

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
Main Line Sewer Replacement
Alhambra, California
March 2014

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 intends to awarded a grant for \$233,000 to the City of Alhambra for the main line sewer replacement project in accordance with the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

EPA Region 9's award of a grant for the project is a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§4321-4370f. In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulation, 40 CFR §1508.4, a federal agency may categorically exclude an action from detailed environmental review, provided the action meets certain criteria that EPA has previously determined indicate the undertaking will not have significant environmental impact and provided no extraordinary circumstances exist. EPA's categorical exclusions are set forth in 40 CFR Part 6.

Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

The City of Alhambra plans to use EPA Region 9 grant funds to replace approximately 3,257 linear feet of an existing 24-inch pipeline with 30-inch pipeline in the City of Alhambra. The pipeline will travel south on Almansor Street from San Marino Avenue to Valley Boulevard and then west from Almansor Street to Garfield Avenue. The proposed project should reduce the potential contamination of ground water resources by replacing the aging pipelines in the City of Alhambra.

40 CFR §6.204 (a)(1)(ii) allows a project to be categorically excluded when the project involves:

“Actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities.”

EPA Region 9 has concluded the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion under 40 CFR §6.204 (a)(1)(ii), because it is for functional replacement of an existing 24-inch pipeline which will be replaced with a 30-inch pipeline in the City of Alhambra.

Extraordinary Circumstances

EPA Region 9 has reviewed the action to ascertain whether the project involves any of the extraordinary circumstances identified at 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1)-(10) and has determined:

- (1) The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time.
- (2) The proposed action is not known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally recognized Indian tribal communities.
- (3) The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. EPA used the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) to determine whether any endangered species were located within the project location. One endangered species, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, was identified within 1/4-mile of the project location. However, it was not located within the pipeline alignment route therefore, EPA made a “no effect to listed species or critical habitat” determination in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
- (4) The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search for the project was requested from the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on September 23, 2013. The SLF search failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within the project location. The South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) completed the California Historical Records Information System review on November 14, 2013 and did not identify any cultural resources within the project site. EPA sent letters to the tribal representatives identified by the NAHC on November 19, 2013. EPA did not receive any responses from tribal representatives.

Due to the limited ground disturbing activities and lack of identification of known cultural resources, EPA has made a determination of “no historic properties affected” under 36 CFR Part 800.5(a) in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for this project. A letter was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on January 2, 2014. SHPO concurred with EPA’s no historic properties affected determination on February 5, 2014.

- (5) The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, or significant fish or wildlife habitat.
- (6) The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.

(7) The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas, and is consistent with land use plans approved by a state, local government or federally recognized Indian tribe and federal land management plans.

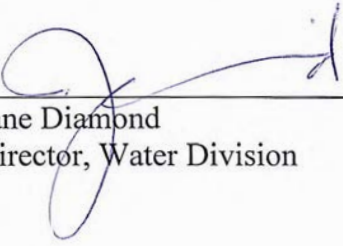
(8) The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the action.

(9) The proposed action is not known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts.

(10) The proposed action is not known or expected to conflict with federal, state, local government, or federally recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource protection, or land use laws or regulations.

Finding

EPA Region 9 finds the action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion from detailed environmental review under 40 CFR §6.204(a)(1)(ii) and will not involve any extraordinary circumstances. Accordingly, EPA Region 9 will not prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment for the project. EPA Region 9 may revoke this categorical exclusion if changes in the action render it ineligible for exclusion or if new evidence emerges which indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist or federal, state, or local laws would be violated.



Jane Diamond
Director, Water Division

3/31/2014

Date