

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 MANTECA ARSENIC REDUCTION PROJECT

### PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

This Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed Manteca Arsenic Reduction Project. The City of Manteca (City) proposes to implement a water quality improvement project that would reduce the arsenic concentrations in groundwater pumped through the City's potable water system and delivered to customers within the City. The City is experiencing high arsenic concentrations from some of its groundwater wells, specifically Wells 12, 15, and 22. The project would result in the construction of a network of pipelines that would connect all three wells to a surface water tank site. Groundwater from the wells would be mixed with surface water at each well site to dilute the concentration of arsenic prior to being delivered to customers. The preferred alternative includes 14,415 linear feet of pipeline and is located entirely within existing roadway alignments. Alternative 1 includes 14,540 linear feet of pipeline and the majority of the pipeline would be constructed in the existing Tidewater bike path alignment. Alternative 2 would involve the construction of well-head treatment facilities at each well site location that would reduce its arsenic concentrations.

The project would be constructed within a 2 square-mile area, located in the central, urbanized area of the City of Manteca. The project area is bounded by Lathrop Road to the North, West North Street to the south, North Union Road to the west, and Tidewater bike path to the east.

### 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 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 will be incorporated into this project.

#### **Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Reduction of Short-Term Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Ozone Precursors Generated by Construction.**

The City will implement the following measures to control short-term emissions of criteria air pollutants and ozone precursors generated by project construction:

- ▶ The proposed project will comply with SJVAPCD Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM<sub>10</sub> Prohibitions) and implement all applicable control measures, as required by law. Regulation VIII contains, but is not limited to, the following required control measures:
  - Pre-water site sufficient to limit visible dust emissions (VDE) to 20% opacity.
  - Phase work to reduce the amount of disturbed surface area at any one time.
  - Limit the speed of vehicles traveling on uncontrolled unpaved access/haul roads within construction sites to a maximum of 15 miles per hour.
  - When storing bulk materials, comply with the conditions for a stabilized surface as listed above.
  - Cover bulk materials stored outdoors with tarps, plastic, or other suitable material and anchor in such a manner that prevents the cover from being removed by wind action.
  - Load all haul trucks such that the freeboard is not less than 6 inches when material is transported across any paved public access road sufficient to limit VDE to 20% opacity.
  - Apply water to the top of the load sufficient to limit VDE to 20% opacity, or cover haul trucks with a tarp or other suitable cover.
  - Clean the interior of the cargo compartment or cover the cargo compartment before the empty truck leaves the site and prevent spillage or loss of bulk material from holes or other openings in the cargo compartment's floor, sides, and/or tailgate; and load all haul trucks such that the freeboard is not less than 6 inches when material is transported on any paved public access road, and apply water to the top of the load sufficient to limit VDE to 20% opacity; or cover haul trucks with a tarp or other suitable cover.
  - Owners/operators will remove all visible carryout and trackout at the end of each workday.
  - Cleanup of carryout and trackout will be accomplished by manually sweeping and picking-up; or operating a rotary brush or broom accompanied or preceded by sufficient wetting to limit VDE to 20% opacity; or operating a PM<sub>10</sub>-efficient street sweeper that has a pick-up efficiency of at least 80%; or flushing with water, if curbs or gutters are not present and where the use of water would not result as a source of trackout material or result in adverse impacts on storm water drainage systems or violate any National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Please note that compliance with Regulation VIII, as stated above, is required by law, but the measures listed here are to provide a comprehensive list of all required and recommended measures.

- ▶ The following SJVAPCD-recommended enhanced and additional control measures will be implemented to further reduce fugitive PM<sub>10</sub> dust emissions beyond compliance with Regulation VIII:

- Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways from adjacent project areas with a slope greater than 1%.
- Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 20 mph.
- Limit area subject to excavation, grading, and other construction activity at any one time.

#### **Mitigation Measure Hydro-1:**

Before the start of any project construction work, site grading, or excavation, the City or its primary construction contractor will prepare a SWPPP detailing measures to control soil erosion and waste discharges from construction areas and shall submit a notice of intent to the Central Valley RWQCB for stormwater discharges associated with general construction activity. The City will require all contractors conducting construction-related work to implement the SWPPP to control soil erosion and waste discharges of other construction-related contaminants. The general contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) conducting the work will be responsible for constructing or implementing, regularly inspecting, and maintaining the measures in good working order.

The SWPPP will identify the grading and erosion control best management practices (BMPs) and specifications that are necessary to avoid and minimize water quality impacts to the extent practicable. Standard erosion control measures (e.g., management, structural, and vegetative controls) will be implemented for all construction activities that expose soil. Grading operations will be conducted to eliminate direct routes for conveying potentially contaminated runoff. Erosion control barriers such as silt fences and mulching material shall be installed, and disturbed areas will be reseeded with grass or other plants where necessary.

The SWPPP will contain specific measures for stabilizing soils at the construction site before the onset of the winter rainfall season. These standard erosion control measures shall be designed to reduce the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of drainage channels.

The following specific BMPs are recommended for implementation:

- ▶ Conduct all work according to site-specific construction plans that identify areas for clearing, grading, and revegetation so that ground disturbance is minimized.
- ▶ Avoid existing vegetation wherever possible and identify vegetation to be retained for habitat maintenance (i.e., as identified through preconstruction biological surveys), cover cleared areas with mulches, install silt fences if needed to control erosion and trap sediment, and reseed cleared areas with native vegetation.
- ▶ Stabilize disturbed soils at all construction sites and staging areas before the onset of the winter rainfall season.
- ▶ Stabilize and protect stockpiles from exposure to erosion and flooding.
- ▶ The SWPPP also shall specify appropriate hazardous materials handling, storage, and spill response practices to reduce the possibility of adverse impacts from use or accidental spills or releases of contaminants. Specific measures applicable to the project include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Develop and implement strict on-site handling rules to keep construction and maintenance materials out of waterways.
- ▶ Conduct refueling and servicing of equipment and vehicles on the land side of the Feather River levee whenever possible. Only conduct refueling and servicing on the water side of the levee under extreme circumstances (e.g., vehicle or equipment breaks down and is not mobile). Leave absorbent material or drip pans underneath to contain spilled fuel during refueling and servicing. Collect any fluid drained from machinery during servicing in leak-proof containers and deliver to an appropriate disposal or recycling facility.
- ▶ Prevent oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to aquatic life, from contaminating the soil or entering watercourses.
- ▶ Maintain spill cleanup equipment in proper working condition. Clean up all spills immediately according to the spill prevention and response plan, and immediately notify DFG and the Central Valley RWQCB of any spills and cleanup procedures.

#### **Mitigation Measure Traffic-1**

The City will prepare and implement a Construction Management Plan, which identifies the timing of construction and the timing of elements that would result in the full or partial blockage of local roadways. The plan will specify the measures that would be implemented to minimize traffic-related impacts including construction parking during construction, which will be limited to on-site areas. These measures could include, but are not limited to the following: use of signage notifying travelers that they are entering a construction zone; and use of cones, flaggers, and guide-vehicles to direct traffic through the construction zone. A copy of the plan will be submitted to local emergency response agencies and these agencies shall be notified at least 14 days before the commencement of construction that would partially or fully obstruct local roadways.

#### **Mitigation Measure Cul-1**

If an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials (e.g., unusual amounts of shell, animal bone, glass, ceramics, etc.) is made during project-related ground disturbing activities, any ground disturbances in the area of the find will be halted and a qualified professional archaeologist shall be notified regarding the discovery. The archaeologist will determine whether the resource is potentially significant per the National Register of Historic Places / California Register of Historic Resources and develop appropriate mitigation. Mitigation may include, but not necessarily be limited to, in-field documentation, archival research, archaeological testing, data recovery excavations or recordation.

#### **Mitigation Measure Cul-2**

In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, the contractor and/or the project proponent will immediately halt potentially damaging excavation in the area of the burial and notify the County Coroner and a professional archaeologist to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission by phone within 24 hours of making that

determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). Following the coroner's findings, the archaeologist, and the Native American Heritage Commission designated Most Likely Descendent shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments are not disturbed. The responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9.

California law recognizes the need to protect Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American burials from vandalism and inadvertent destruction. The procedures for the treatment of Native American human remains are contained in California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and §7052 and California Public Resources Code §5097.

#### **Mitigation Measure Haz-1:**

Before the commencement of project construction, the City or its contractor will:

- ▶ ensure that any employee handling hazardous materials is trained in the safe handling and storage of hazardous materials and trained to follow all applicable regulations with regard to such hazardous materials, and
- ▶ identify staging areas where hazardous materials will be stored during construction in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.

#### **PUBLIC REVIEW**

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for public review at 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 Manteca location:

City of Manteca  
Public Works Department  
1001 W. Center Street  
Manteca, CA 95337

To obtain additional information about the project, please contact Howard Kahan by e-mail 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 April 10, 2010. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of the comment period. Comments, via letter, fax or e-mail, should be sent to Howard Kahan at the address listed below.

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After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA's responses, and this FONSI will be forwarded to the Region 9 Water Division Director for signature. If this FONSI is signed by the Water Division Director, 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 have a significant impact on the environment and whether an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for this project.

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Alexis Strauss  
Director, Water Division

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Date