

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 WESTMINSTER
STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 intends to award a grant to the City of Westminster, California, in accordance with the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of FY2010 for stormwater system improvements. In this appropriations act, Congress provided \$848,000 to EPA to fund stormwater system improvements for the City of Westminster.

EPA Region 9's authorization to use grant funds for the proposed project is a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§4321-4370f. In accordance with NEPA, Council of Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR §§1500.1-1508.28, and EPA NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 6, EPA Region 9 has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) describing the potential environmental impacts associated with, and the alternatives to, the proposed project. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documents EPA Region 9's decision that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Project Description and Location

The proposed project consists of the construction and installation of a storm drain system and associated catch basins and inlet structures in the City of Westminister. The City will install approximately 3,200 linear feet of new storm drain piping and approximately 24 to 27 catch basin and inlet structures. Construction of the storm drain will require trenching from six to eight feet in width and six to seven feet in depth. The storm drainpipes will be range from 24 to 48 inches in diameter.

The construction of the storm drain system will occur at the following locations:

- 18th Street between Beach Blvd. and Pacific Avenue
- 19th Street between Beach Blvd. and Pacific Avenue
- 19th Street between Pacific Avenue and Richardson Way
- 21st Street between Beach Blvd. and Pacific Avenue
- 23rd Street between Beach Blvd. and Pacific Avenue
- Pacific Avenue between 23rd Street and Westminister Blvd.

Purpose and Need for Proposed Project

The purpose of the proposed project is to collect stormwater from streets in the project area and convey it to the Westminister channel, which eventually discharges into the Pacific Ocean in Huntington Beach, California. Currently there is no storm drain system within the project location. One benefit of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of flooding that will occur in the project location. Additionally, the catch basins will reduce the amount of trash and other pollutants that enter the Westminister channel and the Pacific Ocean.

Environmental Consequences and Conditions

The EA examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The EA examines two alternative projects and a no action alternative. The first alternative is the construction of the storm drain system in the project location and associated street improvements. The second alternative is for Caltrans to improve and maintain a catch basin located upstream from the project location. Complete analyses of the first alternative (the proposed project) and the no action alternative are included in the EA. Other potential alternatives were eliminated from further consideration, because the improvements were located outside of the City’s jurisdiction and because land to expand the catch basin was not readily available.

The consultant to the City consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office to identify potential effects of the proposed project on historic properties. The SHPO concurred with the finding that the proposed project would have no affect on historic properties.

The consultant to the City conducted a limited biological resources assessment. The consultant reviewed the California Natural Diversity Database and lists of species considered threatened or endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The project will not affect species of special concern, according to the biological resources assessment, because it is located in a highly developed urban area.

After carefully considering the regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors described in the EA, EPA Region 9 has not identified any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of this project.

The following mitigation measures will apply to this project.

<u><i>Project Impacts and Mitigation Description</i></u>	<u><i>Implementation and Timing</i></u>
<p>Air Quality. Short-term construction related air quality impacts may be associated with truck emissions. While idling of some of the construction trucks may be necessary, potential impacts will be mitigated by utilizing the City of Westminster standard Best Management Practices for construction. These measures include but are not limited to: maintaining construction equipment in good working condition, avoiding construction equipment idling in residential areas and utilizing low-sulfur burning fuels. Impacts are therefore less than significant with mitigation incorporated.</p> <p>Particulate matter emissions (PM10) will be controlled by the contractor with watering trucks.</p>	<p>City of Westminster Public Works Department to verify that construction contractors utilize standard Best Management Practices for avoiding short-term related air quality impacts, by incorporation of conditions into project specifications. BMP’s are currently listed on the project specification and will be incorporated into the project.</p>

<p>Cultural Resources. Potential impacts are limited to construction activities only and are not expected to occur. The impacts will be less than significant with mitigation.</p>	<p>If human remains are encountered during excavations associated with this project, all work will halt and the County Coroner will be notified (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code).</p>
<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Short-term construction related greenhouse gas emission impacts may be associated with truck emissions. While idling of some of the construction trucks may be necessary, potential impacts will be mitigated by utilizing the City of Westminster standard Best Management Practices for construction. These measures include but are not limited to: maintaining construction equipment in good working condition, avoiding construction equipment idling in residential areas and utilizing low-sulfur burning fuels.</p>	<p>City of Westminster Public Works Department to verify that construction contractors utilize standard Best Management Practices for avoiding short-term related air quality impacts, by incorporation of conditions into project specifications. BMP's are currently listed on the project specification and will be incorporated into the project.</p>
<p>Hydrology and Water Quality. NPDES Permit for General Construction Activities will be required for lineal trenching, excavation and dewatering in accordance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The NPDES permit will dictate the required water quality allowed to be discharged during construction and specify BMP's used during construction.</p> <p>Catch basin filters will trap low flow waters and remove pollutant materials entering the storm drain.</p> <p>All spills, leaks or other losses of oils and other hazardous or toxic materials will be immediately cleaned up.</p>	<p>The contractor will also be required to prepare a Water Quality Management Plan as part of its mitigation of water quality impacts from construction and trenching activity.</p>

Public Review

The EA and FONSI are on file and available for public review at the EPA Region 9 Southern California Field Office. To make an appointment to review the documents, contact Howard Kahan at the address given below. In addition, the documents 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 location:

City of Westminster
8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683

Interested parties may submit comments on the EA and this unsigned FONSI to EPA Region 9 by 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2012. Comments via letter, fax, or email should be sent to Howard Kahan at the following address:

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EPA Region 9 will not take administrative action on the proposed project prior to the close of the comment period. If, after considering public comments, EPA Region 9 concludes the proposed project will not have significant environmental impacts, EPA Region 9 will revise this FONSI by adding a summary of the comments received and EPA Region 9's responses. The revised FONSI will be forwarded to the Water Division Director for review and signature. The FONSI will be final upon signature. EPA Region 9 will not recirculate the signed FONSI for public review, but will make it available to any individual upon request.