

Chapter 5

Other Environmental Considerations

This chapter evaluates other environmental considerations, including effects not found to be significant, based on analysis contained in the Initial Study (see Appendix A of this environmental impact report [EIR]), and therefore were subsequently omitted from analysis in the Draft EIR. It also addresses significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the Proposed Project should it be implemented, including the use and consumption of nonrenewable resources or long-term commitments of these resources. The Proposed Project's potential for growth inducement is also addressed in this section.

5.1 Effects Found Not to Be Significant

Section 15128 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines states:

An EIR shall contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of the project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR. Such a statement may be contained in an attached copy of an Initial Study.

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the City of Los Angeles (City) prepared an Initial Study, dated November 12, 2015, that identified the topics to be analyzed in the EIR. The Initial Study is contained in Appendix A of this Draft EIR.

Because the analysis contained in the Initial Study determined that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant or no impacts related to the following environmental resource areas, they were eliminated from further analysis:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation

In addition, the analysis contained in the Initial Study also determined that some thresholds of significance for environmental resources addressed in this Draft EIR could be eliminated. These include the following:

- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning

- Noise
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

As noted in the Initial Study, the thresholds of significance eliminated for further analysis for each of these environmental resources are noted by the statement “This issue is not proposed for further analysis in the EIR.” The supporting analysis, findings, and conclusions in support of this determination are provided for each of these.

After analysis of the remaining thresholds in the Draft EIR, impacts related to the following issues were determined to be less than significant or less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology and Water Quality (except operation related to tsunami and sea level rise)
- Land Use and Planning (except for secondary impacts on surrounding land uses related to construction noise and vibration)
- Noise and Vibration (operation only)
- Transportation/Traffic
- Energy

5.2 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes that Would Be Caused by the Proposed Project Should It Be Implemented

Section 15126.2(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates that uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as a highway improvement that provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to ensure that such current consumption is justified.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would commit nonrenewable (e.g., petroleum) or slowly renewable (e.g., timber) resources during project construction and operation. In order to construct the Proposed Project, machinery, equipment, materials (e.g., lumber, sand, gravel) and workers would be required, representing an irreversibly commitment of some of these resources. Similarly,

during operation, some of these resources (e.g., energy, electricity) would again be needed, representing a long-term commitment and permanent investment. The consumption and use of some of these resources would limit their availability for future generations. In addition, construction of the Proposed Project would also irreversibly change existing views to and from the Grand Canal and Ballona Lagoon for both visitors and residents. However, assuming that these commitments would occur in accordance with the adopted goals, policies, and implementation measures of the City of Los Angeles General Plan, Venice Local Coastal Program, Venice Community Plan, and Venice Local Coastal Specific Plan, as a matter of public policy, such commitments would be acceptable. The Proposed Project would also provide important redundancy and safety and ensure that the existing and future wastewater management needs of the Venice Pumping Plant (VPP) and surrounding service area are met. Therefore, the significant irreversible changes have been deemed acceptable in light of the Proposed Project's overall benefits.

5.3 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Section 15126.2(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates the following relative to growth-inducement:

Discuss the way in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of a wastewater treatment plant might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. Also discuss the characteristic of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

A proposed project can result in both direct and indirect growth-inducing impacts. Typically, the development of new housing would result in direct growth-inducement, while the development of new employment opportunities (both short- and long-term) would result in indirect growth-inducement. The removal of an obstacle to growth, such as construction of a necessary public service of infrastructure can also result in indirect growth-inducement. If not considered in local land use or growth management plans, such projects can result in potentially significant and adverse impacts.

As stated in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, the overall objective of the Proposed Project is to reduce the risk of sewage spills by providing redundancy and reliability for the existing VPP wastewater collection system. The Proposed Project would also allow the system to handle future risks related to climate change, including increased storm intensities, which have the potential to result in flows that would be beyond the capacity of the existing VPP. In addition, the Proposed Project is not intended to facilitate growth but instead address existing deficiencies in the system that have been identified and planned for through the City of Los Angeles' normal infrastructure assessment practices.

5.3.1 Direct Population-Generating Uses

The Proposed Project does not include the development of new housing or other population-generating uses that would directly induce population growth or attract a substantial number of workers, nor would it tax existing community service facilities, thereby requiring the construction of

new facilities, which could cause significant environmental effects. Population-generating uses are not proposed. Furthermore, the Proposed Project is considered infill and is located in a highly urbanized area that experienced significant development over the past century, and the service area is primarily built out. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not directly induce new residential development or result in population growth in the service area. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

5.3.2 Growth Accommodation

The population of the area served by the VPP and the Proposed Project has been growing and is projected to keep growing regardless of whether the Proposed Project is implemented. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would meet the current and future need for redundancy, pumping capacity, and reliability to prevent sewage spills and address future risks related to climate change. It would not, however, increase wastewater treatment plant capacity but instead increase wastewater transmission and distribution capacity during storm events and other peak-flow situations. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not growth inducing but, rather, growth accommodating. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.

5.3.3 Expansion of Public Services or Utilities

Because the Proposed Project involves creating redundancy and reliability for the collection system, as well as additional capacity to accommodate future risks related to climate change, it inherently involves the expansion of a public facility. However, the improvements would be growth accommodating rather than growth inducing, as described above. The Proposed Project would be designed to ensure that extreme wet-weather events (e.g., El Niño) are accommodated by the VPP and keep pace with flow increases, as predicted by anticipated population increases in the service area. Therefore, it would not create excess wastewater capacity that could stimulate population growth. Although the Proposed Project would involve expansion of a public facility, it would not induce population growth but, rather, accommodate growth that would occur independent of implementation and meet the existing need for redundancy, reliability, and additional capacity. Impacts would be **less than significant**, and no mitigation is required.