

  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF SANITATION

BOARD REPORT NO. 3

OCTOBER 4, 2006

REVISED

CD: ALL

INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN (IRP) - CERTIFICATION OF FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND ADOPTION OF IRP RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Concur with the following Integrated Resources Plan Recommendations and forward to City Council for actions:
  - a. Certify the Integrated Resources Plan Final Environmental Impact Report
  - b. Adopt the Statement of Findings and Overriding Considerations
  - c. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
  - d. Adopt Staff Recommended Alternative 4 as the recommended alternative for the Integrated Resources Plan
  - e. Approve the Implementation Strategy for the Integrated Resources Plan
  - f. Instruct staff to file the attached Notice of Determination within five (5) working days of City Council approval of project.
  - g. Instruct Department of Public Works' Bureau of Sanitation (Public Works-Sanitation) to report annually on the progress in achieving the recommendations contained herein and potential additional actions.
2. Forward a copy of this Board Report, once approved to the Department of Water and Power Board of Commissioners for their information.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Total estimated capital cost in 2006 dollars for Go Projects is \$663 Million.

The Department of Public Works' Bureau of Sanitation is responsible for developing the 10-year Wastewater Capital Improvement Program

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(WCIP). This program includes replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of the City's wastewater treatment and collection facilities. The Department of Public Works' Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) is also responsible for watershed protection, which includes compliance with stormwater and urban run off regulations (TMDLs and NPDES permits) and beneficial use of runoff. Using a similar process, staff develops a CIP for the watershed protection program as part of the annual budget process. Detailed rate impacts and subsequent budget approval will be conducted as part of the BOS annual budget approval process. The wastewater and stormwater programs are funded by the Sewer Construction and Maintenance, Stormwater Pollution Abatement, and Prop O funding. Therefore, impact on General Fund is not anticipated. The Department of Water and Power is responsible for implementation of recycled water projects and water conservation programs, and its associated CIP.

#### TRANSMITTALS

1. Final Environmental Impact Report
2. Statement of Findings and Overriding Considerations
3. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
4. Implementation Strategy for the Integrated Resources Plan
5. Notice of Determination

#### DISCUSSION

##### **Background**

The City of Los Angeles, Integrated Resources Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzes in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines the impacts that would occur from implementing the Staff Recommended Alternative. The Recommended Alternative would address the future needs for the wastewater, recycled water systems and runoff management programs in the City of Los Angeles through the year 2020.

The City of Los Angeles owns and operates four wastewater treatment plants and water reclamation plants that manage the wastewater generated in the City of Los Angeles and other areas in neighboring jurisdictions. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) projects that the population of the City of Los Angeles



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(currently estimated at 3.8 million persons) and neighboring areas will increase substantially over the next 20 to 30 years.

Approximately every 10 years, the City of Los Angeles prepares a wastewater facilities plan that evaluates the current wastewater treatment system, projects future wastewater flows based on the SCAG population projections, and identifies ways in which future demand can be managed. Previous wastewater facilities plans have focused solely on the wastewater treatment system. The Integrated Resources Plan integrates wastewater planning with runoff management (dry weather and wet weather), and recycled water planning.

Also, the City of Los Angeles may pursue federal funding through the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) for some IRP facilities. The State Board mandates compliance with specific federal regulations and requirements during the environmental process, and the EIR is provided to assist in achieving those requirements.

#### ***Findings of EIR***

The proposed project has the potential for significant environmental impacts related to local air quality, noise and vibration, local traffic congestion, loss of parking, damage to cultural resources, and disturbance of community resources. Most of these impacts would be highly localized, temporary in nature, and sensitive to the application of best construction practices, and feasible mitigation measures. Significant and unavoidable adverse impacts would remain. Consequently, the project requires that a statement of overriding considerations be adopted by the City Council prior to its approval.

#### ***Project Alternatives***

The City of Los Angeles, in association with the Steering Group, developed over 20 preliminary project alternatives that addressed future (2020) wastewater, recycled water, and runoff needs. The City of Los Angeles used the information from the Steering Group as the basis for ranking preliminary alternatives, and those that ranked lowest were eliminated from further consideration. The remaining alternatives were further evaluated in terms of the extent to which they addressed wastewater needs, provided leadership in water resources, and incorporated fiscal conditions. Applying various criteria, the following alternatives were carried forward for detailed analysis:

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1. The No Project (Baseline) Alternative.
2. Alternative 1: Expansion of Hyperion Treatment Plant to 500 million gallons per day (mgd) with high potential for water resources project (Hyperion Alternative).
3. Alternative 2: Expansion of Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant to 80 mgd and Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant to 30 mgd with high potential for water resources projects (Tillman-LAG Alternative).
4. Alternative 3: Tillman Expansion (to 100 mgd) with moderate potential for water resources projects (Tillman Moderate Alternative).
5. Alternative 4: Tillman Expansion (to 100 mgd) with high potential for water resources projects (Tillman High Alternative).

Section 2.1.1 of Transmittal No. 4 provides in detail the description of each alternative.

### ***Public Participation***

In the latter part of 1999 the Bureau of Sanitation commenced the process of developing the City's first Integrated Plan for the Wastewater Program (Integrated Resources Plan - Phase I) The Bureau of Sanitation took a proactive role in soliciting public input from the very beginning of this effort through a coordinated partnership with our numerous stakeholders. The strategy development process was guided by active public participation involving impacted and interested communities, homeowner groups, citizen groups, religious organizations, environmental groups, local public agencies and municipalities, and other stakeholders. In 2001, the Board of Public Works and the City Council concurred with Guiding Principles developed by staff in conjunction with the stakeholder policy recommendations and directed BOS to continue with the necessary tasks to meet the needs of the wastewater program to the Year 2020.

Extensive public outreach and involvement has been conducted in support of the IRP EIR. Prior to and throughout the preparation of the EIR, the Stakeholders' Group has participated in the development of IRP EIR alternatives. In addition, the most recent Stakeholders' Group workshop was held on July 7, 2006, to discuss the content of the Final EIR, including responses to public comments, EIR findings and mitigation measures.



In addition to the formal scoping process described previously, extensive community outreach efforts were undertaken to solicit input (particularly from those likely to be directly impacted by the proposed project) on strategies that might be employed to minimize impacts. Numerous meetings/discussions with responsible and involved agencies, affected property owners, elected officials, potentially impacted residents were conducted by project staff from the commencement of the project development phase through the closure of the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in March 31, 2006.

#### ***Draft EIR Review and Comments***

The Draft EIR was released in November 30, 2005 and initially made available for comment for 90 days (comments due February 27, 2006). A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR was mailed to over 8,000 agencies, organizations, and interested persons, including residents within 500 feet of the proposed sewer alignments within the City of Los Angeles. In addition, a notice was published in the Los Angeles Times on December 1, 2005, and the Draft EIR was distributed to the local libraries. The Draft EIR also was sent to governmental agencies including the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, applicable Responsible and Trustee agencies, and other jurisdictions. The Draft EIR also was posted on the IRP Web site for the City and is available for download and review at [www.lacity.org/san/irp](http://www.lacity.org/san/irp).

In January 2006, four public meetings were held to present the findings of the Draft EIR. These meetings were scheduled during the day and in the evenings to accommodate attendees varied schedules. The meetings were scheduled to be accessible to various geographic areas affected by the IRP—the San Fernando Valley (Van Nuys City Hall); Central Los Angeles (the LADWP in Los Angeles); West Los Angeles (Council District 11, Los Angeles); and the Los Angeles Zoo at Witherbee Auditorium in Los Angeles. Public comments, including oral testimony, on the scope and content of the Draft EIR were accepted at the public hearings, which were recorded by court reporters. Information for submitting comments in writing to the Lead Agency were provided in the NOA and at the public meetings.

The comment period was extended to 120 days (March 31, 2006) to provide the public additional time to submit their comments. The public was also informed of "The alignment modification being considered, which will be analyzed as part of the final EIR, could

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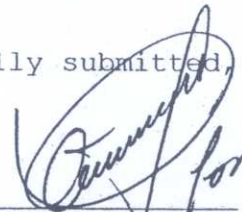
connect the eastern portion of the GBIS South alignment along Forest Lawn Drive with the western portion of GBIS North Alignment in Riverside Drive through a corridor in the public right-of-way in or in the vicinity of Pass Avenue."

During the public comment period, the City staff met with the City of Burbank to discuss the proposed alignments for the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer (GBIS). As a result of this coordination, we have included additional voluntary improvement measures that the City of Los Angeles will implement to address issues raised by the City of Burbank and other members of the public. These voluntary improvement measures, presented in Section 1.5.2.2 and incorporated into the Final EIR, address traffic, noise, and vibration.

Other parties contacted by the City of Los Angeles about the Final EIR include all certified neighborhood councils. These councils were contacted via the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and were apprised of the Final EIR contents, including the content of and rationale for the Recommended Alternative.

(.AH VSA RLR )

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita L. Robinson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

RITA L. ROBINSON, Director  
Bureau of Sanitation

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