

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE EIR

The purpose of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as defined in Section 15121(a) of the State Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 “Guidelines” is as follows:

An EIR is an informational document which will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effect and describe reasonable alternatives to the project.

This document assesses the significant environmental impacts, including unavoidable adverse impacts and cumulative impacts, likely to occur if the City of Los Angeles constructs and operates a new proposed 54-inch pipeline from the existing Venice Pumping Plant (VPP).

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines (Section 15180), this EIR is a project EIR. The intent of this EIR is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts that may result from the implementation of the goals and objectives of the proposed Project. This EIR is intended to evaluate the project-related, secondary, and cumulative impacts of the proposed Project within the areas of the proposed alignment alternatives in as much detail as possible and to identify and resolve all reasonably anticipated impacts. Moreover, this EIR focuses on the impacts associated with the long-range implementation of the Project.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY AND DOCUMENT FORMAT

The City of Los Angeles is the lead agency, as defined by Section 21067 of CEQA, for this EIR and has supervised its preparation. The City of Los Angeles’ City Council has primary responsibility for the adoption and implementation of the proposed Project and the certification of the Project’s Final EIR. The overall format of the EIR contains those components required by CEQA, as summarized in Table 1.2-1. During the course of the EIR preparation, the City of Los Angeles’ Department of Public Works contacted all affected agencies and organizations. Responses to the City’s Notice of Preparation (NOP) are provided in Appendix A to this EIR.

Table 1.2-1 Required Contents of an EIR – CEQA Law and Guidelines

Required Analysis (in Number)	In Draft EIR
Table of Contents (Section 15122)	TOC
Summary (Section 15123)	1
Project Description (Section 15124)	2
Environmental Setting (Section 15125)	3 and 5
Environmental Impacts (Section 15126)	5
Significant Environmental Effects of Proposed Project [Section 15126(a)]	5
Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects [Section 15126(b)]	5
Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize Significant Effects [Section 15126(c)]	5
Alternatives to the Proposed Project [Section 15126(d)]	4 and 6
Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Resulting From Implementation of the Proposed Project [Section 15126(f)]	5
Growth Inducing Impacts of the Proposed Project [Section 15126(g)]	7
Effects Found Not to Be Significant (Section 15128)	5
References, Persons Contacted and Preparers of the Draft EIR (Section 15129)	9 and 10
Cumulative Impacts (Section 15130)	5 and 7

Technical studies were prepared for this EIR and are provided in the appendices. The reports for these studies are listed in Section 10.0: References and Persons Contacted, and are available for public review at the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works at 650 South Spring Street, Suite 574, Los Angeles, 90014-1920.

1.3 FOCUS OF THE EIR

The analysis contained in this EIR reflects the level of detail necessary at this time for the City to consider the proposed Project. Consistent with Section 15180 of the CEQA Guidelines, this is a "project" EIR for the construction and operation of the proposed new force main sewer. This EIR, prepared for the City of Los Angeles, Venice and Dockweiler Beach vicinity, focuses on the effects that may be expected with the approval of and the subsequent implementation of the new Force Main Sewer Project resulting in the following potential impacts: air quality, biological resources, circulation, traffic and transportation, cultural resources, geology, soils and seismicity, hazardous waste and materials, hydrology, water quality/stormwater runoff, land use plans, noise and vibration, public facilities and services, and visual and aesthetic resources.

The environmental issues listed above were identified in the Initial Study prepared by the City of Los Angeles (included in Appendix A). Fiscal issues and impacts are not addressed in this EIR, as fiscal impacts are not required to be addressed in an EIR under current applicable CEQA requirements.

1.4 INTENDED USE OF THIS EIR

Article 1, Section 15002 of CEQA states that the basic purpose of an EIR is to: 1) Inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities, 2) identify the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced, 3) prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible, and 4) disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved.

In accordance with CEQA Guideline 15063(a), an Initial Study was conducted to determine if this project may have a significant effect on the environment. Although it was determined that this project will not have any long-term or lasting effects to the environment, it was determined that an EIR should be prepared for the purpose of describing impacts associated with the long-term construction schedule for the project.

1.5 REVIEWING AGENCIES

The following agencies will review this Project:

- Los Angeles County (various departments);
- California Coastal Commission (CCC);
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG);
- Department of Conservation;
- Department of Parks and Recreation;
- American Heritage Commission;

- State Lands Commission;
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7;
- National Marine Fisheries Service;
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Region 4;
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD);
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE); and
- Others as determined.

1.6 PERMITS AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Table 1.6-1 identifies the names of agencies responsible to review and approve the project and the permits required:

Table 1.6-1 Permit Requirements

Agency	Permit/Requirement	Issues of Concern
Los Angeles County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geotechnical/Grading/Hauling Permits ▪ Dept. of Beaches and Harbors; Right-of-Entry Permit ▪ Right-of-Way (ROW)/Easements for construction and future maintenance and operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impacts from dewatering, tunneling ▪ Staging areas and additional easement
RWQCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Permit ▪ 401C Section Certification 	Water Quality and placement of discharges associated with dewatering activities. No permit required for discharges to sewer. General Permit saves time with RWQCB.
USACOE	Section 10 or Section 404 Permit required if excavated material discharged to waters and construction permit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location, placement and depth of pipeline ▪ Obstruction of navigation or other channel activities ▪ Channel safety ▪ Impacts to wildlife ▪ Dredging/filling activities
CDFG	1600 et seq. (Streambed Alteration)	Impacts to fish habitat
CCC	Coastal Development Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obstruction of recreation and beachfront facilities ▪ Impacts to animal species and habitat ▪ Impacts to parking and traffic
California State Lands Commission	Possible lease requirement	Verification of jurisdiction
National Marine Fisheries Service	Consultation notification	Impacts to aquatic and marine life
California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources	A construction notification form should be submitted to the Division prior to any activity.	Project is inside administrative bounds of the Playa Del Rey Oil Field containing numerous plugged and abandoned oil wells
State of California Department of Health Services	Project Review for compliance with Title 22, Section 64630 (Conducted through County Environmental Services Division)	Separation of water and sewer mains
USFWS	Notification	Impacts to habitat (i.e., least tern)

Source: URS Corporation

1.7 RELATED PROJECTS

Sections 15126 and 15130 of the CEQA Guidelines provide that EIRs consider the significant environmental effects of a proposed project, as well as “cumulative impacts.” Cumulative impacts refers to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Cumulative impacts may be analyzed by considering a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts [CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)].

Table 1.7-1 provides a list of related projects in the City and County of Los Angeles within an approximate 2-mile radius of the project site. The list includes 15 projects of various land uses, including residential, retail, general commercial, and mixed uses.

Table 1.7-1 Related Projects

Project No.	Jurisdiction	Location	Type of Project	Current Status
1	County of Los Angeles	Bora Bora Way	120 D.U.s; Net decrease of 271 slips; Demolish 4 KSF offices	10/18/2000 (approval date)
2	County of Los Angeles	Tahiti Way	Remodel existing apartments (no increase in D.U.s)	10/18/2000 (approval date)
3	County of Los Angeles	Marquesas Way	Net increase of 282 D.U.s; 354 senior apartments; Net decrease of 3.6 KSF retail; Net decr. of 237 slips	12/6/2000 (approval date)
4	County of Los Angeles	Panay Way	68 D.U.s; 60 Congregate Care units	6/13/1996 (approval date)
5	County of Los Angeles	Panay Way	Net increase of 250 D.U.s; 47 senior apartments; Net decrease of 41 slips; Demolish 4.4 KSF restaurant	12/6/2000 (approval date)
6	County of Los Angeles	Panay Way	99 D.U.s; Net increase of 4.94 KSF Yatch Club; 2.3 KSF Office; Transfer of 97 D.U.s from DZ1 to DZ4	10/2/2000 (approval date)
7	County of Los Angeles	Palawan Way/ Beach Ave	450 s.f. net retail increase	6/25/2003 (approval date)
8	County of Los Angeles	Palawan Way/ Beach Ave	Net increase of 115 D.U.s	12/10/2003 (approval date)
9	County of Los Angeles	Admiralty Way	Library expansion – 2,454 S.F.	3/5/1997 (approval date)
10	County of Los Angeles	Mindanao Way	4.7 KSF retail increase	To Be Announced (TBA)
11	County of Los Angeles	Via Marina	11.4 KSF net retail increase, 288 restaurant seats, 1.3 KSF reduction in office	6/16/2004 (approval date)
12	County of Los Angeles	Marina Del Rey Tide Gates	Tide Gate Rehabilitation	11/2005 – Design Completed
13	County of Los Angeles	Hotel at Via Marina	TBA	TBA
14	City of Los Angeles	Grand Canal	Gates at Washington Street	11/2005
15	City of Los Angeles	Grand Canal	Between Driftwood Street and Hurricane Street Temporary VPP bypass pipeline for sluice gate replacement in VPP	11/10/2005 MND

Sources: City of Los Angeles Planning Department; County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, Bureau of Engineering and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

1.8 AREAS OF PUBLIC CONCERN OR KNOWN CONTROVERSY

The preparation of this EIR has included, to date, one public meeting. A community scoping meeting was held on May 31, 2005, at the Westchester Community Center. The scoping meeting participants were introduced to the EIR process and the proposed Project and were invited to provide information and/or comments regarding potential impacts to the environment resulting from construction of the proposed Project.

The primary issues and areas of concern identified by the public for the project, which are addressed in this EIR, are:

- Noise impacts created during project construction;
- Limited on-street parking availability during construction;
- Aesthetic and visual impacts during construction;
- Air quality impacts during construction;
- Possible impacts to the Least Tern and other wildlife during and after construction;
- Potential impacts to recreational facilities and public events on the beachfront;
- Staging and operation of construction equipment on existing bike paths, walking trails and bridges;
- Impacts to water quality in both the Marina Del Rey Channel and Ballona Creek Channel;
- Impacts to traffic circulation and emergency access during construction;
- Impacts to residential access to and from housing during construction; and
- Impacts to structural foundations resulting from construction-related activities.

1.9 EIR PARTICIPANTS AND PUBLIC REVIEW

The analysis in this EIR has been prepared in conformance with the local and state CEQA Guidelines, as amended. URS Corporation provided environmental consultation for the EIR. As required by CEQA, this EIR is being provided to public agencies and private organizations for review and comment.

The City of Los Angeles circulated a NOP for this EIR to responsible agencies on May 2, 2005, to solicit comments on issues relevant to their agency or jurisdiction, and for consideration for this project. A list of the agencies that received the NOP and copies of all comments on the NOP are included in Appendix A and B to this EIR.

This EIR may be reviewed by interested parties not included in the City's distribution list. The document will be available for a 45-day public review period at the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Section. The document will also be available at the City of Los Angeles Central Library, Venice Branch Library, Westchester Library, and Playa Vista Public Library. Agencies and interested persons not involved in the preparation of the EIR will have the opportunity to provide comments during the 45-day public review period and at the public hearings held prior to draft consideration of the project's adoption and the EIR's certification.