



## RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

# San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
CASE NO. 2008.0091E

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2008052133



SAN FRANCISCO  
**PLANNING**  
DEPARTMENT

Draft EIR Publication Date:	March 18, 2015
Draft EIR Public Hearing Date:	April 23, 2015
Draft EIR Public Comment Period:	March 18, 2015 to May 4, 2015
Final EIR Certification Hearing Date:	September 3, 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DIVISION | SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**MEMO**

DATE: August 20, 2015  
TO: Members of the Planning Commission and Interested Parties  
FROM: Sarah Jones, Environmental Review Officer  
RE: **Attached Responses to Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report Case No. 2008.0091E for the San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project**

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Attached for your review please find a copy of the Responses to Comments document for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the above-referenced project. **This document, along with the Draft EIR, will be before the Planning Commission for Final EIR certification on September 3, 2015.** The Planning Commission will receive public testimony on the Final EIR certification at the September 3, 2015, hearing. Please note that the public review period for the Draft EIR ended on May 4, 2015; any comments received after that date, including any comments provided orally or in writing at the Final EIR certification hearing, will not be responded to in writing.

The Planning Commission does not conduct a hearing to receive comments on the Responses to Comments document, and no such hearing is required by the California Environmental Quality Act. Interested parties, however, may always write to Commission members or to the President of the Commission at 1650 Mission Street and express an opinion on the Responses to Comments document, or the Commission's decision to certify the completion of the Final EIR for this project.

Please note that if you receive the Responses to Comments document in addition to the Draft EIR, you technically have the Final EIR. If you have any questions concerning the Responses to Comments document or the environmental review process, please contact Timothy Johnston at 415-575-9035 or [timothy.johnston@sfgov.org](mailto:timothy.johnston@sfgov.org).

Thank you for your interest in this project and your consideration of this matter.

# SAN FRANCISCO WESTSIDE RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

Responses to Comments

Planning Department Case No. 2008.0091E  
State Clearinghouse No. 2008052133

August 2015

City and County of San Francisco  
San Francisco Planning Department

*Important Dates:*

DEIR Publication Date: March 18, 2015  
DEIR Public Comment Period: March 18, 2015 to  
May 4, 2015  
DEIR Public Hearing Date: April 23, 2015  
FEIR Certification Meeting Date: September 3, 2015

*Written comments should be sent to:*

Sarah Jones, Environmental Review Officer  
San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project  
San Francisco Planning Department  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

This report is printed on recycled paper.

# CHAPTER 9

## Responses to Comments

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## 9.1 Introduction

### 9.1.1 Purpose of the Responses to Comments Document

This Responses to Comments document completes the final environmental impact report (Final EIR) analyzing potential environmental effects associated with the proposed San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project. The proposed project would design and construct the treatment and distribution system facilities required to produce and deliver an annual average of approximately 1.6 million gallons per day (mgd) of recycled water for irrigation and other nonpotable uses in the western area of the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). Project facilities would be constructed or replaced/modified at several locations throughout western San Francisco, including the SFPUC's Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) and a portion of the adjacent area leased by the CCSF to the California Army National Guard (CA ARNG) near Lake Merced; the Central Reservoir and the Parhandle portion of Golden Gate Park; and roadways connecting the recycled water treatment plant to Golden Gate Park, the Presidio, and Lincoln Park. The SFPUC would manage all proposed facilities, including those located within SFRPD-managed areas.

The San Francisco Planning Department, as lead agency responsible for administering the environmental review of CCSF projects under the California Environmental Quality Act<sup>1</sup> (CEQA), published a draft environmental impact report (Draft EIR)<sup>2</sup> on the proposed project on March 18, 2015. The Draft EIR review met the CEQA 45-day minimum public review requirement. This Responses to Comments document provides written responses to comments received during the public review period.

The Draft EIR together with this Responses to Comments document constitutes the Final EIR for the proposed project in fulfillment of CEQA requirements and consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15132. This Responses to Comments document contains the following: (1) a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR; (2) copies of comments received on the Draft EIR; (3) the San Francisco Planning Department's responses to those comments; and (4) revisions to the Draft EIR to clarify or correct information in the Draft EIR. See Section 9.1.3, below, for a description of the overall contents and organization of the Draft EIR and Responses to Comments document.

The Final EIR has been prepared in compliance with CEQA, including the CEQA Guidelines<sup>3</sup> and the San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 31. It is an informational document for use by: (1) governmental agencies (in addition to the CCSF) and the public to aid in the planning and decision-making process by disclosing the physical environmental effects of the project and identifying possible ways of reducing or avoiding the potentially significant impacts; and (2) the CCSF and SFPUC Commission prior to their decision to approve, disapprove, or modify the

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<sup>1</sup> California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> State Clearinghouse No. 2008052133 and San Francisco Planning Department (SFPD) Case No. 2008.0091E.

<sup>3</sup> Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

proposed project. If the SFPUC approves the proposed project, it would be required to adopt CEQA findings and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) to ensure that mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR are implemented. See Section 9.1.2, below, for a further description of the environmental review process.

In accordance with CEQA, the responses to comments focus on clarifying the project description and addressing physical environmental issues associated with the proposed project. These issues include physical impacts or changes attributable to the project rather than any social or financial implications of the project. Therefore, this document provides limited responses to comments received during the public review period that were not relevant to the proposed project or its physical environmental effects.

## **9.1.2 Environmental Review Process**

### **Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping**

As described in the Draft EIR, the San Francisco Planning Department (SFPD) sent a first and then a revised Notice of Preparation (NOP) to governmental agencies, organizations, and interested entities and individuals to begin the formal CEQA scoping process for the project on June 5, 2008 and September 8, 2010, respectively (See Appendix A in the Draft EIR). These prior NOPs resulted in scoping meetings held on June 16 and 17, 2008 and September 23, 2010 after which the SFPUC decided to further revise the project. Consequently, a third NOP was published on July 16, 2014 to identify those changes and to describe the proposed facilities and potential environmental effects of the revised project (See Appendix A in the Draft EIR). The third scoping period began on July 16, 2014 and ended on August 15, 2014. In preparing the Draft EIR on the proposed project, the SFPD considered the relevant public and agency comments submitted during the 2008, 2010, and 2014 scoping periods.

### **Draft EIR Public Review**

The Draft EIR for the proposed project was published on March 18, 2015 and circulated to local, State, and federal agencies and to interested organizations and individuals for a 45-day public review period. Paper copies of the Draft EIR were made available for public review at the following locations: (1) San Francisco Planning Department, 1660 Mission Street, 1st Floor, Planning Information Counter, San Francisco, California; and (2) San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, and other area libraries.<sup>4</sup> On March 18, 2015, the Planning Department also distributed notices of availability of the Draft EIR; published notification of its availability in a newspaper of general circulation in San Francisco; and posted notices at locations within the project area. The distribution list for the Draft EIR and all documents referenced in the EIR were also available for review at the San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400.

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<sup>4</sup> Electronic copies of the Draft EIR could be accessed through the internet at the following address: [http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2008.0091E\\_DEIR.pdf](http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2008.0091E_DEIR.pdf).

During the 45-day public review period, the SFPD conducted a public hearing to receive oral comments on the Draft EIR. The public hearing was held before the San Francisco Planning Commission on April 23, 2015 at San Francisco City Hall. A court reporter present at the public hearing transcribed the oral comments verbatim and prepared written transcripts.

During the Draft EIR public review period, the Planning Department received comments from four public agencies and three individuals (or groups of individuals). Attachment A of this Responses to Comments document includes copies of the comment letters submitted during the Draft EIR public review period. Attachment B includes copies of the public hearing transcripts. See Section 9.2 for a complete list of persons commenting on the Draft EIR.

## Responses to Comments Document and Final EIR

The SFPD distributed this Responses to Comments document for review to the San Francisco Planning Commission as well as to the agencies, organizations, and individuals that commented on the Draft EIR. The Planning Commission will consider the adequacy of the Final EIR – consisting of the Draft EIR and the Responses to Comments document – in complying with the requirements of CEQA. If the Planning Commission finds that the Final EIR complies with CEQA requirements, it will certify the Final EIR. It will then consider the Final EIR and the MMRP before deciding whether to approve the proposed project. Planning Commission approval actions include making a determination of consistency with the General Plan and issuing a Coastal Development Permit. At the time of project approval, each decision-making body of the City will adopt CEQA Findings, including the adoption of mitigation measures and a statement of overriding considerations in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15091 and 15093. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15097, the MMRP is a program designed to ensure that the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR and adopted by decision-makers to mitigate or avoid the project’s significant environmental effects are implemented.

Following Planning Commission certification of the Final EIR and its project approval actions, the SFPUC also will review and consider the certified Final EIR and the associated MMRP before making a decision and taking an approval action on the proposed project. Other decision-making bodies of the City for the project are included in the Draft EIR at page 3-38.

### 9.1.3 Document Organization

This Responses to Comments document is organized to complement the Draft EIR and follows its sequential numbering of chapters. The Draft EIR consists of Chapters 1 through 8 as follows:

- **Chapter 1, Executive Summary.** This chapter summarizes the proposed project, identifies potentially significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures, and describes the alternatives considered in this EIR. It also identifies areas of controversy and issues to be resolved.
- **Chapter 2, Introduction and Background.** This chapter provides project background information and describes the purpose and organization of the EIR, as well as the environmental review process.



- **Chapter 3, Project Description.** This chapter describes the proposed project (including project objectives), summarizes project components, and provides information about project construction. The chapter also lists required permits and approvals.
- **Chapter 4, Plans and Policies.** This chapter describes applicable land use plans and policies and their relevance to the project and then discusses the project's consistency with those plans.
- **Chapter 5, Environmental Setting and Impacts.** This chapter is subdivided into sections for each environmental resource topic. Each section describes the environmental and regulatory setting, the criteria used to determine impact significance, and the approach to the analysis for that resource topic. It then analyzes potential environmental impacts and the project-specific mitigation measures that have been developed to address significant and potentially significant impacts. Each section also includes an evaluation of cumulative impacts with respect to that resource topic.
- **Chapter 6, Other CEQA Issues.** This chapter discusses growth-inducing effects, summarizes the cumulative impacts, identifies the significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the proposed project is implemented, and describes the significant irreversible impacts, as well as known areas of controversy.
- **Chapter 7, Alternatives.** This chapter describes the alternatives to the proposed project and compares their impacts to those of the proposed project. This chapter also summarizes the alternatives that were considered but eliminated from further analysis.
- **Chapter 8, EIR Authors and Consultants.** This chapter lists the authors of this EIR.

This Responses to Comments document consists of EIR Chapter 9 plus supplemental attachments, as follows:

- **Chapter 9, Responses to Comments**
    - 9.1 Introduction
    - 9.2 Project Description Revisions
    - 9.3 List of Persons Commenting
    - 9.4 Comments and Responses
    - 9.5 DEIR Revisions
- Attachment A – DEIR Comment Letters  
Attachment B – DEIR Hearing Transcript

## 9.2 Project Description Revisions

### 9.2.1 Introduction to the Project Description Revisions

Since publication of the Draft EIR, the SFPUC has proposed the addition of chemical vents above the adjacent Oceanside WPCP and changes to construction staging areas. These changes are described in Section 9.2.2, below, and updates to the project description are included as part of the revisions provided in Section 9.5, DEIR Revisions. Section 9.2.3 of this Responses to Comments document evaluates the environmental effects of implementing the project with the revisions to the recycled water treatment facility and staging areas. The evaluation considers whether incorporating the project description revisions would alter the impact analysis or conclusions presented in the Draft EIR; it also describes how the project updates are accounted for in the Draft EIR and indicates any appropriate adjustments to the Draft EIR analysis.

In general, and as detailed below, the project description revisions would not substantially change the construction and operations impacts identified in the Draft EIR. The project description revisions would result in small increases in the type of or duration of construction activities required; however, these revisions would not affect the impact conclusions presented in the Draft EIR, and mitigation measures identified in the EIR would adequately address the environmental effects resulting from the revisions. Finally, the project description revisions would not require any changes to the No Project Alternative or the range of alternatives already addressed in the Draft EIR.

In summary, the environmental analysis of the project description revisions presented below indicates that no significant new information has been added to the EIR. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5, the supplemental environmental analysis of the project description revisions presented below concludes that: no significant impact would result from the project description revisions; there is no substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact with the implementation of mitigation measures; and there are no additional alternatives or mitigation measures considerably different than those analyzed in the Draft EIR.

### 9.2.2 Description of the Project Description Revisions

The Draft EIR analyzed effects related to the recycled water treatment facility at the Oceanside WPCP and construction staging areas, based on project design information available as of March 2015.

Since publication of the Draft EIR, the SFPUC has proposed the addition of chemical vents above the Oceanside WPCP Building 510 to support the recycled water treatment facility, a construction staging area on Herbst Road, and a construction staging area at the San Francisco Zoo (Zoo) overflow parking area or an adjacent area immediately to the south. Accordingly, the EIR has been revised<sup>5</sup> to reflect the following changes and additions:

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<sup>5</sup> For each change, new language is double underlined, while deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

The facilities at the recycled water treatment plant located at the Oceanside WPCP, described in EIR Section 3.4.1, Facility Descriptions on page 3-11, second paragraph through page 3-14, first paragraph have been revised as follows:

### ***Recycled Water Treatment Plant and Storage Facilities***

A recycled water treatment plant would be constructed within the existing Oceanside WPCP complex and partially within the California Army National Guard property that is currently used as a landscaped berm and parking lot (see **Figures 3-4** and **3-5**). The treatment plant would have an annual average production capacity of up to 2 mgd, but would be sized to meet peak-day demands (during summer months) of up to 5 mgd. The proposed two-story treatment building would be approximately 40 to 45 feet high and approximately 30,000 square feet in total area, and would be constructed of reinforced concrete and glass with a green roof. The treatment plant would house water treatment equipment, electrical controls, pumping equipment, and other appurtenant equipment required for the proposed treatment process summarized below. The treatment building would also contain an electrical substation, operations room, and motor control center. The building design would be similar to that of existing buildings at the Oceanside WPCP site. The proposed treatment plant would be located in the northeast corner of the parking lot at the Oceanside WPCP, with a treatment reservoir constructed below the new facility.<sup>12</sup>

Above Building 510, the project would include construction of vents at the ground surface of the adjacent berm, which would be connected to the recycled water treatment plant underground. The vents would be constructed in an area close to the parapet wall, with a possible separation of a few feet from the wall. During construction, the area would be accessed by raising equipment from inside the Oceanside WPCP and lowering the equipment to the work area.

The staging areas described in EIR Section 3.4.2, Site Preparation and Construction on page 3-23, last paragraph have been revised as follows:

In addition to work area within the Oceanside WPCP, staging areas would also be required to accommodate contractors' construction-related equipment and materials storage (e.g., construction vehicles, building materials, pipes, fuels, lubricants, and maintenance work areas). Given the operational needs of the existing facilities and the space constraints at the Oceanside WPCP, onsite and offsite staging areas would be required. As shown in Figure 3-2, one staging area would be located onsite near the Westgate Berm in the northwestern portion of the project. ~~Two~~Three offsite staging areas are proposed at within the San Francisco Zoo overflow parking area or an adjacent area to the south, on Herbst Road at the intersection with Skyline Boulevard, and off the intersection of Zoo Road and Armory Road. The Zoo staging area would be returned to use by the Zoo following construction. In addition, construction worker parking would

<sup>12</sup> SFPUC, *San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project (Project No. CUW 30201), Draft Conceptual Engineering Report*, October 2013.

be provided at an existing parking lot located 0.5 miles southeast of the Oceanside WPCP site off of Harding Park Road.

### 9.2.3 Environmental Effects of the Project Description Revisions

The revisions to the project make no change in the scope and scale of impacts to land use and land use planning, aesthetics, population and housing, greenhouse gas emissions, wind and shadow, recreation, utilities and service systems, public services, geology and soils, hydrology/water quality, hazards and hazardous materials, mineral and energy resources, and agriculture and forest resources. Therefore no change to the impact analysis or mitigation measures is needed for these resource topics.

The revisions to the project could result in a slight increase or change in the magnitude of the impacts for topics discussed below.

- **Cultural and Paleontological Resources.** The project CEQA area of potential effects (C-APE) is slightly increased to include the additional project areas. As with the original project CEQA area of potential effects (C-APE), the revised C-APE for the revised project area is located in older non-stratified dune sand, and the near-surface portions have been disturbed by historic- and modern-period development. Therefore, it is not expected that undiscovered prehistoric archeological sites would be encountered during construction of the project in the revised C-APE. It also is not expected that previously-undiscovered historic-period archeological sites would be uncovered during the project due to the disturbed nature of the near-surface portions of the revised C-APE. As under the project as analyzed in the Draft EIR, in the event that cultural resources and/or human remains are accidentally discovered during construction, Mitigation Measures M-CP-2 and M-CP-4 would reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level.
- **Transportation and Circulation.** Adding a new staging area on Herbst Road, and a vent adjacent to the Oceanside WPCP, would not substantially alter estimated construction-related truck trips. The new staging area on Herbst Road would include a lane for use by the Muni bus line (18 46th Avenue) operating in that area, and the project change would not affect the impact analysis related to impaired access to alternative transportation facilities (Impact TR-5).
- **Noise.** Relocation of the Zoo staging area to the south, addition of a new staging area on Herbst Road, and addition of a vent adjacent to the Oceanside WPCP would not substantially alter the project's construction-related noise impacts. There are no sensitive receptors located in the vicinity of the two staging areas or vent. With required conformance to the City's Noise ordinance Ordinance noise level and time limits, project construction, including the addition of the two staging areas and vent, would remain less than significant and no mitigation would be required.
- **Air Quality.** Since the total number of equipment as well as overall construction duration would remain unchanged, addition of a new staging area on Herbst Road (no additional construction required), and addition of a vent adjacent to the Oceanside WPCP would not substantially alter estimated construction-related equipment emissions. Likewise, health risks associated with construction-related diesel particulate matter emissions would also not substantially change.

- **Biological Resources.** Locating a new temporary staging area at Herbst Road would result in a similar potential impact to the western pond turtle as construction of the pipeline along Route 35/Skyline Boulevard due to the close proximity of project activities to Lake Merced, less than ¼ mile. However, with revisions to Mitigation Measure B-BI-1c (See Section 9.5.1, Summary) to include this staging area, the potential impacts to the western pond turtle would be less-than-significant. Areas around the WPCP were surveyed on June 2, 2015, to evaluate additional project component sites including the vent locations and staging areas. No special status plant species were observed within the project area, although the San Francisco spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata* var. *cuspidata*), a rare plant, was observed between the proposed Zoo staging area and WPCP. However, project activities would not be in close proximity to this population and therefore, the project would not affect the San Francisco spineflower.

As stated previously, the revisions to facilities analyzed in the Draft EIR would result in a slight increase in the magnitude of some impacts, but in no case would these updates result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those previously disclosed in the IS or Draft EIR; change the impact conclusions presented; or require new mitigation measures. Thus, inclusion of the project description revisions into the EIR as part of Section 9.5, DEIR Revisions, does not require recirculation of the EIR.

## 9.3 List of Persons Commenting

This Responses to Comments document is organized to respond to all comments received on the Draft EIR, including written comments submitted by letter, fax, or email as well as oral comments presented at the public hearing. This section lists all individuals and organizations that submitted comments on the Draft EIR. Commenters are grouped according to whether they commented as individuals or represented a public agency or non-governmental organization. The complete set of written and oral comments received on the Draft EIR is provided in Attachment A, DEIR Comment Letters, and Attachment B, DEIR Hearing Transcripts.

### 9.3.1 Federal, State, Regional, and Local Agencies, Boards, and Commissions

- California Department of Transportation; Letter, May 1, 2015
- State Water Resources Control Board; Letter, April 16, 2015
- Commissioner Christine D. Johnson; Public Hearing, April 23, 2015
- Commissioner Michael J. Antonini; Public Hearing, April 23, 2015

### 9.3.2 Individuals

- Giampaolo Curreri; Email, March 19, 2015
- Richard Fong; Public Hearing, April 23, 2015
- Katherine Howard; Public Hearing, April 23, 2015

## 9.4 Comments and Responses

This section presents summaries of the substantive comments received on the Draft EIR and responses to those comments. The comments and responses are organized by subject and are generally in the same order as presented in the Draft EIR, with general comments on the EIR or proposed project elements grouped together at the beginning of the section. Comments on Chapter 1, Summary, or specific mitigation measures are included under the relevant topical section of the Draft EIR. The order of the comments and responses in this section is shown below, along with the prefix to the topic codes (indicated in square brackets):

9.4.1 General Comments [GC]	9.4.6 Air Quality [AQ]
9.4.2 Project Description [PD]	9.4.7 Biological Resources [BR]
9.4.3 Population and Housing [PH]	9.4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality [HY]
9.4.4 Cultural Resources [CR]	9.4.9 Alternatives [AL]
9.4.5 Noise [NO]	

Within each subsection under each topic area, similar comments are grouped together and identified using the topic code prefix and sequential numbering for each subtopic. For example, General Comments [GC] are listed as GC-1, GC-2, GC-3, and so on. Each topic code has a corresponding heading that introduces the comment subject; these subsections present quotes of comments and include the commenter's name. However, the reader is referred to Attachments A and B for the full text and context of each comment.

Following each comment or group of comments, a comprehensive response is provided to address issues raised in the comment and to clarify or augment information in the Draft EIR as appropriate. Response numbers correspond to the topic code; for example, the response to comment GC-1 is presented under Response GC-1. The responses may clarify the Draft EIR text or revise or add text to the EIR. Revisions to the Draft EIR are shown as indented text. New or revised text is double underlined; deleted material is shown in ~~striketrough~~.

### 9.4.1 General Comments

#### **Comment GC-1: Comment regarding Clean Water State Revolving Fund requirements.**

"We understand that the City may be pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project. As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information and comments for the environmental document prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health,

safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state. The CWSRF Program provides low-interest funding equal to one-half of the most recent State General Obligation Bond Rates with a 30-year term. Applications are accepted and processed continuously. Please refer to the State Water Board's CWSRF website at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/water issues/programs/grants loans/srf/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water issues/programs/grants loans/srf/index.shtml).

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and requires additional 'CEQA-Plus' environmental documentation and review. Three enclosures are included that further explain the CWSRF Program environmental review process and the additional federal requirements. For the complete environmental application package, please visit: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water issues/programs/grants loans/srf/srf forms.shtml>. The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli, at (916) 341-5855.

It is important to note that prior to a CWSRF financing commitment, projects are subject to provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and must obtain Section 7 clearance from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special status species.

Please be advised that the State Water Board will consult with the USFWS, and/or the NMFS regarding all federal special-status species that the Project has the potential to impact if the Project is to be financed by the CWSRF Program. The City will need to identify whether the Project will involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement, that may affect federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that are known, or have a potential to occur in the Project site, in the surrounding areas, or in the service area, and to identify applicable conservation measures to reduce such effects.

In addition, CWSRF projects must comply with federal laws pertaining to cultural resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). The State Water Board has responsibility for ensuring compliance with Section 106 and the State Water Board must consult directly with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). SHPO consultation is initiated when sufficient information is provided by the CWSRF applicant. The City must retain a consultant that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (<http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch stnds 9.htm>) to prepare a Section 106 compliance report.

Note that the City will need to identify the Area of Potential Effects (APE), including construction and staging areas, and the depth of any excavation. The APE is three-dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the Project. The APE includes the surface area and extends below ground to the depth of any Project excavations. The records search request should extend to a ½-mile beyond Project APE. The appropriate area varies for different projects but should be drawn large enough to provide information on what types of sites may exist in the vicinity.

Other federal environmental requirements pertinent to the Project under the CWSRF Program include the following (for a complete list of all environmental requirements, please visit: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterissues/programs/grantsloans/srf/docs/forms/application\\_environmental\\_package.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterissues/programs/grantsloans/srf/docs/forms/application_environmental_package.pdf)):

- A. Compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act: (a) Provide air quality studies that may have been done for the Project; and (b) if the Project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to a maintenance plan; (i) provide a summary of the estimated emissions (in tons per year) that are expected from both the construction and operation of the Project for each federal criteria pollutant in a nonattainment or maintenance area, and indicate if the nonattainment designation is moderate, serious, or severe (if applicable); (ii) if emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the Project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality, quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.
- B. Compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act: Identify whether the Project is within a coastal zone and the status of any coordination with the California Coastal Commission.
- C. Protection of Wetlands: Identify any portion of the proposed Project area that should be evaluated for wetlands or United States waters delineation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USAGE), or requires a permit from the USAGE, and identify the status of coordination with the USAGE.
- D. Compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act: Identify whether the Project will result in the conversion of farmland. State the status of farmland (Prime, Unique, or Local Statewide Importance) in the Project area and determine if this area is under a Williamson Act Contract.
- E. Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: List any birds protected under this act that may be impacted by the Project and identify conservation measures to minimize impacts.
- F. Compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act: Identify whether or not the Project is in a Flood Management Zone and include a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone maps for the area.
- G. Compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Identify whether or not any Wild and Scenic Rivers would be potentially impacted by the Project and include conservation measures to minimize such impacts." (*State Water Resources Control Board, letter, April 16, 2015*)

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"4. If the City is seeking CWSRF funding, please consider the following for the Cultural Resources section in regards to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act:

- i. Please update the APE to include specific dimensions, including the depth at which excavation will occur for each portion of the Project.
- ii. Please include documentation of initial and follow-up consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and the contacts that they provided.



- iii. Please provide a map which displays the known historical resources in the area relative to the Project APE.

Please provide us with the following documents applicable to the proposed Project if seeking CWSRF or other State Water Board funding : (1) one copy of the draft and final EIR, (2) the resolution certifying the EIR and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) making California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings, (3) all comments received during the review period and the City's response to those comments, (4) the adopted MMRP, and (5) the Notice of Determination filed with the San Francisco County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board." (*State Water Resources Control Board, letter, April 16, 2015*)

### ***Response GC-1***

The Draft EIR recognizes that approvals by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), including those concerning environmental review requirements, would be required should the SFPUC apply for the CWSRF loan (Section 3.5.1, Approvals Required, page 3-37). The SFPUC would be subject to the environmental review requirements indicated in this comment.

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### **Comment GC-2: The comment expresses support for the proposed project.**

"MS. HOWARD: Good afternoon, Commissioners, Katherine Howard, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance. I would like to comment on Section 1.5, 'Areas of Known Controversy,' which states, 'The SFPUC then proposed to construct a recycled water treatment plant at the site of the former Richmond Sunset plant within Golden Gate Park. This proposed plant would have placed a 40,000 square foot, 30-foot-high concrete bunker with a chemical building in the western end of Golden Gate Park next to Ocean Beach, an area which is designated in the 1998 Golden Gate Park Master Plan as 'an area to remain wild and forested.'

The EIR further states, 'Following the NOP scoping period, the SFPUC held a series of public workshops to solicit feedback on other potential project sites.' We would like to state that this is an accurate description.

We would like to thank the PUC for holding these workshops, which over 100 people attended, and where the public explained the importance of protecting Golden Gate Park from this inappropriate development.

The PUC listened, and as is stated in the EIR, they moved the project out of Golden Gate Park. We would also like to clarify that, on the contrary, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department strongly supported placing this massive water treatment factory in Golden Gate Park, even going so far as to state that a 40,000 square foot factory was appropriate to Golden Gate Park and met the charter requirement of being a recreation use because it would provide water for the park.

Following this bizarre reasoning, one could also install oil wells or even factories to manufacture those little gardener carts. However, it is possible that the vision of an income stream from the lease of our parkland was the motivator for the Recreation and Park Department's position of non-stewardship of our major park. But I digress.

We are here today to vouch for the accuracy of the statements in the EIR and to thank the PUC for following a rigorous and open public process, for listening to the people of San Francisco and for protecting Golden Gate Park. Thank you." (*Katherine Howard, public hearing, April 23, 2015*)

### ***Response GC-2***

As the comment does not specifically address the adequacy of the environmental impact analysis or information in the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

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### **Comment GC-3: The CCSF should thoroughly discuss its responsibilities related to all mitigation measure proposed for the project.**

"Caltrans' new mission, vision, and goals signal a modernization of our approach to California's transportation system. We review this project for impacts to the State Highway System in keeping with our mission, vision, and goals for sustainability/livability/economy, and safety/health. The following comments are based on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

#### ***Lead Agency***

As the lead agency, the City and County of San Francisco (City) is responsible for all project mitigation. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities, as well as the identified lead agency contact and monitoring, should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures." (*California Department of Transportation, letter, May 1, 2015*)

### ***Response GC-3***

Following certification of the Final EIR, the SFPUC (and other City decision-makers) will review and consider the certified Final EIR and the associated MMRP before making a decision and taking an approval action on the proposed project. If the SFPUC approves the project, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15091 and 15093, it will adopt CEQA Findings, which will include the adoption of the mitigation measures set out in the MMRP. As required, the MMRP would disclose the SFPUC's responsibilities for implementing all proposed mitigation measures.

## 9.4.2 Project Description

### **Comment PD-1: Resolve the discrepancy in the EIR of the stated the number of crews needed to construct the recycled water facilities at the Central Reservoir.**

“Following are specific comments on the City’s draft EIR:

1. The ‘project workforce’ needed to complete the Central Reservoir portion of the Project is described on page 3-26 and 3-30 of the City’s EIR. Page 3-26 states that the Central Reservoir site would require approximately one crew of up to 18 workers on a given day, but page 3-30 states the Central Reservoir site would require three crews of six workers each, please address this discrepancy.” (*State Water Resources Control Board, letter, April 16, 2015*)

#### ***Response PD-1***

In response to Comment PD-1, Draft EIR Section 3.4.2, Site Preparation and Construction page 3-30, last sentence has been revised:

Construction activities at the Central Reservoir site would require approximately one crew of up to 18 six-workers each on a given day.

These revisions do not change the analysis or conclusions presented in the Draft EIR.

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### **Comment PD-2: The EIR should address the potential for future water reuse demands.**

“COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you very much. I also don't have as much comments on the technical aspects of the analysis here. I feel that it was an adequate analysis. The one thing that I might ask is in the project description, both in the synopsis and across the document, it would be great to understand the potential for this project to have to have further increases in capacity, particularly if we start looking at residential gray water.

I didn't see a lot about that, and that may have either -- I don't know what further impacts that increase in capacity may have, so it might be good to make mention of the potential for this site to be used for those purposes. Thank you.” (*Commissioner Christine D. Johnson, public hearing, April 23, 2015*)

#### ***Response PD-2***

As described in EIR Section 3.1.1, Recycled Water Demand and Related Project, the proposed project is sized to include an additional 0.4 mgd average annual demand or 1 mgd peak-day demand than is needed to serve the existing identified recycled water customers. If additional recycled water users are identified such as the Zoo, additional infrastructure (e.g., reservoirs, pumps, and pipes) may be needed to deliver the water.

Comment PD-2 questions whether additional recycled water capacity at the facility could be used for a future residential graywater program. However, graywater is distinct from recycled water as it is generated from various residential activities including showers, washing machines, and sinks and is used on-site, typically used for landscaping.<sup>6</sup> In contrast, recycled water is wastewater treated to meet stringent quality and safety standards under the oversight of the California State Water Resources Control Board.<sup>7</sup> Because the use and standards for residential graywater and recycled water are different, they would not be included in the same treatment or distribution facilities. Please find more information about graywater and recycled water at the SFPUC's website: <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=141>.

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**Comment PD-3: Indicate whether the project would affect state highways or highway rights-of-way.**

"Access routes to the planned worksites include: Interstate-280, U.S. 101, State Route (SR) I, and SR 35. Figure 3-1 indicates proposed pipeline alignment from the new recycled water treatment facility may be routed along portions of SR 35 (Skyline Boulevard, Sloat Boulevard). Please clarify the Draft Environmental Impact Report's statement that construction vehicles and project construction would not occur on state highways or highway rights-of-way (ROW) and encroachment permits would not be required (pg. 5.3-5)." (*California Department of Transportation, letter, May 1, 2015*)

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***Transportation Management Plan***

As noted in San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's *Regulations for Working in San Francisco Streets, 8th Edition*, the applicant is required to contact Caltrans regarding work in the state route system in San Francisco. Where construction-related traffic restrictions and detours affect State highways, including SR 35, a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) or construction Traffic Impact Study may be required of the City for approval by Caltrans prior to construction. Please ensure that such plans are also prepared in accordance with the TMP requirements of the corresponding jurisdictions. For further TMP assistance, please contact the Office of Traffic Management Plans/Operations Strategies at 510-286-4579. TMPs must be prepared in accordance with *California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. Further information is available for download at the following web address: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/engineering/mutcd/pdf/camutcd2014/Part6.pdf>.

***Encroachment Permit***

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that encroaches onto the State ROW requires an encroachment permit that is issued by Caltrans. Traffic-related mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plans prior to the encroachment permit process. Caltrans will not

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<sup>6</sup> SFPUC, <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=100>. Accessed May 14, 2015.

<sup>7</sup> SFPUC, "Recycled Water," <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=141>. Accessed May 14, 2015.

issue a permit until our concerns are adequately addressed, we strongly recommend that the City work with both the applicant and Caltrans to ensure that our concerns are resolved during the environmental process, and in any case prior to submittal of an encroachment permit application.” (California Department of Transportation, letter, May 1, 2015)

### **Response PD-3**

Comment PD-3 identifies an error in the EIR. The proposed project’s pipeline would be constructed within the rights-of-way of SR 35, a state highway including Skyline Boulevard and Sloat Boulevard from the Oceanside WPCP to the intersection with 37th Avenue. Therefore, as noted in the comment, the SFPUC would need to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans. Requirements noted in the comment, such as potential need for a Transportation Management Plan would be met through compliance with the terms of the encroachment permit. It is noted that the requirements related to transportation management are similar to and not more stringent than the transportation management requirements discussed in EIR Section 5.3, Transportation and Circulation.

In response to Comment PD-3 and Comment CR-1 below, a sixth bullet has been added under the list of approvals required on the State level in EIR Section 3.5.1, Approvals Required (page 3-37) (see also the response to Comment CR-1).

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) encroachment permit for constructing pipeline within the rights-of-way of SR 35 and compliance with all associated requirements of the permit, including measures to protect cultural resources and potential implementation of a Transportation Management Plan.

Also, in response to Comment PD-3, EIR Section 5.3.2, Regulatory Framework (page 5.3-5), paragraph four has been revised:

### **State Regulations**

Caltrans’ construction practices require temporary traffic control planning “during any time the normal function of a roadway is suspended.”<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, Caltrans requires that permits be obtained for transportation of oversized loads and transportation of certain materials, and for construction-related traffic disturbance. Construction within state highways or highway rights-of-way would require an encroachment permit, including compliance with requirements regarding potential preparation of a Transportation Management Plan. ~~However, p~~Project-related construction and maintenance vehicles would also utilize state roadways ~~solely~~ as access routes for construction workers, ~~and construction vehicles and project construction would not occur on state highways or highway rights of way; therefore, Caltrans encroachment permits would not be required.~~ Further, oversized vehicles (by weight, height, length, or width) or vehicles carrying hazardous materials that require Caltrans permits would not be used.

<sup>5</sup> Caltrans, *California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, Amended January 13, 2012.

These revisions do not change the analysis or conclusions presented in the Draft EIR.

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### 9.4.3 Population and Housing

#### **Comment PH-1: Address discrepancy in the IS Population and Housing section.**

"2. Page 35 of the Initial Study (Appendix A of the EIR) identifies Population and Housing section a) as having a 'Potentially Significant Impact,' however, in the discussion that follows, the impact is said to be 'Less than Significant.'" (*State Water Resources Control Board, letter, April 16, 2015*)

#### ***Response PH-1***

EIR Appendix A, Notice of Preparation and Scoping Report, IS Section E.3, Population and Housing impact analysis focuses on the direct effects of proposed project on the displacement of housing and people. As noted on IS page 36, paragraph 1, the project would not generate a substantial, unplanned population increase. As a result, project-related direct effects with respect to population and housing would be *less than significant*.

However, the IS then notes that the project would contribute to the overall SFPUC Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) goals and that growth inducement in the context of the overall WSIP and the regional water system would be discussed in the EIR discussion of Growth-Inducing Impacts. For this reason, the IS checklist item for Section E.3, Population and Housing was checked as potentially significant. Growth inducing effects of the overall WSIP are discussed in the Draft EIR at Section 6.2.2, Significant and Unavoidable Effects of the WSIP, and in the WSIP PEIR, at Chapter 7, which is incorporated by reference in this Draft EIR as stated in Section 6.2.2.

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### 9.4.4 Cultural Resources

#### **Comment CR-1: Indicate whether the project would adequately protect cultural resources within state highways or highway rights-of-way.**

#### ***"Cultural Resources***

Although there is no known site within State ROW for this project, should ground-disturbing activities take place within State ROW and there is an inadvertent archaeological or burial discovery, all construction within 50 feet of the find shall cease in compliance with CEQA, PRC 5024.5, and Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER) Chapter 2. The Caltrans Office of Cultural Resource Studies, District 4, shall be immediately contacted at (510) 286-6336. A staff archaeologist will evaluate the finds within one business day after contact. See the Caltrans SER

website for more information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/>." (*California Department of Transportation, letter, May 1, 2015*)

### ***Response CR-1***

The SFPUC would need to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans prior to construction within the rights-of-way along SR 35 (See response to comment PD-3 above). Requirements noted in the comment such as those required to protect cultural resources would be met through compliance with the terms of the encroachment permit. Furthermore, it is noted that the requirements related to cultural resources are similar to and not more stringent than the cultural resources mitigation measures discussed in EIR Section 5.2, Cultural and Paleontological Resources.

In response to Comment PD-3 above and Comment CR-1, a sixth bullet has been added under the list of approvals required on the State level in EIR Section 3.5.1, Approvals Required (page 3-37) (see also the response to Comment PD-3):

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) encroachment permit for constructing pipeline within the rights-of-way of SR 35 and compliance with all associated requirements of the permit, including measures to protect cultural resources and potential implementation of a Transportation Management Plan.

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## **9.4.5 Noise**

### **Comment NO-1: The EIR needs to discuss the environmental impact of noise on plants and animals at the Zoo as well as to residents in the project area.**

"My interest in this particular project has to do with whether or not the zoo is going to be environmentally impacted. There wasn't anything brought up about where they are going to put, in the zoo, this very large reservoir, over 800,000 gallons.

They want to put it in the lot area. When they did that, they also brought in where there would be three 400-horsepower motors. So all of that in the parking lot area would then drift all around the plants and animals of the zoo. So when I looked at that very thoroughly, I did not like that too much at all. We have animals here in our zoo, which are rare and endangered species. They are not necessarily of the red-legged frog and not necessarily bats, but we have our own animals.

Environmentally this would actually leave a pretty big shock, when you have four or three -- actually, one is on standby -- motors ready to pump this water all the way across to the Presidio and to the Golden Gate Park and other places, it's going to cause a lot of disturbances to the residents and the people around the area." (*Richard Fong, public hearing, April 23, 2015*)

***Response NO-1***

Comment NO-1 describes components similar to that described under EIR Alternative B (Project Design Alternative) (EIR Section 7.3.4, Selected CEQA Alternatives, pages 7-13 through page 7-16). As required by CEQA, the Draft EIR considers a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project that would feasibly attain most of the project's basic objectives and avoid or substantially lessen any identified significant adverse environmental effects of the project. The Draft EIR proposed Alternative B to minimize or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project on cultural and biological resources and air quality. Under Alternative B, all proposed project storage would be relocated to the Zoo overflow parking lot area, including a 50,000-gallon reservoir used during the treatment process and an 880,000-gallon wet well and buried storage reservoir. In addition, transmission pumps (three or more up to 400 horsepower pumps) would be constructed in an enclosed pump house.

Noise impacts to sensitive residential receptors and the zoo from construction activities associated with the proposed project were discussed and analyzed in EIR Section 5.4.3, Impacts and Mitigation Measures, pages 5.4-7 5.4-10). As discussed on page 5.4-5, the San Francisco Zoo is the nearest land use in the vicinity of the recycled water treatment plant site, and could be affected by changes in noise levels. However, the noise effects were found to be less than significant based on the type of equipment proposed for use and the distance to sensitive receptors. The EIR also acknowledges that construction and operational noise impacts to land uses near the Alternative B site would be greater than the proposed project because the Alternative B site would be closer to Zoo facilities than proposed project facilities (Section 7.3.4, Selected CEQA Alternatives, page 7-15). Before approving the proposed project, City decision-makers will evaluate each alternative and decide whether to adopt it or reject it as infeasible based on economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

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## **9.4.6 Air Quality**

### **Comment AQ-1: Address discrepancy in IS Air Quality section.**

"2. ... Similarly, section e) of Air Quality on page 45 of the Initial Study is identified as having 'No Impact,' yet the discussion concludes that the impact is 'Less than Significant.' Please address these discrepancies in the Final EIR." (*State Water Resources Control Board, letter, April 16, 2015*)

***Response AQ-1***

The wrong box was checked in the published IS, i.e. no impact was checked instead of less than significant. However, the error has no material effect on the conclusions reached as the IS correctly explained that the impacts would be less than significant.



## 9.4.7 Biological Resources

### **Comment BR-1: The EIR should state the date that lists for the special status species were accessed.**

“3. Page 61 of the Initial Study indicated that the California Natural Diversity Database, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Native Plant Society special-status species lists were referenced as a part of the study. Please provide the date on which the United States Fish and Wildlife species list was sourced.” (*State Water Resources Control Board, letter, April 16, 2015*)

#### ***Response BR-1***

The comment refers to the Draft EIR Appendix A, Notice of Preparation and Scoping Report, which includes the IS and IS Appendix 1, which includes the list of special status species. As with the California Natural Diversity Database and California Native Plant Society searches, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service species list was accessed and reviewed in January of 2014.

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## 9.4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

### **Comment HY-1: Comment regarding the proximity of the project to the ocean and the risks from sea level rise.**

“The objective of the case project is a good idea.

The decided location though is an absolute travesty!

1. Considering the **raising level of the ocean water;**
2. The well known and **utterly visible land erosion** by the ocean -monitored to no avail;
3. The decided location of the Recycling Plant -so close to the ocean, less than 200 yards- **ought to be revised** if the desire is for a savvy and successful project facilities built for the future.

I seriously question the financial and political intentions of promoters and supporters of such a project in that suggested landscape.” (*Giampaolo Curreri, email, March 19, 2015*)

#### ***Response HY-1***

As stated in EIR Appendix A, Notice of Preparation and Scoping Report, IS Section E.15, Hydrology and Water Quality, the location of the proposed recycled water treatment plant at the Oceanside WPCP would not be inundated with an expected sea level rise of 55 inches, based on mapping conducted by the Pacific Institute in their analysis of areas at risk from flooding due to sea level rise. In addition, the project site would not be inundated with 66 inches of sea level rise in combination with a 100-year coastal flood

event as shown in a 2014 study prepared by the SFPUC.<sup>8</sup> This represents the most extreme sea level rise prediction for the project area in the year 2100 pursuant to the best available science currently available on sea level rise for the west coast.<sup>9</sup>

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## 9.4.9 Alternatives

### **Comment AL-1: The EIR should consider Sunset Heights as a storage location for the project.**

“[M]y comments have to do not with what is analyzed here, but the exclusion of any analysis of a plan that was before the voters probably 20 years ago, maybe a little bit more. And it was a bond measure that had to do with irrigation for Golden Gate Park. At that time, I don't believe it used recycled water, but the same concept could be applied. And part of this bond measure included storage facilities in Sunset Heights, which had the advantage of a significant drop in elevation, which would increase the pressure for irrigation in Golden Gate Park, which is one of the lower areas of the City, and it might make less pumping necessary because, of course, once you've got the water into the reservoir there, you wouldn't -- probably just gravity would allow to it come down and do a lot better job than the type of irrigation you have now.

I notice you're also going up to the Presidio, where you've got a separate pump station. But, you know, the idea I'm mentioning is that the analysis should also look, as an alternative, of using the heights we have, particularly the Sunset Heights area, which is extremely high and would perhaps minimize the amount of energy that was needed on pumping if a reservoir was put up there. And especially in years when we have drought problems, we could store lot of water, even recycled water, that would be available for use as we move through the years.” (*Commissioner Michael J. Antonini, public hearing, April 23, 2015*)

#### ***Response AL-1***

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 (a), a range of reasonable alternatives to the project alternatives would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would substantially lessen or avoid any of the significant effects of the project. The guidelines also state that the EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to a project. The alternative analysis in the EIR meets all of these requirements, and therefore, presents an adequate and reasonable range of alternatives.

With regard to the suggested alternative mentioned by the comment, the 1996 San Francisco Recycled Water Master Plan proposed two storage reservoirs for recycled water – one located under the football/track field at Lincoln High School to serve the “Sunset/Richmond pressure zone”, and one within McLaren Park to serve the “Southeast

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<sup>8</sup> SFPUC, *Climate Stressors and Impact: Westside Sea Level Rise Mapping*, Final Technical Memorandum, June 2014.

<sup>9</sup> National Research Council, *Sea-Level Rise for Coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington: Past, Present, and Future*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2012. Available on the internet at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=13389](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13389).

pressure zone”, both of which were to be located at elevations of approximately 400 feet. Under the 1996 plan, recycled water would be pumped from the proposed plant location near the Zoo to storage, and the storage reservoirs would supply the system through gravity flow. A pump station was also planned to be able to serve the high-pressure Auxiliary Water Supply System (the CCSF’s separate fire supply) from the Lincoln High School Reservoir. The 1996 plan also included “recycled water service vaults” to reduce the pressure in pipelines serving irrigation systems.<sup>10</sup> While it is unclear, the commenter may be referencing these facility options.

The locations discussed in the 1996 plan are at a higher elevation than the proposed project storage location in Golden Gate Park. Pumping recycled water to a higher elevation would require larger pumps (greater pump head) and therefore more energy. Also, as was planned in the 1996 plan, depending on their location (elevation), customers served through a gravity supply might receive water at a pressure that exceeds the design standards of the irrigation system, therefore requiring pressure regulating valves (PRVs) to reduce the pressure to an acceptable range. Under the current project, recycled water would be pumped to storage in Golden Gate Park, where the existing and new pump stations would increase the pressure only to what is required by the customers.

Locating storage facilities at the proposed storage reservoirs from the 1996 Master Plan would not avoid or lessen the significant impacts identified for the proposed project.<sup>11</sup>

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### **Comment AL-2: Desalination should be used as the source of the water for the project.**

“Specifically, when I look at the project alternatives, there is one big part that’s missing on it: They don’t want to do anything saline -- desalinating the water. But I would bring forward to this Planning Commission, they already have a desalination at San Diego County, and it is somewhere around 15 million gallons a day. So when they look – when I look at this project, this particular project might be only 5 million gallons a day. We here at San Francisco have a requirement of 25 million gallons a day. That’s very simple math. We have to find a better source of regenerating and making the water.” (*Richard Fong, public hearing, April 23, 2015*)

#### ***Response AL-2***

The EIR alternatives analysis (Chapter 7) considered desalination as an alternate source of non-potable water (see Section 7.5.4, Treatment by Desalination). However, this option was rejected from further consideration because desalination would not avoid or lessen

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<sup>10</sup> City and County of San Francisco (CCSF), *San Francisco Recycled Water Master Plan and Groundwater Master Plan, Final Environmental Impact Report*, File No. 92.371E, State Clearinghouse No. 94123049, Certified August 7, 1997.

<sup>11</sup> CCSF, *San Francisco Recycled Water Master Plan and Groundwater Master Plan, Final Environmental Impact Report*, File No. 92.371E, State Clearinghouse No. 94123049, Certified August 7, 1997. Pgs. S-23 to S-34.

significant impacts of the proposed project and would result in potential marine impacts that would not occur under the proposed project.

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**Comment AL-3: The project should use the army site adjacent to the Oceanside WPCP instead of the Oceanside WPCP.**

“We do have a large area out there. All it requires would be the PUC, trying to take the land that the California Reservists are using as a training area. It stinks up there and everything else, so it's going to do a very lousy environmental impact on the zoo if they put it down below. I would like to get the alternative. Thank you.” (*Richard Fong, public hearing, April 23, 2015*)

***Response AL-3***

Development of recycled water infrastructure (a treatment facility) at the California Army National Guard Readiness Center (CARNG) was considered in the EIR (Section 7.5.1, Option 1: Centralized Treatment, pages 7-20 through page 7-21). However, it was determined that there would be greater land use, traffic, and biological resource impacts than the proposed project because this option—G would require the demolition and replacement elsewhere of an existing building to compensate the National Guard for the loss of property, which would increase the level of construction-related effects. Further, this option could require removal of trees that provide visual screening. The alternatives considered at the CARNG would use the same storage and pipeline distribution system as the project; and therefore would not avoid the significant impacts of the project associated with those components of the project. Furthermore, the SFPUC does not have site control of the property, as the SFPUC has leased it to the CARNG. Any change to the lease would require CARNG agreement. Therefore, this option was not considered as an alternative to the proposed project.

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## 9.5 DEIR Revisions

The following changes to the text of the Draft EIR are made in response to comments on the Draft EIR or are included to clarify the Draft EIR text. For each change, new language is double underlined, while deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

### 9.5.1 Summary

City staff has revised EIR page 1-8, third paragraph:

- \* The Project Design Alternative would combine alternate physical site locations for the following primary project components to minimize or avoid potential impacts to cultural and biological resources, and air quality. Under this alternative, treatment, storage, and pumping facilities would be co-located at the San Francisco Zoo (Zoo) overflow parking lot instead of the Oceanside WPCP and Central Reservoir in Golden Gate Park, respectively. The Project Design Alternative modifies the proposed distribution pipeline to avoid Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard. The Project Design Alternative excludes the Harding Road and Herbst Road staging areas, and includes staging for treatment facility construction within the 2.3 acre Zoo overflow parking lot site or the Zoo’s maintenance yard.

City staff has revised EIR page 1-17, line 6:

*	<p><b>Impact AQ-2:</b> The proposed project’s construction activities would generate fugitive dust and criteria air pollutants, and could violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.</p>	<p>Significant</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure M-AQ-<del>12</del>:</b> <b>Construction Emissions Minimization.</b></p> <p>A. <b>Additional Exhaust Control Measures.</b> In addition to complying with the Clean Construction Ordinance requirements (use of biodiesel fuel grade B20 or higher, and either meets or exceeds Tier 2 engines or operate with the most effective VDECS for off-road equipment), average construction-related NOx emissions from all overlapping project components shall not exceed 54 pounds per day. The construction contract specifications shall require the contractor to submit a comprehensive inventory of all off-road construction equipment greater than 25 horsepower and operating for more than 20 total hours over the entire duration of construction activities. The inventory shall include each vehicle’s license plate number, horsepower rating, engine production year, and projected hours of use or fuel throughput for each piece of equipment. The inventory shall demonstrate, through the use of Tier 3 engines (or engines retrofitted with CARB Level 3 Verified Diesel Emissions Control Strategy ), that the combined average emissions from all overlapping project components shall not exceed 54 pounds per day. The contractor shall update the inventory and submit it monthly to the SFPUC throughout the duration of the project.</p>	<p>Less than Significant</p>
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San Francisco Planning Department (City staff) has revised EIR page 1-24, line 3:

<p>* <b>Impact BI-1</b> (cont.)</p>		<p>Any birds that begin nesting within the project area and survey buffers amid construction activities are assumed to be habituated to construction-related or similar noise and disturbance levels and no work exclusion zones shall be established around active nests in these cases.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measure M-BI-1b: Avoidance and Minimization Measures for Special-Status Bats.</b></p> <p>In coordination with the SFPUC, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct preconstruction special-status bat surveys before trees and structures that are suitable for bat roosting (<i>i.e.</i>, excluding temporary trailers, retaining walls, etc.) are removed. If active day or night roosts are found, the wildlife biologist shall take actions to make such roosts unsuitable habitat before trees and structures are removed. A no-disturbance buffer of 100 feet shall be created around active bat roosts being used for maternity or hibernation purposes. Bat roosts that begin during construction are presumed to be unaffected, and no buffer would be necessary.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measure M-BI-1c: Avoidance and Minimization Measures for California Red-Legged Frog and Western Pond Turtle.</b></p> <p>During construction on Route 35/Skyline Boulevard, at the Central Pump Station site, on the pipeline route within Golden Park near aquatic habitat, and during use of the Harding Road <u>and Herbst Road</u> staging area, the SFPUC shall ensure a biological monitor is present during installation of exclusion fencing and initial vegetation clearing and/or grading, and shall implement the following measures:</p> <p>Within one week before work at these sites begins (including demolition and vegetation removal), a qualified biologist shall supervise the installation of exclusion fencing along the boundaries of the work area, as deemed necessary by the biologist, to prevent California red-legged frogs and western pond turtles from entering the work area. The construction contractor shall install suitable fencing with a minimum height of 3 feet above ground surface with an additional 4-6 inches of fence material buried <u>for unpaved surfaces and sand-bagged at the lower edge where needed for paved surfaces</u> such that species cannot crawl under the fence.</p>	
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City staff has revised EIR page 1-26, line 3:

<p><b>Impact M-C-BIO-1:</b> The project, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the vicinity, could result in significant cumulative impacts on biological resources.</p>	<p>Significant</p>	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Implementation of Mitigation Measures M-BI-1a through M-BI-1c.</p>	<p>Less than Significant</p>
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City staff has revised EIR page 1-29, line 2:

*	<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>Recycled water treatment and storage at the Oceanside WPCP; storage and distribution facilities at the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir.</p> <p>Includes staging areas at the Oceanside WPCP, Zoo Overflow Parking <u>or an area to the south, Herbst Road, Zoo Road, and Harding Road.</u></p> <p>Distribution pipeline route between the Oceanside WPCP and Central Reservoir would include Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard.</p> <p>Operational capacity to serve peak-day demands of up to 5 mgd (or 2 mgd annual average).</p>	<p>Recycled water treatment, storage, and distribution facilities would not be constructed.</p> <p>1.6 mgd of recycled water would not be produced or delivered.</p>	<p>Co-locates the treatment, storage, and pumping facilities at the San Francisco Zoo overflow parking lot instead of the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant and Central Reservoir, respectively.</p> <p>Excludes Harding Road <u>and Herbst Road</u> staging areas.</p> <p>Modifies distribution pipeline to avoid Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard. Distribution pipeline would extend from treatment and storage plant at San Francisco Zoo overflow parking lot to Wawona Street, then east to 34th Avenue and north to the point of connection in Golden Gate Park. North of Golden Gate Park, the pipeline would be the same as the proposed project.</p> <p>Extends the overall project construction schedule duration by including sequenced, staggered construction of treatment, pumping, storage, and pipeline facilities, and reducing concurrent construction (overlapping phases) of facilities.</p> <p>Operational capacity to serve peak-day demands of up to 5 mgd (or 2 mgd annual average).</p>	<p>Recycled water treatment and storage at the Oceanside WPCP; upgrade of existing storage and distribution facilities at the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir. However, the recycled water treatment facility and storage at the Oceanside WPCP would be somewhat smaller than under the proposed project and new storage and distribution facilities at the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir would not be required.</p> <p>Includes staging areas at the Oceanside WPCP, Zoo Overflow Parking <u>or an area to the south, Zoo Road, Herbst Road, and Harding Road.</u></p> <p>Distribution pipeline route between the Oceanside WPCP and Central Reservoir would include Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard. Distribution pipelines would not be required north of the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir.</p> <p>Operational capacity to serve peak-day demands of up to 3.8 mgd (or 1.7 mgd annual average).</p>
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## 9.5.2 Project Description

- \* City staff has revised Figure 3-2 on EIR page 3-7 (see page RTC-29).

City staff has added a new third paragraph to EIR page 3-11:

- \* Above Building 510, the project would include construction of vents at the ground surface of the adjacent berm, which would be connected to the recycled water treatment plant underground. The vents would be constructed in an area close to the parapet wall, with a possible separation of a few feet from the wall. During construction, the area would be accessed by raising equipment from inside the Oceanside WPCP and lowering the equipment to the work area.

City staff has revised EIR page 3-23, last paragraph:

- \* In addition to work area within the Oceanside WPCP, staging areas would also be required to accommodate contractors' construction-related equipment and materials storage (e.g., construction vehicles, building materials, pipes, fuels, lubricants, and maintenance work areas). Given the operational needs of the existing facilities and the space constraints at the Oceanside WPCP, onsite and offsite staging areas would be required. As shown in Figure 3-2, one staging area would be located onsite near the Westgate Berm in the northwestern portion of the project. ~~Two~~Three offsite staging areas are proposed at ~~within~~ the San Francisco Zoo overflow parking area or an adjacent area to the south, on Herbst Road at the intersection with Skyline Boulevard, and off the intersection of Zoo Road and Armory Road. The Zoo staging area would be returned to use by the Zoo following construction. In addition, construction worker parking would be provided at an existing parking lot located 0.5 miles southeast of the Oceanside WPCP site off of Harding Park Road.

In response to Comment PD-1, EIR page 3-30, last paragraph has been revised:

Construction activities at the Central Reservoir site would require approximately one ~~three~~ crews of up to 18 ~~six~~ workers each on a given day.<sup>48</sup>

In response to Comment PD-3, EIR page 3-37, a sixth bullet has been added under the list of approvals required on the State level:

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) encroachment permit for constructing pipeline within the rights-of-way of SR 35 and compliance with all associated requirements of the permit, including measures to protect cultural resources and potential implementation of a Transportation Management Plan.

<sup>48</sup> SFPUC, Personal Communication Regarding Westside Recycled Water Project Information Request, January 27, 2015.



### 9.5.3 Transportation and Circulation

In response to Comment PD-3, EIR page 5.3-5, fourth paragraph has been revised:

#### State Regulations

Caltrans' construction practices require temporary traffic control planning "during any time the normal function of a roadway is suspended."<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, Caltrans requires that permits be obtained for transportation of oversized loads and transportation of certain materials, and for construction-related traffic disturbance. Construction within state highways or highway rights-of-way would require an encroachment permit, including compliance with requirements regarding potential preparation of a Transportation Management Plan. ~~However, p~~Project-related construction and maintenance vehicles would also utilize state roadways ~~solely~~ as access routes for construction workers, ~~and construction vehicles and project construction would not occur on state highways or highway rights-of-way; therefore, Caltrans encroachment permits would not be required.~~ Further, oversized vehicles (by weight, height, length, or width) or vehicles carrying hazardous materials that require Caltrans permits would not be used.

### 9.5.4 Hydrology

City staff has revised text of the Draft EIR Hydrology section to provide updated analyses of studies done by the SFPUC of discharges from the Oceanside WPCP as part of the NPDES permit renewal process for the Oceanside WPCP now underway and to make minor corrections in information provided about the SFPUC combined sewer system. None of the revisions change the conclusion in the Draft EIR regarding hydrology-related environmental effects of the proposed project.

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-1, second paragraph:

#### \* San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Combined Sewer System

The majority of stormwater runoff from the western portions of San Francisco, including flow from most of the project area, is diverted to the city's combined sewer and stormwater system, which collects and transports both sanitary sewage and stormwater runoff in the same set of pipes. In 2010, approximately 14 million gallons per day (mgd) of effluent were discharged from San Francisco's Westside drainage area to the Pacific Ocean through the Oceanside WPCP located at 3500 Great Highway.<sup>1</sup> This plant has the capability to treat up to 43 mgd of sewage to a secondary level<sup>2</sup> and has ~~a permitted~~ an average annual dry-weather ~~capacity~~ flow of 21 mgd. Therefore, the Oceanside WPCP can accommodate all existing dry-weather flows, which are treated to a secondary level prior to discharge to the ocean through the Southwest Ocean Outfall located 3.75~~3~~ nautical miles offshore.

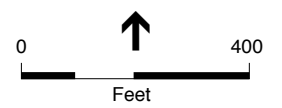
<sup>5</sup> Caltrans, *California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, Amended January 13, 2012.

<sup>1</sup> San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Email from Bonnie Jones, Senior Engineer, to Beth Goldstein, HydroConsult Engineers, Regarding Plant Flow Data, March 9, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Secondary effluent treatment is a process that reduces suspended solids and biological oxygen demand in wastewater by approximately 90 percent.



- Existing Oceanside WPCP
- Proposed Off-Site Staging Area
- Proposed Limit of Construction
- Proposed On-Site Staging Area
- - - Coastal Zone Boundary
- Area Appealable to the California Coastal Commission
- Jurisdiction Retained by the California Coastal Commission
- Local Coastal Zone Permit Area



SOURCE: ESA, 2013; EMB, 2013.

San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project EIR  
**Figure 3-2**  
 Existing Conditions – Oceanside WPCP

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City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-1, last paragraph through 5.6-2, first paragraph:

- \* Because the ocean outfall is located beyond the California territorial limit of 3 nautical miles, regulatory authority for the outfall discharge is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA); and near-shore discharges during wet-weather events are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. EPA and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). All dry- and wet-weather discharges from the combined sewer system to the Pacific Ocean, through either the Southwest Ocean Outfall or the combined sewer discharge structures, are performed, therefore, in compliance with the applicable requirements for each in the federal Clean Water Act and the State of California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit CA0037681, issued jointly by the RWQCB and the U.S. EPA.<sup>5</sup>

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-2, second paragraph:

- \* **Pacific Ocean Monitoring**

The SFPUC conducts the Southwest Ocean Outfall Regional Monitoring Program<sup>6</sup> to assess the environmental effects on ocean water quality related to discharges of treated stormwater and wastewater from the Oceanside WPCP and associated facilities. This program includes the regional Offshore Monitoring Program. Under this program, ~~ocean~~ water-shore sediment and organism samples are analyzed for various physical, chemical, and biological parameters to allow for a comparison of conditions in the Southwest Ocean Outfall area to reference conditions. The results of this program indicate that biological parameters and sediment pollutant concentrations at the Southwest Ocean Outfall discharge area have generally been the same or essentially the same as at the reference stations, and have not identified any persistent and long term impacts at the discharge area.<sup>6a</sup>

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-2, third paragraph:

- \* **Clean Water Act**

The federal Clean Water Act and subsequent amendments, under the enforcement authority of the U.S. EPA, was established "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." The act established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. It gave the U.S. EPA the authority to implement pollution control programs, such as setting wastewater

<sup>5</sup> Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), *Waste Discharge Requirements for City and County of San Francisco Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant (Southwest Ocean Outfall) and Collection System, Including the Westside Wet Weather Facilities*, NPDES Permit No. CA 0037681, Order No. R2-2009-0062, Effective October 1, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> SFPUC, *Southwest Ocean Outfall Regional Monitoring Program, 2011 Data Report*, August, 2012.

<sup>6a</sup> SFPUC, *Southwest Ocean Outfall Regional Monitoring Program Sixteen Year Summary Report, 1997-2012 (April 2014)*.

standards for industry. The Clean Water Act also set water quality standards for ~~all~~ contaminants in surface waters and made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit is obtained under its provisions.

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-3, fifth paragraph through page 5.6-4, first paragraph:

- \* The SWRCB regulates water quality in the Pacific Ocean within three miles of the shoreline through regulatory standards and objectives outlined in the *Water Quality Control Plan, Ocean Waters of California* (commonly referred to as the Ocean Plan).<sup>9</sup> The Ocean Plan identifies beneficial uses of ocean waters and provides water quality objectives that are protective of these uses. The plan provides objectives for bacteriological, physical, chemical, biological, and radioactive characteristics, as well as general requirements for the management of waste discharges to the Pacific Ocean waters under state jurisdiction. The RWQCB's Basin Plan incorporates by reference the provisions of the Ocean Plan.

The Southwest Ocean Outfall discharges to federal ocean waters 3.753 nautical miles from shore. The U.S. EPA Region IX has in the past relied upon the water quality objectives of the Ocean Plan for the purpose of exercising its authority to regulate discharges from the Southwest Ocean Outfall. It does so through developing permit conditions and limitations for discharges from the Southwest Ocean Outfall. The Ocean Plan designates the following beneficial uses for the ocean waters off the shoreline of the state of California: industrial water supply; water-contact and noncontact recreation, including aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; commercial and sport fishing; mariculture; preservation and enhancement of designated Areas of Special Biological Significance; rare and endangered species; marine habitat; fish migration; and fish spawning and shellfish harvesting.

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-5, first paragraph:

- \* The current NPDES permit was effective on October 1, 2009, for a 5-year term. NPDES permits for which timely renewals are filed are automatically extended under the federal Clean Water Act, until a renewal is issued; the SFPUC timely filed for a renewal and, therefore, is continuing to operate the Oceanside WPCP under the current NPDES permit.<sup>11</sup> The SFPUC is working with the RWQCB and U.S. EPA to renew the permit. A tentative final RWQCB order is expected by March 2015, with the final order and U.S. EPA approval expected by June sometime in 2015.

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<sup>9</sup> SWRCB, *California Ocean Plan, Water Quality Control Plan, Ocean Waters of California*, 2012, Effective August 19, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> City & County of San Francisco, *Waste Discharge for the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant and Westside Wet Weather Facilities Report, NPDES Permit No. CA0037681*, April 3, 2014.

City staff has revised EIR Section 5.6.3, Impacts and Mitigation Measures, page 5.6-6, first paragraph through third paragraph:

\* **Impact HY-6: Project operation would not violate water quality standards or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. (Less than Significant)**

The proposed project would produce recycled water by advanced treatment of a portion of the effluent from the Oceanside WPCP, and, because of this use of effluent, the project would result in a corresponding reduction in the volume of effluent discharged from the WPCP through the Southwest Ocean Outfall. This reduction in the volume of effluent could affect the dispersion and dilution of the effluent at the location it is discharged to the ocean. In addition, under the project, brine from the reverse-osmosis system would be added to the effluent prior to discharge, which would increase ammonia concentrations in and the associated chronic toxicity of the effluent. The mass of constituents discharged would not increase.

As provided by the Clean Water Act, the current NPDES permit, which reached the end of its 5-year term at the end of September, 2014, is continuing in effect while SFPUC, RWQCB and U.S. EPA work on an NPDES permit renewal. The permit renewal process requires preparation of a reasonable potential analysis (described above for existing permit), which identifies pollutants in discharge that could exceed either water quality objectives established in the Ocean Plan or technology-based water quality criteria. If a pollutant does have the potential to exceed water quality objectives, a discharge limitation is calculated and included in the NPDES permit. The reasonable potential analysis considers both the concentration of a pollutant in the effluent and the amount of dilution the effluent will receive when discharged to the ocean.

In April 2014, the SFPUC submitted to the RWQCB and U.S. EPA the results of a two year study to characterize the minimum initial dilution the Southwest Ocean Outfall discharge receives.<sup>11a</sup> This study included measuring temperature, conductivity, and current velocity and direction and using this information to update the estimated minimum initial dilution using both the U.S. EPA's NRFIELD and UM3 models. The study found that, under regular conditions and taking into account dilution from currents, the discharge receives a minimum initial dilution of more than the permitted 150:1.

In July 2014, the SFPUC conducted a preliminary reasonable potential analysis in support of the NPDES permit renewal process for the Oceanside WPCP.<sup>12</sup> ~~This~~In October 2014, the SFPUC submitted a new analysis to the RWQCB and the U.S. EPA on the potential impacts of the proposed SFPUC projection projects on the Southwest Ocean Outfall discharge.<sup>12a</sup>The

<sup>11a</sup> San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, *Southwest Ocean Outfall Dilution Modeling Report*, April 2014.

<sup>12</sup> Patricia McGovern Engineers, *Westside Recycled Water Project, Regulatory Considerations, Reasonable Potential Analysis and Consideration of Other Agencies, Draft*. Prepared for the SFPUC, July 25, 2014

<sup>12a</sup> San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, *Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant Projected Impacts to Effluent from Capital Projects*, October 2014.

new analysis evaluated changes in effluent water quality and dilution associated with the production of recycled water to meet a peak-day demand of 4 mgd, which is sufficient to meet the needs of currently identified recycled water customers, including Golden Gate Park, Lincoln Park Golf Course, and the Presidio. It also included the effects of implementing another project at the WPCP, the Temperature Phased Anaerobic Digestion Project.

Based on the reasonable potential analysis with a peak-day demand of 4 mgd, maximum daily pollutant concentrations would be up to 1.7 times greater when the recycled water treatment plant is operating than under existing conditions, and could be more than 4 times higher for brief hourly periods when the effluent would be comprised entirely of brine. The analysis determined that with production to meet the peak-day demand of 4 mgd, and a dilution of 150:1, there would not be a reasonable potential for ammonia to exceed the Ocean Plan's 6-month median water quality objective as well as its daily. The analysis concluded that compliance with the current permit's maximum water quality objective for chronic toxicity, and to exceed which is based on a dilution of 150:1 was uncertain, and that the technology-based water quality criterion for biochemical oxygen demand could be exceeded, as discussed below. These analyses have been submitted to the RWQCB and U.S.EPA as part of the NPDES permit renewal.<sup>16</sup>

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-6, last paragraph through page 5.6-7, third paragraph:

\* Chronic Toxicity Ammonia and Chronic Toxicity

Dilution modeling performed in support of the permit renewal estimated that the maximum daily dilution of ammonia in effluent would be 112:1 once the recycled water treatment plant is operational. To achieve the 6 month median ammonia water quality objective of the Ocean Plan (600 µg/L), the discharged effluent would need to be diluted by at least 122:1. In the analysis conducted in October 2014, the SFPUC used two approaches to evaluate future compliance with chronic toxicity effluent limitations: extrapolation of previous test results using the No Observed Effects Concentration statistical method and assuming that toxicity would increase linearly with concentration, and calculating concentration of un-ionized ammonia in the chronic toxicity test effluent and comparing those values to literature values for the lowest observed effects concentration. At the currently permitted dilution of 150:1, extrapolation using the No Observed Effects Concentration and projections of un-ionized ammonia concentrations indicate that reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedance of the Ocean Plan's chronic toxicity water quality objective may exist. To achieve the maximum daily water quality objective for chronic toxicity (1 TUc), the effluent would need to be diluted by at least 267:1, assuming implementation of both projects. Based on this analysis, ammonia and at a 150:1 dilution, chronic toxicity have has the potential to exceed water quality objectives and

<sup>16</sup> The DEIR identified ammonia as a constituent of concern. Updated analyses, however, indicate that operation of the proposed project should not affect compliance with the Ocean Plan's 6-month water quality objective for ammonia.

it would be expected that the NPDES permit renewal would include effluent limits for ~~these constituents.~~this constituent.

The SFPUC, RWQCB, and U.S. EPA are examining how compliance with the water quality objectives is assessed. For instance, the dilution modeling for the preliminary reasonable potential analysis was based on the methodology traditionally used by the RWQCB/SWRCB and U.S. EPA, which estimates the maximum daily dilution; this approach is conservative and does not account for ocean currents, which can increase dilution. ~~In addition, this approach does not consider the 6-month median dilution, which is the median of all daily averages for any 180-day period. The 6-month median water quality objective for ammonia would not be exceeded at a dilution ratio of 173:1 (the project's calculated 6-month median) or at a dilution ratio of 185:1 (the project's maximum daily dilution when accounting for currents). The comprehensive dilution and modeling study completed by the SFPUC in October 2014 shows that the Southeast Ocean Outfall discharge receives a daily maximum dilution of 372:1 when ocean currents are included in the modeling. At this dilution, no reasonable potential for chronic toxicity would exist.~~

~~The daily maximum chronic toxicity objective would still be exceeded at dilution ratios of 173:1 and 185:1, calculated as described above. However, there~~ There are several methods for determining chronic toxicity levels in effluent. The traditional methodology presented in the reasonable potential analysis determines the level at which 25 percent of the test organisms exhibit inhibition in biological reproduction or growth. This method, which determines inhibition concentration, is known as IC25. Another approach, called the Test of Significant Toxicity (TST), and also presented in the reasonable potential analysis, provides a different statistical approach for analyzing toxicity data. The SWRCB is proposing this approach be used at the statewide level. Using this TST statistical approach, the reasonable potential analysis completed for the permit renewal estimates that a minimum dilution of 50:1 ~~would be~~is needed to meet Ocean Plan's maximum daily chronic toxicity objective. ~~The concentrated effluent would meet~~This suggests that the water quality objective for chronic toxicity at the modeled maximum daily dilution use of 112:1 using this statistical methodology. If the TST approach were used to assess dilution and chronic toxicity, the effluent wouldreduces minimum dilution needed to meet the water quality objectives of the Ocean Plan.

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-8, third paragraph:

- \* It is expected that the NPDES permit would be renewed before the project operation begins in 2016. The renewed permit would need to contain effluent limitations for the Oceanside WPCP that are protective of the beneficial uses of the Pacific Ocean, ~~and~~would require the SFPUC to monitor for compliance with permit requirements, and would require continuation of the Southwest Ocean Outfall Regional Monitoring Program. The effluent limitations included in the permit would anticipate changes in effluent water quality as a result of project implementation and would assure effluent limits are protective of beneficial uses identified in the Ocean Plan. With adoption of the renewed permit, impacts



related to a violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements as well as degradation of water quality would be less than significant in relation to changes in effluent quality, and no mitigation is required.

City staff has revised EIR page 5.6-8, last paragraph through end of page 5.6-9:

- \* The SFPUC is planning to implement the Temperature Phased Anaerobic Digestion project at the Oceanside WPCP to treat wastewater solids. Discharges of effluent treated using this process ~~would~~could also increase ammonia concentrations in the plant effluent by up to 12 percent. ~~The reasonable potential analysis conducted in support of the NPDES permit renewal concluded that when this cumulative project and the recycled water treatment plant are both operational, the effluent would need to be diluted by at least 137:1 before discharge to the ocean to achieve the Ocean Plan's 6 month median water quality objective for ammonia (600 µg/L).<sup>14</sup> To achieve the maximum daily water quality objective for chronic toxicity (1 TUC), the effluent would need to be diluted by at least 267:1. The reasonable potential analyses for the project concluded that these water quality objectives would be met if the following methods were used: the 6 month median dilution, daily maximum dilution ratios that account for currents, and the TST method for assessment of chronic toxicity.~~The reasonable potential analysis conducted on the future discharges associated with the proposed project take into account the effects of the Temperature Phased Anaerobic Digestion Project and conclude that water quality objectives will be met if the results of the SFPUC's updated dilution study are incorporated into the development of water quality-based effluent limitations.<sup>14</sup> The NPDES permit with effluent limitations for the Oceanside WPCP that are protective of the beneficial uses of the Pacific Ocean would be required for each project to operate. The renewed permit would contain effluent limits that take into consideration changes in effluent water quality as a result of implementation of both projects. It would require monitoring by the SFPUC to ensure compliance with the permit requirements. As a result, cumulative impacts related to a violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements as well as degradation of water quality would be less than significant in relation to changes in effluent quality, and no mitigation is required.

<sup>14</sup> ~~Patricia McGovern Engineers, *Westside Recycled Water Project, Regulatory Considerations, Reasonable Potential Analysis and Consideration of Other Agencies, Draft*. Prepared for the SFPUC, July 25, 2014.~~

<sup>14</sup> San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, *Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant Projected Impacts to Effluent from Capital Projects*, October 2014.

## 9.5.5 Alternatives

City staff has revised EIR page 7-7, line 2:

<p><i>Description</i></p>	<p>Recycled water treatment and storage at the Oceanside WPCP; storage and distribution facilities at the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir.</p> <p>Includes staging areas at the Oceanside WPCP, Zoo Overflow Parking <u>or an area to the south, Herbst Road, Zoo Road, and Harding Road.</u></p> <p>Distribution pipeline route between the Oceanside WPCP and Central Reservoir would include Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard.</p> <p>Operational capacity to serve peak-day demands of up to 5 mgd (or 2 mgd annual average).</p>	<p>Recycled water treatment, storage, and distribution facilities would not be constructed. 1.6 mgd of recycled water would not be produced or delivered.</p>	<p>Co-locates the treatment, storage, and pumping facilities at the San Francisco Zoo overflow parking lot instead of the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant and Central Reservoir, respectively.</p> <p>Excludes Harding Road <u>and Herbst Road</u> staging areas.</p> <p>Modifies distribution pipeline to avoid Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard. Distribution pipeline would extend from treatment and storage plant at San Francisco Zoo overflow parking lot to Wawona Street, then east to 34th Avenue and north to the point of connection in Golden Gate Park. North of Golden Gate Park, the pipeline would be the same as the proposed project.</p> <p>Extends the overall project construction schedule duration by including sequenced, staggered construction of treatment, pumping, storage, and pipeline facilities, and reducing concurrent construction (overlapping phases) of facilities.</p> <p>Operational capacity to serve peak-day demands of up to 5 mgd (or 2 mgd annual average).</p>	<p>Recycled water treatment and storage at the Oceanside WPCP; upgrade of existing storage and distribution facilities at the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir. However, the recycled water treatment facility and storage at the Oceanside WPCP would be somewhat smaller than under the proposed project and new storage and distribution facilities at the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir would not be required.</p> <p>Includes staging areas at the Oceanside WPCP, Zoo Overflow Parking <u>or an area to the south, Zoo Road, Herbst Road, and Harding Road.</u></p> <p>Distribution pipeline route between the Oceanside WPCP and Central Reservoir would include Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard. Distribution pipelines would not be required north of the Golden Gate Park Central Reservoir.</p> <p>Operational capacity to serve peak-day demands of up to 3.8 mgd (or 1.7 mgd annual average).</p>
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City staff has revised EIR page 7-13, first paragraph:

\* ***Description of Alternative B***

The Project Design Alternative would combine alternate physical site locations, modify the proposed distribution pipeline to avoid Route 35/Skyline Boulevard and streets adjacent to Sunset Boulevard, exclude the Harding Road and Herbst Road staging areas, and reduce concurrent construction (overlapping phases) of facilities. This alternative would minimize or avoid potential impacts to cultural and biological resources, and air quality.<sup>3</sup> The Project Design Alternative is described in more detail below.

City staff has revised EIR page 7-14, fourth paragraph

- \* The Project Design Alternative excludes the Harding Road and Herbst Road staging areas, and includes staging for treatment facility construction within the 2.3-acre Zoo overflow parking lot site, adjacent southern area, or the Zoo's maintenance yard. Access to the Zoo overflow parking lot would be via Great Highway.

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<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this analysis, all other project components presented in Chapter 3, Project Description would be included as described in the project description unless otherwise noted.

# ATTACHMENT A

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## DEIR Comment Letters

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**From:** George, Sherie@DOT [<mailto:Sherie.George@dot.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 01, 2015 10:19 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Timothy (PUC)  
**Subject:** Caltrans Comment - SF Westside Recycled Water Project DEIR - 05 01 15

Hello Mr. Johnston,

Please find Caltrans comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project. Thank you for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 510-286-5535 or [sherie.george@dot.ca.gov](mailto:sherie.george@dot.ca.gov).

Thank you,

--

**Sherie George**

Transportation Planner

Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

Office of Transit & Community Planning

Caltrans District 4

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*Serious Drought.  
Help save water!*

May 1, 2015

SFVAR001  
SCH# 2008052133

Mr. Timothy Johnston  
Planning Department  
City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Johnston:

**San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the project referenced above. The project is proposing construction of a recycled water treatment plant and underground storage, located at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant. Upgrades to distribution facilities, such as pipelines and pumping facilities, are also proposed. The project will serve the current water demand in areas of western San Francisco that have substantial irrigation needs while also providing enough capacity to serve potential future customers.

Access routes to the planned worksites include: Interstate-280, U.S. 101, State Route (SR) 1, and SR 35. Figure 3-1 indicates proposed pipeline alignment from the new recycled water treatment facility may be routed along portions of SR 35 (Skyline Boulevard, Sloat Boulevard). Please clarify the Draft Environmental Impact Report's statement that construction vehicles and project construction would not occur on state highways or highway rights-of-way (ROW) and encroachment permits would not be required (pg. 5.3-5).

Caltrans' new mission, vision, and goals signal a modernization of our approach to California's transportation system. We review this project for impacts to the State Highway System in keeping with our mission, vision, and goals for sustainability/livability/economy, and safety/health. The following comments are based on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

***Lead Agency***

As the lead agency, the City and County of San Francisco (City) is responsible for all project mitigation. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities, as well as the identified lead agency contact and monitoring, should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Mr. Timothy Johnston, City and County of San Francisco  
May 1, 2015  
Page 2

### ***Cultural Resources***

Although there is no known site within State ROW for this project, should ground-disturbing activities take place within State ROW and there is an inadvertent archaeological or burial discovery, all construction within 50 feet of the find shall cease in compliance with CEQA, PRC 5024.5, and Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER) Chapter 2. The Caltrans Office of Cultural Resource Studies, District 4, shall be immediately contacted at (510) 286-6336. A staff archaeologist will evaluate the finds within one business day after contact. See the Caltrans SER website for more information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/>.

### ***Transportation Management Plan***

As noted in San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's *Regulations for Working in San Francisco Streets, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*, the applicant is required to contact Caltrans regarding work in the state route system in San Francisco. Where construction-related traffic restrictions and detours affect State highways, including SR 35, a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) or construction Traffic Impact Study may be required of the City for approval by Caltrans prior to construction. Please ensure that such plans are also prepared in accordance with the TMP requirements of the corresponding jurisdictions. For further TMP assistance, please contact the Office of Traffic Management Plans/Operations Strategies at 510-286-4579. TMPs must be prepared in accordance with California *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. Further information is available for download at the following web address:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/engineering/mutcd/pdf/camutcd2014/Part6.pdf>.

### ***Encroachment Permit***

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that encroaches onto the State ROW requires an encroachment permit that is issued by Caltrans. Traffic-related mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plans prior to the encroachment permit process. Caltrans will not issue a permit until our concerns are adequately addressed, we strongly recommend that the City work with both the applicant and Caltrans to ensure that our concerns are resolved during the environmental process, and in any case prior to submittal of an encroachment permit application.

To apply, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans clearly indicating State ROW must be submitted to the following address: David Salladay, District Office Chief, Office of Permits, California Department of Transportation, District 4, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660. See the following website for more information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits>.



Mr. Timothy Johnston, City and County of San Francisco  
May 1, 2015  
Page 3

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Sherie George at 510-286-5535 or [sherie.george@dot.ca.gov](mailto:sherie.george@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



PATRICIA MAURICE  
Acting District Branch Chief  
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse



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**State Water Resources Control Board**

**APR 16 2015**

Timothy Johnston  
San Francisco Planning Department  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Dear Mr. Johnston:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT (CITY); SAN FRANCISCO WESTSIDE RECYCLED WATER PROJECT (PROJECT); SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2008052133

We understand that the City may be pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project. As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information and comments for the environmental document prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state. The CWSRF Program provides low-interest funding equal to one-half of the most recent State General Obligation Bond Rates with a 30-year term. Applications are accepted and processed continuously. Please refer to the State Water Board's CWSRF website at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml).

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and requires additional "CEQA-Plus" environmental documentation and review. Three enclosures are included that further explain the CWSRF Program environmental review process and the additional federal requirements. For the complete environmental application package, please visit: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml). The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli, at (916) 341-5855.

It is important to note that prior to a CWSRF financing commitment, projects are subject to provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and must obtain Section 7 clearance from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special status species.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

Please be advised that the State Water Board will consult with the USFWS, and/or the NMFS regarding all federal special-status species that the Project has the potential to impact if the Project is to be financed by the CWSRF Program. The City will need to identify whether the Project will involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement, that may affect federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that are known, or have a potential to occur in the Project site, in the surrounding areas, or in the service area, and to identify applicable conservation measures to reduce such effects.

In addition, CWSRF projects must comply with federal laws pertaining to cultural resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). The State Water Board has responsibility for ensuring compliance with Section 106 and the State Water Board must consult directly with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). SHPO consultation is initiated when sufficient information is provided by the CWSRF applicant. The City must retain a consultant that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards ([http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_9.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm)) to prepare a Section 106 compliance report.

Note that the City will need to identify the Area of Potential Effects (APE), including construction and staging areas, and the depth of any excavation. The APE is three-dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the Project. The APE includes the surface area and extends below ground to the depth of any Project excavations. The records search request should extend to a ½-mile beyond Project APE. The appropriate area varies for different projects but should be drawn large enough to provide information on what types of sites may exist in the vicinity.

Other federal environmental requirements pertinent to the Project under the CWSRF Program include the following (for a complete list of all environmental requirements, please visit: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/forms/application\\_environmental\\_package.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/forms/application_environmental_package.pdf)):

- A. Compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act: (a) Provide air quality studies that may have been done for the Project; and (b) if the Project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to a maintenance plan; (i) provide a summary of the estimated emissions (in tons per year) that are expected from both the construction and operation of the Project for each federal criteria pollutant in a nonattainment or maintenance area, and indicate if the nonattainment designation is moderate, serious, or severe (if applicable); (ii) if emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the Project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality, quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.
- B. Compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act: Identify whether the Project is within a coastal zone and the status of any coordination with the California Coastal Commission.
- C. Protection of Wetlands: Identify any portion of the proposed Project area that should be evaluated for wetlands or United States waters delineation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), or requires a permit from the USACE, and identify the status of coordination with the USACE.
- D. Compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act: Identify whether the Project will result in the conversion of farmland. State the status of farmland (Prime, Unique, or Local Statewide Importance) in the Project area and determine if this area is under a Williamson Act Contract.
- E. Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: List any birds protected under this act that may be impacted by the Project and identify conservation measures to minimize impacts.

- F. Compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act: Identify whether or not the Project is in a Flood Management Zone and include a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone maps for the area.
- G. Compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Identify whether or not any Wild and Scenic Rivers would be potentially impacted by the Project and include conservation measures to minimize such impacts.

Following are specific comments on the City's draft EIR:

1. The "project workforce" needed to complete the Central Reservoir portion of the Project is described on page 3-26 and 3-30 of the City's EIR. Page 3-26 states that the Central Reservoir site would require approximately one crew of up to 18 workers on a given day, but page 3-30 states the Central Reservoir site would require three crews of six workers each, please address this discrepancy.
2. Page 35 of the Initial Study (Appendix A of the EIR) identifies Population and Housing section a) as having a "Potentially Significant Impact," however, in the discussion that follows, the impact is said to be "Less than Significant." Similarly, section e) of Air Quality on page 45 of the Initial Study is identified as having "No Impact," yet the discussion concludes that the impact is "Less than Significant." Please address these discrepancies in the Final EIR.
3. Page 61 of the Initial Study indicated that the California Natural Diversity Database, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Native Plant Society special-status species lists were referenced as a part of the study. Please provide the date on which the United States Fish and Wildlife species list was sourced.
4. If the City is seeking CWSRF funding, please consider the following for the Cultural Resources section in regards to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act:
  - i. Please update the APE to include specific dimensions, including the depth at which excavation will occur for each portion of the Project.
  - ii. Please include documentation of initial and follow-up consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and the contacts that they provided.
  - iii. Please provide a map which displays the known historical resources in the area relative to the Project APE.

Please provide us with the following documents applicable to the proposed Project if seeking CWSRF or other State Water Board funding: (1) one copy of the draft and final EIR, (2) the resolution certifying the EIR and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) making California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings, (3) all comments received during the review period and the City's response to those comments, (4) the adopted MMRP, and (5) the Notice of Determination filed with the San Francisco County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the City's draft EIR. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 341-5855, or by email at [Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov), or contact Elysar Naja at (916) 327-9117, or by email at [Elysar.Naja@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Elysar.Naja@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Ahmad Kashkoli  
Senior Environmental Scientist

Enclosures (3)

1. Clean Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Review Requirements
2. Quick Reference Guide to CEQA Requirements for State Revolving Fund Loans
3. Basic Criteria for Cultural Resources Reports

cc: State Clearinghouse  
(Re: SCH# 2008052133)  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

# Basic Criteria for Cultural Resources Report Preparation

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Financial Assistance

For Section 106 Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under the National Historic Preservation Act

## CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT

The Cultural Resources Report must be prepared by a qualified researcher that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Please see the Professional Qualifications Standards at the following website at: [http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_9.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm)

The Cultural Resources Report should include one of the four "findings" listed in Section 106. These include:

### ***"No historic properties affected"***

(no properties are within the area of potential effect (APE; including below the ground).

### ***"No effect to historic properties"***

(properties may be near the APE, but the project will not have any adverse effects).

### ***"No adverse effect to historic properties"***

(the project may affect "historic properties", but the effects will not be adverse).

### ***"Adverse effect to historic properties"***

Note: Consultation with the SHPO will be required if a "no adverse effect to historic properties" or an "adverse effect to historic properties" determination is made, to develop and evaluate alternatives or modifications to the proposed project that could avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on "historic properties."

## RECORDS SEARCH

- A records search (less than one year old) extending to a half-mile beyond the project APE from a geographically appropriate Information Center is required. The records search should include maps that show all recorded sites and surveys in relation to the APE for the proposed project, and copies of the confidential site records included as an appendix to the Cultural Resources Report.
- The APE is three-dimensional (depth, length and width) and all areas (e.g., new construction, easements, staging areas, and access roads) directly affected by the proposed project.



We've got the green...  
to keep California's water clean.  
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND



## NATIVE AMERICAN and INTERESTED PARTY CONSULTATION

- Native American and interested party consultation should be initiated at the planning phase of the proposed project to gather information to assist with the preparation of an adequate Cultural Resources Report.
- The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted to obtain documentation of a search of the Sacred Lands Files for or near the project APE.
- All local Native American tribal organizations or individuals identified by the NAHC must be contacted by certified mail, and the letter should include a map and a description of the proposed project.
- Follow-up contact should be made by telephone and a phone log maintained to document the contacts and responses.
- Letters of inquiry seeking historical information on the project area and local vicinity should be sent to local historical societies, preservation organizations, or individual members of the public with a demonstrated interest in the proposed project.

Copies of all documents mentioned above (project description, map, phone log and letters sent to the NAHC and Native American tribal organizations or individuals and interested parties) must be included in the Cultural Resources Report.

**Contact Information:** For more information related to the CWSRF Program Cultural Resources and Requirements, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli at 916-341-5855 or Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov

## PRECAUTIONS

A finding of **“no known resources”** without supporting evidence is unacceptable. The Cultural Resources Report must identify resources within the APE or demonstrate with sufficient evidence that none are present.

**“The area is sensitive for buried archaeological resources,”** followed by a statement that **“monitoring is recommended.”** Monitoring is not an acceptable option without good-faith effort to demonstrate that no known resource is present.

If **“the area is already disturbed by previous construction”** documentation is still required to demonstrate that the proposed project will not affect “historic properties.” An existing road can be protecting a buried archaeological deposit or may itself be a “historic property.” Additionally, previous construction may have impacted an archaeological site that has not been previously documented.

## SHPO CONSULTATION LETTER

Submit a draft consultation letter prepared by the qualified researcher with the Cultural Resources Report to the State Water Resources Control Board. A [draft consultation letter template](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/cwsrf_requirements.shtml) is available for download on the State Water Board webpage at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/cwsrf\\_requirements.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/cwsrf_requirements.shtml)

# California Environmental Quality Act Requirements

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance, administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program. The CWSRF Program is partially funded by grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. All applicants seeking CWSRF financing must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and provide sufficient information so that the State Water Board can document compliance with federal environmental laws. The "Environmental Package" provides the forms and instructions needed to complete the environmental review requirements for CWSRF Program financing. It is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml)



We've got the **green...**  
to keep California's **water clean.**  
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

**Contact Information:** For more information related to the CWSRF Program environmental review process and requirements, please contact your State Water Board Project Manager or Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli at 916-341-5855 or [Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov)

## LEAD AGENCY

The applicant is usually the "Lead Agency" and must prepare and circulate an environmental document before approving a project. Only a public agency, such as a local, regional or state government, may be the "Lead Agency" under CEQA. If a project will be completed by a non-governmental organization, "Lead Agency" responsibility goes to the first public agency providing discretionary approval for the project.

## RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

The State Water Board is generally a "Responsible Agency" under CEQA. As a "Responsible Agency," the State Water Board must make findings based on information provided by the "Lead Agency" before financing a project.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The State Water Board's environmental review of the project's compliance with both CEQA and federal cross-cutting regulations must be completed before a project can be financed by the CWSRF Program.

## DOCUMENT REVIEW

Applicants are encouraged to consult with State Water Board staff early during preparation of CEQA document if considering CWSRF financing. Applicants shall also send their environmental documents to the State Water Board, Environmental Review Unit during the CEQA public review period. This way, any environmental concerns can be addressed early in the process.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Environmental Review Unit requires the documents listed below to make findings and complete its environmental review. Once the State Water Board receives all the required documents and makes its own findings, the environmental review for the project will be complete.

- ✓ Draft and Final Environmental Documents: Environmental Impact Report, Negative Declaration, and Mitigated Negative Declaration as appropriate to the project
- ✓ Resolution adopting/certifying the environmental document, making CEQA findings, and approving the project
- ✓ All comments received during the public review period and the "Lead Agency's" responses to those comments
- ✓ Adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, if applicable
- ✓ Date-stamped copy of the Notice of Determination or Notice of Exemption filed with the County Clerk(s) and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- ✓ CWSRF Evaluation Form for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination with supporting documents



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

[waterboards.ca.gov](http://waterboards.ca.gov)



**From:** giampaolosf [<mailto:giampaolosf@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 6:15 PM  
**To:** MacPherson, Scott (PUC); Johnston, Timothy (CPC)  
**Subject:** CASE 2008.0091E - COMMENT

The objective of the case project is a good idea.  
The decided location though is an absolute travesty!

1. Considering the **raising level of the ocean water;**
2. The well known and **utterly visible land erosion** by the ocean -monitored to no avail;
3. The decided location of the Recycling Plant -so close to the ocean, less than 200 yards- **ought to be revised** if the desire is for a savvy and successful project facilities built for the future.

I seriously question the financial and political intentions of promoters and supporters of such a project in that suggested landscape.

Respectfully,  
Giampaolo Curreri

# ATTACHMENT B

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## DEIR Hearing Transcript

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BEFORE THE  
SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING COMMISSION  
  
---o0o---  
AGENDA ITEM 2008.0091E  
PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
SAN FRANCISCO WESTSIDE RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

April 23, 2015 - 12:00 o'clock p.m.  
San Francisco Planning Commission Chambers  
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400  
San Francisco, California

REPORTED BY: DANA DIBASILIO TOGNINI, CSR NO. 10118

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A P P E A R A N C E S

SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING COMMISSION:

Rodney Fong, President

Cindy Wu, Vice President

Michael Antonini, Commissioner

Richard Hillis, Commissioner

Christine Johnson, Commissioner

Kathrin Moore, Commissioner

Dennis Richards, Commissioner

Commission Secretary: Jonas P. Ionin

Planning Department Staff:

Tim Johnston, EIR Coordinator

Barbara Palacios, Project Manager

- and Members of the Project Sponsor Team -

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I N D E X

PUBLIC COMMENT

(All speaker names spelled phonetically)

Page No.

KATHERINE HOWARD

6

RICHARD FONG

8

COMMISSION COMMENT

Commissioner Antonini

10

Commissioner Johnson

12

---o0o---

1 Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 1:27 o'clock p.m.

2 ---o0o---

3 SECRETARY IONIN: Item 10, 2008.0091E, San  
4 Francisco Recycled Water Project. This is a public  
5 hearing on the draft environmental impact report.  
6 Please note that written comments will be accepted to  
7 the Planning Department until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May  
8 4th, 2015.

9 MR. JOHNSTON: Good afternoon, Commissioners,  
10 President Wu [sic], Tim Johnston with the  
11 Environmental Planning section of the Planning  
12 Department. I'm the EIR coordinator for this -- for  
13 the SFPUC's proposed San Francisco Westside Recycled  
14 Water Project.

15 This is one of several that comprised the  
16 SFPUC's larger water system improvement project for  
17 our program, or our program coordinator SIP. Also  
18 here today is Barbara Palacios, who is SFPUC's project  
19 manager for this project. Should the Commission wish,  
20 Ms. Palacios can present a brief description of some  
21 of the main project comments for the proposed project.  
22 Otherwise, we can skip to public comment.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. JOHNSTON: Okay. I would now like to state  
25 this is a hearing to receive comments on the Draft EIR

1 for Case No. 2008.0091E, which assesses the impacts on  
2 the environment that could result from implementation  
3 of the San Francisco Westside Recycled Water Project.

4           This Draft EIR was published on March 18th,  
5 2015 and delivered to you shortly thereafter. Staff  
6 is not here to respond to comments on the  
7 environmental analysis. Such comments will be  
8 transcribed and responded to in writing in Responses  
9 to Comments document, which will respond to all verbal  
10 and written comments received during public comment  
11 period and may include revisions made to the Draft EIR  
12 as appropriate.

13           This is not a hearing to consider approval or  
14 disapproval of the project. That hearing will be held  
15 by the SFPUC following certification of a Final EIR.  
16 Comments today from the public should be directed  
17 towards the adequacy and accuracy of the information  
18 contained in the Draft EIR.

19           Commenters are asked to speak slowly and  
20 clearly so the court reporter can produce an accurate  
21 transcript. Commenters should also state their name  
22 and address so that a copy -- so that they can be sent  
23 a copy of the Responses to Comments document when it's  
24 completed. After comment from the general public,  
25 we'll also take any comments on the Draft EIR from the



1 Planning Commission.

2 The public comment period for this project  
3 began on March 18th, and extends until 5:00  
4 p.m. on Monday, May 4th, 2015. Since this is a local  
5 San Francisco project, this is the only hearing on the  
6 Draft EIR being held.

7 And unless the Commission members have any  
8 questions, I recommend that the public hearing be  
9 opened.

10 PRESIDENT FONG: Thank you. Okay. Opening it up  
11 for public comment, I have two speaker cards: Richard  
12 Fong and Katherine Howard.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

14 SECRETARY IONIN: If your name has been called,  
15 feel free to approach the podium.

16 MS. HOWARD: Good afternoon, Commissioners,  
17 Katherine Howard, Golden Gate Park Preservation  
18 Alliance. I would like to comment on Section 1.5,  
19 "Areas of Known Controversy," which states, "The SFPUC  
20 then proposed to construct a recycled water treatment  
21 plant at the site of the former Richmond Sunset plant  
22 within Golden Gate Park. This proposed plant would  
23 have placed a 40,000 square foot, 30-foot-high  
24 concrete bunker with a chemical building in the  
25 western end of Golden Gate Park next to Ocean Beach,

1 an area which is designated in the 1998 Golden Gate  
2 Park Master Plan as "an area to remain wild and  
3 forested."

4           The EIR further states, "Following the NOP  
5 scoping period, the SFPUC held a series of public  
6 workshops to solicit feedback on other potential  
7 project sites." We would like to state that this is  
8 an accurate description.

9           We would like to thank the PUC for holding  
10 these workshops, which over 100 people attended, and  
11 where the public explained the importance of  
12 protecting Golden Gate Park from this inappropriate  
13 development.

14           The PUC listened, and as is stated in the  
15 EIR, they moved the project out of Golden Gate Park.  
16 We would also like to clarify that, on the contrary,  
17 the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department  
18 strongly supported placing this massive water  
19 treatment factory in Golden Gate Park, even going so  
20 far as to state that a 40,000 square foot factory was  
21 appropriate to Golden Gate Park and met the charter  
22 requirement of being a recreation use because it would  
23 provide water for the park.

24           Following this bizarre reasoning, one could  
25 also install oil wells or even factories to

1 manufacture those little gardener carts. However, it  
2 is possible that the vision of an income stream from  
3 the lease of our parkland was the motivator for the  
4 Recreation and Park Department's position of  
5 non-stewardship of our major park. But I digress.

6           We are here today to vouch for the accuracy  
7 of the statements in the EIR and to thank the PUC for  
8 following a rigorous and open public process, for  
9 listening to the people of San Francisco and for  
10 protecting Golden Gate Park. Thank you.

11           PRESIDENT FONG: Is there any additional public  
12 comment?

13           MR. FONG: Good afternoon, Commissioners, Chair  
14 Rodney Fong. My name is Richard Fong. I live at 1855  
15 15th Street, Apartment 505. My interest in this  
16 particular project has to do with whether or not the  
17 zoo is going to be environmentally impacted. There  
18 wasn't anything brought up about where they are going  
19 to put, in the zoo, this very large reservoir, over  
20 800,000 gallons.

21           They want to put it in the lot area. When  
22 they did that, they also brought in where there would  
23 be three 400-horsepower motors. So all of that in the  
24 parking lot area would then drift all around the  
25 plants and animals of the zoo. So when I looked at

1 that very thoroughly, I did not like that too much at  
2 all. We have animals here in our zoo, which are rare  
3 and endangered species. They are not necessarily of  
4 the Red-Legged Frog and not necessarily bats, but we  
5 have our own animals.

6           Environmentally this would actually leave a  
7 pretty big shock, when you have four or three --  
8 actually, one is on standby -- motors ready to pump  
9 this water all the way across to the Presidio and to  
10 the Golden Gate Park and other places, it's going to  
11 cause a lot of disturbances to the residents and the  
12 people around the area.

13           I don't have the ability to try to explain to  
14 you what kind of impact it would have on the animals  
15 at the zoo, along with this pipeline argument,  
16 everything going on in this project has to do with  
17 costs of piping. And particular cost, I would like to  
18 see deferred to a later time.

19           Specifically, when I look at the project  
20 alternatives, there is one big part that's missing on  
21 it: They don't want to do anything saline --  
22 desalinating the water. But I would bring forward to  
23 this Planning Commission, they already have a  
24 desalination at San Diego County, and it is somewhere  
25 around 15 million gallons a day. So when they look --

1 when I look at this project, this particular project  
2 might be only 5 million gallons a day. We here at San  
3 Francisco have a requirement of 25 million gallons a  
4 day. That's very simple math. We have to find a  
5 better source of regenerating and making the water.

6 We do have a large area out there. All it  
7 requires would be the PUC, trying to take the land  
8 that the California Reservists are using as a training  
9 area. It stinks up there and everything else, so it's  
10 going to do a very lousy environmental impact on the  
11 zoo if they put it down below. I would like to get  
12 the alternative. Thank you.

13 PRESIDENT FONG: Thank you. Is there any  
14 additional public comment?

15 (No response.)

16 PRESIDENT FONG: Okay. Public comment is closed.  
17 Okay. Commissioner Antonini?

18 COMMENT BY COMMISSIONER ANTONINI

19 COMMISSIONER ANTONINI: Yeah, my comments have to  
20 do not with what is analyzed here, but the exclusion  
21 of any analysis of a plan that was before the voters  
22 probably 20 years ago, maybe a little bit more. And  
23 it was a bond measure that had to do with irrigation  
24 for Golden Gate Park. At that time, I don't believe  
25 it used recycled water, but the same concept could be

1 applied. And part of this bond measure included  
2 storage facilities in Sunset Heights, which had the  
3 advantage of a significant drop in elevation, which  
4 would increase the pressure for irrigation in Golden  
5 Gate Park, which is one of the lower areas of the  
6 City, and it might make less pumping necessary  
7 because, of course, once you've got the water into the  
8 reservoir there, you wouldn't -- probably just gravity  
9 would allow to it come down and do a lot better job  
10 than the type of irrigation you have now.

11 I notice you're also going up to the  
12 Presidio, where you've got a separate pump station.  
13 But, you know, the idea I'm mentioning is that the  
14 analysis should also look, as an alternative, of using  
15 the heights we have, particularly the Sunset Heights  
16 area, which is extremely high and would perhaps  
17 minimize the amount of energy that was needed on  
18 pumping if a reservoir was put up there. And  
19 especially in years when we have drought problems, we  
20 could store lot of water, even recycled water, that  
21 would be available for use as we move through the  
22 years.

23 So that's just my comments on what is not in  
24 this report, from what I can see.

25 PRESIDENT FONG: Commissioner Johnson?

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COMMENT BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSON

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you very much. I also don't have as much comments on the technical aspects of the analysis here. I feel that it was an adequate analysis. The one thing that I might ask is in the project description, both in the synopsis and across the document, it would be great to understand the potential for this project to have to have further increases in capacity, particularly if we start looking at residential gray water.

I didn't see a lot about that, and that may have either -- I don't know what further impacts that increase in capacity may have, so it might be good to make mention of the potential for this site to be used for those purposes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FONG: If there is nothing further, Commissioners? We can move on, then, to Item 11.

(Whereupon, this matter was concluded at 1:40 o'clock p.m.)

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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA    )  
                                      )  
2 COUNTY OF MARIN        )

3               I, DANA DIBASILIO TOGNINI, a Certified  
4 Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, duly  
5 authorized to administer oaths pursuant to Section 8211  
6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, do hereby  
7 certify that the foregoing proceedings were reported by  
8 me, a disinterested person, and were thereafter  
9 transcribed under my direction into typewriting and is  
10 a true and correct transcription of said proceedings.

11              I further certify that I am not of counsel or  
12 attorney for either or any of the parties in the  
13 foregoing deposition and caption named, nor in any way  
14 interested in the outcome of the cause named in said  
15 caption.

16              Dated the 7th day of May, 2015.

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*Dana DiBasilio Tognini*  
DANA DIBASILIO TOGNINI  
CSR No. 10118 (California)