

Department of Public Works

Bureau of Engineering
Report No. 1

February 27, 2017
CD No. 12

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD
PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY
of Los Angeles California
AND REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL
FEB 27 2017


Executive Officer
Board of Public Works

ALISO CREEK - LIMEKILN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT (PROJECT) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) COMPLIANCE AND PROJECT APPROVAL (WORK ORDER NO. EW40026A) (SCH No. 2016101027)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the requirements of the CEQA, adopt and forward this report and transmittals to City Council with the following recommendations:

1. Review and consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
2. Find that, on the basis of the whole record, there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the City's independent judgement and analysis.
3. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
4. Approve the Project as described in the Initial Study.
5. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Program.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Project has a budget of \$10,040,089. The funding source for the Project is from Proposition O General Obligation Bond funds.

TRANSMITTALS

1. Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Aliso Creek - Limekiln Restoration Project, dated December 2016.
2. Mitigation Monitoring Program, dated December 2016.

DISCUSSION

Background

The proposed Project is located at 8956 Vanalden Avenue within the Northridge Community Plan area. The Project is located at the confluence of the concrete-lined Aliso and Limekiln Creek flood control channels (Channels), both owned and maintained by

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The 11.8-acre site is bounded by Vanalden Avenue to the west; the Wilkinson Multipurpose Senior Center, a parking lot, residential housing to the north; residential and commercial site to the east; and Union Pacific railroad right-of-way to the south.

Aliso Creek is designated as an impaired water body by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Impairments for Aliso Creek identified on the State's list of impaired water bodies (also known as 303[d] List [2010]) include copper, fecal coliforms, and selenium. Federal and State requirements impose water quality limits on water bodies by developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for chemical pollutants originating from stormwater and urban runoff discharges. TMDLs identify water quality limits for specific pollutants that a water body can receive without becoming impaired, while maintaining its beneficial use. The Selenium TMDL for Aliso Creek has been issued and the issuance of TMDLs for fecal coliform and copper are anticipated in 2019.

The proposed project is funded by Proposition O, a \$500 million Clean Water Bond Measure, approved by City of Los Angeles (City) voters on November 5, 2004. The proposed Project would implement multi-purpose solutions consistent with Proposition O objectives to protect public health by reducing pollutant loads in the waters of the City, to meet Clean Water Act standards, while providing multiple benefits including water supply, improved park facilities, educational opportunities, wildlife habitats, restoring vegetation, and open space. The proposed Project would improve water quality by implementing stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) that divert all dry weather flow and a portion of wet weather flows from the channels and a nearby storm drain before the flow outlets to Aliso Creek and ultimately the Los Angeles River (River).

Project Description

The Project includes stormwater BMPs to treat urban runoff and stormwater to reduce pollutant in-flow from Aliso and Limekiln Creeks, which ultimately flows to the River. Proposed BMPs include in-channel diversions, pump stations, pretreatment devices, subsurface piping, vegetated biofiltration basins, and electrical and instrumentation equipment.

Urban runoff and stormwater from the channels and an existing 102-inch storm drain pipe would be diverted to pretreatment devices for removal of trash and debris. The partially treated water would then be conveyed to three biofiltration basins. The BMP footprints would be designed to maximize the water quality benefits while meeting the allocated construction budget. The BMPs would be designed to mimic natural hydrologic processes and minimize the amount of pollutants in the stormwater before it is discharged into the River. The basins would be designed to preserve the natural look of the park. Interpretive signage would be included to inform users of the BMP benefits.

Mitigation measures have been included in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration to ensure that any impacts are reduced to less than significant.

Department of Public Works
Bureau of Engineering
Report No. 1

February 27, 2017
Page 3

Public Participation and Public Review

The proposed draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was circulated for public review and comment from October 6, 2016 to November 4, 2016. A notice of intent/availability was published, in the Los Angeles Times, on October 6, 2016. A notice of intent/availability was mailed to interested parties and to owners and occupants of properties adjacent to the proposed Project site. The notice was also filed with the City and County Clerks. The draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was available for review at the Northridge Library, 9051 Darby Avenue, in Northridge; Wilkinson Multi-Purpose Senior Center, 8956 Vanalden Avenue, in Northridge; Council District 12 - District Office, 9207 Oakdale Avenue, in Chatsworth; the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) Environmental Management Group's office, and on-line at the BOE's Website.

Four correspondences commenting on the IS/MND were received during the public review period. Copies of the correspondence along with responses can be found in the "COMMENTS AND RESPONSES" section of the Final IS/MND (Transmittal No. 1). None of the comments received necessitated changes in the Project or the conclusion or findings of the Initial Study or in the mitigation measures of the Mitigation Monitoring Program (Transmittal No. 2).

(MEM KKO RMK ALM KKR)

Report reviewed by:

Respectfully submitted,

BOE (POB and ADM)

Report prepared by:



Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP
City Engineer

Environmental Management Group

Maria E. Martin
Group Manager
Phone No. (213) 485-5753

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Questions regarding this report
may be referred to:
Andy Flores, Project Manager
Phone No. (213) 485-4496
E-mail: Andy.Flores@lacity.org
and/or

Shokoufe Marashi, Environmental Supervisor I
Phone No. (213) 485-5759
E-mail: Shokoufe.Marashi@lacity.org

