

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

for the

City of Murrieta Wastewater Construction Project, Riverside County, California

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Wastewater Infrastructure grant to the City of Murrieta to install a new sanitary sewer system in developed portions of the City in order to prevent contamination of the groundwater supply from old deteriorating septic systems. The City of Murrieta is located in Riverside County, California.

The EPA grant will fund the construction of 18,000-19,000 linear feet of wastewater conveyance lateral and trunk sewers within existing roadways. This project is part of the Murrieta Wastewater Facilities Master Plan.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to protect public health and ground water quality by providing sanitary sewer service to the older downtown area that currently treats wastewater by individual subsurface septic and leach systems. The sanitary sewer service will allow for a substantial reduction in reliance on deteriorating septic systems within the Murrieta County Water District (MCWD) service area. MCWD derives most of its water supply from an aquifer below Murrieta and is concerned by the potential for failing septic systems and nitrates produced by these systems to contaminate the water supply. The proposed improvements are essential to protect water quality and to provide a more reliable wastewater treatment system for the MCWD service area.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared that examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project in the City of Murrieta. After considering a wide range of regulatory, and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of this project.

PUBLIC REVIEW

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco, California. Copies of the EA are also available for public review in Murrieta at the City Clerk's Office, 26442 Beckman

Ct., Murrieta, CA. 92562 and at the Public Library, Eight Town Square, Murrieta, CA 92562. In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/water>.

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the date this document is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of this comment period, which ends February 9, 2008. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Elizabeth Goldmann at the address listed below.

Elizabeth Goldmann (WTR-8)
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone: (415) 972-3398
Fax: (415) 947-3537
Email: Goldmann.Elizabeth.EPA.Gov

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA's responses, and this Finding of No Significant Impact will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If the Regional Administrator signs this Finding of No Significant Impact, it will not be recirculated for review but will be available to any individual upon request.

FINDING

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

Wayne Nastri
Regional Administrator

Date