

Department of Public Works

Bureau of Engineering
Report No. 1August 18, 2020
CD Nos. 1 and 14**AUG 18 2020**
AND REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL
Executive Officer
Board of Public Works**LOS ANGELES RIVER AND ARROYO SECO LOW FLOW DIVERSIONS PROJECT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE AND PROJECT APPROVAL BY THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL****RECOMMENDING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS (BOARD):**

In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), review and consider the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco Low Flow Diversions Project (Project) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), and ADOPT and FORWARD this report and transmittals to the City Council with the recommendations that it:

1. REVIEW and CONSIDER the IS/MND.
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 MND reflects the City's independent judgment and analysis.
3. ADOPT the MND.
4. ADOPT the Mitigation Monitoring Program.
5. SPECIFY that the documents constituting the record of proceedings in this matter are in in the files of the Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering (BOE), Environmental Management Group located at 1149 South Broadway.
6. APPROVE the Project as described in the Initial Study.

TRANSMITTALS

1. Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco Low Flow Diversions, dated August 2020.
2. Mitigation Monitoring Program, dated August 2020.

DISCUSSION***Background***

In June 2010, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) adopted the Los Angeles River Watershed Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL thresholds are defined as the maximum limit for a specific pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. This Bacteria TMDL

became effective on March 23, 2012, after approvals by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Office of Administrative Law, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its intent is to protect the recreation beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River Watershed by applying waste load allocations to dry and wet weather urban runoff discharges from the storm drain system. These discharges often contain elevated levels of bacteria that could potentially endanger public health.

The Los Angeles River Watershed Bacteria TMDL became enforceable after it was incorporated in the 2012 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 Permit; LARWQCB Order No. R4-2012-0175, as amended by R4-2012-0175-A01 in September 2016). The Bacteria TMDL established a compliance timeline for meeting the dry weather requirements for Los Angeles River (Reach 2) no later than March 23, 2022, and for the Arroyo Seco (Reach 1) no later than September 23, 2023. The City would implement the proposed Project to help meet the dry weather waste load allocations of the Los Angeles River Watershed Bacteria TMDL.

Project Description

The City is proposing to construct five low flow diversion (LFD) systems: two LFD systems to divert dry-weather flows which discharge into the Arroyo Seco and three LFD systems to divert the dry-weather flows which discharge into Reach 2 of the Los Angeles River. The Project would intercept dry-weather flows from five prioritized storm drains before discharge into receiving water bodies and divert the dry-weather flows into sanitary sewers for treatment at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant. The Project construction consists of installing diversion structures within existing storm drains, below-grade gravity pipelines, trash collection structures, maintenance holes, junction structures, pump well structures, pressurized discharge pipes, valve and meter vaults, power supplies for pump stations, a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, and instrumentation. The intent of the Project is to help improve water quality and comply with the Bacteria TMDL requirements of the Los Angeles River Watershed by removing the dry-weather flows.

The proposed Project consists of five Project sites:

1. The *Figueroa Street LFD* is located in the unpaved access road next to Sycamore Grove Park at the southeast corner of North Figueroa Street and South Avenue 49 in the Highland Park community. The LFD will divert a maximum dry weather flow of 0.32 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the City-owned storm drain which runs perpendicular to State Route (SR) 110.
2. The *Via Marisol LFD* is located in the public right-of-way on Via Marisol between Monterey Road and the SR 110 in the Highland Park community. The LFD will divert a maximum dry weather flow of 0.03 cfs from a City-owned 24-inch diameter storm drain and a 30-inch diameter storm drain which run through Hermon Dog Park to an 8-inch sewer line in Via Marisol.

3. The *Rose Street LFD* is located in the public right-of-way on 2nd Street between Alameda Street and Rose Street in the Arts District area of downtown Los Angeles. This LFD will divert a maximum dry weather flow of 1.77 cfs from a Los Angeles County-owned storm drain which runs west to east in 2nd Street.
4. The *Mission Road LFD* is located in the public right-of-way on Mission Road between Cesar Chavez Avenue and the U.S. Route 101 freeway ramps in the Boyle Heights community. The LFD will divert maximum dry weather flow of 1.25 cfs from three City-owned storm drains which all run east-west in Elliott Street and discharge to the adjacent Los Angeles River outfall.
5. The *Palmetto Street LFD* is located at the intersection of Palmetto Street and Santa Fe Avenue within the public right-of-way in the Arts District area of downtown Los Angeles. This LFD will divert a maximum dry weather flow of 0.34 cfs from two storm drains, one City-owned and one Los Angeles County-owned, to an 8-inch sewer.

Mitigation measures for cultural resources and noise have been included in the IS/MND that reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant, as indicated in the MND.

Public Participation and Public Review

The proposed draft IS/MND was circulated for public review and comment from June 25, 2020 to July 14, 2020. A Notice of Intent/Notice of Availability (NOI/NA) was published in the Los Angeles Times on June 25, 2020. The NOI/NOA was mailed to interested parties and to the owners and occupants of the properties within 500 feet of the proposed Project sites. The NOI/NOA was also filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and applicable guidelines, the draft IS/MND was available for review upon request at the BOE Environmental Management Group's office; and online at the BOE's website.

Four correspondences commenting on the IS/MND were received during the public review period. Copies of the correspondences along with responses can be found in the "RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT IS/MND" 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 IS/MND or in the mitigation measures of the Mitigation Monitoring Program (Transmittal No. 2). In addition to the public participation noted above, the BOE, during the pre-design and design phases, held two public outreach meetings and coordinated with the Council District Office Nos. 1 and 14, who are supportive of the Project.

Construction Schedule

Project construction is anticipated to start April 2021 and end October 2022.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Los Angeles River Low Flow Diversions has a budget of \$14,096,000. The Arroyo Seco Low Flow Diversions has a budget of \$8,033,600. The Project has a combined budget of \$22,129,600. The funding source for the Project originates from Measure W Municipal Return funds.

(MEM CFJ RMK ALM)

Report reviewed by:

BOE (ADM and POB)

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Respectfully submitted,



Electronically signed by 21966 on 08/08/2020 at 2:34:44 PM

Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP
City Engineer