

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of El Monte
Stormwater System Improvement Project
November 2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 intends to award a grant in the amount of \$485,000 to the City of El Monte. The proposed project would improve the existing water distribution by adding two sections of pipeline to create a looped system.

EPA Region 9's intention to award a grant 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

The City of El Monte proposes to construct two new storm drain lines and upgrade the existing pump station to minimize flooding at the Garvey Avenue underpass. The new storm drain lines would convey the outflow from the new pump station to a new outfall on the San Gabriel River, divert some stormwater away from the underpass, and connect to an existing Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) storm drain (Durfee storm drain). The existing pump station and pumps would be replaced with a larger capacity pump station and pumps.

Project Location

The proposed project would occur in the City of El Monte, Los Angeles County, California. The City of El Monte is the eastern part of Los Angeles County, between Alhambra to the west and Baldwin Park to the east. The project site is located near Interstate 10 (I-10) and Garvey Avenue and is generally bounded by the triangular area formed by the San Gabriel River, the Southern Pacific Railroad, I-10, and Valley Boulevard.

Purpose and Need for Proposed Project

Storms regularly flood Garvey Avenue, where the street passes under the Southern Pacific Railroad at the Garvey Avenue underpass. The existing stormwater pumps and conveyance pipes

draining the underpass are insufficient to effectively convey stormwater from the street's surface to the intended storm drainage facilities. The purpose of this project is to improve the storm drain lines and pump station, and it is needed to address the system's insufficient ability to remove stormwater from Garvey Avenue.

Environmental Consequences

The EA examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. In addition, the EA examines the impacts of a no-action alternative.

On August 24, 2016, EPA Region 9 submitted a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requesting concurrence with a determination of "no historic properties effected," pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. SHPO concurred with this finding on September 21, 2016.

A report for the project area was generated through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) online system. The system provides background information on listed species in an area of interest. A USFWS list of threatened and endangered species also was generated for the project area. Three Federally listed species have the potential to occur in the area. Because the project location is a developed, highly urbanized area, no suitable habitat exists for any of these species. Therefore, the project would have "no effect" on listed species, and formal consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

Mitigation measures would be implemented to address potential adverse impacts associated with the project to minimize or avoid those effects. These measure would include the following:

- Compliance with applicable construction activity controls (e.g., dust control during construction/demolition activities, construction equipment maintained to minimize emissions) included in the State Implementation Plans and Maintenance Plans for the South Coast Air Quality Management District is required to minimize air quality issues. South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust) is intended to reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air as a result of anthropogenic (man-made) fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce or mitigate fugitive dust emissions. Under the rule, dust suppression is to be applied in sufficient quantity and frequency to maintain a stabilized surface. Any areas which cannot be stabilized, as evidenced by wind driven fugitive dust must have an application of water at least twice per day to at least 80 percent of the unstabilized area.
- The California Code of Regulations requires that construction equipment idling time be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes (Title 13 Sections 2449(d)(3), 2485). All construction equipment should be maintained in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determine to be running in proper condition before it is operated.
- To avoid impacts on subsurface cultural resources, a Native American monitor and archaeological monitor would be present during ground-disturbing activities. Each monitor

would be empowered to halt project activities to avoid or minimize disturbance of Native American or archaeological resources.

- Should any known or potential cultural materials be encountered during ground-disturbing activities, all work that may affect those materials would be halted until a qualified archaeologist can be consulted on the nature and significance of those materials.

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

Public Review

The EA is on file and available for public review at the EPA Region 9 office and online at <https://www.epa.gov/ca/city-el-monte-stormwater-system-improvement-project>. To make an appointment to review the EA, contact Howard Kahan at the address given below.

Interested parties may submit comments on the EA and this unsigned FONSI to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days of the public notice of the EA. Comments via letter, fax, or email should be sent 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.