria are not intended to amend or replace any existing land use regulations, implementation of the Master Plan would have beneficial impacts with respect to land use by encouraging projects that protect/enhance land uses (e.g., open space) that enhance the character of the communities in the River corridor (see Section 4.7.3, page 4.7-14).

Responses to Comment Letter No. 24
Mr. Lester Kau

- 24-1 The County appreciates your interest in the Master Plan, and has reviewed and considered your comments. Los Angeles County has reviewed the information provided regarding the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club and the City of Azusa's zoning of the land to open space. Please note that the proposed Master Plan does not specifically propose zone changes to parcels along the river corridor, and the County has no jurisdiction over City of Azusa land use decisions. As noted in the Master Plan (R3.10 West Riverbank Tree Planting Project at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club), a tree planting project is proposed at the gun club site. The County of Los Angeles does not have any zoning jurisdiction over the area discussed in your letter. We encourage you to contact the City of Azusa's Planning Division regarding your concern.