

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX Southern California Field Office  
600 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1460  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
For the City of Moreno Valley – Edgemont Water Master Plan

**PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The project is located on the western most end of the City of Moreno Valley and encompasses approximately 430 acres, generally located north of Alessandro Blvd, east of 1-215, south of Eucalyptus Avenue, and west of Elsworth Street. This area is also known as the Edgemont area.

Currently, the existing water system facilities in the project area are hydraulically incapable of supplying the necessary fire flow demand to support existing property development conditions. Additionally, the water system is an aging and deteriorating system and in need of replacement and rehabilitation. The completed project will provide safe and clean drinking water to the residents in the City of Moreno Valley.

The Environmental Assessment examines two alternatives to upgrade the water system in the Edgemont area. Alternative 1 consists of the construction of a new water reservoir tank that will serve as the water supply for the City. A new pipeline system will be constructed to supply the water to the Edgemont area. Alternative 2 uses the existing Western Municipal Water District system to supply water to the Edgemont Area. A pipeline system nearly identical to alternative 1 will be constructed under this alternative. The differences in the pipeline are minor and solely related to the connection point between the two alternatives.

Funding for the City of Moreno Valley is through a congressional earmark awarded on September 19, 2006. The total project cost is estimated to be \$15,161,440 for alternative 1 and \$14,957,250 for alternative 2. The EPA portion of the grant is for \$240,600 with a required City match of \$196,855.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§4321-4370f; Council of Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR §§1500.1-1508.28; and EPA NEPA regulations, 40 CFR Part 6, EPA has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that examines the potential environmental impacts and alternatives to the proposed project. After carefully considering the regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of this project. The following

Mitigation Measures (MM) will be implemented to reduce any significant impacts.

**MM Aesthetics 1:** To assure the proposed tank(s) does/do not create glare or an unsightly situation, the construction specifications for the proposed tank(s) shall require that the proposed tanks be painted to complement the existing tanks and to blend into the environment. (Applicable to Alternative 1, only.)

**MM Biological 1:** Construction activities involving heavy equipment should avoid the avian breeding season (February 1 – August 31). If construction occurs outside this timeframe, no further action is required. If construction-related activities involving heavy equipment are proposed during the avian breeding season, a pre-activity survey conducted in areas potentially affected (directly or indirectly) by project implementation is required prior to development to determine if active nests of protected species are present in the construction zone or within an appropriate buffer area as part of project approval. Preconstruction surveys within suitable habitat should be conducted within 30 days of construction activities to determine if active nests protected by the MBTA or CDFG are present in the construction zone for CEQA compliance. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed or suspended for more than 30 days after the preconstruction survey, the site should be resurveyed if suitable habitat is present. Results of a pre-activity nesting survey would determine the appropriate measures (if necessary) to reduce potentially adverse impacts to those species that may be found to breed in the area. Unless otherwise specified in the preconstruction survey, if active nests are located, no grading or heavy equipment activity should take place within at least 300 feet of an active raptor nest and 100 feet of most common songbird nests.

**MM Cultural 1:** To prevent potential impacts to archeological resources and in the unlikely event that archeological material is discovered during any earth-moving operations, the construction specifications for grading and construction activities shall include the requirement that should any archeological resources be inadvertently discovered during grading or construction, construction activities shall be moved to other parts of the project site and a qualified archeologist shall be contacted to determine the significance of these resources. If the find is determined to be a historical or unique archeological resource, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, avoidance or other appropriate measures shall be implemented.

**MM Cultural 2:** To prevent potential impacts to paleontological resources and in the unlikely event that paleontological material is discovered during any earth-moving operations, the construction specifications for grading and construction activities shall include the requirement that should any paleontological resources be inadvertently discovered during grading or construction, construction activities shall be moved to other parts of the project site and a qualified paleontologist shall be contacted to determine the significance of these resources. If the find is determined to be of paleontological significance, monitoring and/or removal, or other appropriate measures, shall be implemented.

**MM Geology 1:** Geotechnical investigations shall be conducted prior to approval of any proposed water reservoir (tank) in the Water Infrastructure Analysis Study. The geotechnical investigation recommendations, required to reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels, shall be incorporated into preliminary and final design of the proposed reservoir. (Applicable to Alternative 1, only.)

**MM Hazards 1:** In order to protect future workers and facilities from being located on or near a contaminated property, the construction specifications for grading and construction activities shall include the requirement that if during construction of any Water Master Plan facilities, soil and/or groundwater contamination is accidentally discovered or suspected, construction in the area shall cease, and appropriate Health and Safety measures shall be implemented. The contractors hired by the City (or entity constructing the facilities) shall contact the City of Moreno Valley Fire Department and/or State Department of Toxic Substance Control to obtain the necessary information on appropriate remediation measures, oversight responsibility, and their implementation.

## Public Review

The EA is available for public review at the offices of the EPA Southern California Field

Office in Los Angeles, CA. In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/nepa/epa-generated.html> .

The EA is also available for public review at the following City of Moreno Valley location:

City of Moreno Valley  
City Hall  
14177 Frederick Street  
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-0805

To obtain additional information about the project, please contact Howard Kahan by email at: [kahan.howard@epa.gov](mailto:kahan.howard@epa.gov) or by calling (213)244-1819.

All interested persons may submit comments to EPA Region 9 by November 6, 2009. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of the comment period. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Howard Kahan at the address listed below.

Howard Kahan (WTR-4)  
U.S. EPA, Region 9  
Southern California Field Office  
600 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1460  
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Email [kahan.howard@epa.gov](mailto:kahan.howard@epa.gov)

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA's responses and this FONSI will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If this FONSI is signed by the Regional Administrator, it will not be re-circulated for review, but will be available to any individual upon request.

#### **FINDING**

After review of the EA and any comments received, EPA will determine if the proposed project will or will not have a significant impact on the environment and if an Environmental Impact Statement will or will not be prepared for this project.

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Laura Yoshii  
Acting Regional Administrator

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Date

