



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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E-MAILED:

April 19, 2012

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Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for the Proposed Clearwater Program Project

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document, including with an extended review period. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final CEQA/NEPA document.

In the project description, the lead agency proposes the Clearwater Program, a comprehensive plan to develop the Master Facilities Plan (MFP) for the Joint Outfall System (JOS). The JOS is a regional wastewater management system that meets the needs of communities and business in 73 cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The proposed project would include excavation and soil export from the construction of a new approximately 7-mile tunnel that would convey treated wastewater from the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) to the ocean outfalls. Construction would also include repair work on two existing effluent tunnels that are about six miles long and an expansion to the existing San Jose Water Reclamation Plant in Whittier to increase production of recycled water. The proposed project would also include planning to increase the number of anaerobic digesters at the JWPCP to process residual solids that can be converted into biosolids for future uses. Construction is estimated to begin in 2015 and last up to six years. Operations are expected to begin in 2021.

Based on the project description, the lead agency should contact AQMD engineering and compliance staff for input concerning activities that may require AQMD permits. Permit applications to construct/operate will be required for the modifications at five Water Reclamation Plants and the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant. In addition, the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant expansion would require compliance with New Source Review and Rule 1401 - New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants requirements due to emission increases from the additional wastewater treatment capacity. Questions concerning permit requirements can be directed to engineering and compliance staff at (909) 396-2684.

Please provide the AQMD with a written response to the comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the final environmental document. The AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address these issues and any other air quality questions that may arise. Please contact Gordon Mize, Air Quality Specialist – CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3302, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Ian MacMillan
Program Supervisor, Inter-Governmental Review
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IM:CT:GM

SBC120230-01
Control Number