

**Supplement to the  
Final Environmental Impact Report  
*SCH No. 2013091023***

**Modifications to the  
Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project**

**Lead Agency:**



Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
Environmental Planning and Assessment  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### ES.1 Introduction

The City of Los Angeles (City), as represented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), has prepared this supplement to the Environmental Impact Report (Supplemental EIR) for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (approved project) (State Clearinghouse #2013091023), which was certified by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners on December 6, 2016 (2016 EIR). This Supplemental EIR was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) and analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of modifications to the approved project (project modifications).

The approved project considered in the 2016 EIR entails the construction and operation of the following:

- Facility improvements at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCTWRP) to maximize the efficiency of operations, thereby increasing the volume of recycled water (i.e., tertiary treated wastewater) produced at the plant
- An Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) to provide additional treatment for the recycled water from DCTWRP, producing purified water
- Pipelines to convey the purified water to existing spreading grounds, where the purified water will percolate into the ground to replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin

DCTWRP supplies recycled water to three flow-through lakes: Lake Balboa, Wildlife Lake, and the Japanese Garden Lake. Under existing conditions, recycled water flows through the Japanese Garden Lake and is discharged via a pipeline to the Los Angeles River (LA River). Due to water conservation efforts by the City, the volume of wastewater influent entering DCTWRP from the City's wastewater collection system has decreased relative to the volume anticipated during preparation of the 2016 EIR. Therefore, the proposed project modifications described in this Supplemental EIR would divert flow from the Japanese Garden Lake outlet, which currently discharges to the LA River, to provide additional influent for DCTWRP to more effectively utilize the existing treatment facilities and maintain an adequate volume of recycled water supply to serve as influent to the proposed AWPF. Construction of the project modifications is anticipated to take up to 10 active working days to complete and would occur intermittently over a period of up to 3 months.

### ES.2 Description of Approved Project

The City of Los Angeles, as represented by LADWP and LASAN, prepared the 2016 EIR for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (approved project) to maintain the reliability of the City's potable water supply and reduce dependence on imported sources of water. The approved project consists of three basic elements: 1) treatment entails the construction and operation of a new AWPF and related facilities that would provide additional levels of treatment of recycled water generated at DCTWRP to produce purified water; 2) conveyance entails the use of existing and newly constructed pipelines to transport the purified water from the AWPF to existing spreading grounds; and 3) replenishment entails the spreading of the purified water at the existing spreading grounds so that it percolates into the San Fernando Groundwater Basin.

The Board of Water and Power Commissioners certified the 2016 EIR, adopted the findings,

Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and approved the project analyzed in the 2016 EIR on December 6, 2016. Under the approved project, influent for the AWPf would be provided from the balance of recycled water available from DCTWRP after meeting the requirements for in-plant functions and maintaining supplies for the Japanese Garden Lake, Lake Balboa, and the Wildlife Lake, the flows through which ultimately discharge to the LA River.

The 2016 EIR was prepared as a “CEQA-Plus” document containing information pursuant to federal regulations in addition to CEQA requirements in order to obtain federal funding for the approved project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and administered through the SWRCB. On December 28, 2021, and January 7, 2022, LADWP and LASAN, respectively, provided documentation to the SWRCB to reaffirm certification of the 2016 EIR to ensure compliance with the State Revolving Fund Program and its five-year rule. The reaffirmation documents concluded that the approved project would not cause or result in any new or more severe significant impacts requiring additional environmental documentation and that the 2016 EIR was still valid.

### **ES.3 Proposed Project Modifications**

Under the approved project as described in the 2016 EIR, the water flowing through the Japanese Garden Lake could only be routed through an existing pipeline to a discharge point located at the LA River downstream of Sepulveda Dam. Since 2016, water conservation efforts in the City have reduced the volume of wastewater influent available to DCTWRP compared to the volume anticipated during the preparation of the 2016 EIR.

Project modifications have been proposed to help increase the volume of influent to DCTWRP. This would allow for more effectively utilize the existing treatment facilities and maintain an adequate volume of recycled water supply to serve as influent to the AWPf. These modifications involve installing a new approximately 90-foot pipeline and associated valves that would allow recycled water flowing from the DCTWRP through the Japanese Garden Lake to be routed from the lake outlet pipeline back to the headworks facility at DCTWRP. All other aspects of the approved project as described in the 2016 EIR would remain the same.

The recirculation of the Japanese Garden Lake water to the DCTWRP treatment facilities provided by the project modifications would deliver a sufficient volume of recycled water influent to the AWPf to generate purified water effluent to meet the needs of non-potable reuse customers and the groundwater replenishment program, as described in the 2016 EIR. However, as a result of the modified project, the City would cease discharging water to the LA River from the Japanese Garden Lake. Based on 4 years of data for the Water Year<sup>1</sup> ending September 30, 2022, the average monthly flow through the Japanese Garden Lake was 3.9 million gallons a day (MGD). The average monthly flow fluctuated slightly throughout the year over this period, from a high of 4.2 MGD to a low of 3.6 MGD.

Based on California Water Code Section 1211, this change in the point of discharge, place of use, and purpose of use of recycled water from DCTWRP, which would result in an average decrease in flow of approximately 4 MGD to the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point, requires approval by the SWRCB. The review by SWRCB of a Wastewater Change Petition requesting this change requires an assessment of impacts to biological resources, recreation, and other instream beneficial uses that may be caused by the proposed diversion of approximately 4 MGD of recycled water from the LA River related to the project modifications.

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<sup>1</sup> A Water Year begins on October 1 of a given year and ends on September 30 of the following year.

Because the discharge point to the river from the Japanese Garden Lake is located downstream of Sepulveda Dam, discharges to the river from Lake Balboa and the Wildlife Lake, which are located upstream of the dam, would not be altered by the proposed project modifications. In addition, the flow-through function of the Japanese Garden Lake would not be impacted since the lake would continue to be supplied, and return flow to DCTWRP would be intercepted after flowing through the lake.

#### **ES.4 Project Location and Setting**

DCTWRP is located at 6100 Woodley Avenue, in the Encino community of the City of Los Angeles. DCTWRP is surrounded by, although not abutting, Victory Boulevard to the north, Woodley Avenue to the west and south, and Interstate 405 to the east. It is immediately surrounded by Woodley Avenue Park on the west, south, and east, and by an Air National Guard facility on the north.

DCTWRP is located within the Sepulveda Basin, which is located immediately northwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 405. The Sepulveda Basin is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the purposes of flood control, recreation opportunities, natural resources preservation and enhancement, and other uses. DCTWRP is operated by LASAN under a lease agreement with the Corps. The currently developed portions of the DCTWRP complex are generally separated from the surrounding Sepulveda Basin by a berm or wall to protect facilities from flooding.

The Japanese Garden occupies approximately 6.5 acres in the northwest corner of the DCTWRP property. It is also located within the area protected by the flood control berm and wall. Access to the garden is provided from Woodley Avenue at the southwest corner of the DCTWRP property. A paved parking lot with approximately 100 parking spaces is located south of and adjacent to the garden.

The existing 108-inch diameter buried discharge pipeline from the Japanese Garden Lake travels southeast through the Sepulveda Basin, beneath the Sepulveda Dam, and discharges to the LA River approximately 900 feet downstream of the dam. The river at this location is a concrete box channel, however, there are some regions further east and south that are not channelized and serve as a habitat for various plant and wildlife species.

#### **ES.5 Summary of Environmental Impacts**

An analysis of the environmental impacts caused by the project modifications has been conducted and is contained in this Supplemental EIR. Three issue areas are analyzed in detail and presented in Chapter 4 of this EIR: biological resources, hydrology and water quality, and recreation. Table ES-1 provides a summary of the potentially significant environmental impacts that would result during construction and operation of the project modifications, mitigation measures that would lessen potential environmental impacts, and the level of significance of the environmental impacts after implementation of the mitigation measure. The Supplemental EIR identified less than significant impacts for hydrology and water quality (Section 4.2) and recreation (Section 4.3). The Supplemental EIR identifies potentially significant impacts requiring mitigation for biological resources (Section 4.1). The required mitigation measures, Mitigation Measures BIO-A and BIO-B, are derived from the 2016 EIR and applicable to the proposed project modifications.



**Table ES-1: Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Environmental Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>			
<p>1. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>	<p>Potentially significant</p>	<p><b>BIO-A:</b> The following measures shall be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work areas shall be clearly delineated with fencing or other boundary markers prior to the start of construction.</li> <li>2. The project limits shall be clearly marked on project maps provided to the construction contractor(s) by the City, and areas outside of the project limits shall be designated as “no construction” zones. A construction manager shall be present during all construction activities to ensure that work is limited to designated project limits.</li> <li>3. During construction, construction workers shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the designated construction limits.</li> <li>4. During construction, all equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other such activities shall occur in designated areas outside of jurisdictional wetlands or waters and within the fenced project limits. Fueling of equipment shall take place within existing paved areas greater than</li> </ol>	<p>Less than significant with mitigation</p>

**Table ES-1: Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Environmental Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>100 feet from water features. Contractor equipment shall be checked daily for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. During construction, the construction work zone shall be kept as clean of debris as possible to avoid attracting predators of sensitive wildlife. All food-related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and removed daily from the construction work zone.</li> <li>6. Pets of project personnel shall not be allowed on the project site during construction.</li> <li>7. Disposal or temporary placement of excess fill, brush, or other debris shall be strictly prohibited in or along the banks of water features during construction. Stockpile areas shall be designated prior to the start of construction and shall be located in disturbed areas presently lacking vegetation and delineated on grading plans.</li> <li>8. Prior to the start of construction, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared to reduce the potential for accidental releases of fuel, pesticides, and other materials. This plan shall outline refueling locations, emergency response</li> </ol>	

**Table ES-1: Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Environmental Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>procedures, and reporting requirements. During construction, equipment for immediate cleanup shall be kept on-site. This plan shall also include erosion control measures to control surface runoff, erosion, and sedimentation outside of the project footprints.</p> <p><b>BIO-B:</b> If feasible, the clearance of vegetation during construction activities shall occur outside of the nesting bird season (generally February 15 through September 15). If avoidance of construction within this time period is not feasible, the following additional measures shall be employed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A pre-construction nesting survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 3 days prior to the start of construction activities to determine whether active nests are present within or directly adjacent to the construction zone. All nests found shall be recorded.</li> <li>2. If construction activities must occur within 300 feet of an active nest of any passerine bird or within 500 feet of an active nest of any raptor, a qualified biologist shall monitor the nest on a weekly basis and the construction activity shall be postponed until the biologist determines that the nest</li> </ol>	

**Table ES-1: Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Environmental Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>is no longer active.</p> <p>3. If the recommended nest avoidance zone is not feasible, the qualified biologist shall determine whether an exception is possible and obtain concurrence from the appropriate resource agency before construction work can resume within the avoidance buffer zone. All work shall cease within the avoidance buffer zone until either agency concurrence is obtained or the biologist determines that the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site.</p>	
<p><b>2.</b> Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>	<p>Potentially significant</p>	<p>See Mitigation Measure BIO-A above</p>	<p>Less than significant with mitigation</p>
<p><b>3</b> Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?</p>	<p>Construction: Potentially Significant Impact Operation: No impact</p>	<p>See Mitigation Measure BIO-A above</p>	<p>Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation Operation: No impact</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?</p>	<p>Construction: No impact Operation: Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>No mitigation measures are required.</p>	<p>Construction: No impact Operation: Less than Significant Impact</p>

**Table ES-1: Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

<b>Environmental Impact</b>	<b>Significance Before Mitigation</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
<b>5.</b> Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	No impact	No mitigation measures are required.	No impact
<b>6.</b> Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	No impact	No mitigation measures are required.	No impact
<b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b>			
<b>1.</b> Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Less than significant
<b>2.</b> Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	No impact	No mitigation measures are required.	No impact
<b>3.</b> Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Less than significant
<b>4.</b> Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of	Construction: Less than significant Operation: No Impact	No mitigation measures are required.	Construction: Less than significant Operation: No Impact

**Table ES-1: Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Environmental Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			
5. Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Less than significant
6. Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Less than significant
7. Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	No Impact	No mitigation measures are required.	No Impact
8. Would the project place within a 100-year flood area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Less than significant
9. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Less than significant
10. Would the project inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Less than significant
<b>RECREATION</b>			
1. Would the project substantially degrade Water Contact Recreation uses in the LA River, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-1?	Construction: No impact Operation: Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Construction: No impact Operation: Less than significant

**Table ES-1: Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

<b>Environmental Impact</b>	<b>Significance Before Mitigation</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
<b>2.</b> Would the project substantially degrade Non-Contact Water Recreation uses in the LA River, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-2?	Construction: No impact Operation: Less than significant	No mitigation measures are required.	Construction: No impact Operation: Less than significant

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

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The City of Los Angeles (City), as represented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), has prepared this supplement to the Environmental Impact Report (Supplemental EIR) for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (approved project) (State Clearinghouse #2013091023), which was certified by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners on December 6, 2016 (2016 EIR). This Supplemental EIR analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of modifications to the approved project (project modifications).

The approved project considered in the 2016 EIR entails the construction and operation of the following:

- Facility improvements at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCTWRP) to maximize the efficiency of operations, thereby increasing the volume of recycled water (i.e., tertiary treated wastewater) produced at the plant
- An Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) to provide additional treatment for the recycled water from DCTWRP, producing purified water
- Pipelines to convey the purified water to existing spreading grounds, where the purified water will percolate into the ground to replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin

Due to changed circumstances, the volume of wastewater influent entering DCTWRP from the City's wastewater collection system has decreased relative to the volume of influent anticipated during preparation of the 2016 EIR. Therefore, minor physical modifications to DCTWRP that were not previously considered in the 2016 EIR are being proposed to improve operational efficiency by increasing the volume of influent available to the treatment facilities at the plant.

### 1.1 Overview

DCTWRP supplies recycled water to three flow-through lakes: Lake Balboa, Wildlife Lake, and the Japanese Garden Lake. The project modifications would involve the installation of approximately 90 linear feet of new underground pipeline and two new valves on the outlet pipeline of only the Japanese Garden Lake, located adjacent to DCTWRP. The pipeline and valves would allow recycled water that flows through the Japanese Garden Lake from DCTWRP to be routed back to the plant as influent for treatment at the recycled water treatment facilities. Under existing conditions, recycled water flows through the Japanese Garden Lake and is discharged via a pipeline to the Los Angeles River (LA River). The project modifications would divert this flow to provide additional influent for DCTWRP to more effectively utilize the existing treatment facilities and help maintain an adequate volume of recycled water supply to serve as influent to the proposed AWPF. Construction of the project modifications is anticipated to take up to 10 active working days to complete and would occur intermittently over a period of up to 3 months.

### 1.2 Purpose, Scope, and Legal Authority

This Supplemental EIR has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code § 21000, et. seq., as amended) and its implementing guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et. seq., 2023). Pursuant to Section 15163(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines,



a lead agency shall prepare a Supplemental EIR for a previously-certified EIR when changes to the project or the circumstances under which the project is undertaken may involve new significant environmental effects not previously identified in the certified EIR and only minor additions or changes to the previous EIR would be necessary to make it adequate relative to the project under the changed situation. Because the project modifications require only minor additions and changes to the 2016 EIR, LADWP, as the lead agency under CEQA, has determined that a Supplemental EIR is the appropriate CEQA documentation for the project modifications. The purpose of a Supplemental EIR is to provide the additional information necessary to make the 2016 EIR adequate for the project as modified. Pursuant to Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Supplemental EIR only needs to contain information necessary to analyze the project modifications that triggered the requirement for additional environmental review. Information and analysis from the 2016 EIR that is relevant to the project modifications is briefly summarized or described rather than repeated.

### **1.3 Format of the Supplemental EIR**

The 2016 EIR serves as the primary environmental compliance document for the approved project, and this Supplemental EIR is necessary to make the 2016 EIR adequate by providing the analysis of the proposed modifications to the approved project. A review was conducted of the approved project analyzed in the 2016 EIR to determine which environmental topics warranted further analysis in the Supplemental EIR. While all environmental factors that were considered in the 2016 EIR have been addressed in this Supplemental EIR in relation to the project modifications, the primary focus of the analysis is the diversion of the Japanese Garden Lake flows and the resultant decrease in discharges from DCTWRP to the LA River since this is the main change created by the project modifications when compared to the approved project. The 2016 EIR did not conduct analysis related to the LA River because no diversion of discharges from DCTWRP to the LA River were anticipated as part of the approved project. Therefore, Chapter 4, Environmental Setting and Project Impacts, of this Supplemental EIR evaluates the following environmental resources for which the project modifications were determined to have the potential for new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts related to the change in discharge to the LA River:

- Biological Resources
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Recreation

As discussed further in Chapter 5, Other CEQA Considerations, of this Supplemental EIR, it was determined that the project modifications would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts to the remaining environmental resource topics addressed in the 2016 EIR. Brief explanatory discussions of these environmental issues are included in Chapter 5.

### **1.4 Lead and Responsible Agencies**

As the public agencies responsible for water resources and wastewater treatment in the City of Los Angeles respectively, LADWP and LASAN are working jointly to plan, design, and implement the project modifications. Consistent with the 2016 EIR, LADWP is the lead agency for this Supplemental EIR, and LASAN is a responsible agency under CEQA. The City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners, in order to approve the project modifications, must certify that the Supplemental EIR was prepared in accordance with CEQA and other applicable codes and guidelines, and it must take into account the conclusions contained in the Supplemental EIR when considering approval of the project modifications. The City of Los

Angeles Board of Public Works must also consider the conclusions contained in the Supplemental EIR when considering approval of the project modifications.

In addition, because the decrease in discharge to the LA River would require a Wastewater Change Petition pursuant to California Water Code Section 1211, this Supplemental EIR will also be used by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), as a responsible agency, during consideration of approval of the petition.

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## CHAPTER 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1 Description of Approved Project

The City of Los Angeles, as represented by LADWP and LASAN, prepared the 2016 EIR for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (approved project). To maintain the reliability of the City's potable water supply and reduce dependence on imported sources of water, the approved project consists of three basic elements: 1) treatment entails the construction and operation of a new AWPf and related facilities that would provide additional levels of treatment of recycled water generated at DCTWRP to produce purified water; 2) conveyance entails the use of existing and newly constructed pipelines to transport the purified water from the AWPf to existing spreading grounds; and 3) replenishment entails the spreading of the purified water at the existing spreading grounds so that it percolates into the San Fernando Groundwater Basin.

The Board of Water and Power Commissioners certified the 2016 EIR, adopted the findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and approved the project analyzed in the 2016 EIR, on December 6, 2016. Under the approved project, influent for the AWPf would be provided from the balance of recycled water available from DCTWRP after meeting the requirements for in-plant functions and maintaining supplies for the Japanese Garden Lake, Lake Balboa, and the Wildlife Lake, the flows through which ultimately discharge to the LA River.

The 2016 EIR was prepared as a "CEQA-Plus" document containing information pursuant to federal regulations in addition to CEQA requirements in order to obtain federal funding for the approved project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The fund is administered through the SWRCB. On December 28, 2021, and January 7, 2022, LADWP and LASAN, respectively, provided documentation to the SWRCB to reaffirm certification of the 2016 EIR to ensure compliance with the State Revolving Fund Program and its five-year rule. The reaffirmation documents concluded that the approved project would not cause or result in any new or more severe significant impacts requiring additional environmental documentation and that the 2016 EIR was still valid.

### 2.2 Proposed Project Modifications

Since 2016, water conservation efforts in the City have reduced the volume of wastewater influent available to DCTWRP compared to the volume anticipated during the preparation of the 2016 EIR. Therefore, the project modifications have been proposed to help increase the volume of influent to DCTWRP in order to more effectively utilize the existing treatment facilities and maintain an adequate volume of recycled water supply to serve as influent to the AWPf. The project modifications involve installing a new approximately 90-foot pipeline and associated valves that would allow recycled water that flows from the DCTWRP through the Japanese Garden Lake to be routed from the lake outlet pipeline back to the headworks facility at DCTWRP. Under the approved project as described in the 2016 EIR, the water flowing through the Japanese Garden Lake could only be routed through an existing pipeline to a discharge point located at the LA River downstream of Sepulveda Dam. Essentially all other aspects of the approved project as described in the 2016 EIR would remain the same.

The recirculation of the Japanese Garden Lake water to the DCTWRP treatment facilities provided by the project modifications would deliver a sufficient volume of recycled water influent to the AWPf to generate purified water effluent to meet the needs of non-potable reuse customers and the groundwater replenishment program, as described in the 2016 EIR. However, as a result

of the modified project, the City would cease discharging water to the LA River from the Japanese Garden Lake. Based on 4 years of data for the Water Year<sup>1</sup> ending September 30, 2022, the average monthly flow through the Japanese Garden Lake was 3.9 million gallons a day (MGD). The average monthly flow fluctuated slightly throughout the year over this period, from a high of 4.2 MGD to a low of 3.6 MGD.

Based on California Water Code Section 1211, this change in the point of discharge, place of use, and purpose of use of recycled water from DCTWRP, which would result in an average decrease in flow of approximately 4 MGD to the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point, requires approval by the SWRCB. The review by SWRCB of a Wastewater Change Petition requesting this change requires an assessment of impacts to biological resources, recreation, and other instream beneficial uses that may be caused by the proposed diversion of approximately 4 MGD of recycled water from the LA River related to the project modifications. Because the discharge point to the river from the Japanese Garden Lake is located downstream of Sepulveda Dam, discharges to the river from Lake Balboa and the Wildlife Lake, which are located upstream of the dam, would not be altered by the proposed project modifications. In addition, the flow-through function of the Japanese Garden Lake would not be impacted since the lake would continue to be supplied, and return flow to DCTWRP would be intercepted after flowing through the lake.

### **2.3 Project Location and Setting**

DCTWRP is located at 6100 Woodley Avenue, in the Encino community of the City of Los Angeles. DCTWRP is surrounded by, although not abutting, Victory Boulevard to the north, Woodley Avenue to the west and south, and Interstate 405 to the east. It is immediately surrounded by Woodley Avenue Park on the west, south, and east, and by an Air National Guard facility on the north.

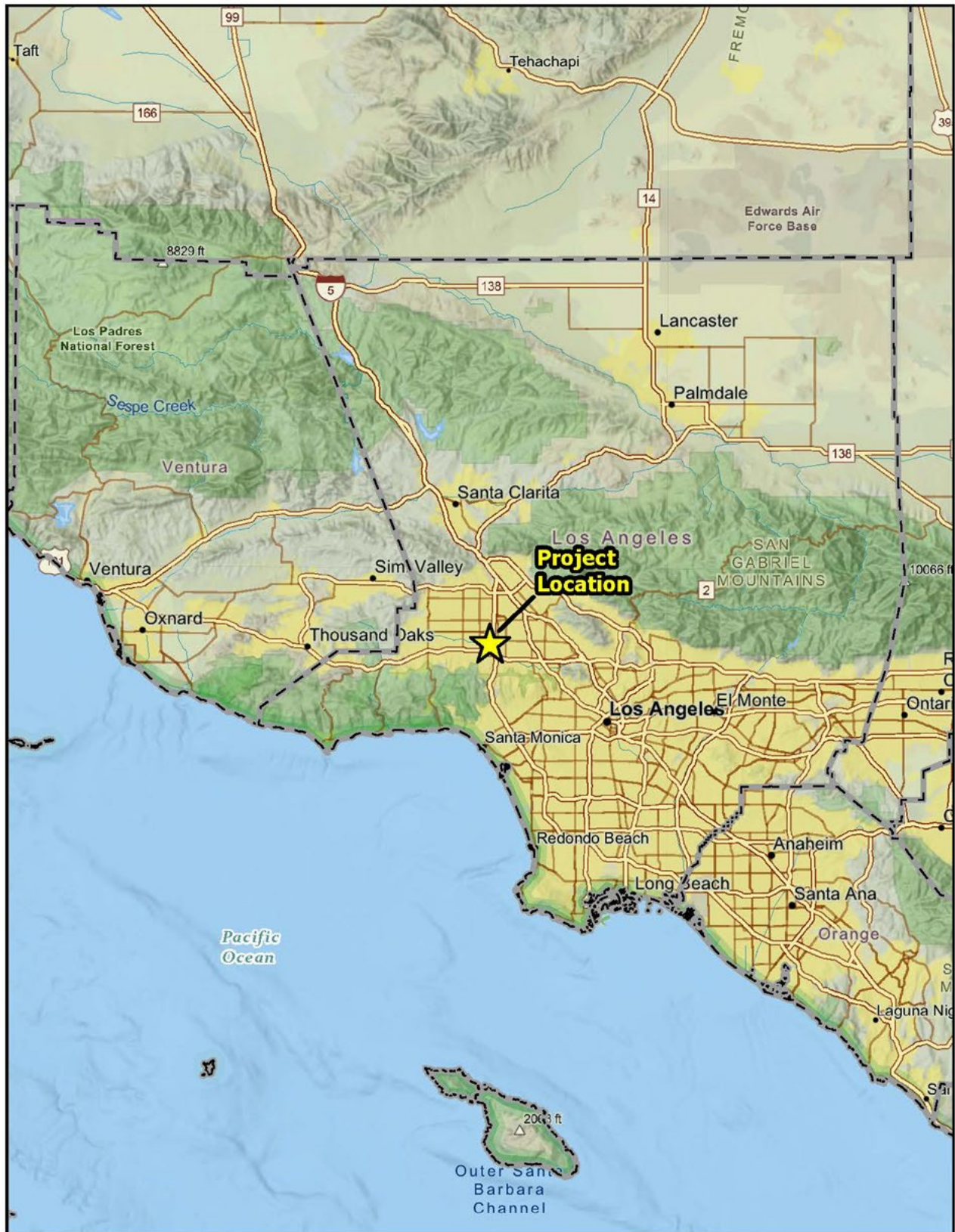
DCTWRP is located within the Sepulveda Basin, which is located immediately northwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 405. The Sepulveda Basin is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the purposes of flood control, recreation opportunities, natural resources preservation and enhancement, and other uses. DCTWRP is operated by LASAN under a lease agreement with the Corps. The currently developed portions of the DCTWRP complex are generally separated from the surrounding Sepulveda Basin by a berm or wall to protect facilities from flooding.

The Japanese Garden, dedicated in 1984, occupies approximately 6.5 acres in the northwest corner of the DCTWRP property. It is also located within the area protected by the flood control berm and wall. Access to the garden is provided from Woodley Avenue at the southwest corner of the DCTWRP property. A paved parking lot with approximately 100 parking spaces is located south of and adjacent to the garden. The Japanese Garden is open to the general public by reservation on Mondays through Thursdays.

The existing 108-inch diameter buried discharge pipeline from the Japanese Garden Lake travels southeast through the Sepulveda Basin, beneath the Sepulveda Dam, and discharges to the LA River approximately 900 feet downstream of the dam. The river at this location is a concrete box channel. Figure 2-1 shows the location of the project site in a regional context, and Figure 2-2 shows the project vicinity.

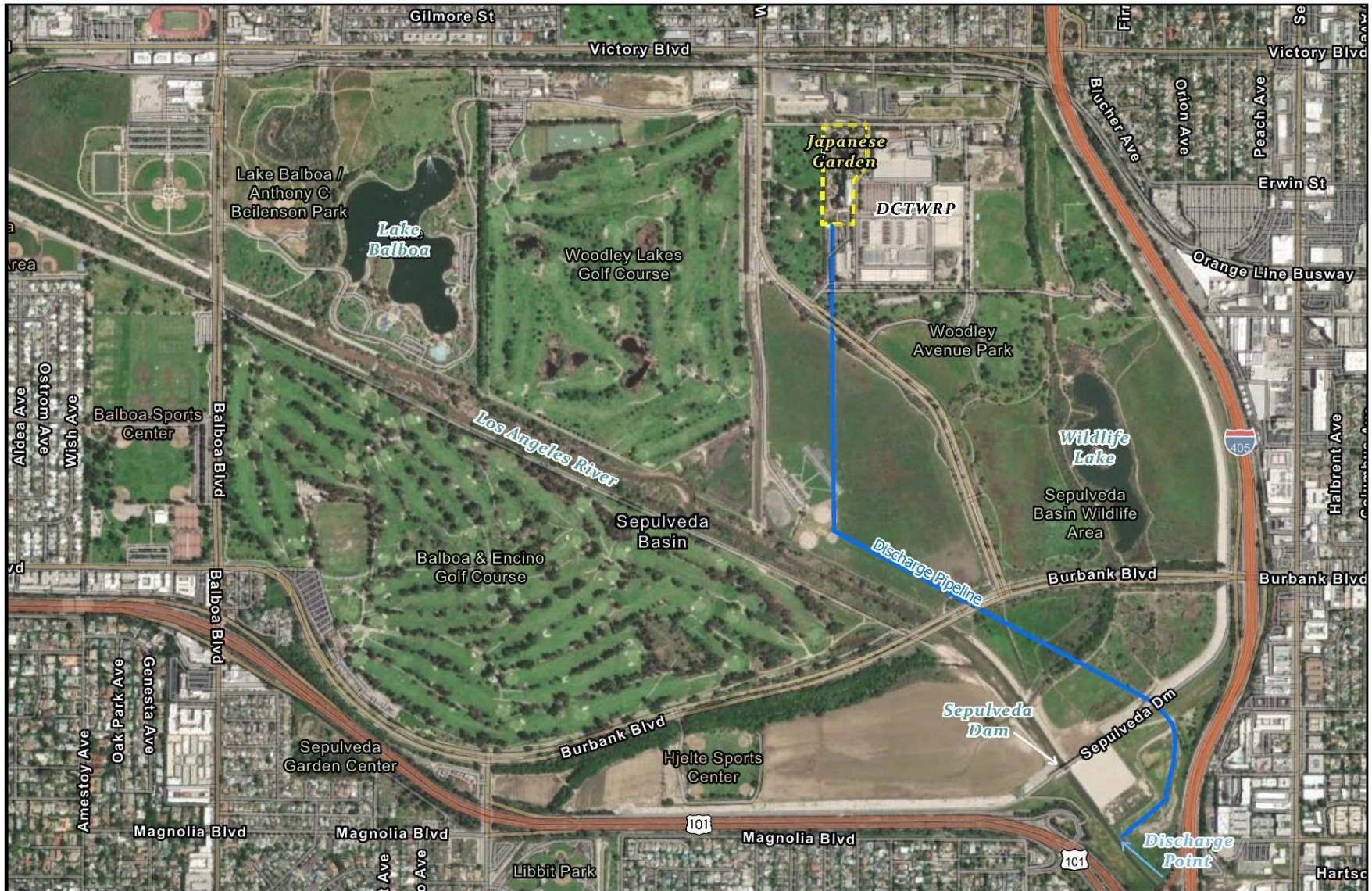
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<sup>1</sup> A Water Year begins on October 1 of a given year and ends on September 30 of the following year.



## Regional Location Map

Figure 2-1



Michael Baker  
INTERNATIONAL



0 1,000 2,000  
Feet

Source: ESRI

## Project Location Map

Figure 2-2

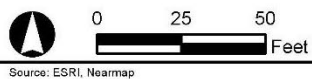
## 2.4 Project Components

The project modifications would consist of approximately 90 feet of buried 16-inch diameter stainless steel pipeline linking the existing outlet pipeline of the Japanese Garden Lake to the existing intake pipeline that routes wastewater to the DCTWRP headworks facility from the Additional Valley Outfall Relief Sewer, which runs south of the lake. New diversion structures and valves would be installed at the outlet and on the DCTWRP wastewater intake pipeline to allow for the diversion of water from the lake. A conceptual site plan showing the locations of the project modifications is provided in Figure 2-3.

The new pipeline would be buried approximately 25 feet below grade, which would require excavation along its alignment. Most of the alignment is located in unpaved areas; however, approximately 20 feet of the alignment would occur in a paved area in front of the entry gate to the Japanese Garden. The installation of the proposed new pipeline and valves is anticipated to take up to 10 active working days to complete and would occur intermittently over a period of up to 3 months. When work is occurring adjacent to the Japanese Garden gate, public access may be temporarily disrupted. While disruption to public access would be temporary, it would also be minimized by limiting work to the extent possible to days when the Japanese Garden is closed to the public.

Construction activities involved in the pipeline installation would include pavement demolition, trench excavation, pipeline segment placement and joining, valve installation and pipeline hookup, trench backfilling, and pavement restoration. This work may involve up to 15 construction personnel at times. Required equipment would include a concrete saw, excavator, truck crane, compactor, and water truck. Excavated material would be stockpiled on site to be used for backfill after the pipeline is installed. Minimal truck trips would be required during construction of the project modifications. Up to 3 roundtrip truck trips daily to haul debris would be required, which would consist primarily of demolished pavement, and up to 2 total roundtrip truck trips would be required to deliver pipeline segments, valve components, and concrete to the site.

As discussed above, after project implementation, water exiting the Japanese Garden Lake would be routed through the new pipeline to the existing wastewater intake pipeline and back to the headworks facility of DCTWRP. This would be accomplished by opening the valve on the new pipeline and closing the valve on the existing river discharge pipeline. However, during some portions of the year, particularly during storm events when high volumes of influent to DCTWRP occur, the valve that diverts water back to the headworks facility may be closed, and the valve for the river discharge pipeline would be opened such that the Japanese Garden Lake water would flow to the river.



Japanese Garden Existing and Proposed Facilities

Figure 2-3



## 2.5 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) implements the Los Angeles Region Basin Plan (Basin Plan), which is designed to preserve and enhance water quality and protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters.<sup>2</sup> The Basin Plan specifically designates beneficial uses for surface waters and ground waters, sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be met in order to protect the beneficial uses and conform to the state's antidegradation policy, and describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the region. The designated beneficial uses, both existing and potential, in the Basin Plan for reaches of the LA River downstream of the existing Japanese Garden discharge point are listed in Table 2-1.

Potential impacts to designated beneficial uses are addressed in the relevant environmental topic sections in Chapter 4 of this Supplemental EIR:

- 4.1: Biological Resources:
  - Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM)
  - Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM)
  - Estuarine Habitat (EST)
  - Marine Habitat (MAR)
  - Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
  - Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species (RARE)
  - Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR)
  - Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN)
  - Shellfish Harvesting (SHELL)
  - Wetland Habitat (WET)
- 4.2: Hydrology and Water Quality:
  - Municipal and Domestic Water Supply (MUN)
  - Industrial Service Supply (IND)
  - Industrial Process Supply (PROC)
  - Groundwater Recharge (GWR)
  - Navigation (NAV)
- 4.3: Recreation:
  - Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)
  - Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2)

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<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Programs, Basin Plan, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/), accessed September 3, 2024.

**Table 2-1  
Los Angeles River Designated Beneficial Uses**

	MUN	IND	PROC	GWR	NAV	COMM	WARM	EST	MAR	WILD	RARE	MIGR	SPWN	SHELL	WET	REC-1	REC-2
LA River Estuary (Ends at Willow Street)		E			E	E		E	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	E	E
LA River Reach 1 (Estuary to Carson Street)	P	P	P	E			E		E	E	E	P	P	P		E	E
LA River Reach 2 (Carson Street to Rio Hondo Reach 1)	P	P		E			E			P						E	E
LA River Reach 2 (Rio Hondo Reach 1 to Figueroa Street)	P	P		E			E			P						E	E
LA River Reach 3 (Figueroa Street to Riverside Drive)	P	P		E			E			E					E	E	E
LA River Reach 4 (Riverside Drive to Sepulveda Dam)	P	P		E			E			E					E	E	E
LA River Reach 5 (Sepulveda Dam to Balboa Boulevard)	P	P		E			E			E					E	E	E

Notes: E = Existing beneficial use, P = Potential beneficial use

MUN = Municipal and domestic water supply, IND = Industrial service supply, PROC = Industrial process supply, GWR = Groundwater recharge, NAV = Navigation, COMM = Commercial and Sport Fishing, WARM = Warm freshwater habitat, EST = Estuarine habitat, MAR = Marine habitat, WILD = Wildlife habitat, RARE = Rare, threatened, or endangered species, MIGR = Migration of aquatic organisms, SPWN = Spawning, reproduction, and/or early development, SHELL = Shellfish harvesting, WET = Wetland habitat, REC-1 = Water contact recreation, REC-2 = Non-contact water recreation.

Source: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region: Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, Table 2-1. Beneficial Uses of Inland Surface Waters, September 2014

## **2.6 Required Permits and Approvals**

Permits and other use authorizations required to implement the project modifications may include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power**

- Certification by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners that the Supplemental EIR was prepared in accordance with CEQA and other applicable codes and guidelines
- Approval by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners of the project modifications

### **City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation**

- Approval by the Board of Public Works of the project modifications
- Sewer Connection Permit

### **California State Water Resources Control Board**

- Approval of Wastewater Change Petition pursuant to California Water Code Section 1211

### **Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

- Waste Discharge Requirements Permit for change in use of recycled water from DCTWRP

## CHAPTER 3 APPROACH TO LOS ANGELES RIVER FLOWS MODELING

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### 3.1 Los Angeles River Gaging Stations

Several gaging stations operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (County) or the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) are located in the mainstem of the Los Angeles River (LA River) or in tributaries close to their confluence with the river. These gaging stations provide a record of flow levels, both in the upper LA River (within the boundaries of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin) and the lower LA River, within the Los Angeles Basin proper, from which the river discharges into San Pedro Bay. The flows as recorded at the stations were used to establish the existing hydrological conditions in the LA River against which the changes in flow resulting from the project modifications were assessed. The LA River gaging stations downstream of the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point to the river include the following (shown in Figure 3-1):

**Sepulveda Gaging Station (SEP)**, River Station [RS] 225707.0) is a USGS operated gaging station located in the mainstem of the LA River approximately 0.4 miles downstream of the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point to the river. Between the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point and SEP, the LA River is a concrete box channel.

**F300** (RS 195289.1) is a County operated gaging station located in the mainstem of the LA River approximately 5.7 miles downstream of SEP and approximately 0.7 miles downstream of the confluence Tujunga Wash with the LA River. Tujunga Wash is a concrete rectangular box channel and a primary tributary to the LA River. Between the SEP and F300, the LA River is a concrete box channel.

**E285** is a County operated gaging station located in the Burbank Western Storm Drain approximately 0.4 miles upstream of its confluence with the LA River. Burbank Water Reclamation Plant (BWRP) discharges into the Burbank Western Storm Drain approximately 1.8 miles upstream of E285. Burbank Western Storm Drain is a concrete box channel and a primary tributary to the LA River. The flows as gaged at F300 and E285 combine to establish the flow level at **LA14** (RS 169392.4), which is a non-gaged station located in the mainstem of the LA River just downstream of the confluence of the river and Burbank Western Storm Drain and approximately 4.9 miles downstream of LA300. Between F300 and LA14, the LA River is a concrete channel.

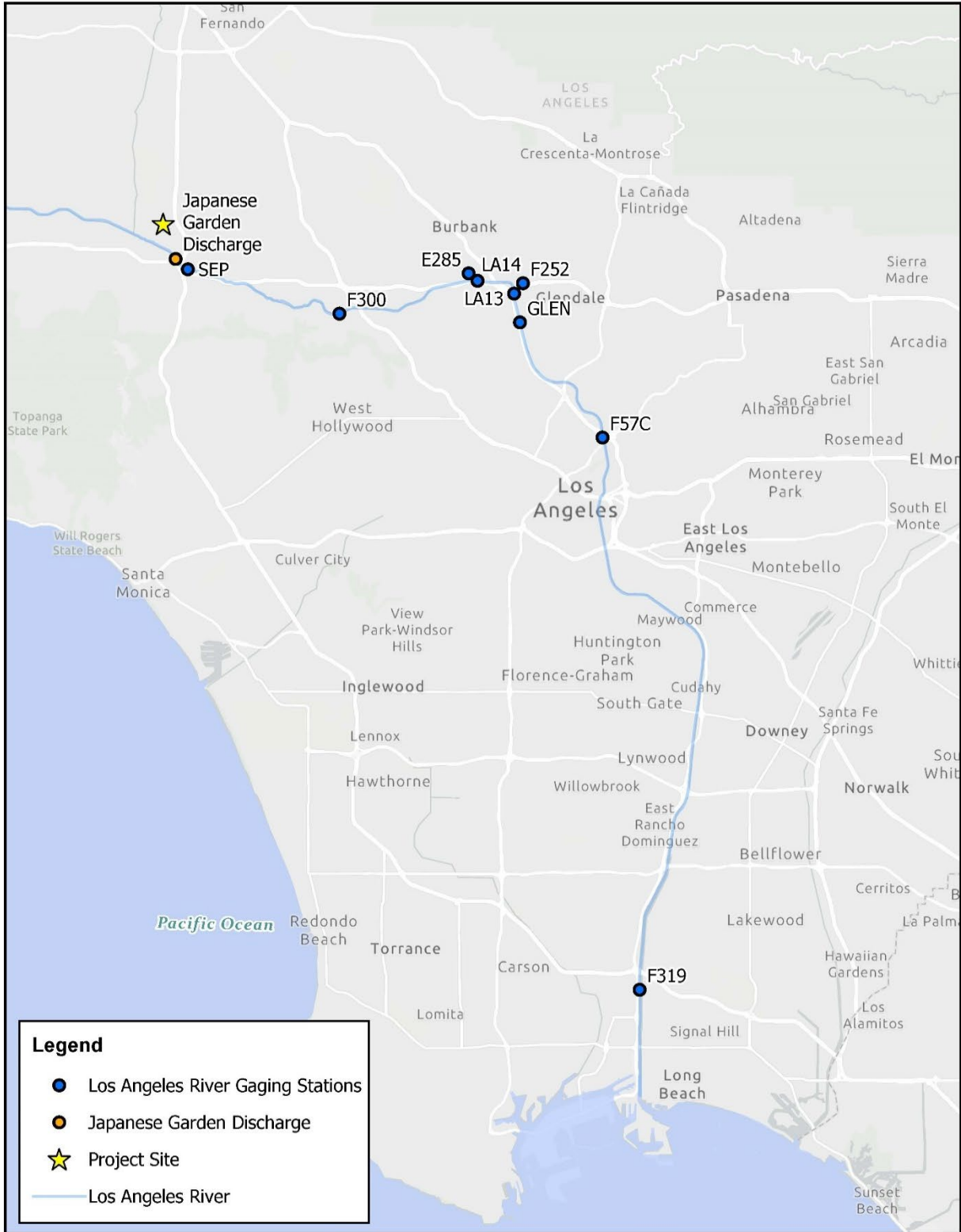
**F252** is a County operated gaging station located in Verdugo Wash approximately 0.4 miles upstream of its confluence with the LA River. Verdugo Wash is a concrete box channel and a primary tributary to the LA River. The flow level as calculated at LA14 and gaged at F252 combine to establish the flow level at **LA13** (RS 161377.1), which is a non-gaged station located in the mainstem of the LA River approximately 0.2 miles downstream of the confluence of the river and Verdugo Wash and 1.5 miles downstream of LA14. Approximately half the reach between LA14 and LA13 is a concrete channel, and the remaining half consists of sloped concrete embankments with a soft bottom within which vegetation has established.

**F57C** is a County operated gaging station located in the mainstem of the LA River approximately 6.2 miles downstream of LA13. The 0.3-mile upstream end and 0.2-mile downstream end of the reach between LA13 and F57C are concrete box channels. However, the remainder of this reach consists of sloped concrete embankments with a soft bottom within which vegetation has established. Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant (LAGWRP) discharges directly into

the LA River within the soft bottom portions of this reach (at **GLEN**, RS 156292.5), approximately 5.2 miles upstream of F57C. The flow level as calculated at LA13 and the metered discharges from LAGWRP combine to establish the flow level between GLEN and F57C.

**F319** (RS 20500) is a County operated gaging station located in the mainstem of the lower LA River approximately 20.5 miles downstream of F57C. The entire reach between F57C and F319 is a concrete channel with a trapezoidal cross-section.

Approximately 1 mile downstream of F319 is the upstream limit of tidal influx from San Pedro Bay. At this point, the LA River changes from a concrete channel to a soft-bottom channel with sloped riprap embankments.



### 3.2 Los Angeles River Dry Season Flows

Numerous years of data from these gaging stations have indicated that June, July, and August constitute the critical dry-season period when flows in the LA River, with exceptions during certain years, are at their lowest levels. The June through August dry period was confirmed by the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Project (Flows Project) conducted by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), the Colorado School of Mines, and the Council for Watershed Health. The hydrologic model developed for the Flows Project was created utilizing the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Storm Water Management Model (EPA SWMM) to simulate stormwater and other urban runoff in the LA River watershed. Data inputs included precipitation, land cover, slope, and other factors. Data were gathered from various sources, including Los Angeles County for storm drain catchments and precipitation, USGS for elevational data and land cover, United States Department of Agriculture for soil types, and the California Irrigation Management Information System for evapotranspiration rates. In addition, data for discharges to the LA River from DCTWRP, BWRP, and LAGWRP were collected from the City and the SWRCB. The Flows Project encompassed water year (WY) 2011 through WY 2017 (October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2017).

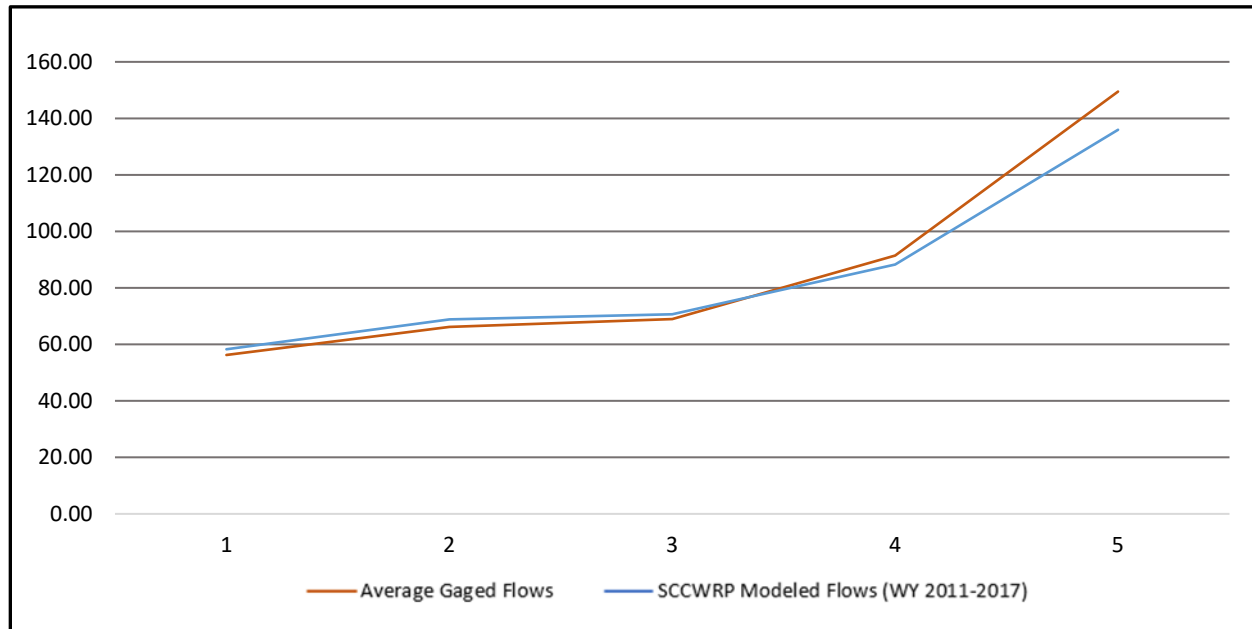
For the period encompassed by the Flows Project, average gaging station data for June through August correspond closely with the Flows Project model, as indicated in Table 3-1 and Figure 3-2, which validates the accuracy of both the gaging stations and the model for establishing flows in the river.

**Table 3-1**  
**Average Jun-Aug LA River Flows (cfs) WY 2011 – WY 2017**

	<b>F300</b>	<b>LA14</b>	<b>LA13</b>	<b>F57C</b>	<b>F319</b>
<b>WY 2011 Gaged Flows</b>	51.10	67.37	74.27	93.43	136.48
<b>WY 2012 Gaged Flows</b>	50.68	60.66	61.77	92.40	167.33
<b>WY 2013 Gaged Flows</b>	76.10	90.92	92.85	108.89	234.28
<b>WY 2014 Gaged Flows</b>	52.23	62.81	65.49	100.73	115.20
<b>WY 2015 Gaged Flows</b>	69.91	77.99	80.72	121.37	138.45
<b>WY 2016 Gaged Flows</b>	47.82	54.17	56.41	80.11	120.68
<b>WY 2017 Gaged Flows</b>	45.92	49.24	51.12	42.98	133.95
<b>Average Gaged Flows</b>	<b>56.25</b>	<b>66.16</b>	<b>68.95</b>	<b>91.41</b>	<b>149.48</b>
<b>SCCWRP Modeled Flows</b>	<b>58.27</b>	<b>68.86</b>	<b>70.63</b>	<b>88.29</b>	<b>135.96</b>

*Note: Sepulveda Gaging Station (SEP) was not represented in the Flows Project model.  
Cfs = Cubic feet per second*

**Figure 3-2**  
**Average Dry-Season LA River Flows (cfs) WY 2011 – WY 2017**



Since the completion of the Flows Project modeling, which included data through WY 2017, average flows in the LA River during the June through August dry period have decreased due primarily to increased water conservation efforts from domestic, commercial, and industrial users throughout the 824 square-mile LA River watershed, leading to lower inflows to the river (Table 3-2).

**Table 3-2**  
**LA River Gage Data Flows (cfs) June – Aug WY 2011 – WY 2022**

	SEP	F300	LA14	LA13	F57C	F319
<b>WY 2011</b>	58.97	51.10	67.37	74.27	93.43	136.48
<b>WY 2012</b>	62.70	50.68	60.66	61.77	92.40	167.33
<b>WY 2013</b>	73.53	76.10	90.92	92.85	108.89	234.28
<b>WY 2014</b>	63.73	52.23	62.81	65.49	100.73	115.20
<b>WY 2015</b>	53.33	69.91	77.99	80.72	121.37	138.45
<b>WY 2016</b>	48.10	47.82	54.17	56.41	80.11	120.68
<b>WY 2017</b>	41.80	45.92	49.24	51.12	42.98	133.96
<b>WY 2018</b>	44.30	54.54	56.66	58.51	57.83	124.33
<b>WY 2019</b>	44.00	48.87	52.12	54.50	66.70	70.75
<b>WY 2020</b>	36.90	35.30	39.70	40.66	49.82	75.57
<b>WY 2021</b>	36.10	30.53	34.23	35.16	44.46	63.91
<b>WY 2022</b>	39.33	42.50	43.83	44.97	51.58	67.26



Reduced flow levels are particularly evident for the last four water years of available gage data (WY 2019 through WY 2022), when flows were generally lower than previous years. Average dry season flows at these LA River mainstem stations, including discharges from LAGWRP (GLEN), for WY 2019 through WY 2022 are shown in Table 3-3. These average dry season flows for WY 2019 through WY2022 constitute the existing condition of the LA River that serves as the basis for the analysis contained in this Supplemental EIR.

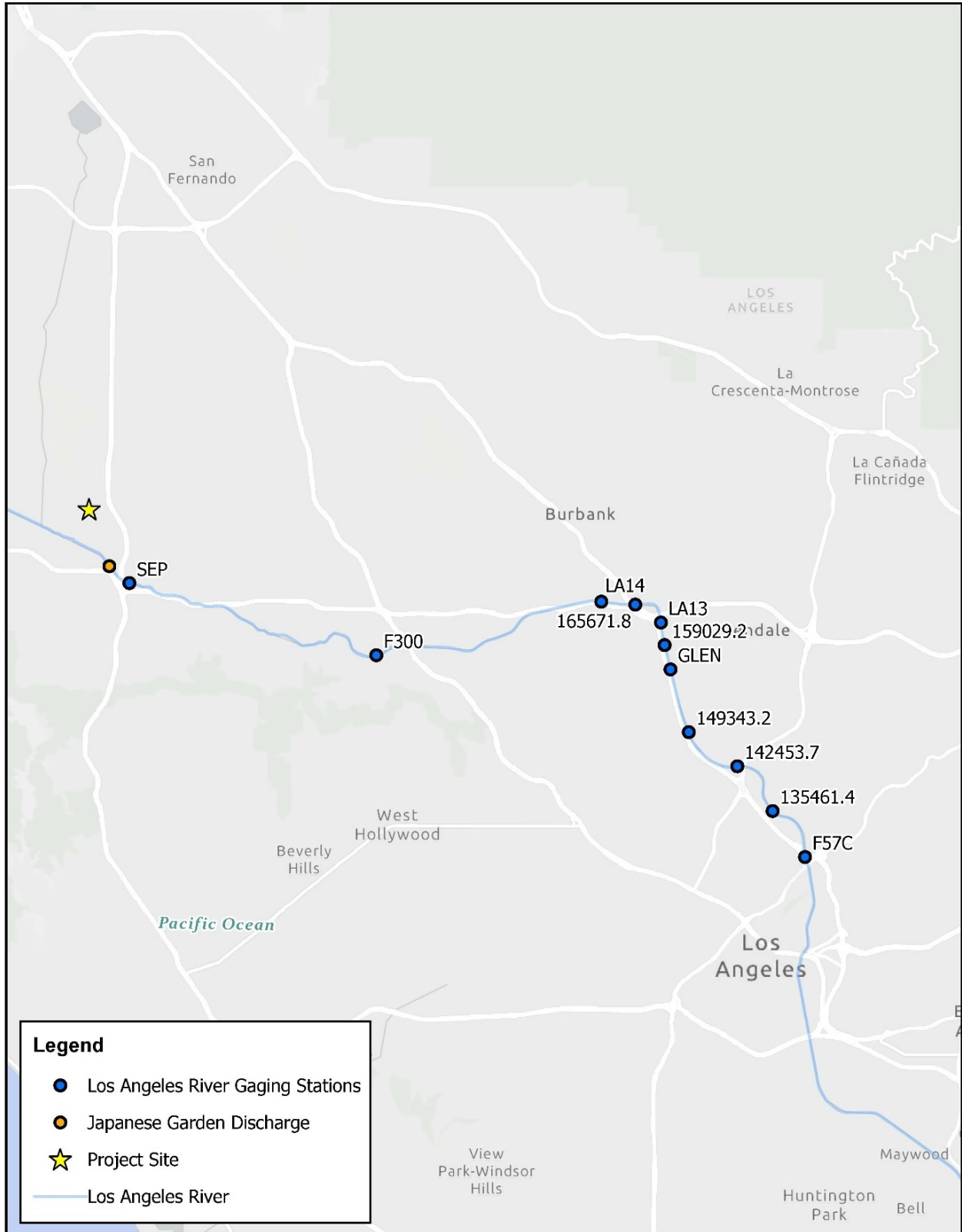
**Table 3-3**  
**Average Dry Season Flows (cfs) WY 2019 – WY 2022**

	SEP	F300	LA14	LA13	GLEN	F57C	F319
<b>WY 2019</b>	44.00	48.87	52.12	54.50	65.96	66.70	70.75
<b>WY 2020</b>	36.90	35.30	39.70	40.66	51.59	49.82	75.57
<b>WY 2021</b>	36.10	30.53	34.23	35.16	43.76	44.46	63.91
<b>WY 2022</b>	39.33	42.50	43.83	44.97	52.99	51.58	67.26
<b>Average</b>	<b>39.08</b>	<b>39.30</b>	<b>42.47</b>	<b>43.82</b>	<b>53.58</b>	<b>53.14</b>	<b>69.37</b>

### 3.3 HEC-RAS Model

Based on these flows, a US Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model of hydraulics in the LA River channel was developed for both the existing condition (i.e., the WY 2019 – WY 2022 average) and for a reduction in flow of 6.19 cfs in the river downstream of the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point after implementation of the proposed project modifications (based on a diversion of 4 MGD at the Japanese Garden Lake outlet). The HEC-RAS model (included as Appendix B of this Supplemental EIR), which was derived from the model developed by SCCWRP for the Flows Project, simulates various parameters in the channel based on flow levels, including water elevation and depth, flow velocity, and top width of the water surface. The results of the HEC-RAS model for the project modifications relative to these parameters are summarized in Table 3-4.

The results of the HEC-RAS modeling were used to assess impacts to biological resources, recreation, and other instream beneficial uses in the LA River that may be caused by the reduction in flow to the river from the Japanese Garden Lake related to the project modifications. These assessments are presented in Chapter 4 of this Supplemental EIR. However, the existing LA River mainstem gaging stations, as well as non-gaged mainstem stations located close to confluences with gaged tributaries, are all located in portions of the river that consist of concrete channel. To better assess potential impacts of the flow reduction, several intermediate river stations located in soft-bottom habitat areas of the river were also selected to be included in the HEC-RAS model. These include stations located approximately midway between LA14 and LA13 (RS 165671.8) and approximately midway between LA 13 and GLEN (RS 159029.2). GLEN itself is located in a soft-bottom habitat area. In addition, three approximately equidistant nodes were selected in soft-bottom areas between GLEN and F57C (RS 149343.2, RS 142453.7, and RS 135461.4). The river stations analyzed in the HEC-RAS model are shown in Figure 3-3.



### HEC-RAS Model River Stations

Figure 3-3

**Table 3-4  
HEC-RAS Model Results for Proposed Project Modifications**

		Existing (WY 2019 – WY 2022)						With Proposed Project Modifications						Difference				
Gaging Station	River Station	Flow (cfs)	Water Elev. (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Flow (cfs)	Water Elev. (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Top Width (in)
SEP	225707.0	39.08	654.73	2.96	0.27	3.24	48.38	32.89	654.70	2.80	0.24	2.88	48.38	-0.16	-0.03	-0.36	0.00	0.00
F300	195289.1	39.30	550.19	4.25	0.77	9.24	12.00	33.11	550.12	3.96	0.70	8.40	12.00	-0.29	-0.07	-0.84	0.00	0.00
LA14	169312.4	42.47	456.81	1.50	0.15	1.80	198.60	36.28	456.80	1.42	0.14	1.68	196.83	-0.08	-0.01	-0.12	-1.77	-21.24
	165671.8	42.47	442.33	0.73	0.84	10.08	136.67	36.28	442.29	0.68	0.80	9.60	134.91	0.05	-0.04	-0.48	-1.76	-21.12
LA13	161377.1	43.82	426.26	1.15	0.11	1.32	350.10	37.63	426.25	1.09	0.10	1.20	350.09	-0.06	-0.01	-0.12	-0.01	-0.12
	159029.2	43.82	417.03	0.65	0.68	8.16	171.39	37.63	416.99	0.62	0.64	7.68	168.58	-0.03	-0.04	-0.48	-2.81	-33.72
GLEN	156292.5	53.58	405.60	0.92	0.88	10.56	136.43	47.39	405.57	0.87	0.85	10.20	132.40	0.05	-0.03	-0.36	-4.03	-48.36
	149343.2	53.58	373.46	1.08	0.71	8.52	129.74	47.39	373.42	1.05	0.67	8.04	125.78	-0.03	-0.04	-0.48	-3.96	-47.52
	142453.7	53.58	343.06	3.54	1.13	13.56	42.86	47.39	343.03	3.42	1.10	13.20	42.07	-0.12	-0.03	-0.36	-0.79	-9.48
	135461.4	53.58	319.64	0.70	0.91	10.92	136.80	47.39	319.60	0.67	0.87	10.44	136.02	-0.03	-0.04	-0.48	-0.78	-9.36
F57C	128608.0	53.14	295.62	4.29	0.71	8.52	18.84	46.95	295.57	4.10	0.66	7.92	18.64	-0.19	-0.05	-0.60	-0.20	-2.40
F319	20500.0	69.37	15.25	1.02	1.14	13.68	300.61	63.18	15.23	1.00	1.12	13.44	300.54	-0.02	-0.02	-0.24	-0.07	-0.84

### 3.4 Cumulative Projects HEC-RAS Model

In addition to the proposed reduction in discharge of recycled water from DCTWRP to the LA River related to the project modifications, the SWRCB has approved a reduction in discharge to the river by the City of Burbank at BWRP and the City of Glendale at LAGWRP, either or both of which may contribute to a cumulative impact to the beneficial uses in the river when considered in conjunction with the proposed project modifications.

#### City of Burbank

According to the Mitigated Negative Declaration supporting the amended Wastewater Change Petition filed with the SWRCB by the City of Burbank on March 21, 2017 (Wastewater Change Petition WW0091, approved April 20, 2018), the existing and proposed discharges for the June through August dry season period from BWRP were as indicated in Table 3-5.

**Table 3-5  
Proposed Dry Season Discharges from BWRP**

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Average
<b>Existing MGD</b>	3.77	4.66	4.45	4.30
<b>Existing cfs</b>	5.83	7.21	6.89	6.65
<b>Reduction MGD</b>	0.55	2.97	2.66	2.08
<b>Reduction cfs</b>	0.85	4.60	4.12	3.21
<b>Proposed MGD</b>	3.22	1.69	1.79	2.22
<b>Proposed cfs</b>	4.98	2.61	2.77	3.44

Based on the gage data at E285, which is fed by BWRP and located in the Burbank Western Storm Drain 0.4 mile upstream of its confluence with the LA River, the average flow during the June through August dry season period from WY 2019 through WY 2022 was 3.17 cfs, which is lower than the average proposed discharge of 3.44 cfs from BWRP. Therefore, it is assumed that BWRP has achieved the reduced discharge reflected in the approved wastewater petition. The above reduction in discharge from BWRP, as reflected in the gage data, is taken into account in the existing flow levels in the LA River utilized for the HEC-RAS model. Therefore, this reduction in discharge from BWRP would not represent an additional cumulative impact relative to river flows when considered in conjunction with the proposed reduction in discharge related to the project modifications.

#### City of Glendale

According to the Mitigated Negative Declaration supporting the Wastewater Change Petition filed with the SWRCB by the City of Glendale on September 14, 2016 (Wastewater Change Petition WW0097, approved March 13, 2019), the existing and proposed discharges for the June through August dry season period from LAGWRP were as indicated in Table 3-6.

**Table 3-6  
Proposed Dry Season Discharges from LAGWRP**

	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Existing MGD</b>	7.37	7.12	8.08	7.53
<b>Existing cfs</b>	11.40	11.02	12.50	11.64
<b>Reduction MGD</b>	4.93	5.85	5.23	5.34
<b>Reduction cfs</b>	7.63	9.05	8.09	8.26
<b>Proposed MGD</b>	2.44	1.27	2.85	2.18
<b>Proposed cfs</b>	3.78	1.96	4.41	3.38

Based on the discharge data from LAGWRP, the average discharge during the June through August dry season period from WY 2019 through WY 2022 was 9.76 cfs, which is 1.88 cfs lower than the existing discharge level of 11.64 cfs from LAGWRP. Therefore, it is assumed that LAGWRP has not fully achieved the discharge reduction of 8.26 cfs reflected in the approved wastewater change petition and would be entitled to an additional 6.38 cfs reduction in flow. This additional reduction in discharge from LAGWRP is not taken into account in the existing flow levels in the LA River utilized for the HEC-RAS model. Therefore, this additional reduction in discharge from LAGWRP would represent an additional cumulative impact relative to river flows when considered in conjunction with the proposed reduction in discharge related to the project modifications. Therefore, a HEC-RAS model was also developed for a combined reduction in flow in the LA River of 6.19 cfs from the proposed project modifications and 6.38 cfs from the additional entitlement related to LAGWRP’s discharge. This combined 12.57 cfs reduction in flow would occur only downstream of GLEN, where LAGWRP discharges into the river.

The results of this cumulative HEC-RAS model are summarized in Table 3-7, and the assessments of cumulative impacts to beneficial uses in the LA River are presented in Chapter 4 of this Supplemental EIR.

**Table 3-7  
HEC-RAS Model Results for Proposed Project Modifications and Remaining LAGWRP Diversion**

		Existing (WY 2019 – WY 2022)						With Proposed Project Modifications and LAGWRP Diversions						Difference				
Gaging Station	River Station	Flow (cfs)	Water Elev. (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Flow (cfs)	Water Elev. (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Top Width (in)
SEP	225707.0	39.08	654.73	2.96	0.27	3.24	48.38	32.89	654.70	2.80	0.24	2.88	48.38	-0.16	-0.03	-0.36	0.00	0.00
F300	195289.1	39.30	550.19	4.25	0.77	9.24	12.00	33.11	550.12	3.96	0.70	8.40	12.00	-0.29	-0.07	-0.84	0.00	0.00
LA14	169312.4	42.47	456.81	1.50	0.15	1.80	198.60	36.28	456.80	1.42	0.14	1.68	196.83	-0.08	-0.01	-0.12	-1.77	-21.24
	165671.8	42.47	442.33	0.73	0.84	10.08	136.67	36.28	442.29	0.68	0.80	9.60	134.91	0.05	-0.04	-0.48	-1.76	-21.12
LA13	161377.1	43.82	426.26	1.15	0.11	1.32	350.10	37.63	426.25	1.09	0.10	1.20	350.09	-0.06	-0.01	-0.12	-0.01	-0.12
	159029.2	43.82	417.03	0.65	0.68	8.16	171.39	37.63	416.99	0.62	0.64	7.68	168.58	-0.03	-0.04	-0.48	-2.81	-33.72
GLEN	156292.5	53.58	405.60	0.92	0.88	10.56	136.43	41.01	405.54	0.87	0.82	9.84	128.85	0.05	-0.06	-0.72	-7.58	-90.96
	149343.2	53.58	373.46	1.08	0.71	8.52	129.74	41.01	373.39	1.00	0.64	7.68	121.51	-0.08	-0.07	-0.84	-8.23	-98.76
	142453.7	53.58	343.06	3.54	1.13	13.56	42.86	41.01	343.01	3.16	1.08	12.96	41.52	-0.38	-0.05	-0.60	-1.34	-16.08
	135461.4	53.58	319.64	0.70	0.91	10.92	136.80	41.01	319.56	0.63	0.83	9.96	135.17	-0.07	-0.08	-0.96	-1.63	-19.56
F57C	128608.0	53.14	295.62	4.29	0.71	8.52	18.84	40.57	295.51	3.90	0.60	7.20	18.42	-0.39	-0.11	-1.32	-0.42	-5.04
F319	20500.0	69.37	15.25	1.02	1.14	13.68	300.61	56.80	15.22	0.95	1.11	13.32	300.49	-0.07	-0.03	-0.36	-0.12	-1.44

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

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#### **4.0.1 Scope of the Environmental Impact Analysis**

A review was conducted of the approved project analyzed in the 2016 EIR to determine which environmental topics warranted further analysis in the Supplemental EIR. While all environmental factors that were considered in the 2016 EIR have been addressed in this Supplemental EIR in relation to the project modifications, the primary focus of the analysis is the diversion of the Japanese Garden Lake flows and the resultant decrease in discharges from DCTWRP to the LA River since this is the main change created by the project modifications when compared to the approved project. Based on the review, this chapter evaluates the following environmental resources for which the project modifications were determined to have the potential for new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts related to the change in discharge to the LA River:

- Biological Resources (Section 4.1)
- Hydrology and Water Quality (Section 4.2)
- Recreation (Section 4.3)

As presented in Chapter 5, Other CEQA Considerations, of this Supplemental EIR, the following environmental issues were determined to not have new or substantially more severe significant direct, indirect, and/or cumulative environmental effects as the result of implementation of the project modifications. Therefore, further detailed evaluation of these environmental issue areas is not warranted in this Supplemental EIR. Chapter 5, Other CEQA Considerations, includes a brief discussion of the impacts that were found not to be significant, as follows:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

#### 4.0.2 Overview of the Impact Analysis

The following sections of the Supplemental EIR examine the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the project modifications by issue area. Each environmental issue area is discussed in the following manner.

**Environmental Setting** includes a description of the existing physical environmental conditions, or “baseline conditions,” at the time the environmental analysis is commenced to compare and establish the type and extent of the potential environmental effects of the project modifications. The baseline conditions are tailored specifically for the resource area discussed in each section.

**Regulatory Setting** identifies the applicable federal, state, and/or local regulations that are applicable for each environmental resource.

**Environmental Impact Analysis** includes the methodology, thresholds of significance, and impact analysis, described below.

- **Methodology** describes the sources or methods utilized in the preparation of the impact analysis for each resource topic. This subsection includes the criteria that help evaluate the degree of significance for each potential impact.
- **Thresholds of Significance** identifies the standards by which the lead agency measures the significance of an impact.
- **Impact Analysis** presents a summary of the 2016 EIR’s impact analysis and the extent to which the project modifications would alter the conclusions regarding the impacts identified in the 2016 EIR either by resulting in new significant impacts not previously identified or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts or if there would be no change in previously identified impacts.

**Mitigation Measures** are those feasible, project-specific measures which are required, as necessary, in addition to compliance with existing regulations and requirements, to reduce potentially significant adverse environmental impacts.

**Level of Significance after Mitigation** indicates what effects remain after the implementation of mitigation measures, if applicable, and whether the remaining effects are considered significant.

**Cumulative Impacts** considers whether two or more individual effects resulting from the incremental impact of a project, when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects, may compound or increase other environmental effects. It determines whether the change in the environment results in considerable contributions to cumulative effects. In addition to the project modifications’ proposed reduction in discharge of recycled water from DCTWRP to the LA River, the SWRCB has approved a reduction in discharge to the river by the City of Glendale at LAGWRP, which may contribute to a cumulative impact to the beneficial uses in the river when considered in conjunction with the proposed modified project. Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, of this Supplemental EIR, presents the background information relevant to the cumulative flows modeling.



## 4.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section supplements the Biological Resources section in the 2016 EIR by describing the biological resources that occur or have the potential to occur at the project site and within the LA River channel and evaluating the potential impacts that could occur to those resources with implementation of the project modifications. This section identifies vegetation and habitat types within the area of the biological resources field survey conducted for the project modifications, any sensitive plant communities and special-status plant and animal species that may occur, as well as regulatory requirements pertaining to the identified resources. The analysis describes potential direct and indirect impacts from implementation of the project modifications. The analysis in this section is based, in part, on the information contained in the Biological Resources Assessment prepared for the project modifications, which is included as Appendix A to this Supplemental EIR.

### 4.1.1 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal

##### *Federal Endangered Species Act*

Enacted in 1973, the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA)<sup>1</sup> provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required when it is likely that a project could affect species that are federally listed as threatened or endangered. The purpose of the FESA is to conserve the habitats that listed species depend on so that they can recover such that protection under the FESA is no longer needed.

Section 9 of the FESA prohibits the "take" of threatened and endangered species except under certain circumstances and only with authorization from USFWS through a permit under Section 4(d), 7 or 10(a) of the FESA. "Take" under the FESA is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." USFWS has also interpreted the definition of "harm" to include significant impacts to habitat that could result in take. If implementing a project would result in take of a federally listed species, either the project applicant must acquire an incidental take permit (ITP) under Section 10(a) of the FESA, or if a federal discretionary action is involved, the federal agency must consult with USFWS under Section 7 of the act.

##### *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*

Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)<sup>2</sup> in 1918 to prohibit the kill or transport of native migratory birds, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird unless allowed by another regulation adopted in accordance with the MBTA. Under the MBTA, it is unlawful to pursue, take, or kill any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird. "Take" is defined as "to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or any attempt to carry out these activities." Take does not include habitat destruction or alteration, as long as there is not a direct take of birds, nests, eggs, or parts thereof. The current list of species protected by the MBTA includes approximately 1,000 bird species native to the United States. No permit is issued under the MBTA for take; measures that would avoid or minimize impacts on protected migratory birds would need to be employed during project implementation to avoid take if such impacts are identified.

<sup>1</sup> U.S.C. Title 16, Chapter 35, Sections 1531-1544.

<sup>2</sup> U.S.C. Title 16, Chapter 7, Subchapter II, Sections 703-712.

### *Clean Water Act*

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires a project applicant to obtain a permit before engaging in any activity that involves a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Fill material includes any material placed in waters of the United States that replaces any portion of waters of the United States with dry land or changes the bottom elevation of any portion of waters of the United States. Waters of the United States include navigable waters; interstate waters; all other waters where the use, degradation, or destruction of the waters could affect interstate or foreign commerce; relatively permanent tributaries to any of these waters; and wetlands adjacent to these waters. Wetlands are defined as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Potentially jurisdictional wetlands typically must meet three wetland delineation criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil types, and wetland hydrology. Wetlands that meet the delineation criteria may be jurisdictional under Section 404 of the CWA, pending verification by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Under Section 401 of the CWA, an applicant for a Section 404 permit must obtain a certificate from the appropriate state agency stating that the intended dredge/fill activity is consistent with the state's water quality standards and criteria. The authority to grant water quality certification is delegated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to the nine regional water quality control boards.

### **State**

#### *California Endangered Species Act*

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code [CFGF] Sections 2050-2115) regulates the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Additionally, the CFGF regulates impacts to wetlands and waters of the State and sets forth Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement regulations in Section 1600 et seq.

Wildlife "take" is defined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as "to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." Protection extends to the animals, dead or alive, and all their body parts. Section 2081 of CESA allows CDFW to issue an incidental take permit for state-listed threatened or endangered species if implementation of the project modifications has the potential to "take" a state-listed species that has been detected within the survey area. Certain criteria are required under CESA prior to the issuance of such a permit, including the requirement that impacts of the take are minimized and mitigated to the extent practical.

All birds except European starlings, English house sparrows, rock doves (pigeons), and non-migratory game birds such as quail, pheasant, and grouse are protected under the MBTA. However, non-migratory game birds are protected under CFGF Section 3503. Many other bird species are considered by CDFW to be California Species of Special Concern (SSC)<sup>3,4</sup> and CDFW, and others are on a CDFW Watch List (WL).<sup>5</sup> The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) tracks species within California for which there is conservation concern, including many

<sup>3</sup> Remsen, H. V., 1978, *Bird Species of Special Concern in California: an Annotated List of Declining or Vulnerable Bird Species*, California Department of Fish and Game, The Resources Agency.

<sup>4</sup> Williams, D. F., 1986, *Mammalian Species of Special Concern in California*, California Department of Fish and Game. Wildlife Management Division Administrative Report 86-1, 112 pp.

<sup>5</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Special Animals, California Natural Diversity Data Base, available at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109406&inline>, accessed March 2024.

that are not formally listed, and assigns them a CNDDDB Rank. Although CDFW SSC and WL species and species that are tracked by the CNDDDB but not formally listed are afforded no official legal status, they may receive special consideration during the environmental review process.

CDFW further classifies some species under the following categories: "Fully Protected", "Protected birds" (CDFW Code §3511), "Protected mammals" (CDFW Code §4700), "Protected amphibian" (CDFW Code §5050 and Chapter 5, §41), "Protected reptile" (CDFW Code §5050 and Chapter 5, §42), and "Protected fish" (CDFW Code §5515). The designation "Protected" indicates that a species may not be taken or possessed except under special permit from CDFW; "Fully Protected" indicates that a species can be taken for scientific purposes by permit only.<sup>6</sup> CDFW Code §3503, 3505, and 3800 prohibit the take, destruction, or possession of any bird, nest, or egg of any bird except English house sparrows and European starlings unless express authorization is obtained from CDFW.

#### *Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act*

Under Section 13000 et seq., of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne), the local Regional Water Quality Control Board is the agency that regulates discharges of waste and fill material within any region that could affect a water of the State (California Water Code Section 13260[a]), (including wetlands and isolated waters) as defined by California Water Code Section 13050(e). Under Porter-Cologne any party proposing to discharge waste that could affect waters of the State must file a report of waste discharge with the appropriate regional board. The regional board will then respond by issuing a waiver or waste discharge requirements (WDRs).

#### *California Water Code Section 1211*

Section 1211 of the California Water Code requires that, before making a change in the point of discharge, place of use, or purpose of use of treated wastewater, the owner of the treatment plant must seek approval from the SWRCB, which is accomplished by filing a wastewater change petition with the Division of Water Rights. The SWRCB may approve a Section 1211 petition if it finds that the proposed change will not injure other legal users of water, will not unreasonably harm instream uses, and is consistent with the public interest.

### **Local**

#### *City of Los Angeles Tree and Shrub Ordinance*

Section 46.01 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code protects the following Southern California native tree and shrub species, which measure 4 inches or more in cumulative diameter, 4.5 feet above ground level at the base of the tree or shrub:

Protected trees:

- a) Oak tree, including Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), or any other tree of the oak genus indigenous to California but excluding the Scrub Oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*).
- b) Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica*).
- c) Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*).
- d) California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*).

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<sup>6</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Special Animals, California Natural Diversity Data Base, available at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109406&inline>, accessed March 2024.

Protected shrubs:

- a) Mexican Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*).
- b) Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*).

Relocation or removal of any protected trees is prohibited without a permit or exemption from the Board of Public Works or its designated office or employee. Removal includes any act that would inflict damage upon the root system of other part of the tree or shrub by fire, application of toxic substances, operation of equipment or machinery, or by changing the natural grade of land by excavation or filling the drip line area around the trunk.<sup>7</sup>

#### *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan*

Since 1973, the SWRCB and its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) have been responsible for administering permitted discharges into the waters of California. Permitted discharges must be compliant with the regional Basin Plan. Each RWQCB implements the Basin Plan to ensure that projects consider regional beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and water quality problems. The Los Angeles RWQCB Basin Plan specifically designates beneficial uses for surface waters and ground waters, sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be met in order to protect the beneficial uses and conform to the state's antidegradation policy, and describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the region. The LARWQCB Basin Plan provides all relevant information necessary to carry out federal mandates for the antidegradation policy.

#### Beneficial Uses

The Los Angeles River has the following beneficial uses (both existing and potential) related to biological resources for reaches of the LA River downstream of the existing Japanese Garden discharge point, as designated by the Los Angeles RWQCB in the Basin Plan (see Table 2-1 in Chapter 2, Project Description):

- Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM)
- Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM)
- Estuarine Habitat (EST)
- Marine Habitat (MAR)
- Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
- Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species (RARE)
- Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR)
- Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN)
- Shellfish Harvesting (SHELL)
- Wetland Habitat (WET)

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<sup>7</sup> Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 46.00. Protected Tree and Shrub Regulations.

### *Los Angeles River Master Plan*

The LA River Master Plan seeks to build on prior and current planning efforts to continue to reimagine the LA River from a single-use corridor to a tangible, multi-benefit resource for the communities of Los Angeles County. The 2022 LA River Master Plan is an update of the 1996 LA River Master Plan. The LA River Master Plan's research and analysis is based on a watershed and community approach, including ecosystem, demographic, and hydrologic studies that were conducted for the watershed, combined with several studies that included information for areas outside the watershed. The LA River Master Plan includes a discussion of existing ecosystem and habitat conditions, and states that the soft bottom portions of the LA River, which flow through Sepulveda Basin, the Glendale Narrows, and the tidal estuary, support more ecologically healthy habitat than the channelized portions of the river; however, much of the river corridor continues to support algae, insects, fish, and local and migratory birds.<sup>8</sup>

#### **4.1.2 Environmental Setting**

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. The project site does not contain sensitive plant or wildlife species, and no removal of vegetation that could support such species would be required. As such, the environmental setting is focused on those biological resources that could be affected by the approximately 4 MGD (6.19 cfs) reduction in discharge flows to the LA River that would result from implementation of the project modifications. Such resources would be those located within the LA River downstream of the existing Japanese Garden discharge point. Specifically, two reaches of the LA River located between the discharge point and the Pacific Ocean, including the Los Angeles reach and the Long Beach reach, described in more detail below, have been analyzed in relation to impacts on biological resources.

A field survey/habitat assessment was conducted on July 31, 2023, and August 1, 2023. The field survey was conducted to characterize existing site conditions and assess the potential for biological resources to occur within the survey area. The survey area included the Los Angeles reach and the Long Beach reach of the LA River. The Los Angeles reach extends from approximately 1,200 feet upstream (west) of the Riverside Drive bridge over the LA River in Los Angeles and terminates immediately upstream of the State Route 110 bridge over the LA River and approximately 220 feet upstream (north) of the Arroyo Seco confluence in Los Angeles. This reach, known as the Glendale Narrows, is approximately 7.5 miles in length and consists primarily of a soft-bottom channel that supports riparian vegetation. The Long Beach reach extends from immediately downstream of the Interstate 405 bridge over the LA River in Long Beach and terminates immediately upstream of the Pacific Coast Highway bridge over the LA River in Long Beach. These survey areas were established based on the potential for the project to affect existing biological resources within these areas of the LA River downstream of the project site. These reaches are flanked by the urbanized environment of the cities of Los Angeles, Glendale, and Long Beach. Biological resources with the potential to occur within the survey area are described below.

#### **Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types**

Five vegetation communities and four land cover types were identified in the survey area, as shown in Table 4.1-1. Descriptions of each vegetation community and land cover type, including the plant species present, are provided below. Vegetation communities occurring within the survey area are classified in accordance with descriptions provided in the online edition of the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) *A Manual of California Vegetation*. Figures depicting the

<sup>8</sup> Los Angeles County Public Works, June 2022, LA River Master Plan.

locations of the vegetation communities and land cover types within the survey area are included in Appendix A.

**Table 4.1-1: Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in the Survey Area**

Vegetation Community/Land Cover	Coverage in Acres		Total Acreage <sup>a</sup>
	Los Angeles Reach	Long Beach Reach	
Goodding’s Willow – Red Willow Riparian Woodland and Forest	3.91	0.00	3.91
Disturbed Goodding’s Willow – Red Willow Riparian Woodland and Forest	24.76	0.00	24.76
Cattail Marshes	14.18	0.00	14.18
Disturbed Cattail Marshes	22.29	0.00	22.29
Common and Giant Reed Marshes	7.48	3.01	10.49
Disturbed	16.25	24.94	41.19
Open Water	94.46	86.31	180.77
Developed	5.42	0.08	5.50
Open Water/Developed	2.02	0.00	2.02
<b>Total</b>	190.77	114.34	305.11

- Totals may not sum due to rounding.  
Source: Michael Baker International, 2024.

***Goodding’s Willow – Red Willow Riparian Woodland and Forest (Salix gooddingii – Salix laevigata Forest and Woodland Alliance)***

This vegetation community covers 3.91 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion of the survey area. Mature Goodding’s black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) is the dominant cover in the tree canopy, with Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) also occasionally present as a co-dominant. Cattail (*Typha* sp., California bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*), and chairmaker’s bulrush (*Schoenoplectus americanus*) were occasionally present in the understory, interspersed with bare ground or cobbly river substrate. Patches of other mixed herbaceous species are also present in the understory. The occurrence of non-native plant species is limited in this community.

***Disturbed Goodding’s Willow – Red Willow Riparian Woodland and Forest (Salix gooddingii – Salix laevigata Forest and Woodland Alliance)***

This vegetation community covers 24.76 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion of the survey area. Mature Goodding’s black willow is the dominant cover in the tree canopy, with Fremont cottonwood also occasionally present as a co-dominant species. Non-native trees, including Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), white mulberry (*Morus alba*), shamel ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*), Chinese elm (*Ulmus parviflora*), London plane tree (*Platanus x hispanica*), Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) and Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) were also present in the tree canopy. Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), California bulrush, and chairmaker’s bulrush were occasionally present in the shrub layer. Non-native or weedy herbaceous species, including white sweet clover (*Melilotus albus*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), common knotweed (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), and Marsh purslane (*Ludwigia peploides*) were frequently present in the understory, interspersed with bare ground or cobbly river substrate.

*Cattail Marshes (Typha [angustifolia, domingensis, latifolia] Herbaceous Alliance)*

This vegetation community covers 14.18 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion of the survey area. Cattails are dominant in the shrub layer, with California bulrush and chairmaker's bulrush frequently present as co-dominant species. Mature Goodding's black willows were sporadically present, with willow saplings occasionally present in the shrub layer. Areas with mixed herbaceous species were also present, with the occurrence of non-native species limited in this community.

*Disturbed Cattail Marshes (Disturbed Typha [angustifolia, domingensis, latifolia] Herbaceous Alliance)*

This vegetation community covers 22.29 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion of the survey area. Cattails are dominant in the shrub layer, with California bulrush and chairmaker's bulrush frequently present as co-dominant species. Mature Goodding's black willows, white mulberry, Chinese elm, and London plane tree were sporadically present, with willow saplings and giant reed occasionally present in the shrub layer. Mixed non-native or weedy herbaceous species were also present, including marsh purslane, white sweet clover, common knotweed, cocklebur, and castor bean.

*Common and Giant Reed Marshes (Phragmites australis – Arundo donax Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance)*

This vegetation community covers a total of 10.49 acres of the survey area, including 7.48 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion and 3.01 acres of the Long Beach Reach portion. Common reed and giant reed were dominant or co-dominant in the herbaceous layer. Goodding's black willow, southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), shamel ash, white mulberry, Mexican fan palm, and tree of heaven (*Alibertia altissima*) were sporadically present in the tree canopy. Mixed herbaceous and shrub species were also present, including cocklebur, cattail, and castor bean.

*Disturbed*

This land cover type covers a total of 41.19 acres of the survey area, including 16.25 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion and 24.94 acres of the Long Beach Reach portion. Disturbed areas consisted of areas of bare ground, areas of dried or matted thatch, and where patches of primarily non-native or weedy native plant species were observed. Evidence of flood scour was commonly observed in disturbed areas. Vegetation consisted of non-native or weedy native annuals, including white sweet clover, common knotweed, common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), cocklebur, and marsh purslane. Perennial non-native species were also sporadically present, including Brazilian pepper tree, castor bean, and giant reed. Patches of native cattail, chairmaker's bulrush, and sporadic black willows were also present at low densities.

*Open Water*

This land cover type covers a total of 180.77 acres of the survey area, including 94.46 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion and 86.31 acres of the Long Beach Reach portion. Areas of open water consist of non-vegetated portions of the LA River channel where flowing water was present.

*Developed*

This land cover type covers a total of 5.5 acres of the survey area, including 5.42 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion and 0.08 acres of the Long Beach Reach portion. Developed areas consist

of concrete or otherwise armored banks, bridges, or any hardened portion of the LA River channel that has been physically altered to the degree that native vegetation is no longer supported.

#### *Open Water/Developed*

This land cover type covers a total of 2.02 acres of the Los Angeles Reach portion of the survey area. Open water/developed areas consist of LA River channel sections located primarily under bridge spans, where the channel consists of both open water and concrete structures.

#### **Wildlife**

This section provides a general discussion of those wildlife species that were observed during the field survey or that are expected to occur based on existing site conditions. Wildlife diversity within the survey area is limited by the urbanized nature of the LA River and the surrounding area.

#### *Fish and Amphibian Species*

No fish species were observed during the field surveys. Species known to occur in the Glendale Narrows area include fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*), Amazon sailfin catfish (*Pteroplichthys pardalis*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*), tilapia (*Oreochromis* sp.), and largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*). These species may also occur within the Long Beach reach; however, the mostly concrete-lined nature of lower portions of the LA River severely limit the potential for fish to persist. None of these species are native to the LA River and none are special-status species.

No amphibian species were observed during the field surveys. Amphibians expected to occur in the survey area based on literature reviews and records searches include western toad (*Bufo boreas*), Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*), and bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*).

#### *Reptiles*

No reptile species were observed during the field surveys. Reptiles expected to occur in the survey area based on literature reviews and records searches include western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), western skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus*), southern alligator lizard (*Gerrhonotus multicarinatus*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus*), common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), California whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis*), gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), and two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*).

#### *Bird Species*

Eighteen bird species were observed during the field surveys, including Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), green heron (*Butorides virescens*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), double-crested cormorant (*Nannopterum auritum*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), American coot (*Fulica americana*), black-necked stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), and black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). These bird species are typical of the region and habitats along the LA River. Additionally, literature reviews and records searches indicated that more than 200 species of birds have been observed and documented along the LA River, reflecting the diversity of bird species that utilize the LA River channel and adjacent areas for cover, resting, foraging, and nesting habitat.



### *Mammals*

No mammal species were observed during the field survey. The survey area is routinely disturbed from anthropogenic activity and its constructed nature. Mammals that utilize the survey area consist of urban-adapted species including opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), black rat (*Rattus rattus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

No bats or evidence of the presence of bats (i.e. guano, urine staining) were observed during the field survey. Mines, caves, rock outcrops, deep rock crevices, and large abandoned buildings which may provide suitable colonial and/or maternity roosting habitat are absent from the survey area. However, multiple large bridges over the LA River provide roosting opportunities for bat species, while palm, eucalyptus, and western sycamore trees that occur within and along the LA River also provide suitable roosting habitat for individual or small groups of bats. Additionally, the LA River provides a source of water for bats. A number of bat species are known from Los Angeles County, with some common to the LA River, including California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), western mastiff bat (*Eumpos perotis*; a CDFW SSC), and Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*).

### **Special-Status and Sensitive Biological Resources**

The project site and the course of the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point are located within the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Canoga Park, Van Nuys, Burbank, Pasadena, Hollywood, Los Angeles, South Gate, and Long Beach 7.5-minute quadrangles. The literature search identified special-status plant species, special-status wildlife species, and sensitive vegetation communities as having been recorded within the eight-quadrangle search of the CNDDDB and the California Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CIRP), and during a search of USFWS online Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the survey area based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. A list of the special-status biological resources identified during the literature review and each species' special-status ranking, preferred habitats, and potential to occur within the survey area is presented in Appendix A.

#### *Special-Status Plant Species*

Special-status plant species include those listed as Endangered, Threatened, Rare or those species proposed for listing by the USFWS under the FESA and CDFW under the CESA. The CNPS inventory is sanctioned by the CDFW and essentially serves as the list of candidate plant species for state listing. CNPS's California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) 1B and 2 species are considered eligible for state listing as endangered or threatened.

Sixty (60) special-status plant species were identified during a review of the CNDDDB and CIRP to have been recorded within the USGS eight-quadrangle search area and from a review of IPaC. One special-status species, California black walnut, a CNPS-listed species with a CRPR of 4.2 was recorded within Giant and Common Reed Marsh habitat within the Los Angeles reach. No CNDDDB records of any other special-status plant species coincide with the survey area. CNDDDB records of two special-status plant species have been recorded in areas adjacent to the LA River, including mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*; CRPR 1B.1) and Greata's aster (*Symphyotrichum greatae*; CRPR 1B.3). Mesa horkelia was collected in 1918 along the northern section of Griffith Park; however, habitats potentially suitable to support this species (maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub) are not present within the survey area. Greata's aster (*Symphyotrichum greatae*) was collected in 1932 within Elysian Park and while this species

prefers riparian woodland habitat, this habitat type in the survey area is of poor quality and occurs outside of the known elevation range for this species (985 – 6,595 feet above mean sea level).

Based on the results of the literature review and field surveys, it was determined that special-status plant species are generally not expected to occur within the survey area, due to existing site conditions and a review of specific habitat requirements, occurrence records, and known distributions of each species. Only one species, Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*, federally and State-listed endangered), recorded from within the past 20 years and from within 5 miles of the survey area was identified to have a low potential to occur. However, Nevin's barberry was not observed during the field survey.

### *Special-Status Wildlife Species*

Special-status wildlife species include those listed as Endangered, Threatened, Rare or those species proposed for listing by the USFWS under the FESA and CDFW under the CESA. Additional species receive federal protection under the Bald Eagle Protection Act (e.g., bald eagle, golden eagle), the MBTA, and state protection under CEQA Section 15380(d).

One special-status wildlife species, double-crested cormorant (CDFW WL), was observed during field surveys. Individuals of this species, as well as great egret, snowy egret, great blue heron, and black-crowned night hawk, also observed during field surveys, are considered special-status species while nesting. These species are considered colonial nesters that are vulnerable to human disturbance while nesting.

Forty-four special-status wildlife species were identified during a review of the CNDDDB to have been recorded within the USGS eight quadrant search area and from a review of IPaC. Each species' special-status ranking, preferred habitats, and potential to occur within the survey area are provided in Appendix A. CNDDDB records of five special-status wildlife species coincide with the survey area, including:

- One record of Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*, state candidate endangered) from 2020 near the LA River, 0.3 miles northwest of Eagle Rock Boulevard and San Fernando Road. No suitable habitat (open grasslands, shrublands, chaparral, desert margins including Joshua tree and creosote scrub, and semi-urban settings) for this species occurs in the survey area.
- Two records of western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*, federally-listed threatened and state-listed endangered) from 1921 and 1923, one near the intersection the 405 freeway and State Route 47 and another within an approximate 4-mile stretch of the LA River nears its mouth at the Pacific Ocean. Suitable riparian forest habitat for this species is present, however this species is considered extirpated from the area and is not expected to occur within the survey area.
- One record of southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*, federally- and state-listed endangered) from 1894 and recorded as a ten-mile diameter circle located in the City of Los Angeles. Suitable riparian forest habitat for this species is present; however, this species is not expected to occur in the survey area due to the lack of occurrence records within the last twenty years and within 5 miles of the survey area.
- One record of bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*, state-listed threatened) from 1894. This record was mapped as a ten-mile diameter circle located in the City of Los Angeles. No

suitable habitat (vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, and ocean) for this species occurs in the survey area. This species is considered extirpated from the area and is not expected to occur within the survey area.

- Three records of least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*, federally-listed endangered and State-listed endangered) from 1897, 1914, and 1922. These records generally overlay large portions of the City of Los Angeles and the northern reach of the survey area. Suitable riparian forest habitat for this species is generally absent and this species is not expected to occur in the survey area and is considered extirpated from the area.

Although habitats suitable to support the special-status wildlife species identified during the database searches are generally absent from the survey area, American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), a species de-listed from the FESA and the CESA, is known to occur within Griffith Park, which is adjacent to the Los Angeles reach. As recently as 2020, a peregrine falcon attempted to fledge young at a nest site within the park. This species is also known to occur and nest in areas of the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and other areas where tall structures such as bridges and oil refinery towers provide suitable nesting habitat. As a result, this species could occur across the survey area as a migrating or foraging transient; however, they are not expected to nest within the survey area. Additionally, mature trees within the survey area provide potentially suitable nesting habitat for Cooper's hawk (*Accipter cooperii*; CDFW WL species), a special-status raptor species not identified during the database searches, but one known to successfully nest throughout urban environments within the Los Angeles Basin, including in nearby Griffith Park and the Glendale-Burbank area. American peregrine falcon and Cooper's hawk have moderate potential to occur within the survey area.

Based on the results of the literature review and field surveys, it has been determined that all remaining special-status wildlife species listed in Appendix A are not anticipated to occur within the survey area or have a low potential to occur within the survey area based on existing site conditions and a review of specific habitat requirements, occurrence records, and known distributions of each species. Species with low potential to occur within the survey area include bats, such as hoary bat (*Lasuirus cinereus*), silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), and western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), and bird species known primarily from coastal areas that may forage in the Long Beach reach, such as California brown pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*).

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the federal MBTA and the CFGC. Consequently, if an active bird nest is destroyed or if the project modifications result in indirect impacts (e.g., nest abandonment, loss of reproductive effort) to nesting birds, it is considered "take" and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. Vegetation, bridges, and other structures within the survey area provide suitable nesting habitat for various year-round and seasonal bird species.

A number of special-status fish species were previously known to inhabit the LA River, including southern California Distinct Population Segment of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*; federally listed endangered, State candidate for listing as endangered), Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*; federally listed threatened), arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*; CDFW SSC), and Santa Ana speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*; CDFW SSC); however, these species are no longer present in the LA River.

### *Sensitive Natural Communities*

Vegetation communities with CDFW sensitivity ranks of S1 to S3 are considered sensitive natural communities. Six special-status vegetation communities have been reported in the CNDDDB within the six quad search area: California Walnut Woodland, Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland, and Walnut Forest. These communities are identified in the CNDDDB from the nearby Santa Monica Mountains, Verdugo Mountains, and the Angeles National Forest, and do not coincide with the survey area. However, based on results of the field survey, one sensitive native vegetation community was recorded within the survey area. Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest (Code: 61.216.00) is listed as sensitive in the California Sensitive Natural Communities List, with a state rarity rank of S3. Including non-disturbed and disturbed Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest, approximately 28.67 acres of this vegetation community occurs within the survey area.

### Aquatic Resources

Aquatic resources, including riparian areas, wetlands, and certain aquatic vegetation communities, are considered sensitive natural communities that can fall under the jurisdiction of several regulatory agencies as discussed in Section 4.1.1, Regulatory Setting, above. The LA River is considered a jurisdictional aquatic feature pursuant to the CWA, Porter-Cologne, and the CFGC and as such, alterations to its bed or banks are regulated by US Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and CDFW. Based on a review of the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), several habitat types were originally mapped by NWI within the LA River, including estuarine and marine deepwater, freshwater emergent wetland, freshwater forested/shrub wetland, freshwater pond, and riverine habitats.

### **Wildlife Movement Corridors**

Wildlife corridors and linkages are key features for wildlife movement between habitat patches. Wildlife corridors are generally defined as those areas that provide opportunities for individuals or local populations to conduct seasonal migrations, permanent dispersals, or daily commutes, while linkages generally refer to broader areas that provide movement opportunities for multiple keystone/focal species or allow for propagation of ecological processes (e.g., for movement of pollinators), often between areas of conserved land.

The LA River channel serves as a wildlife corridor through the urbanized environments of the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Portions of the LA River within the survey area contain a concrete bottom devoid of vegetation, limiting the river's function to provide cover, resting, foraging, and nesting opportunities for most wildlife. However, the soft-bottom channel, vegetation, and surface waters within the Los Angeles reach provide resources suitable to support wildlife movement, in particular bird species that migrate/move along the LA River. The LA River also provides movement opportunities for mammal species adapted to living in urban environments, such as coyotes, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, and bats, which likely utilize the LA River corridor for movement between resting/roosting habitats and foraging areas. Concrete-lined portions of the channel likely also serve as wildlife movement corridors for birds and mammals. Surface waters in these reaches often support substantial algae within sheet flow in the channel that support bird species that forage on the algae and associated invertebrates within the channel.

While the river channel provides suitable resources to support opportunities for localized wildlife movement, primarily for birds and mammals within an urbanized environment, its value as a wildlife linkage connecting significant open or green-space areas or natural habitats is limited by

its urbanized setting and modified (concrete-encased) channel. However, the Los Angeles reach of the survey area is adjacent to the Griffith Park Significant Ecological Area (SEA), located along the western side of the LA River. At its closest point, the survey area is approximately four hundred feet from the boundary of the Griffith Park SEA. The Griffith Park SEA consists of approximately 3,400 acres of open space, providing some opportunities for wildlife dispersal from the LA River corridor to this open space area. However, the survey area is separated from the Griffith Park SEA by the Interstate 5 freeway, limiting access to the SEA to primarily bird species. No significant open or conserved areas occur along the Long Beach reach; however, this reach connects to the Pacific Ocean, providing an opportunity for bird movement from coastal areas inland. Surface waters in this reach may also provide opportunities for aquatic species to migrate up into the LA River; however, upstream movement by such species is limited by the existing hydrologic conditions and physical barriers along the channel, limiting the migration of aquatic species up the LA River.

### 4.1.3 Methodology

Biological resources may be either directly or indirectly impacted, and impacts may be either permanent or temporary in nature. These impact categories are defined below.

- **Direct:** Any alteration, physical disturbance, or destruction of biological resources that would result from the project modifications is considered a direct impact. Examples include clearing vegetation, loss of individual species and/or their habitats, and encroaching into wetlands or a river.
- **Indirect:** As a result of the project modifications, biological resources may also be affected in a manner that is ancillary to physical impacts. Examples include elevated noise and dust levels, soil compaction, increased human activity, and the introduction of invasive wildlife (domestic cats and dogs) and plants.
- **Permanent:** All impacts that result in the long-term or irreversible removal of biological resources are considered permanent. Examples include constructing a building or permanent road on an area containing biological resources.
- **Temporary:** Any impacts considered to be reversible can be viewed as temporary. Examples include the generation of fugitive dust during construction, or removing vegetation to provide work areas, and either allowing the natural vegetation to recolonize or actively revegetating the affected area.

Prior to conducting the field survey, a preliminary review and records search was conducted to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur within the survey area. Field surveys were conducted to document existing conditions and determine the potential for special-status plant and wildlife species and sensitive habitats to occur within the survey area. As previously discussed, the survey area included the Los Angeles reach and the Long Beach reach of the LA River because they support various biological resources. The remaining areas of the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point were not surveyed as they consist of river channel with concrete lining, which are not anticipated to be impacted by the project modifications due to lack of habitat value or changes to habitat value.

### Literature Review

Literature reviews and records searches were conducted for special-status biological resources potentially occurring within the survey area. The survey area itself is located within the USGS

Burbank and Hollywood 7.5-minute quadrangles (for the Los Angeles reach) and the Long Beach 7.5-minute quadrangle (for the Long Beach reach). The Canoga Park, Van Nuys, Pasadena, Los Angeles, and South Gate quadrangles encompass or are closely adjacent to the LA River from DCTWRP to the mouth at Long Beach Harbor but do not include the survey area itself. However, a query of the CNDDDB and CIRP was conservatively conducted within all these quadrangles to identify special-status plant and wildlife occurrence records. These quadrangles encompass an area of approximately 488 square miles, mostly outside the area of potential impact related to the project modifications. Results of the CNDDDB, CNPS, and IPaC reviews are included in Appendix A.

The current regulatory/conservation status of special-status plant and wildlife species was verified through lists and resources provided by the CDFW, specifically the Special Animals List, State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California, Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List, and State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California. USFWS-designated Critical Habitat for species listed under the FESA was reviewed online via the Critical Habitat Mapper.

In addition to the databases referenced above, available reports, survey results, and literature detailing the biological resources previously observed on or within the vicinity of the survey area were reviewed to understand existing site conditions, confirm previous species observations, and note the extent of any disturbances, if present, that have occurred in the survey area that would otherwise limit the distribution of special-status biological resources. Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status and non-special-status biological resources. Aerial photography was reviewed prior to the field survey to locate potential natural corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area.

On-site and adjoining soils were researched using the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service's online Soil Web Survey. In addition, a review of the local geological conditions and historical aerial photographs was conducted to assess the ecological changes and disturbances that may have occurred within the survey area.

### **Field Survey**

Field surveys were conducted on July 31, 2023, and August 1, 2023, to document existing conditions and to evaluate the potential for special-status species to occur within the survey area. Areas containing vegetation and other land cover types preliminarily identified on aerial photographs during the literature review were verified through walking along publicly accessible vantage points located along the LA River channel, including primarily public hiking/biking trails. All plant and wildlife species observed during the field survey, as well as dominant plant species within each vegetation community, were recorded. In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, and the overall condition of on-site vegetation communities were recorded.

### **Thresholds of Significance**

The significance thresholds used to evaluate the impacts of the project modifications related to biological resources are based on the thresholds employed in the 2016 EIR. The project modifications would have a significant impact related to biological resources if it would:

1. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS;

2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW and USFWS;
3. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
4. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
5. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
6. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

#### 4.1.4 Impact Analysis

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. The project site itself does not contain sensitive plant or wildlife species, and no removal of vegetation or habitat that could support such species would be required. As such, the analysis below is focused on potential impacts to those biological resources that could be affected by the approximately 4 MGD (6.19 cfs) reduction in discharge flows to the LA River that would result from implementation of the project modifications. Such resources would be those located within the Los Angeles reach and the Long Beach reach of the LA River, downstream of the existing Japanese Garden discharge point.

1. **Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

#### Construction

##### *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation*

The 2016 EIR determined that construction activities associated with the approved project would have the potential to result in indirect impacts to special-status wildlife species, including bird species protected under the MBTA, from noise and dust and direct impacts to special-status species through vegetation removal. These impacts would result from vegetation removal during construction activities and from construction occurring near sensitive habitat. As such, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-A and BIO-B would be required to reduce impacts to less than significant. Mitigation Measure BIO-A requires avoidance and minimization measures such as limiting construction activities to designated construction limits; performing construction equipment maintenance and staging outside of sensitive habitat areas; and preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to the start of construction to reduce potential for accidental releases of fuel, pesticides, and other materials. Mitigation Measure BIO-B requires measures to be implemented if vegetation clearance activities occur during the nesting bird season, such as pre-construction nesting bird surveys and establishing avoidance zones around active nests.

As previously discussed, construction activities associated with the project modifications would occur in a portion of the DCTWRP that does not contain sensitive or special-status species or habitat supporting such species, and no vegetation removal would be required. Nonetheless, mitigation measures as identified in the 2016 EIR, including Mitigation Measure BIO-A related to site construction practices and Mitigation Measure BIO-B related to the MBTA, would be required for construction of the project modifications. Additionally, as construction activities would occur completely within the boundaries of the DCTWRP, construction would not adversely impact the beneficial use for Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Therefore, construction of the project modifications would not result in direct or indirect impacts to sensitive or special-status species, and no additional mitigation measures beyond those identified in the 2016 EIR would be required. With adherence to existing regulations and Mitigation Measures BIO-A and BIO-B, impacts during construction of the project modifications would be less than significant.

## **Operation**

### *Less Than Significant Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that operation and routine maintenance activities of the approved project would be limited and would generally occur within existing developed areas and would not encroach into areas that containing habitat potentially suitable to special-status species. Therefore, the 2016 EIR determined that no impacts to special-status species would occur during operation and routine maintenance of the approved project.

Operation of the project modifications would result in a reduction in discharge of approximately 4 MGD (6.19 cfs) of recycled water to the LA River, which could affect special-status species and/or habitat within the river downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point. As discussed further under Threshold 2 below and in Section 4.2, Hydrology and Water Quality, of this Supplemental EIR, the diversion of flows from the LA River resulting from the project modifications were modeled using the Hydraulic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS). The HEC-RAS model measured the projected change in dry-season flow discharge at a series of river stations located within the LA River channel. Several key outputs were projected using the HEC-RAS model, including projected change in river velocity, water depth, and wetted channel top width during the dry season (June, July, and August). Potential impacts to special-status plant and wildlife species resulting from the change in flows to the LA River during operation of the project modifications are described below.

### *Special-Status Plant Species*

California black walnut was observed during the field survey; however, all other special-status plant species identified during database searches are not expected to occur or have only low potential to occur within the survey area due to a lack of potentially suitable habitat (see Appendix A). Additionally, no USFWS-designated critical habitat for any federally listed plant species coincides with the survey area. As shown in Table 3-4 (Chapter 3 of this Supplemental EIR), the estimated reductions in depth and top width of flows within the LA River channel downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point would be relatively small and would not noticeably change habitat conditions and species composition. Accordingly, the project modifications would not adversely impact the beneficial use for Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Therefore, no impact to California black walnut would occur with implementation of the project modifications.



### *Special-Status Wildlife Species*

One special-status wildlife species, double-crested cormorant (CDFW WL), was observed during the field surveys. All other special-status species identified during database searches are not expected to occur or have only low potential to occur within the survey area due to a lack of potentially suitable habitat (see Appendix A).

As indicated in Section 4.1.2, American peregrine falcon may occur across the survey area as a migrating or foraging transient, and Cooper's hawk may nest in mature trees within the survey area. Additionally, bird species such as egrets and herons that are known as colonial nesters were observed during field surveys; however, no observations of colonial nesting in trees within the survey area were noted. Regardless of the suitability of the survey area to support nesting birds, reductions in water depth and top width would be relatively small. Therefore, impacts to the composition and distribution of the vegetation communities occurring within the LA River, including trees suitable for nesting, would be less than significant with implementation of the project modifications. Similarly, foraging habitat provided by vegetation in the survey area is anticipated to remain unchanged by the small decreases in water depth and top width.

Although special-status bat species are not expected or have a low potential to occur within the survey area, bridges, large trees, and other vegetation in the survey area would not be impacted by the small changes in water depth and top width, and would continue to provide suitable roosting and foraging habitat for bat species. Potentially suitable colonial maternity roosting sites do not occur within the survey area, as caves are absent and large suitable structures are limited in the vicinity. Therefore, no direct impacts to colonial bat roosting habitat would occur.

Similarly, nesting by resident and migratory bird species would not be impacted by the small changes in water depth and top width. Existing vegetation and structures within the survey area would continue to provide nesting opportunities for the numerous bird species that have been identified along the LA River. No impacts to special-status bird species would occur with implementation of the project modifications.

Special-status amphibian, reptile, fish, invertebrate, and non-bat mammal species are not anticipated to occur within the survey area, and as a result no impacts to such species would occur with implementation of the project modifications. The project modifications would not adversely impact the beneficial use for Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan.

## **2. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?**

### **Construction**

#### *Less than Significant with Mitigation*

The 2016 EIR determined that no direct impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities would occur during construction of the approved project. However, indirect impacts to riparian habitat and sensitive natural communities could result from fugitive dust and noise, increase of surface runoff, increase of erosion, and increase of sediment deposition in vegetation beyond the footprints of some of the approved project components outside of the DCTWRP property. The 2016 EIR determined that impacts would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-A.

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. The project site does not contain riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities. Additionally, construction would not adversely impact the beneficial uses for Warm Freshwater Habitat, Estuarine Habitat, Marine Habitat, Wildlife Habitat, or habitat supporting Commercial and Sport Fishing identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Nonetheless, mitigation measures as identified in the 2016 EIR, including Mitigation Measure BIO-A related to site construction practices, would be required for construction of the project modifications. With adherence to Mitigation Measure BIO-A, impacts during construction of the project modifications would be less than significant.

## **Operation**

### *Less Than Significant Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that operation and routine maintenance activities associated with the approved project would not directly or indirectly impact riparian habitat, and no impacts would occur.

The project modifications would result in a reduction in discharge of approximately 4 MGD (6.19 cfs) of recycled water to the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point. As discussed above, the river downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point includes reaches with soft bottom substrate that supports natural vegetation communities. Riverine systems are highly dynamic by nature, and numerous factors are known to influence the health and establishment of vegetation communities that inhabit these systems. Riparian vegetation communities native to southern California are generally adapted to seasonal fluctuations in water availability, temperature, and other factors. This adaptability is evidenced in historical changes in landforms and vegetation seasonally within the LA River within a given year and between years, depending on conditions.

Several of the river stations used in the HEC-RAS model are located within the survey area. The outputs from these river stations were compared with vegetation mapping results within the survey area to help determine the potential impacts related to reductions in flow discharge to the LA River with implementation of the project modifications. The results of this comparison are shown in Table 4.1-2.

Open water was present at river station locations within the Long Beach reach; however, no native vegetation communities are present within this reach of the survey area. Therefore, no impacts to native vegetation communities within the Long Beach reach of the LA River would occur with implementation of the project modifications.

**Table 4.1-2: HEC-RAS Comparison of Project Modifications Resultant Flow**

River Station <sup>a</sup>	Vegetation Community/Land Cover	Change in Depth (inches)	Change in Top Width (inches)	Significant Impacts?
LA14 (195289.1)	None (outside of soft-bottom and survey area)	0.12	21.24	N/A
165671.8	Cattail marshes/open water	0.48	21.12	No
LA13 (161377.1)	None/open water	0.12	0.12	No
159029.2	Cattail marshes/open water	0.48	33.72	No
GLEN (156292.5)	Cattail marshes, Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest/open water	0.36	48.36	No
149343.2	Cattail marshes, Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest/open water	0.48	47.52	No
142453.7	Disturbed cattail marshes/disturbed habitat/open water	0.36	9.48	No
135461.4	Disturbed Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest/open water	0.48	9.39	No
F319 (20500)	None/open water	0.24	0.84	No

a) A River Station for the LA River is designated by the number of feet upstream from the mouth of the river. Refer to Figures 3-1 and 3-2 in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, for these locations.

Source: Michael Baker International, 2024.

Vegetation communities present at the HEC-RAS river station locations within the Los Angeles reach include Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest, disturbed Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest, cattail marshes, and disturbed cattail marshes. These vegetation communities were interspersed with areas of open water, which is typical of the flowing channel. Disturbed areas were also noted adjacent to the vegetation communities observed at several river station locations. Vegetated islands were frequently observed throughout the soft-bottom portions of the channel. The reduction in top width due to the proposed project modifications would be expected to occur at an even distribution between bank areas, including unvegetated banks and at the margins of vegetated islands within the channel. Implementation of the project modifications would result in relatively small reductions in water column depth, top width, and velocity at the river station locations listed in Table 4.1-2. As such, no significant adverse impacts to the composition and distribution of the vegetation communities occurring within the Los Angeles reach of the LA River are anticipated. Minor redistributions of the vegetation are possible, as channel banks and margins of vegetated areas become less saturated and more hospitable to sustained willow establishment, and other areas become likewise more hospitable for cattail establishment. However, redistributions of vegetation communities are common within a dynamic river system, which is subject to a wide variety of seasonal, annual, and longer duration fluctuations in water velocity and availability.

As previously discussed, one sensitive natural vegetation community, Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest (Code: 61.216.00), occurs within the survey area. The small decrease in water depth and top width resulting from implementation of the project modifications are not expected to alter the current composition of habitats within the survey area. Additionally, the changes in water depth are not expected to adversely impact the beneficial uses for Warm

Freshwater Habitat, Estuarine Habitat, Marine Habitat, Wildlife Habitat, or habitat supporting Commercial and Sport Fishing identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. As such, impacts to sensitive natural communities would be less than significant with implementation of the project modifications.

- 3. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

### **Construction**

#### *Less than Significant with Mitigation*

The 2016 EIR determined that no direct impacts to a federally or state-protected aquatic feature would occur during construction of the approved project. However, indirect impacts from runoff, erosion, and sedimentation during construction of some of the approved project components outside of the DCTWRP property could result in indirect impacts to protected waters. The 2016 EIR determined that impacts would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-A.

The project modifications would be constructed within the Japanese Garden portion of the DCTWRP property. No construction activities would occur within or adjacent to the LA River or other protected waters, and would not adversely impact the beneficial use for Wetland Habitat identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Nonetheless, mitigation measures as identified in the 2016 EIR, including Mitigation Measure BIO-A related to site construction practices, would be required for construction of the project modifications. With adherence to Mitigation Measure BIO-A, impacts to a jurisdictional water feature requiring permitting pursuant to the CWA, Porter-Cologne, and/or CFGC during construction of the project modifications would be less than significant.

### **Operation**

#### *No Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that operation and routine maintenance activities associated with the approved project would not directly or indirectly impact protected waters, and no impacts would occur.

The project modifications would result in a reduction in discharge of approximately 4 MGD (6.19 cfs) of recycled water to the LA River. The marginal change in water depth and top width resulting from the diversion in flows would not affect the regulatory status of the LA River, nor would it adversely impact the beneficial use for Wetland Habitat identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Therefore, no impacts to a jurisdictional water feature requiring permitting pursuant to the CWA, Porter-Cologne, and/or CFGC would occur during operation of the project modifications.

**4. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

**Construction**

*No Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that no direct impacts to a wildlife movement corridor would occur during construction of the approved project. However, construction activities could result in indirect impacts from wildlife avoiding riparian habitat near one component of the approved project site outside of the DCTWRP. The 2016 EIR determined that impacts would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-A and BIO-B.

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. The DCTWRP property does not function as a wildlife movement corridor and would not adversely impact the beneficial uses for Migration of Aquatic Organisms or Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur during construction of the project modifications.

**Operation**

*Less Than Significant Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that the functions and values of wildlife movement corridors would not be changed from existing conditions upon completion of construction of the approved project components; therefore, operation and maintenance activities associated with the approved project would not directly or indirectly impact any wildlife movement corridor.

The project modifications would result in a reduction in discharge of approximately 4 MGD (6.19 cfs) of recycled water to the LA River. The LA River serves as a wildlife movement corridor, in particular for resident fish, birds, and bats. Minor changes in water depth and top width, however, would not noticeably change habitat conditions or adversely affect biological communities within the survey area and would not adversely impact the beneficial uses for Migration of Aquatic Organisms or Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Therefore, impacts to the movement by wildlife species within the survey area would be less than significant.

**5. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

**Construction**

*No Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that vegetation removal required during construction of the approved project would be minimal and limited to ornamental species. Therefore, no impacts to protected tree species would occur during construction of the approved project.

As previously discussed, no vegetation removal would be required during construction of the project modifications. Therefore, no impacts to species protected under the City of Los Angeles Tree and Shrub Ordinance would occur.

## Operation

### *No Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that vegetation removal would not be required during operation and routine maintenance of the approved project, and no impacts to protected tree species would occur.

The project modifications would include a pipeline, diversion structures, and valves, which would be installed below grade within the Japanese Garden, and no removal of vegetation would be required during operation and routine maintenance activities. Additionally, the minor changes in water depth and top width resulting from implementation of the project modifications would not result in impacts to trees or shrubs protected by local ordinance. No impacts would occur during operation of the project modifications.

### **6. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

### *No Impact*

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project components within the DCTWRP property would be constructed within previously developed and disturbed areas. Additionally, construction of one of the approved project components outside of the DCTWRP property would occur within an SEA but would be located in areas void of vegetation. The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not conflict with an approved conservation plan, and impacts would be less than significant.

No local or regional habitat conservation plan coincides with the survey area for the project modifications. Additionally, while the Griffith Park SEA is located within 400 feet of the survey area near the Los Angeles reach, minor changes in water depth and top width resulting from implementation of the project modifications would not result in impacts to biological resources within this SEA. Therefore, no impacts to an approved conservation plan would occur during operation of the project modifications.

#### **4.1.5 Mitigation Measures**

The mitigation measures listed below are from the 2016 EIR and would be applicable, as necessary, to the project modifications.

**BIO-A:** The following measures shall be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats:

1. Work areas shall be clearly delineated with fencing or other boundary markers prior to start of construction.
2. The project limits shall be clearly marked on project maps provided to the construction contractor(s) by the City, and areas outside of the project limits shall be designated as “no construction” zones. A construction manager shall be present during all construction activities to ensure that work is limited to designated project limits.
3. During construction, construction workers shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the designated construction limits.

4. During construction, all equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other such activities shall occur in designated areas outside of jurisdictional wetlands or waters and within the fenced project limits. Fueling of equipment shall take place within existing paved areas greater than 100 feet from water features. Contractor equipment shall be checked daily for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary.
5. During construction, the construction work zone shall be kept as clean of debris as possible to avoid attracting predators of sensitive wildlife. All food-related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and removed daily from the work zone.
6. Pet of project personnel shall not be allowed on the project site during construction.
7. Disposal or temporary placement of excess fill, brush, or other debris shall be strictly prohibited in or along the banks or water features during construction. Stockpile areas shall be designated prior to the start of construction and shall be locked in disturbed areas presently lacking vegetation and delineated on grading plans.
8. Prior to the start of construction, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared to reduce the potential for accidental releases of fuel, pesticides, and other materials. This plan shall outline refueling locations, emergency response procedures, and reporting requirements. During construction, equipment for immediate cleanup shall be kept on-site. This plan shall also include erosion control measure to control surface runoff, erosion, and sedimentation outside of the project footprints.

**BIO-B:** If feasible, the clearance of vegetation during construction activities shall occur outside of the nesting bird season (generally February 15 through September 15). If avoidance of construction within this time period is not feasible, the following additional measures shall be employed:

1. A pre-construction nesting survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 3 days prior to the start of construction activities to determine whether active nests are present within or directly adjacent to the construction zone. All nests found shall be recorded.
2. If construction activities must occur within 300 feet of an active nest of any passerine bird or within 500 feet of an active nest of any raptor, a qualified biologist shall monitor the nest on a weekly basis and the construction activity shall be postponed until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.
3. If the recommended nest avoidance zone is not feasible, the qualified biologist shall determine whether an exception is possible and obtain concurrence from the appropriate resource agency before construction work can resume within the avoidance buffer zone. All work shall cease within the avoidance buffer zone until either agency concurrence is obtained or the biologist determines that the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site.

No new mitigation measures not previously identified in the 2016 EIR would be required for the project modifications.

#### 4.1.6 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-A and BIO-B.

#### 4.1.7 Cumulative Impacts

As discussed in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, it has been assumed that LAGWRP has not fully achieved the discharge reduction reflected in the approved City of Glendale Wastewater Change Petition. As such, this additional reduction in discharge from LAGWRP is not taken into account in the existing flow levels in the LA River utilized for the HEC-RAS model. Therefore, this additional reduction in discharge from LAGWRP is included in the cumulative impact condition considered in conjunction with the proposed reduction in discharge related to the project modifications. Table 4.1-3 shows the summarized cumulative results of the HEC-RAS modeling compared with the vegetation mapping results within the survey area.

**Table 4.1-3: HEC-RAS Comparison of Cumulative Resultant Flow**

River Station <sup>a</sup>	Vegetation Community/Land Cover	Change in Depth (inches)	Change in Top Width (inches)	Significant Impacts?
LA14 (169312.4)	None (outside of soft-bottom and survey area)	0.12	21.24	N/A
165671.8	Cattail marshes/open water	0.48	21.12	No
LA13 (161377.1)	None/open water	0.12	0.12	No
159029.2	Cattail marshes/open water	0.48	33.72	No
GLEN (156292.5)	Cattail marshes, Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest/open water	0.72	90.96	No
149343.2	Cattail marshes, Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest/open water	0.84	98.76	No
142453.7	Disturbed cattail marshes/disturbed habitat/open water	0.60	16.08	No
135461.4	Disturbed Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland and forest/open water	0.96	19.56	No
F319 (20500)	None/open water	0.36	1.44	No

i) A River Station for the LA River is designated by the number of feet upstream from the mouth of the river. Refer to Figures 3-1 and 3-2 in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, for these locations.

Source: Michael Baker International, 2024.

The cumulative resultant flow reduction would only occur downstream of the GLEN river station, where LAGWRP discharges into the LA River. Implementation of the project modifications in conjunction with the reduction in flows from the LAGWRP would still result in relatively small reductions in depth and top width. As such, significant adverse impacts to the composition and distribution of the vegetation communities occurring within the Los Angeles reach of the LA River are not expected when considering the cumulative resultant flow. Therefore, implementation of the project modifications, taking into account the reduction in flows from the approved LAGWRP Wastewater Change Petition, would not contribute to cumulatively significant impacts.



As previously discussed, open water was present at river station locations within the Long Beach reach; however, no native vegetation communities are present within this reach of the survey area. Therefore, no cumulative impacts to native vegetation communities within the Long Beach reach of the LA River would occur with implementation of the project modifications and the approved LAGWRP Wastewater Change Petition.

## 4.2 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

This section supplements the Hydrology, Water Quality and Groundwater section in the 2016 EIR by evaluating the potential impacts that could occur to hydrology and water quality with implementation of the project modifications. It identifies watershed characteristics, existing water quality, groundwater, stormwater, and flood hazard conditions, and presents the regulatory requirements pertaining to hydrology and water quality. The analysis evaluates potential direct and indirect impacts from implementation of the project modifications as well as potential cumulative impacts. This section is based, in part, on the Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) Memorandum prepared for the project modifications and included as Appendix B of this Supplemental EIR.

### 4.2.1 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal

##### *Clean Water Act*

The Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S. Code Section 1251 *et seq.*), as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, is the primary federal law that governs and authorizes water quality control activities by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as well as the states. The USEPA is the lead federal agency responsible for water quality management. Key sections of the CWA are as follows:

- Sections 303 and 304 provide for water quality standards, criteria, and guidelines. Under Section 303(d) of the CWA, the state is required to develop a list of impaired water bodies that do not meet water quality standards and objectives and establish total maximum daily loads (TMDL) for each pollutant/stressor.
- Section 401 (Water Quality Certification) requires an applicant for any federal permit that proposes an activity which may result in a discharge to waters of the United States, to obtain certification from the state that the discharge will comply with other provisions of the CWA.
- Section 402 establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), a permitting system for the discharge of any pollutant (except for dredged or fill material) into waters of the United States. This permit program is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB), which have several programs that implement individual and general permits related to construction activities, municipal stormwater discharges, and various kinds of non-stormwater discharges.
- Section 404 establishes a permit program for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. This permit program is jointly administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the USEPA.

Numerous agencies have responsibilities for administration and enforcement of the CWA. At the federal level, this includes the USEPA and the USACE, while at the state level, with the exception of tribal lands, this includes the California Environmental Protection Agency and its sub-agencies, including the SWRCB.

##### *National Flood Insurance Act*

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is tasked with planning, mitigation,

response, and recovery for disasters. The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration within FEMA is responsible for administering the National Flood Insurance Program and additional programs that aid with mitigating future damages from natural hazards. FEMA prepares Flood Insurance Rate Maps that delineate the regulatory floodplain to assist local governments with the land use planning and floodplain management decisions needed to meet the requirements of National Flood Insurance Program. Floodplains are divided into flood hazard areas, which are areas designated per their potential for flooding, as delineated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Special Flood Hazard Areas are the areas identified as having a one percent chance of flooding in each year (otherwise known as the 100-year flood).

## **State**

### *Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act*

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code Section 13000 *et seq.*; California Code of Regulations Title 23, Chapters 3 and 15) is the primary state regulation addressing water quality and waste discharges on land and provides a comprehensive water-quality management system for the protection of California waters. The Act grants the SWRCB and each of the nine RWQCBs power to protect water quality. Under the Act, any entity that discharges waste or proposes to discharge waste that may affect the state's water quality must file a report of the discharge with the appropriate RWQCB. Pursuant to the Act, the RWQCB may then prescribe waste discharge requirements (WDR) that add conditions related to control of the discharge. Porter-Cologne defines "waste" broadly, and the term has been applied to a diverse array of materials, including nonpoint source pollution. When regulating discharges that are included in the CWA, the state essentially treats WDRs and the NPDES as a single permitting vehicle. In April 1991, the SWRCB and other state environmental agencies were incorporated into California Environmental Protection Agency.

### *State Water Resources Control Board Recycled Water Policy*

With Resolution No. 2009-0011, as amended under Resolution No. 2013-0003 and Resolution No. 2018-0057, the SWRCB adopted the Recycled Water Policy for the State of California. This policy encourages increased use of recycled water and requires the use of local water sources. The policy specifically identifies the use of recycled water as having a beneficial impact because it supports the sustainable use of groundwater and/or surface water and substitutes for the use of potable water. It encourages local and regional water agencies to optimize their use of local water sources by emphasizing water recycling, water conservation, and the maintenance of supply infrastructure and use of stormwater (including dry-weather urban runoff).

In addition, the policy requires wastewater entities to develop a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the groundwater basins in California. The development of the regional SNMP covering the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (SFB) is being coordinated by the Upper Los Angeles River Area Watermaster and was first completed in the Spring of 2016 with the latest update provide in January 2018.

### *California Water Code*

The use of water in the State is governed by the California Water Code or Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Title 23 requires that water resources must be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable, and that the waste, unreasonable use, or unreasonable method of use of water is illegal. The conservation of water is encouraged as a reasonable and beneficial use in the interest of the people and for the public welfare.

Section 461 stipulates that the primary interest of the people of the State of California is the conservation of all available water resources and requires the maximum reuse of reclaimed water as an offset to using potable resources.

Section 1210 assigns exclusive rights to recycled water to the owner of the treatment plant as opposed to any parties who have supplied water discharged into the wastewater collection system.

Section 1211 provides that approval by the SWRCB is required prior to making any change in the point of discharge, place of use, or purpose of use of recycled water. If such a change is to be made, the owner of the treatment plant must seek approval from the SWRCB, which is accomplished by filing a wastewater change petition with the Division of Water Rights. The SWRCB may approve a Section 1211 petition if it finds that the proposed change will not injure other legal users of water, will not unreasonably harm instream uses, and is consistent with the public interest.

Section 13510 declares that the people of the State have a primary interest in the development of facilities to recycle water containing waste to supplement existing surface and underground water supplies and to assist in meeting the future water requirements of the State.

#### *Construction General Permit (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ)*

In August 1999, the SWRCB adopted the statewide NPDES General Permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activity. Construction activities, including linear underground projects that disturb one or more acres of land, are subject to California's General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit) Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ as amended in 2010 and 2012 (NPDES No. CAS000002) issued by the SWRCB. The permit requires that, for construction activities disturbing more than one acre of land, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is prepared and implemented. Best management practices (BMP) are required as part of a SWPPP, and typically include the following activities, practices, and/or procedures, to prevent or reduce water pollution and control runoff:

- Erosion control BMPs: preservation of existing vegetation, hydraulic mulching, and wind erosion control.
- Sediment control BMPs: silt fences, storm drain inlet protection, and street sweeping.
- Non-stormwater BMPs: water conservation practices, concrete finishing, vehicle and equipment cleaning.
- Materials management BMPs: stockpile management, hazardous waste management, and contaminated soil management.

#### *Industrial General Permit*

The statewide General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order 2014-0057-DWQ (Industrial General Permit) implements the federally required stormwater regulations in California for stormwater associated with industrial activities discharging to waters of the United States. The Industrial General Permit regulates discharges associated with nine federally defined categories of industrial activities. Industrial facilities (e.g., landfills, hazardous waste facilities, larger sewage and wastewater plants, and recycling facilities) are typically required to obtain Industrial General Permit coverage.

The Industrial General Permit requires the submittal of a Notice of Intent to the SWRCB and the development and implementation of an industrial SWPPP and stormwater monitoring program. The SWPPP would specify BMPs that would be implemented to reduce or prevent pollutants from leaving the site in stormwater runoff. Additionally, the SWPPP must describe the monitoring program to be implemented. DCTWRP is currently covered under the Industrial General Permit, and LASAN implements an industrial SWPPP and monitoring program.

#### *Sustainable Groundwater Management Act*

In 2014, California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (California Water Code Section 10720-10737.8 *et seq.*) to protect the state's groundwater resources in the long term. The legislation provides for the sustainable management of groundwater by requiring local agencies to form groundwater sustainability agencies and to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans. The act requires groundwater sustainability agencies and groundwater sustainability plans for all groundwater basins identified by the Department of Water Resources as high or medium priority. Additionally, the legislation establishes criteria for the sustainable management of groundwater and authorizes the Department of Water Resources to establish BMPs for groundwater.

#### **Local**

##### *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*

As stated above, the SWRCB, with its RWQCBs, is the primary agency responsible for implementing the CWA and issuing NPDES permits. The SWRCB carries out its water quality protection authority through the adoption of basin plans. The Los Angeles RWQCB (LARWQCB) is responsible for enforcing the LARWQCB Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (LARWQCB Basin Plan). The RWQCB implements management plans to modify and adopt standards under provisions set forth in Section 303(c) of the CWA and California Water Code (Division 7, Section 13240).

In March 2000, the SWRCB adopted the State Implementation Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (Resolution No. 2005-0019). Resolution No. 2005-0019 implements criteria for priority toxic pollutants contained in the California Toxics Rule promulgated by the USEPA, as well as other priority toxic pollutant criteria and objectives. In 2005, amendments to Resolution No. 2005-0019 were adopted, such as amendments for allowing water effects ratios to be established in individual NPDES permits, rather than in the Basin Planning process as previously required.

##### *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan*

Since 1973, the SWRCB and its nine RWQCBs have been responsible for administering permitted discharges into the waters of California. Permitted discharges must be compliant with the regional Basin Plan. Each RWQCB implements the Basin Plan to ensure that projects consider regional beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and water quality problems. The LARWQCB Basin Plan specifically designates beneficial uses for surface waters and ground waters, sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be met in order to protect the beneficial uses and conform to the state's antidegradation policy, and describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the region. The LARWQCB Basin Plan provides all relevant information necessary to carry out federal mandates for the antidegradation policy, 303(d) listing of impaired waters, and related TMDLs, and provides information relative to NPDES and WDR permit limits.

### Beneficial Uses

The Los Angeles River has the following beneficial uses (both existing and potential) related to hydrology and water quality for reaches of the LA River downstream of the existing Japanese Garden discharge point, as designated by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) (see Table 2-1 in Chapter 2, Project Description):

- Municipal and Domestic Water Supply (MUN)
- Industrial Service Supply (IND)
- Industrial Process Supply (PROC)
- Ground Water Recharge (GWR)
- Navigation (NAV)

### *Waste Discharge Requirements*

Discharges of wastewater to surface water and groundwater are regulated by the RWQCBs through issuance of WDRs. Discharges to surface water must meet technology based effluent limitations and water quality based effluent limitations to achieve water quality standards. The WDRs require a Monitoring and Reporting Program for all discharges.

DCTWRP has been issued WDRs from the LARWQCB for discharges of tertiary treated wastewater to the Los Angeles River (LA River) (Order No. R4-2011-0196). The RWQCB has also issued WDRs to DCTWRP for reuse of recycled water for irrigation, surface impoundments, and industrial uses to protect the underlying groundwater basin (Order No. R4-2008-0040). The WDR requires compliance with numeric effluent limits, monitoring and reporting for constituents with applicable maximum contaminant levels and notification limits for drinking water, as well as chloride and total dissolved solids (TDS) in groundwater.

### *Los Angeles County Municipal Stormwater Permit*

The Municipal Storm Water Permitting Program regulates stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). The source of stormwater comes from rain or snowmelt that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways, or parking lots and may carry pollutants such as oil, pesticides, herbicides, sediment, trash, bacteria, and metals. The runoff can then drain directly into a local stream, lake, or bay. Often, the runoff drains into storm drains that eventually drain untreated runoff into a local water body.

The RWQCB regulates urban runoff discharges under the NPDES permit regulations. NPDES permitting requirements cover runoff discharged from point (e.g., industrial outfall discharges) and nonpoint (e.g., stormwater runoff) sources. The RWQCB implements the NPDES program by issuing construction and industrial discharge permits. The project modifications are subject to the Final WDRs for MS4 Discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, Except Those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach MS4, under Order R4-2012-0175 (NPDES Permit No. CAS004001) (MS4 Permit). In accordance with the provisions of the MS4 Permit, the County of Los Angeles and 84 co-permittee cities implemented a stormwater quality management program with the ultimate goal of reducing the amount of pollutants in stormwater and urban runoff. As a part of the stormwater quality management program, the permittees developed and adopted low impact development (LID) Stormwater Mitigation Plan policies or ordinances within their respective jurisdictions to address stormwater. Under LID ordinances, all

new privately-owned development and redevelopment projects within the City of Los Angeles may be required to implement certain BMPs and/or stormwater mitigation measures to contain or treat the first 0.75-inch of rainfall runoff from every storm, and to implement on-site stormwater infiltration.

### *San Fernando Groundwater Basin Adjudication*

The SFB is an adjudicated basin in which all water rights have been defined by a court. The basin was first adjudicated, along with the Verdugo, Sylmar, and Eagle Rock basins in 1968, by the judgment of the decades-long Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 650079, entitled *The City of Los Angeles vs. City of San Fernando, et al.* A final judgment in January 1979 included provisions and stipulations regarding water rights, the calculation of imported return water credit, storage of water, stored water credit, and arrangements for physical solution water for certain parties. The judgment was based on maintaining a safe yield operation for the basin, whereby groundwater extractions over the long-term would be maintained in a manner that does not create an overdraft condition in the basin. The judgement also established the Upper LA River Area Watermaster, responsible for managing all the activities of the groundwater basin, which consists of native waters, import return waters, and stored waters, as defined by the adjudication.

## **4.2.2 Environmental Setting**

### **Surface Water Drainage**

#### *Regional Drainage*

The LA River originates in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains and flows from Canoga Park in the western end of the San Fernando Valley southeast to its mouth in Long Beach at the Pacific Ocean. The LA River Watershed covers 870 square miles. The river is a mostly concrete-lined channel of varying cross sections and shapes that increases in size as it picks up urban tributary runoff and storm runoff on its way to the Pacific Ocean.

The LA River consists of two channel styles: a rectangular box or trapezoidal concrete channel, and a trapezoidal soft-bottom channel. The river is a trapezoidal concrete channel upstream of Sepulveda Basin and turns into a concrete box channel just downstream of Sepulveda Dam, and remains a box channel for approximately 10 miles downstream. The trapezoidal soft-bottom portion of the LA River flows through Sepulveda Basin, the Glendale Narrows, and the tidal estuary. Flow in the LA River is dependent on stormwater runoff, discharges of recycled water, dry weather runoff, and rising groundwater.

#### *Project Site Drainage*

DCTWRP is located in the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. The plant has a concrete flood wall on the west boundary, and two earthen flood control berms on the south and east boundaries to protect the plant from the 100-year storm (see further discussion under flood protection). DCTWRP is a self-contained facility and does not receive surface drainage from surrounding areas.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> City of Los Angeles Department Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, August 2015, *Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, DC Tillman Water Reclamation Plant*, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/individual/npdes/donald.c\\_tillman/1112016/DCTCA0056227TENTATIVE20170106.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/board_decisions/tentative_orders/individual/npdes/donald.c_tillman/1112016/DCTCA0056227TENTATIVE20170106.pdf), accessed February 19 2024.

DCTWRP is approximately 50 percent impervious, consisting mainly of buildings and paved areas, while the remaining portions are landscaped and dirt areas. DCTWRP is graded such that the main entrance driveway and gate near the southwestern boundary of the site are at a higher elevation compared to elevation of the service buildings in the central portion of the site. The area around the service buildings is generally flat, where stormwater runoff flows away from the service buildings towards the north and east.<sup>2</sup>

The plant's service roads provide surface drainage for runoff within DCTWRP, which ultimately enters catch basins to the east of the existing warehouse and maintenance facilities in the southwestern corner of the plant. Valves located in the catch basins direct the first one hour of the runoff to either the Additional Valley Outfall Relief Sewer, bypassing the plant's process, or to the LA River. Any runoff from the area in the northern half of the DCTWRP enters a sewer surface drain, which is located in the northeast portion.<sup>3</sup>

### *Flows of Recycled Water to Surface Waters*

The recycled water currently produced by DCTWRP is used in several ways. A small portion, about 2 million gallons per day (MGD) is needed for various in-plant processes. An average of approximately 4 MGD is currently used for non-potable reuse, such as large irrigation customers and industrial process customers. The large majority of the recycled water is directed through a network of pipes to various water bodies located in the Sepulveda Basin. Recycled water from these water bodies, which include the Japanese Garden Lake, Lake Balboa, and the Wildlife Lake, ultimately flows to the LA River. The flow-through process at the lakes serves to maintain water quality within the lakes to prevent fish kills, odor problems, and algae blooms. Additionally, intermittent overflows from an operational safety weir within the DCTWRP discharge into a pipeline which also carries flows from the Japanese Garden Lake to the LA River at a discharge point located south of Sepulveda Dam.

### **Flood Hazards and Flood Control**

The Sepulveda Dam and Flood Control Basin are owned and operated by the USACE. In 1971, USACE signed a lease with the City of Los Angeles allowing for the construction and operation of the DCTWRP within the flood control basin in accordance with various requirements and restrictions. A flood barrier surrounds DCTWRP, consisting of a concrete floodwall on the west boundary and earthen berms on the south and east side of the plant. The elevation of the concrete wall and the berms is 715.0 feet above mean sea level. This protects the DCTWRP from inundation from the 100-year storm event, which could reach elevations of 712.0 feet. The elevation on the north side of the property is at or above 712.0 feet mean sea level.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> RMC and CDM Smith, March 2012, *Groundwater Replenishment Master Planning Report prepared for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Department of Public Works*, available at: <https://www.ladwp.com/who-we-are/water-system/recycled-water/recycled-water-master-planning-documents>, accessed February 19, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> City of Los Angeles Department Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, August 2015, *Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, DC Tillman Water Reclamation Plant*, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/individual/npdes/donald.c\\_tillman/1112016/DCTCA0056227TENTATIVE20170106.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/board_decisions/tentative_orders/individual/npdes/donald.c_tillman/1112016/DCTCA0056227TENTATIVE20170106.pdf), accessed February 19 2024.

<sup>4</sup> City of Los Angeles Department Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, August 2015, *Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, DC Tillman Water Reclamation Plant*, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/individual/npdes/donald.c\\_tillman/1112016/DCTCA0056227TENTATIVE20170106.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/board_decisions/tentative_orders/individual/npdes/donald.c_tillman/1112016/DCTCA0056227TENTATIVE20170106.pdf), accessed February 19 2024.



LASAN has prepared the DCT Flood Evacuation Plan that contains procedures for monitoring rainfall levels and potential flooding conditions to minimize the potential flood damage to property, and for the protection and safety of the employees, contractors, and visitors.<sup>5</sup> The DCTWRP also has an established set of operating procedures to implement during wet weather conditions that is specified in LASAN's Wet Weather Preparedness and Operations Plan 2013/2014.<sup>6</sup> This plan addresses storage and containment of increased flows to the DCTWRP during wet weather conditions using flow equalization basins and other on-site storage features.

## Surface Water

### *Pollutants of Concern*

The LA River is on the SWRCB's 303(d) list of water quality impaired water bodies. The LA River and its tributaries are impaired for nitrogen compounds (ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate), and related effects including algae growth, potential of hydrogen (pH), odors, and scum. The TMDL for nitrogen compounds, set in 2004 and amended in 2012, established numeric targets of 8 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for nitrate-nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) and 1 mg/L for nitrite-nitrogen (NO<sub>2</sub>-N). The LARWQCB Basin Plan identifies that the principal source of nitrogen compounds to the LA River is discharges from DCTWRP, the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant (LAGWRP), and the Burbank Water Reclamation Plant (BWRP).

## Groundwater

The primary source of local groundwater for the City of Los Angeles is the SFB. The SFB is the largest of the four adjudicated basins in the Upper LA River Area covering 112,000 acres. The basin is bounded on the north and northwest by the Santa Susana Mountains, on the north and northeast by the San Gabriel Mountains, on the east by the San Rafael Hills, on the south by the Santa Monica Mountains and Chalk Hills, and on the west by the Simi Hills.<sup>7</sup>

### *Groundwater Basin Geology and Storage Capacity*

The SFB includes the water-bearing sediments beneath the San Fernando Valley, Tujunga Valley, Browns Canyon, and the alluvial areas surrounding the Verdugo Mountains near La Crescenta and Eagle Rock. The basin has a maximum thickness of potentially water-bearing sediments of approximately 1,200 feet. The water-bearing sediments of the basin consist of the lower Pleistocene Saugus Formation, Pleistocene and Holocene age alluvium. The groundwater in this basin is mainly unconfined with some confinement within the Saugus Formation in the western part of the basin and in the Sylmar and Eagle Rock areas. The total storage capacity of the SFB is calculated at 3,670,000 AF by adding values for the San Fernando, Sylmar, Verdugo and Eagle Rock Basins.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, March 2019, *Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Easement Implementation Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration*, available at: [https://files.ceganet.opr.ca.gov/249864-2/attachment/ji5E7ro2EJenksHw55eVIQBpnR3Nk9X-DLWFBolBBn8i8neQxHrxlF11LKKcMru2Era2jHqFX\\_tZReEF0](https://files.ceganet.opr.ca.gov/249864-2/attachment/ji5E7ro2EJenksHw55eVIQBpnR3Nk9X-DLWFBolBBn8i8neQxHrxlF11LKKcMru2Era2jHqFX_tZReEF0), accessed February 19, 2024.

<sup>6</sup> City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, 2015, *Wet Weather Preparedness and Operations Plan*, available at: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2015/15-0887-S1\\_misc\\_10-6-15.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2015/15-0887-S1_misc_10-6-15.pdf), accessed February 19 2024.

<sup>7</sup> California Department of Water Resources, February 2004, South Coast Hydrologic Region - San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin, California's Groundwater Bulletin 118, available at: [https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118/Files/2003-Basin-Descriptions/4\\_012\\_SanFernandoValley.pdf](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118/Files/2003-Basin-Descriptions/4_012_SanFernandoValley.pdf), accessed February 19, 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

### *Groundwater Levels*

Groundwater levels in the SFB vary seasonally and by locality, with levels in the western section of the SFB at approximately 50 feet below ground surface and levels in the eastern section at between 200 and 500 feet below ground surface.

### *Groundwater Recharge*

Groundwater recharge of the SFB occurs due to a variety of sources, including the following:

- Spreading of imported water and stormwater runoff that contains natural streamflow from the surrounding mountains;
- Precipitation falling on impervious areas;
- Infiltration of water flowing in surface washes;
- Landscape irrigation, including reclaimed wastewater; and
- Industrial discharges.

Precipitation has a direct influence on groundwater recharge and, ultimately, on the amount of groundwater in storage in the SFB. Urban development over time has resulted in a significant portion of the rainfall being collected and routed into lined channels that discharge directly into the LA River. To partially offset the increased runoff due to urbanization, the Pacoima, Big Tujunga and Hansen dams, originally built for flood control, are now utilized to regulate stormflows and to allow recapture of a portion of the flow in downstream spreading basins operated by the Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) and the City of Los Angeles.<sup>9</sup>

### *Groundwater Quality*

Water quality in the eastern part of the SFB (the HSG and PSG area) can be described as hard to very hard, and is geochemically characterized as calcium sulfate bicarbonate-type water. The sulfate water-type is reflected in groundwater geochemistry of samples from water supply wells in Reseda, North Hollywood, Burbank, and Glendale. Data from 125 public supply wells in the SFB indicate an average TDS content of 400 milligrams per liter (mg/L), and a range from 176 to 1,160 mg/L. Data from wells located in the western portion of the basin show a TDS range from 326 to 768 mg/L.

The overall quality of the groundwater is generally within the recommended limits of California Title 22 Drinking Water Standards, except for: 1) areas in the eastern SFB which display high concentrations of trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, hexavalent chromium, and nitrate as NO<sub>3</sub> (or nitrogen as N); 2) areas in the western portion of the SFB which tend to have excess concentrations of naturally occurring sulfate and TDS. In each area, the pumped groundwater is being treated or blended to meet State Drinking Water Standards, or the impacted wells have

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<sup>9</sup> Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, 2012, Regional Water Board Assistance in Guiding Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Development in the Los Angeles Region, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/salt\\_and\\_nutrient\\_management/Stakeholder\\_Outreach/Regional%20Water%20Board%20SNMP%20Assistance%20Document.PDF](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/salt_and_nutrient_management/Stakeholder_Outreach/Regional%20Water%20Board%20SNMP%20Assistance%20Document.PDF), accessed February 19, 2024.

been temporarily removed from service.<sup>10</sup>

### 4.2.3 Methodology

The evaluation of potential hydrology and water quality impacts is based, in part, on the 2016 EIR for the approved project and the HEC-RAS Memorandum prepared for the project modifications. Information from the 2016 EIR for the approved project was used to describe applicable regulations and existing conditions. The results of the HEC-RAS modeling were reviewed and summarized to determine potential environmental effects, based on the thresholds of significance presented in this section. The HEC-RAS modeling describes the changes that would occur in the LA River downstream of the DCTWRP Japanese Garden discharge point, in terms of water depth, top surface width, and velocity, based on a reduction in 4 MGD of flow to the river resulting from the project modifications. The 4 MGD reduction in discharge would equate to a decreased flow in the LA River of 6.19 cfs.

### Thresholds of Significance

The significance thresholds used to evaluate the impacts of the project modifications related to hydrology and water quality are based on the thresholds employed in the 2016 EIR. The project modifications would have a significant impact related to hydrology and water quality if it would:

1. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements;
2. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted);
3. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
4. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;
5. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff;
6. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality;
7. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map;
8. Place within a 100-year flood area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows;
9. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam; or
10. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

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<sup>10</sup> Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, 2012, Regional Water Board Assistance in Guiding Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Development in the Los Angeles Region, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/salt\\_and\\_nutrient\\_management/Stakeholder\\_Outreach/Regional%20Water%20Board%20SNMP%20Assistance%20Document.PDF](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/salt_and_nutrient_management/Stakeholder_Outreach/Regional%20Water%20Board%20SNMP%20Assistance%20Document.PDF), accessed February 19, 2024.

#### **4.2.4 Impact Analysis**

##### **1. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?**

###### **Construction**

###### *Less Than Significant Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR, the approved project's construction activities would result in land disturbance of over one acre, and therefore, would be required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit. The approved project would implement a SWPPP, associated BMPs, and comply with the RWQCB's construction dewatering permit for dewatering activities. Implementation of the approved project would result in an increase of impervious surface area; however, existing stormwater management operations would continue to manage the resulting increase in stormwater runoff. Further, the approved project would implement a Stormwater Mitigation Plan for the post-development approved project site that contains BMPs including LID features, due to the approved project's consideration as significant redevelopment under the MS4 Permit SUSMP requirements. Compliance with all applicable requirements would ensure construction related impacts to water quality with implementation of the approved project would be less than significant.

Under the project modifications, construction for the new pipeline would require excavation along its alignment, most of which is located in unpaved areas; however, approximately 20 feet of the alignment would occur in a paved area in front of the entry gate to the Japanese Garden. Construction activities involved in the pipeline installation would include pavement demolition, trench excavation, pipeline segment placement and joining, valve installation and pipeline hookup, trench backfilling, and pavement restoration. Excavated material would be stockpiled on site to be used for backfill after the pipeline is installed.

DCTWRP is currently covered under the Construction General Permit and associated SWPPP, which contains BMPs for erosion and sediment control and general housekeeping practices (e.g., sweeping up of site debris, proper waste disposal procedures, and inspection for leaks and spills from construction vehicles). As such, the project modifications would be covered under this permit and SWPPP and be required to implement standard BMPs during construction activities. With adherence to the Construction General Permit and SWPPP, construction of the project modifications would not violate any water quality standards or WDRs. Therefore, impacts would remain less than significant.

###### **Operation**

###### *Less Than Significant Impact*

The 2016 EIR states operation of the approved project, which would utilize the available unused treatment capacity of DCTWRP to provide recycled water for the advanced water purification processes, would not affect the flow-through process at the Sepulveda Basin lakes and the LA River. The water quality of the recycled water discharges would remain unchanged and would continue to meet existing RWQCB WDRs to protect water quality in the lakes and LA River. Proper implementation of the SWPPP and monitoring program would ensure the approved project is in compliance with the General Industrial Permit, and water quality impacts from stormwater discharges to the LA River would be considered less than significant.

Regarding groundwater, the 2016 EIR states the advanced water purification processes tested at DCTWRP provided an exceptional water quality for use in groundwater replenishment and exceeds drinking water quality standards. These advanced treatment processes would provide water that meets and exceeds the standards in Title 22, Article 5.1 for Indirect Potable Reuse: Groundwater Replenishment – Surface Application. As discussed in the 2016 EIR, the approved project would require issuance of WDRs by the RWQCB for production, distribution, and use of recycled water for groundwater replenishment. The quality of the water produced from the proposed AWPf would require testing to demonstrate compliance with Title 22 requirements, applicable California MCLs and NLs of the drinking water regulations and other Basin Plan requirements to protect beneficial uses of the SFB. Quarterly and annual sampling requirements and system discharge limits would be established based on discussions with the RWQCB and the Division of Drinking Water. Further, the quality of the treated water resulting from the approved project is anticipated to be of a higher quality than the water in the receiving aquifer. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded implementation of the approved project would result in long-term, beneficial impacts to groundwater quality.

Implementation of the proposed project modifications would decrease the amount of recycled water released from DCTWRP into the LA River. Despite this reduction in flow, the existing treatment processes and adherence to RWQCB WDRs at DCTWRP would continue as under existing conditions. The quality of the effluent from the AWPf after implementation of the project modifications would remain as described in the 2016 EIR, would be subject to the WDRs for the approved project, and would exceed the standards required by Title 22. The project modifications would also comply with the General Industrial Permit, industrial SWPPP, and stormwater monitoring program. Accordingly, the project modifications would not adversely impact the beneficial uses for Municipal and Domestic Water Supply, Industrial Service Supply, or Industrial Process Supply identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. Therefore, operation of the project modifications would not violate any water quality standards or WDRs, and impacts would remain less than significant.

- 2. Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?**

### **Construction**

#### *No Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR, water required for construction activities would be supplied from existing water connections or would be transported in trucks from an off-site source and may include recycled water. As such, the 2016 EIR concluded no impacts to local groundwater supplies, groundwater recharge, and groundwater levels would occur during construction of the approved project.

Similar to the 2016 EIR, construction activities for the project modifications would require water for dust control during ground-disturbing activities. Water for these activities would be supplied from existing water connections or would be transported in trucks from an off-site source and may include recycled water. Water used during construction of the project modifications would not adversely impact the existing beneficial use for Groundwater Recharge identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. As such, no impacts to local groundwater supplies, groundwater recharge, and groundwater levels are anticipated during construction of the project modifications.

## Operation

### *No Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR, the approved project would recharge the SFB with advanced treated (purified) recycled water from the AWPf at DCTWRP. The approved project would be considered to have a beneficial impact on the basin volume, and in the long-term would help increase water levels in the SFB to support the maintenance of regional groundwater supply. The 2016 EIR concluded that the proposed volume of the purified recycled water could be recharged effectively and safely at HSG and PSG and would provide long term increases in groundwater basin levels to help maintain regional groundwater supply. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded operation of the approved project would result in no impacts related to groundwater supply or recharge.

With implementation of the project modifications, recirculation of the Japanese Garden Lake water to the DCTWRP treatment facilities would provide influent of recycled water to the AWPf to generate sufficient purified water effluent to meet the needs of non-potable reuse customers and the groundwater replenishment program. Although the project modifications would result in a decrease in flow of approximately 4 MGD of recycled water to the LA River, the reduction in flow would be rerouted to the DCTWRP and eventually the AWPf, resulting in additional direct recharge of the SFB. Therefore, the project modifications would result in beneficial impacts for groundwater recharge for the region and would support the beneficial use of Groundwater Recharge identified for the LA River in the Basin Plan. The project modifications would result in no impacts related to the substantial decrease of groundwater supplies or interference with groundwater recharge.

- 3. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?**

## Construction

### *Less than Significant Impact*

According to the Initial Study prepared for the 2016 EIR, the approved project components would be located within previously developed and disturbed areas and existing roadways. Although construction activities would temporarily increase the potential for erosion due to excavation, compliance with the SWPPP and the erosion control plan developed for the approved project would minimize impacts. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded construction of the approved project would result in less than significant impacts related to erosion or siltation.

Under the project modifications, construction of the new pipeline would require excavation along its alignment in mostly unpaved areas, with 20 feet of the alignment in a paved area. However, DCTWRP is currently covered under the Construction General Permit and the Industrial General Permit, and LASAN implements an industrial SWPPP and monitoring program. As such, the project modifications would be covered under these permits and be required to implement standard BMPs during construction activities to avoid or minimize erosion and siltation on- or off-site. Construction impacts would be less than significant in this regard. Upon installation of the new pipeline, the area would be backfilled and restored. As such, the amount of pervious and impervious surfaces would be similar to existing conditions upon implementation of the project modifications and would not result in substantial erosion or siltation.

## Operation

### *Less than Significant Impact*

According to the Initial Study prepared for the 2016 EIR, the approved project components would be located within previously developed and disturbed areas and existing roadways. Additionally, all drainage flows would be routed through existing storm water infrastructure. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded that operation of the approved project would result in less than significant impacts related to erosion or siltation.

With regard to impacts to the LA River, the project modifications would reduce the flow of recycled water to the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden discharge point by approximately 4 MGD. The majority of the LA River runs along a concrete channel, though some portions of the river consist of a soft bottom with concrete embankments. However, the change in flow parameters between the existing conditions and proposed conditions would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the LA River because the reductions in river depth and top width are generally minimal. Therefore, the project modifications would not result in substantial erosion or siltation, and impacts would remain less than significant.

- 4. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?**

## Construction

### *Less than Significant Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR, although construction of the proposed facilities at DCTWRP under the approved project would generate an increase in surface runoff due to an increase in impervious surface area, the proposed facilities would be located within the existing flood control berm that protects DCTWRP from flooding in the Sepulveda Basin up to a 100-year storm and from stormwater run on from adjacent properties. The approved project would be designed for proper drainage to prevent flooding on and off-site. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded that impacts would be less than significant.

The project modifications would occur at the DCTWRP site, which would continue to be protected by the existing flood control berm as under existing conditions. Further, LASAN has a defined set of operational procedures to follow during storm events such as for the risk of inundation, should there be a breach in the flood control berm from a storm event exceeding the 100-year storm. Therefore, construction of the project modifications would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, resulting in flooding, and impacts would remain less than significant.

## Operation

### *No Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR, implementation of the approved project would not result in any changes in flow volume or points of discharge for the existing Balboa Lake, Wildlife Lake, and Japanese Garden Lake in the Sepulveda Basin or the LA River. The approved project would not result in alterations to the existing drainage facilities and drainage patterns in the areas of the proposed off-site facilities. Further, a Memorandum of Understanding would be established between LADWP and LACPW to establish safe operating procedures to maximize stormwater recharge at HSG and PSG and allow LADWP to safely recharge with purified recycled water when

the basins are available. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded that operation of the approved project would result in no impacts related to flooding.

As the project modifications would result in a reduced flow of 4 MGD to the LA River, they would not exacerbate flood conditions. The flows would be rerouted through an enclosed, underground pipeline. The project modifications would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff or alter the drainage pattern of the site or surrounding area in a manner which would result in flooding. Therefore, operation of the project modifications would result in no impacts related to flooding.

**5. Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?**

*Less Than Significant Impact*

As discussed in the responses to Thresholds 1 and 3 for the approved project, the approved project would comply with the requirements of the Construction General Permit and Industrial General Permit. According to the 2016 EIR, construction of the off-site facilities, including pipelines and modifications to HSG and PSG, would not result in any increases in runoff since pipelines would be located underground and modifications at HSG and PSG would not change impervious surface area. These features would not result in new sources of polluted runoff. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded that the approved project would result in less than significant impacts related to polluted runoff.

The project modifications would not result in any increases in runoff because the proposed pipeline would be located underground, and the amount of impervious surface area would be similar to existing conditions. As such, the project modifications would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, and impacts would remain less than significant.

**6. Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?**

*Less Than Significant Impact*

The 2016 EIR states that the approved project would comply with the Title 22 groundwater regulations, including regulations for underground retention time of groundwater. Long term operation of the approved project would include comprehensive monitoring as required by the Division of Drinking Water and RWQCB for purified recycled water from the AWPf and groundwater. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded that compliance with the groundwater replenishment regulations, including long term monitoring requirements issued in the RWQCB permit, would ensure no degradation of groundwater quality, and impacts would be less than significant.

Implementation of the project modifications would not substantially degrade water quality. The quality of the effluent from the AWPf after implementation of the project modifications would remain as described in the 2016 EIR and would exceed the standards required by Title 22. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 4.2.2., Environmental Setting, the LARWQCB Basin Plan identifies the principal source of nitrogen compounds entering the LA River as discharges from DCTWRP, LAGWRP, and BWRP. According to the LARWQCB Basin Plan, during the dry



weather season, the major WRPs contribute 84.1 percent of the total nitrogen load.<sup>11</sup> In addition, the three WRPs that discharge to the LA River contribute the majority of metals loading during dry weather. Most of this metals loading is in the dissolved form. By reducing the discharges from DCTWRP into the LA River as part of the project modifications, loading of nitrogen compounds and metals would be reduced.

Implementation of the project modifications would result in a 4 MGD reduction in discharge, which would equate to a decreased flow in the river of 6.19 cfs. Table 4.2-1 shows the results of the mass-based loading calculation for the project modifications of reduced discharge by 6.19 cfs. As shown in Table 4.2-1, the reduced discharge would result in a reduction in loading for plant effluent to the LA River system for all constituents.

Changes in bacteria and nitrate concentrations due to reduced discharge from the DCTWRP would likely fall within the natural fluctuation range of the LA River’s water quality. The projected *E. coli* and nitrate concentration for DCTWRP discharges would remain unchanged, as treatment processes at the plant would not be impacted by the proposed project. Current *E. coli* concentrations for DCTWRP effluent average <1 most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (mL) and fall below the bacteria TMDL single sample numeric target of 235 MPN/100mL for *E. coli*. The anticipated bacteria loading from DCTWRP due to the project modifications is estimated as  $7.45 \times 10^7$  MPN/day, which is below the regulatory standard of  $454 \times 10^9$  MPN/day. Current average nitrate concentrations are 5.15 mg/L at DCTWRP, and 4.15 mg/L downstream at the LAR-05 SEP monitoring station; both are below the regulatory limit for nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) of 8 mg/L. As such, the water quality objectives outlined in the permits for DCTWRP would be maintained. Therefore, implementation of the project modifications would not substantially degrade water quality, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Table 4.2-1  
Estimated Constituent Load Reduction**

	Flow Discharge (cfs)	Constituent Loading		
		Copper (kg/day)	Lead (kg/day)	Zinc (kg/day)
DCTWRP – existing conditions (June, July, August of 2020-22)	36.7	1.056	0.042	7.052
DCTWRP – reduced discharge with project modifications	30.5	0.878	0.035	5.863
<b>Load reduction</b>		<b>0.178</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>1.189</b>

**7. Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?**

*No Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR, the approved project would not include a housing component; therefore, it would not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area and no impact would occur.

<sup>11</sup> In terms of water quality, a load is the amount (mass) of a pollutant that is discharged into a water body during a period of time (e.g., 107 pounds of nitrogen per day).

The project modifications would consist of the installation of a pipeline, diversion structures, and valves. The project modifications would not include a housing component, and therefore would not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

**8. Would the project place within a 100-year flood area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?**

*Less Than Significant Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR and as discussed in Threshold 4, the proposed facilities of the approved project at DCTWRP would be located within the existing flood control berm that protects DCTWRP from flooding in the Sepulveda Basin up to a 100-year storm, as well as provides protection of stormwater run on from adjacent properties. The proposed facilities of the approved project at DCTWRP site would not impede or redirect flood flows as all development would be located within the existing flood control berm. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded impacts would be less than significant.

The project modifications would be located at DCTWRP and would be protected by the existing flood control berm. As the proposed pipeline would be located underground, it would not impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, implementation of the project modifications would not place structures within a 100-year flood area which would impede or redirect flood flows, and impacts would remain less than significant.

**9. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?**

*Less Than Significant Impact*

According to the 2016 EIR, the existing flood control berm protects the AWPf plant from the 100-year storm. LASAN has a defined set of operational procedures to follow during storm events, including evacuation plans, should there be a breach in the flood control berm from a storm event exceeding the 100-year storm. In addition, two wet weather storage basins are currently located east of the aeration tanks and secondary clarifiers, primarily used for temporary storage, without treatment, of wet weather flows. Therefore, the 2016 EIR concluded that the approved project would result in less than significant impacts related to loss, injury, or death related to flooding of a levee or dam.

The project modifications would not involve the construction of any structures in an area subject to flooding because of the failure of a levee or dam. The site of the project modifications would be protected by the existing flood control berm. Therefore, no impact would occur related to risks associated with the failure of a levee or dam for the project modifications.

**10. Would the project result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?**

*Less Than Significant Impact*

Seiches are oscillations generated in enclosed bodies of water usually as a result of earthquake-related ground shaking. A seiche wave has the potential to overflow the sides of a containing basin to inundate adjacent or downstream areas. Seiches primarily cause damage to properties that are located adjacent to a body of water. According to the Initial Study prepared for the 2016 EIR, due to the distance between the approved project site and nearby bodies of water, there would be a low risk of a seiche resulting in damage to the approved project.

Tsunamis are large ocean waves caused by the sudden water displacement that results from an underwater earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. Tsunamis affect low-lying areas along the coastline. The Initial Study prepared for the 2016 EIR states the Santa Monica Mountains separate the approved project site from the Pacific Ocean, and the approved project site is not located within a designated Tsunami Hazard Area. Furthermore, as the approved project site is not located within a City-designated hillside area, it would not be subject to a landslide. Therefore, the Initial Study prepared for the 2016 EIR concluded construction and operation of the approved project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow, and impacts would be less than significant.

Similar to the approved project, as the project modifications would be located at DCTWRP, they would be located in an area at low risk of a seiche due to the intervening distance from other bodies of water. Further, the DCTWRP is not located within a designated Tsunami Hazard Area or a City-designated hillside area and therefore, would not be subject to tsunamis or mudflows. Therefore, implementation of the project modifications would not result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow, and impacts would remain less than significant.

#### **4.2.5 Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures would be required.

#### **4.2.6 Level of Significance After Mitigation**

Impacts would be less than significant.

#### **4.2.7 Cumulative Impacts**

As discussed in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, of this Supplemental EIR, the reduction in discharge flows from the BWRP resulting from the City of Burbank Wastewater Change Petition is taken into account in the existing flow level in the LA River utilized for the HEC-RAS model. As such, the reduction in flows from BWRP does not represent an additional cumulative impact when considered in conjunction with the modified project's proposed reduction in discharge. However, based on current discharge levels, it is assumed that LAGWRP has not fully achieved the discharge reduction reflected in the approved City of Glendale Wastewater Change Petition. As such, this additional reduction in discharge from LAGWRP is not taken into account in the existing flow levels in the LA River utilized for the HEC-RAS model. Therefore, this additional reduction in discharge of 6.38 cfs from LAGWRP is included in the cumulative impact condition considered in conjunction with the proposed reduction in discharge related to the project modifications. Table 4.2-2 shows the summarized cumulative results of the HEC-RAS modeling.

As shown in Table 4.2-2, the maximum cumulative reduction in flow would be 12.57 cfs. This would occur only downstream of GLEN, where LAGWRP discharges into the LA River. The cumulative reduction in flow would remain relatively small, and the conclusions related to water quality, groundwater supply, drainage patterns, runoff water, and flooding would remain the same as discussed throughout Section 4.2.4, Impact Analysis.

Further, similar to the proposed project modifications, activities at the LAGWRP would be required to comply with applicable NPDES permits and WDRs. Any future projects that would alter discharges to the LA River would require a Wastewater Change Petition pursuant to California Water Code Section 1211, and consequent review by the SWRCB. Therefore, with consideration of the cumulative impacts resulting from the LAGWRP, the impact of the project modifications on hydrology and water quality would not be considered cumulatively considerable. Cumulative impacts to hydrology and water quality would be less than significant.

**Table 4.2-2  
HEC-RAS Model Results for Proposed Project Modifications and Remaining LAGWRP Diversion**

		Existing (WY 2019 – WY 2022)						With Proposed Project Modifications and LAGWRP Diversions						Difference				
Gaging Station	River Station <sup>a</sup>	Flow (cfs)	Water Elev. (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Flow (cfs)	Water Elev. (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Top Width (in)
SEP	225707.0	39.08	654.73	2.96	0.27	3.24	48.38	32.89	654.70	2.80	0.24	2.88	48.38	-0.16	-0.03	-0.36	0.00	0.00
F300	195289.1	39.30	550.19	4.25	0.77	9.24	12.00	33.11	550.12	3.96	0.70	8.40	12.00	-0.29	-0.07	-0.84	0.00	0.00
LA14	169312.4	42.47	456.81	1.50	0.15	1.80	198.60	36.28	456.80	1.42	0.14	1.68	196.83	-0.08	-0.01	-0.12	-1.77	-21.24
	165671.8	42.47	442.33	0.73	0.84	10.08	136.67	36.28	442.29	0.68	0.80	9.60	134.91	0.05	-0.04	-0.48	-1.76	-21.12
LA13	161377.1	43.82	426.26	1.15	0.11	1.32	350.10	37.63	426.25	1.09	0.10	1.20	350.09	-0.06	-0.01	-0.12	-0.01	-0.12
	159029.2	43.82	417.03	0.65	0.68	8.16	171.39	37.63	416.99	0.62	0.64	7.68	168.58	-0.03	-0.04	-0.48	-2.81	-33.72
GLEN	156292.5	53.58	405.60	0.92	0.88	10.56	136.43	41.01	405.54	0.87	0.82	9.84	128.85	0.05	-0.06	-0.72	-7.58	-90.96
	149343.2	53.58	373.46	1.08	0.71	8.52	129.74	41.01	373.39	1.00	0.64	7.68	121.51	-0.08	-0.07	-0.84	-8.23	-98.76
	142453.7	53.58	343.06	3.54	1.13	13.56	42.86	41.01	343.01	3.16	1.08	12.96	41.52	-0.38	-0.05	-0.60	-1.34	-16.08
	135461.4	53.58	319.64	0.70	0.91	10.92	136.80	41.01	319.56	0.63	0.83	9.96	135.17	-0.07	-0.08	-0.96	-1.63	-19.56
F57C	128608.0	53.14	295.62	4.29	0.71	8.52	18.84	40.57	295.51	3.90	0.60	7.20	18.42	-0.39	-0.11	-1.32	-0.42	-5.04
F319	20500.0	69.37	15.25	1.02	1.14	13.68	300.61	56.80	15.22	0.95	1.11	13.32	300.49	-0.07	-0.03	-0.36	-0.12	-1.44

<sup>a</sup> A River Station for the LA River is designated by the number of feet upstream from the mouth of the river. Refer to Figures 3-1 and 3-2 in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, for these locations.

Source: Michael Baker International, 2024.

## 4.3 RECREATION

This section supplements the Public Services and Recreation section in the 2016 EIR by evaluating the potential for implementation of the project modifications to impact recreational facilities and uses. This section presents the applicable regulatory setting, environmental setting, methodology for determining potential impacts, analysis of the potential impacts to recreation resulting from the project modifications, and an analysis of potential cumulative impacts.

### 4.3.1 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal

##### *Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area*

The Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area is a federally owned flood control area that includes the largest recreation area in the San Fernando Valley. Since 1959, recreation amenities have been developed throughout the basin by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks in accordance with the lease between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City. Recreation development policies are provided in the USACE's Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan and Environmental Assessment. DCTWRP and the Japanese Garden Lake are located within the boundaries of the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area.

#### State/Local

##### *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan*

Since 1973, the SWRCB and its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) have been responsible for administering permitted discharges into the waters of California. Permitted discharges must be compliant with the regional Basin Plan. Each RWQCB implements the Basin Plan to ensure that projects consider regional beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and water quality problems. The Los Angeles RWQCB Basin Plan specifically designates beneficial uses for surface waters and ground waters, sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be met in order to protect the beneficial uses and conform to the state's antidegradation policy, and describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the region. The LARWQCB Basin Plan provides all relevant information necessary to carry out federal mandates for the antidegradation policy.

#### Beneficial Uses

The Los Angeles River has the following beneficial uses related to recreation for reaches of the LA River downstream of the existing Japanese Garden discharge point, as designated by the Los Angeles RWQCB in the Basin Plan (see Table 2-1 in Chapter 2, Project Description):

- Water Contact Recreation (REC-1): Uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible.
- Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2): Uses of water for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible.

##### *Los Angeles River Master Plan*

The LA River Master Plan seeks to build on prior and current planning efforts to continue to reimagine the LA River from a single-use corridor to a multi-benefit resource for the communities of Los Angeles County. The 2022 LA River Master Plan is an update of the 1996 LA River Master

Plan. The LA River Master Plan's research and analysis is based on a watershed and community approach, including ecosystem, demographic, and hydrologic studies that were conducted for the watershed, combined with several studies that included information for areas outside the watershed. The LA River Master Plan includes discussion of existing conditions for open space, recreation, and trails, and sets goals to improve such resources. The goals of the LA River Master Plan that are applicable to the project modifications include the following: <sup>1</sup>

- Provide equitable, inclusive, and safe parks, open space, and trails.
- Enhance opportunities for equitable access to the river corridor.

#### *Los Angeles River Recreation Program*

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in cooperation with the City and County of Los Angeles and the USACE, have managed the Los Angeles River Recreation Program to increase safe public access to the LA River and to further river revitalization. The program manages the Recreation Zones which contains two segments: the 2-mile Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone and the 2.5-mile Elysian Valley River Recreation Zone. The MRCA Rangers promote public safety and regulate usage with rules established by the MRCA Ordinance for the Recreation Zones.

### **4.3.2 Environmental Setting**

#### **Sepulveda Basin**

DCTWRP is located within the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, which is a two-square-mile, regionally significant open space area located between Victory Boulevard, I-405, and State Route 101. It includes the Balboa Sports Center, Hjelte Sports Center, Lake Balboa/Anthony C. Beilenson Park, Sepulveda Garden Center, Sherman Oaks Castle Park, Woodley Park, Encino Golf Course, Balboa Golf Course, and Woodley Lakes Golf Course.<sup>2</sup> This typically dry-land flood control basin also includes athletic fields, bike paths (Sepulveda Basin Bike Loops), a fishing lake, and a wildlife reserve (bird-watching area).<sup>3</sup>

#### **Japanese Garden**

The Japanese Garden, dedicated in 1984, occupies approximately 6.5 acres in the northwest corner of the DCTWRP property. The Japanese Garden provides visitors with seasonal views throughout the year with its combination of flowers and vegetation. The garden is open Monday through Thursday with a morning window (9:30 am – 12:00 pm) and an afternoon window (1:00 pm – 3:30 pm), with free admission by reservations only. As discussed in Section 2.2 of this Supplemental EIR, recycled water from DCTWRP is currently delivered to the Japanese Garden Lake and discharged through an existing pipeline to a discharge point located at the LA River downstream of Sepulveda Dam. Under the project modifications, the Japanese Garden Lake, including the maintenance of current water levels and quality, would continue to be supplied by recycled water from DCTWRP. However, the return flow from the lake would be intercepted and, instead of eventual discharge to the LA River, would be routed back to the DCTWRP as influent to the recycled water treatment facilities.

<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles County Public Works, LA River Master Plan, page 22, available at: <https://pw.lacounty.gov/uploads/swp/LARiverMasterPlan-FINAL-DIGITAL-COMPRESSED.pdf>, accessed March 11, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, available at: <https://www.laparks.org/reccenter/sepulveda-basin-area>, accessed September 27, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, September 2011, Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan and Environmental Assessment.

## Los Angeles River

The MRCA, in cooperation with the City and County of Los Angeles and the USACE, manages the LA River Recreation Program to increase safe public access to the river. Designated recreation zones on the river are open to the public from Memorial Day each year until the end of September, unless closed for safety reasons during this period. There are two segments of the recreation zone, including the 2-mile Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone and the 2.5-mile Elysian Valley River Recreation Zone.<sup>4</sup> These are the only two segments of the LA River where direct public access to the river is allowed.

The Elysian Valley River Recreation Zone, roughly corresponding to the reach of the LA River between Fletcher Drive bridge crossing and the south end of Elysian Valley, is managed for non-motorized boating (e.g., kayaking), fishing, biking, and walking (swimming is prohibited). Access for kayakers to enter or exit the river is restricted to designated locations, with two launching points located near RS 142453.7 and a takeout point located upstream of F57C.

### 4.3.3 Methodology

Evaluation of potential impacts to recreation was based on a review of planning documents and online information related to the recreational uses within area potentially affected by the project modifications. Impacts on recreation that would result from the project modifications were evaluated for the Japanese Garden, where construction of the project modifications would occur, and portions of the LA River that would be impacted by the reduction of flow discharge resulting from implementation of the project modifications.

### Thresholds of Significance

The significance thresholds used to evaluate the impacts of the approved project in the 2016 EIR related to recreation were based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Based on Appendix G, a project would have a significant impact related to recreation if it would:

1. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
2. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Relative to these Appendix G thresholds, the approved project, as evaluated in the 2016 EIR, concluded no impacts related to recreation resources. Because the project modifications' potential impacts are confined to the effects of reduced discharges of recycled water from DCTWRP to the LA River, the construction or operation of the project modifications would not result in impacts related to deterioration of parks or other recreational facilities from an increase in use nor impacts related to the construction or expansion of recreation facilities.

However, in relation to the Japanese Garden, the new 90-foot underground pipeline associated with the project modifications would require excavation along its alignment. Most of the alignment is located in unpaved areas; however, approximately 20 feet of the alignment would occur in a paved area in front of the entry gate to the Japanese Garden. The installation of the proposed new pipeline and valves is anticipated to take up to 10 active working days to complete and would

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<sup>4</sup> Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, About the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone, available at: <https://lariverrecreation.org/2017/05/19/about-the-los-angeles-river-recreation-zone/>, accessed February 7, 2024.

occur intermittently over a period of up to 3 months. When work is occurring adjacent to the Japanese Garden gate, public access may be temporarily disrupted. Disruption to public access would be minimized by limiting work to the extent possible to days when the Japanese Garden is closed to the public. Once the project modifications are complete, the area would be restored to its previous condition, and there would be no impacts to access to the garden. Therefore, impacts to the use of the Japanese Garden would be less than significant.

In addition, the project modifications would have a significant impact if they would substantially degrade the beneficial uses related to recreation for the LA River as identified by the LARWQCB Basin Plan. Therefore, the significance thresholds used to evaluate the impacts of the project modifications related to recreation include the following:

- Would the project substantially degrade Water Contact Recreation uses in the LA River, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-1?
- Would the project substantially degrade Non-Contact Water Recreation uses in the LA River, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-2?

#### **4.3.4 Impact Analysis**

##### **1. Would the project substantially degrade Water Contact Recreation uses in the LA River, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-1?**

###### **Construction**

###### *No Impact*

Construction activities for the proposed project would occur approximately 0.6 miles from the LA River at its nearest point within the Sepulveda Basin, and there would be no potential for these activities to interfere with water contact recreation uses in the river. Therefore, construction of the project modifications would not substantially degrade water contact recreation uses, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-1, in the LA River, and no impact would occur.

###### **Operation**

###### *Less Than Significant Impact*

As discussed in Section 2.2 of this Supplemental EIR, because the discharge point to the LA River from the Japanese Garden Lake is located downstream of Sepulveda Dam, resources within the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, including Lake Balboa and the Wildlife Lake, would not be affected by the proposed changes in discharge to the LA River related to the project modifications. Therefore, the Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone would be unaffected by changes in discharge to the LA River related to the project modifications. The Elysian Valley River Recreation Zone is located approximately 16 miles downstream of the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point to the river and, therefore, could be affected by the flow reductions to the river related to the project modifications.

The only reach of the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point where direct public access is permitted is in the approximately 2.5-mile Elysian Valley River Recreation Zone, located approximately between the Fletcher Drive Bridge Crossing and the south end of Elysian Valley. Although REC-1 Water Contact Recreation can include a broad range of activities, the types of activities within the Elysian Valley Recreation Zone are strictly regulated by the MRCA and include wading, non-motorized and steerable boats (e.g., kayaks), and fishing from the banks of the LA River. Swimming in the river is prohibited.



In relation to the HEC-RAS modeling that was conducted for this Supplemental EIR, the Elysian Valley Recreation Zone roughly corresponds to the reach of the LA River between RS 142453.7 and Gage Station F57C (RS 128608.0), with F57C located approximately 0.2 miles downstream of the actual recreation zone. Table 4.3-1 shows the results of the HEC-RAS modeling for RS 142453.7, RS 135461.4, and F57C. The relatively small decreases in water depth, top surface width, and velocity would not substantially degrade wading activity in the LA River. Kayaking requires a certain depth of water determined by several factors, including the kayak waterline length, waterline width, and hull shape; the total weight of the kayak, rider, and gear; and the density of the water.<sup>5</sup> Based on these factors, a typical recreational kayak, such as those used on the LA River, would conservatively require 5 inches of depth to operate. As shown in Table 4.3-1, the depths at RS 142453.7 and RS 135461.4, both located within the Elysian Valley Recreation Zone, after implementation of the project modifications, would remain substantially above 5 inches.

Based on the conclusions in Section 4.1, Biological Resources, of this Supplemental EIR, the reduction in flow in the LA River from implementation of the project modifications would not significantly affect existing fish populations in the river, and, therefore, fishing activity would not be substantially degraded. In addition, as implementation of the project modifications would continue to allow for REC-1 opportunities within the LA River, the project modifications would not conflict with the LA River Master Plan's applicable goal of enhancing opportunities for equitable access to the river corridor. Therefore, the project modifications would not substantially degrade REC-1 Water Contact Recreation, and the impact would be less than significant.

## **Cumulative Impacts**

### *Less Than Significant Impact*

As discussed in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, of this Supplemental EIR, a cumulative impact from reduced flows in the LA River would occur related to the combined reduction in discharge from the proposed project modifications and from the additional approved future reductions in discharge from LAGWRP. Table 4.3-2 shows the results of the HEC-RAS modeling at RS 142453.7, RS 135461.4, and F57C for this combined reduction in discharge. Although the amount of change in velocity, depth, and top width would approximately double under these cumulative conditions, these changes would remain relatively small with water depths remaining above 5 inches, and the conclusions related to wading, kayaking, and fishing would remain the same as discussed above. Therefore, the combined effects of the project modifications and the additional future reductions in discharge to the LA River from LAGWRP would not substantially degrade REC-1 Water Contact Recreation, and the impact would be less than significant.

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<sup>5</sup> PaddleGeek, How to Kayak in Shallow Water, available at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20210410080839/https://paddlegeek.com/kayak-in-shallow-water/>, accessed February 12, 2024.

**Table 4.3-1  
HEC-RAS Model Results for Proposed Project Modifications**

		Existing (WY 2019 – WY 2022)						With Proposed Project Modifications						Difference				
Gage	River Station <sup>a</sup>	Flow (cfs)	Water Elevation (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Flow (cfs)	Water Elevation (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Top Width (in)
	<b>142453.7</b>	53.58	343.06	3.54	1.13	13.56	42.86	47.39	343.03	3.42	1.10	13.20	42.07	-0.12	-0.03	-0.36	-0.79	-9.48
	<b>135461.4</b>	53.58	319.64	0.70	0.91	10.92	136.80	47.39	319.60	0.67	0.87	10.44	136.02	-0.03	-0.04	-0.48	-0.78	-9.36
<b>F57C</b>	<b>128608.0</b>	53.14	295.62	4.29	0.71	8.52	18.84	46.95	295.57	4.10	0.66	7.92	18.64	-0.19	-0.05	-0.60	-0.20	-2.40

<sup>a</sup> A River Station for the LA River is designated by the number of feet upstream from the mouth of the river. Refer to Figures 3-1 and 3-2 in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, for these locations.

Source: Michael Baker International, 2024.

**Table 4.3-2  
HEC-RAS Model Results for Proposed Project Modifications and Remaining LAGWRP Reductions in Discharge**

		Existing (WY 2019 – WY 2022)						With Proposed Project Modifications and LAGWRP Reductions in Discharge						Difference				
Gage	River Station <sup>a</sup>	Flow (cfs)	Water Elevation (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Flow (cfs)	Water Elevation (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	Depth (ft)	Depth (in)	Top Width (ft)	Top Width (in)
	<b>142453.7</b>	53.58	343.06	3.54	1.13	13.56	42.86	41.01	343.01	3.16	1.08	12.96	41.52	-0.38	-0.05	-0.60	-1.34	-16.08
	<b>135461.4</b>	53.58	319.64	0.70	0.91	10.92	136.80	41.01	319.56	0.63	0.83	9.96	135.17	-0.07	-0.08	-0.96	-1.63	-19.56
<b>F57C</b>	<b>128608.0</b>	53.14	295.62	4.29	0.71	8.52	18.84	40.57	295.51	3.90	0.60	7.20	18.42	-0.39	-0.11	-1.32	-0.42	-5.04

<sup>a</sup> A River Station for the LA River is designated by the number of feet upstream from the mouth of the river. Refer to Figures 3-1 and 3-2 in Chapter 3, Approach to LA River Flows Modeling, for these locations.

Source: Michael Baker International, 2024.

## **2. Would the project substantially degrade Non-Contact Water Recreation uses in the LA River, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-2?**

### **Construction**

#### *No Impact*

Construction activities for the proposed project would occur approximately 0.6 miles from the LA River at its nearest point within the Sepulveda Basin, and there would be no potential for these activities to interfere with non-contact water recreation uses adjacent to the river. Therefore, construction of the project modifications would not substantially degrade non-contact water recreation uses, as identified in the LARWQCB Basin Plan REC-2, in the LA River, and no impact would occur.

### **Operation**

#### *Less Than Significant Impact*

Similar to REC-1 Water Contact Recreation, REC-2 Non-Contact Recreation can include a broad range of activities. However, in relation to the portion of the LA River downstream of the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point, the primary REC-2 activities involve the bike, pedestrian, and/or equestrian trail segments located atop the banks of the river. These include a bike/pedestrian trail from downtown Long Beach near the river's mouth to approximately 17 miles upstream, in the City of Maywood; a bike/pedestrian trail from the south end of Elysian Valley, approximately 7.5 miles upstream west of the Riverside Drive bridge crossing; an equestrian/pedestrian trail continuing upstream approximately 1 mile from the end of the bike trail; and an approximately 0.5-mile segment between Sepulveda Boulevard and Kester Avenue downstream of the Japanese Garden Lake discharge point to the river. Activities such as aesthetic enjoyment, photography, and bird watching in association with the above trail use would also be considered REC-2 beneficial uses along the LA River.

The project modifications would not directly affect any of the existing trail systems along the LA River. Furthermore, the relatively small decreases in depth and width of the LA River resulting from the project modifications would be generally imperceptible to pedestrians, horseback riders, and bikers along the LA River. As such, trail activities, including aesthetic enjoyment of the river, would not be affected.

As discussed in Section 4.1, Biological Resources, of this Supplemental EIR, impacts to plants and wildlife, including bird species, would be less than significant from the reductions in flow resulting from the project modifications. As such, activities such as photography and bird watching would also be unaffected. In addition, as implementation of the project modifications would continue to allow for REC-2 opportunities along the LA River, the project modifications would not conflict with the LA River Master Plan's applicable goal of providing equitable, inclusive, and safe parks, open space, and trails. Therefore, the project modifications would not substantially degrade REC-2 Non-Contact Water Recreation, and impacts would be less than significant.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

#### *Less Than Significant Impact*

The combined effects of the project modifications and the additional future reductions in discharge to the LA River from LAGWRP would likewise be generally imperceptible to pedestrians, horseback riders, and bikers along the LA River in terms of the depth and top width of water. As discussed in Section 4.1, Biological Resources, of this Supplemental EIR, impacts to plants and wildlife, including bird species, would also be less than significant from the combined reductions

in flow from the project modifications and LAGWRP. As such, aesthetic enjoyment of the river and activities such as photography and bird watching would be unaffected. Therefore, the combined effects of the project modifications and the additional future reductions in discharge to the LA River from LAGWRP would not substantially degrade REC-2 Non-Contact Water Recreation, and impacts would be less than significant.

#### **4.3.5 Mitigation Measures**

Impacts related to recreation would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

#### **4.3.6 Level of Significance After Mitigation**

Impacts related to recreation were determined to be less than significant without mitigation. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required or included, and the impact level remains less than significant.

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## **CHAPTER 5 OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS**

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This chapter provides an overview of the environmental effects of the project modifications, including an evaluation of the project modifications' consistency with the certified 2016 EIR, significant irreversible environmental changes, growth-inducing impacts, and alternatives.

### **5.1 Project Modifications Consistency with 2016 EIR**

The 2016 EIR was prepared pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Article 7, Section 15086-15087, and the California Public Resources Code Section 21153 that were current at the time. Since the preparation of the 2016 EIR, Appendix G to the State CEQA Guidelines, which consists of the Environmental Checklist Form, was updated in September 2016 to include questions related to impacts to tribal cultural resources. Additionally, a comprehensive update to the State CEQA Guidelines became effective in December 2018, which included updates to the checklist questions in Appendix G. Updates made to Appendix G since the time the 2016 EIR was prepared are acknowledged and addressed in the consistency discussion of the project modifications below, where appropriate.

The evaluation contained in this section discusses the consistency of the project modifications with the 2016 EIR. A summary of the impacts identified in the 2016 EIR is provided first for each environmental resource topic, followed by a brief assessment of the project modifications. Based on the potential for the project modifications to result in new environmental impacts that were not previously considered in the 2016 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts that were previously considered, it was determined that three topics should be carried forward for further analysis in this Supplemental EIR, as discussed in Section 1.3, Format of the Supplemental EIR. The three topics carried forward in this Supplemental EIR are analyzed in Chapter 4, Environmental Setting and Project Impacts, and include Biological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Recreation. All remaining environmental resource topics, which resulted in no new impacts or no substantial increase in previously considered impacts, are discussed below.

#### **5.1.1 Aesthetics**

##### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would result in no impacts to scenic vistas or scenic resources within a state scenic highway. Within the vicinity of the Project site, scenic vistas are available of the surrounding mountains, including the Verdugo Mountains and San Gabriel Mountains to the north and east and the Santa Monica Mountains to the south. While such views may be partially available from the identified vantage points surrounding DCTWRP (i.e., the Air National Guard Station compound, the Japanese Garden, and Woodley Park), they are interrupted by existing development, vegetation, and terrain. Neither the City of Los Angeles General Plan nor the Encino-Tarzana Community Plan designates any scenic vistas in the Project area. Additionally, there are no eligible or officially designated state or local scenic highways located within or adjacent to the boundaries of the approved project. The 2016 EIR also determined that the approved project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the Japanese Garden or create new sources or light or glare that would adversely affect the Japanese Garden.

## Project Modifications

Development of the project modifications would involve installation of approximately 90 feet of pipeline linking the existing outlet pipeline of the Japanese Garden Lake to the existing intake pipeline routing recycled water to the DCTWRP headwork facility. New diversion structures and valves would be installed at the outlet and on the DCTWRP wastewater intake pipeline to allow for the diversion of water from the lake. All components of the project modifications would be located at the Japanese Garden Lake within the boundaries of the DCTWRP property. The proposed pipeline, diversion structures, and valves would be installed below grade and would not be visible following completion of construction activities. Additionally, no new lighting would be installed as part of the project modifications. Therefore, the physical components of the project modifications would not result in additional or more substantial aesthetics impacts than what was analyzed in the 2016 EIR.

Implementation of the project modifications would result in a reduction in discharge of approximately 4 MGD of recycled water to the LA River. The effects of this reduction of discharge to the LA River in terms of aesthetic value are addressed as part of the impact analysis on recreational beneficial uses in Chapter 4 of this Supplemental EIR.

### 5.1.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

#### Approved Project

The 2016 EIR determined that no portion of the approved project site is designated as prime or unique farmland or zoned as forest land or timberland and no Williamson Act contracts are applicable to any portion of the approved project site. Therefore, the 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would result in no impact to agriculture and forestry resources.

#### Project Modifications

All components of the project modifications would be located at the Japanese Garden Lake within the boundaries of the DCTWRP property. No portion of the DCTWRP property is located on designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, no portion of the DCTWRP property is zoned or designated for agricultural uses, forest land, or timber land.<sup>2</sup> As discussed for the approved project, no Williamson Act contracts are applicable to any portion of the approved project site, which includes the DCTWRP property. Therefore, the physical components of the project modifications would not result in additional or more substantial impacts to agriculture and forestry resources than what was analyzed in the 2016 EIR. Furthermore, no portion of flows within the LA River downstream of the project modifications are used for agricultural or forest land uses.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the reduction in discharge of approximately 4 MGD of recycled water to the LA River resulting from implementation of the project modifications would not result in changes in the environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, California Important Farmland Mapper, available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>, accessed February 7, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> ZIMAS, available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed February 7, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region, Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, Chapter 2: Beneficial Uses, Table 2-1: Beneficial Uses of Inland Surface Waters, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/basin\\_plan\\_documentation.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/basin_plan_documentation.html), accessed February 7, 2024.

### **5.1.3 Air Quality**

#### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would be consistent with the then applicable 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). Additionally, the approved project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations or create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. However, the 2016 EIR also determined that construction equipment and truck trips associated with the approved project would result in emissions exceeding the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) daily thresholds for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and localized thresholds for particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>). The 2016 EIR concluded that, with implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-A, requiring the use of construction equipment greater than 50 horsepower to meet US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Tier 3 emission standards, would reduce construction air quality impacts to less than significant.

#### **Project Modifications**

The approved project was analyzed for consistency with the 2012 AQMP. The currently applicable plan is the 2022 AQMP. Development of the project modifications would require the construction of a new valve and pipeline at the Japanese Garden Lake within the DCTWRP property. The project modifications would not include the installation of any new permanent or temporary equipment that would require permitting under the AQMP or SCAQMD permitting rules and regulations. Therefore, the project modifications are expected to comply with all existing air quality rules and future compliance requirements.

It is anticipated that up to 15 personnel would be required during construction. These would be temporary workers who would be supplied by the existing local labor pool. Therefore, the project modifications would also be consistent with the 2022 AQMP population and employment forecasts. The project modifications would serve existing land uses and would be consistent with the goals and policies of the 2022 AQMP. It would not affect regional employment or job growth. Therefore, the project modifications would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable AQMP.

Construction emissions would be generated by construction equipment and vehicle trips. Construction of the project modifications are anticipated to occur intermittently over a period of up to 3 months with a total of up to 10 active construction days. Additionally, the maximum daily number of vehicle trips estimated during construction would be 15 worker vehicle trips, 3 haul truck trips, and 2 delivery truck trips. Given the limited nature of the construction activities required, implementation of the project modifications is not anticipated to generate a substantial increase in emissions over what was analyzed in the 2016 EIR. Additionally, the mitigation measures identified in the 2016 EIR would also be applicable to the project would not generate a substantial increase in emissions over what was analyzed in the 2016 EIR. Additionally, the mitigation measures identified in the 2016 EIR would also be applicable to the project modifications, as appropriate. As such, Mitigation Measure AQ-A would be implemented for the project modifications if construction equipment greater than 50 horsepower is used. Therefore, construction emissions associated with the project modifications would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Operation of the project modifications would not result in changes in emissions associated with operation of the DCTWRP.

During construction of the project modifications, diesel emissions from construction equipment may be sources of odor for visitors at the Japanese Garden. These emissions would be temporary and minimal based on the limited active construction duration and amount of construction equipment required. Additionally, as discussed in Chapter 2, Project Description, construction activities would be limited to the extent possible to days when the Japanese Garden is closed to the public. Therefore, construction of the project modifications would not result in odors that would adversely affect a substantial number of people. Operation of the project modifications would not generate objectionable odors.

#### **5.1.4 Cultural Resources**

##### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that no historical resources are present within the boundaries of the DCTWRP. However, due to the proximity of the approved project site to the LA River, the potential to encounter previously undiscovered archaeological resources and human remains during ground disturbing activities would require implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-A and CR-C to reduce impacts to less than significant. Mitigation Measure CR-A requires training of construction personnel regarding possible archaeological resources; the halting of activity and investigation of potential resources by a qualified archaeological Principal Investigator; and the engagement of a trained Native American consultant if prehistoric archaeological sites are encountered. Mitigation Measure CR-C requires that work be suspended and the Los Angeles County Coroner be contacted if human remains are discovered, and if human remains are deemed Native American in origin, that the Coroner contact the Native American Heritage Commission and identify a Most Likely Descendent pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5

##### **Project Modifications**

Implementation of the project modifications would require approximately 90 feet of trenching at a depth of up to 25 feet below grade to install the new pipeline. The alignment of the pipeline would be located in unpaved and paved areas near the entrance to the Japanese Garden. This area does not contain historical resources. Although unlikely given the previous disturbance and development of the site, ground disturbing activities during construction would have the potential to encounter previously undiscovered archaeological resources and human remains, which may include resources of Native American origin. Mitigation Measures CR-A and CR-C as identified in the 2016 EIR would be required to be implemented for the project modifications. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-A and CR-C, potential impacts to archaeological resources and disturbance of human remains would be less than significant.

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), enacted by Governor Jerry Brown on September 25, 2014, established a new category of protected resources under CEQA called tribal cultural resources. AB 52 requires that agencies consult with tribal representatives and consider tribal cultural values in addition to scientific and archaeological values when determining project impacts and mitigation measures during the planning process. AB 52 is applicable to projects that file a Notice of Preparation (NOP) on or after July 1, 2015. The NOP for the 2016 EIR, from which this Supplemental EIR is tiered, was filed on September 6, 2013. Therefore, no additional tribal consultation is required under AB 52 for the project modifications. With implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-A and CR-C, potential impacts to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant.



### 5.1.5 Geology and Soils

#### Approved Project

The 2016 EIR determined that compliance with all applicable building standards, codes, and regulations for geotechnical and seismic safety would ensure that impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, soil erosion, unstable soils, and expansive soils would be less than significant. Additionally, the 2016 EIR determined that there would be no impacts related to landslides or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

Potential impacts to paleontological resources were evaluated in the 2016 EIR in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources. The 2016 EIR determined that older alluvium deposits, which underlie the younger alluvium at unknown depths throughout the approved project site, may have the potential to contain significant fossil materials. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-B would be required to reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources. Mitigation Measure CR-B requires that a qualified paleontologist be contacted to evaluate and determine appropriate treatment of any paleontological deposits encountered during excavation.

#### Project Modifications

Similar to the proposed project, the project modifications would be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable building standards, codes, and regulations related to geotechnical and seismic safety. Additionally, the project modifications do not include the construction of any habitable structures. Therefore, impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, soil erosion, unstable soils, and expansive soils would be less than significant. Additionally, the project site is not susceptible to landslides, nor would alternative wastewater disposal systems be used; no impacts would occur.

According to the California Geological Survey, the DCTWRP property, which contains the project site, consists of alluvial basin deposits composed of modern deposits within an active flood plain.<sup>4</sup> Due to the age of these materials, the DCTWRP is considered to have low paleontological sensitivity. Nonetheless, Mitigation Measure CR-B would be implemented to ensure that impacts to any unanticipated paleontological resources encountered during ground disturbing activities would be less than significant.

### 5.1.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy

#### Approved Project

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions exceeding the SCAQMD threshold or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. The approved project would generate GHG emissions from energy use during construction and operations. However, the approved project would help offset imported water supplies, which would also offset the GHG emissions associated with importing water, resulting in an overall net reduction in GHG emissions.

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<sup>4</sup> California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazard Zone Report for the Van Nuys 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California, 1997, available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=regulatorymaps>, accessed February 12, 2024.

The 2016 EIR determined that neither construction nor operation of the approved project would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. During construction, the approved project would result in energy consumption through the combustion of fossil fuels in construction vehicles, worker commute vehicles, and construction equipment, and the use of electricity for temporary buildings, lighting, and other sources. Fossil fuels used for construction vehicles and other energy-consuming equipment would be used during site preparation, trenching, building construction, and equipment installation. The 2016 EIR concluded that adherence to local, state, and federal regulations would reduce short-term energy demand.

Operation of the approved project would result in energy consumption related to water treatment processes, building heating and cooling, lighting, electronics, and other equipment. However, the fundamental purpose of the approved project is to reduce the City's dependence on imported water sources, which would offset the electricity consumption associated with conveyance of imported water. Therefore, operation of the approved project would result in an energy savings.

### **Project Modifications**

Similar to the approved project, the project modifications would generate GHG emissions from energy use during construction. Given the limited nature and duration of construction required to implement the project modifications, construction GHG emissions would not be substantially increased beyond what was analyzed in the 2016 EIR. Operation of the project modifications would not generate GHG emissions over what is already generated during operation of the DCTWRP. Additionally, the project modifications would support the overall purpose of the approved project to reduce the City's dependence on imported water supply. Thus, the project modifications would contribute to an overall net reduction in GHG emissions during operation.

Construction of the project modifications would require the use of fuels (primarily gasoline and diesel) for the operation of construction equipment and vehicles to perform a variety of activities, including excavation, installation of the proposed pipeline and valves, and vehicle trips. As discussed previously, construction of the project modifications is anticipated to occur intermittently over a period of up to 3 months with a total of up to 10 active construction days. Additionally, the maximum daily number of vehicle trips estimated during construction would be 15 worker vehicle trips, 3 haul truck trips, and 2 delivery truck trips. Given the limited nature of the construction activities required, implementation of the project modifications is not anticipated to require a substantial increase in energy over what was analyzed in the 2016 EIR. Additionally, similar to the approved project, the project modifications would be required to adhere to all applicable local, state, and federal regulations regarding energy usage. Following construction, the project modifications would not require any additional energy resources beyond the power already used to operate the DCTWRP.

### **5.1.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

#### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. Construction would require limited use of hazardous materials, such as fuels and lubricants. During operation of the approved project, some additional chemical deliveries would be required for water treatment processes. All construction and operational activities involving the transportation, usage, and disposal of hazardous materials would be subject to federal, state, and local health and safety requirements. This would include the prevention of spills or leaks related to construction equipment and vehicles.

The only approved project component located within 0.25-mile of a school is the recycled water pipeline alignment. The handling of relatively minor amounts of hazardous materials during construction would be in compliance with applicable regulations. Furthermore, these minor amounts of hazardous materials (i.e., petroleum-based products, such as grease or motor oil) are not considered acutely hazardous, and the use of these materials would not occur for an extended period of time in any one area along the recycled water pipeline alignment. The impact would be less than significant during construction. No hazardous materials would be handled within 0.25-mile of a school during operation of the approved project.

Several hazardous materials sites are listed in proximity to the approved project components but not within the footprint of the approved facilities. While unlikely, should contaminated soils be encountered during construction, excavated material would be monitored and tested prior to disposal. Excavated material that is deemed hazardous would be subject to strict federal, state, and local regulations for its handling, transport and disposal. These activities would occur under the oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control, State Water Resources Control Board, and Los Angeles Fire Department. Adherence to federal, state, and local standards would minimize the risk to the public or the environment and the impact would be less than significant.

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not create a safety hazard from proximity to a public airport as the use of the site would be similar to existing conditions and the approved project site is not located within the safety zone of any nearby airports. Additionally, the approved project is not located near a private airstrip.

No road or lane closures would be required during construction activities for the approved project components at the DCTWRP. However, installation of the approved brine line and recycled water pipeline would require temporary lane closures along public roadways, which could impact emergency response time during the construction period. The approved project would coordinate with emergency service providers regarding construction schedules and worksite traffic control and detours plans to minimize short-term construction impacts to emergency response. Additionally, active construction areas within the right-of-way would be covered with metal plates during non-work hours. Operation of the approved project would not affect emergency response.

Due to the urbanized location of the approved project site, the 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not expose people or structures to risk of wildland fires, and no impact would occur.

### **Project Modifications**

Similar to the approved project, construction of the project modifications would involve the limited transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, such as fuels and lubricants. These types of materials are not acutely hazardous, and all storage, handling, and disposal of these materials would occur in conformance with applicable federal, State, and local regulations governing such activities. With adherence to existing regulations, construction of the project modifications would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. Operation of the project modifications would not require the use, transport, or storage of additional quantities or types of hazardous materials beyond those already used for operation of the DCTWRP.

There are no schools located within 0.25-mile of the project site; therefore, no impact related to hazardous materials near a school would occur. Additionally, the project site is not included on any hazardous waste site lists, including the Department of Toxic Substances Control's

EnviroStor database, which includes CORTESE sites, the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker site, the Environmental Protection Agency's database of regulated facilities, or other lists compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.<sup>5,6,7</sup> As such, the project modifications would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment, and no impact would occur.

Similar to the approved project, the project site is located within two miles of the Van Nuys Airport. However, the use of the site would be similar to existing conditions and, according to the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan, the Van Nuys Airport Influence Area and corresponding safety zone do not encompass any portion of the DCTWRP property.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, impacts related to safety hazards involving airports would be less than significant. No private airstrips are located near the project site.

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. Construction activities would be limited in duration and number of pieces of equipment, and no lane closures on public roads would be required. Therefore, the project modifications would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

The addition of a new valve within the Japanese Garden's outlet area and a buried pipeline between the Japanese Garden and DCTWRP would involve minor construction activities at the existing DCTWRP property. Operation of project modifications would not result in increased activities at the site beyond the existing routine and maintenance activities of the DCTWRP. Similar to the approved project, due to its urbanized location, the project modifications would not increase the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, and no impact would occur.

Based on the 2018 amendment to the State Guidelines, CEQA requires an analysis of a project's potential to result in impacts related to wildfire if it is located in or near a State Responsibility Area or lands classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. No portion of the DCTWRP property is located within a State Responsibility Area nor is it designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, no impacts related to wildfire would occur with implementation of the project modifications.

## 5.1.8 Land Use and Planning

### Approved Project

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not physically divide an established community. The components of the approved project would be located within the existing DCTWRP, Pacoima Spreading Grounds, and Hansen Spreading Grounds properties and

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<sup>5</sup> California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor Database, Search by Map Location, available at: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>, accessed February 13, 2024.

<sup>6</sup> California State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker Database, Search by Map Location, available at: <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/>, accessed February 13, 2024.

<sup>7</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, Envirofacts Database, available at: <https://enviro.epa.gov/>, accessed February 13, 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Airport Land Use Commission, 2004, Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan, Van Nuys Airport Influence Area Map, available at: <https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Los-Angeles-County-Airport-Land-Use-Plan.pdf>, accessed February 13, 2024.

<sup>9</sup> California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, What We Do, Fire and Resource Assessment Program, GIS Mapping and Data Analytics, Wildfire: Fuels, Hazard, and Risk, Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area Viewer, available at: <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>, accessed February 13, 2024.

pipelines would be installed underground within the existing road right-of-way. Additionally, the approved project would be consistent with all applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations.

### **Project Modifications**

The project modifications would be installed within the Japanese Garden portion of the DCTWRP property. As such, the project modifications would not have the potential to physically divide an established community. Additionally, the project modifications would be consistent with the existing uses at DCTWRP and no changes in land use or zoning would be required to implement the project modifications. Therefore, similar to the approved project, the project modifications would be consistent with all applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations.

#### **5.1.9 Mineral Resources**

##### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that, while portions of the approved project site are located within areas identified as containing known mineral resources, these areas are not used or developed for mining activities. Additionally, there are no active oil wells within the approved project site. Therefore, the approved project would not result in the loss of availability of a known regionally- or locally-important mineral resource. The 2016 EIR concluded that the approved project's impacts to mineral resources would be less than significant.

##### **Project Modifications**

The project modifications would be installed within the Japanese Garden portion of the DCTWRP property. No portion of the DCTWRP property is located within a known mineral resource area and no active oil wells are located within the property boundaries.<sup>10,11</sup> Therefore, no impacts to mineral resources would occur with implementation of the project modifications.

#### **5.1.10 Noise**

##### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that construction noise associated with a new warehouse in the northwest corner of the DCTWRP property would result in significant noise impacts at the Japanese Garden. Implementation of Mitigation Measures NOI-A through NOI-I would be required to reduce construction noise impacts associated with the warehouse. NOI-A through NOI-H would apply to all approved project components during construction and include measures such as requiring rubber-tired equipment and appointing a public liaison to address public concerns during construction. NOI-I would be implemented to address construction noise impacts at the Japanese Garden and requires that the site administrator for the Japanese Garden be consulted to discuss construction activities that may generate high noise levels. If construction-related noise interferes with an event at the Japanese Garden, Mitigation Measure NOI-I requires that the activity be stopped until the event is over or another construction technique be used that eliminates the noise disturbance. The 2016 EIR concluded that, even with implementation of Mitigation Measures

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<sup>10</sup> California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, 2021, Information Warehouse Mapper: Mineral Land Classification. *Updated Mineral Resource Zones for Portland Cement Concrete Aggregate in the San Fernando Valley and Saugus-Newhall Production-Consumption Regions*, available at: [https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Documents/Publications/Special-Reports/SR\\_254-MLC-SanFernandoValleySaugusNewhallPCR-2021-Plate01-MRZs-a11y.pdf](https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Documents/Publications/Special-Reports/SR_254-MLC-SanFernandoValleySaugusNewhallPCR-2021-Plate01-MRZs-a11y.pdf), accessed February 13, 2024.

<sup>11</sup> California Department of Conservation, CalGem, Wellfinder, available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/>, accessed, February 13, 2024.

NOI-A through NOI-I, construction noise impacts at the Japanese Garden would remain significant and unavoidable.

The equipment associated with construction of the warehouse component of the approved project would also result in a potentially significant vibration impact within a portion of the Japanese Garden. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-J would be required to reduce construction vibration impacts. Mitigation Measure NOI-J requires that the site administrator for the Japanese Garden be consulted to discuss construction activities that may generate perceptible vibration. If construction-related vibration interferes with an event at the Japanese Garden, Mitigation Measure NOI-J requires that the activity be stopped until the event is over or another construction technique be used that eliminates the perceptible vibration. The 2016 EIR concluded that implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-J would reduce construction vibration impacts at the Japanese Garden to less than significant.

### **Project Modifications**

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. Construction is anticipated to occur intermittently over a period of up to 3 months with a total of up to 10 active construction days. As such, construction noise and vibration impacts would be limited and temporary. However, due to the location of construction activity within the Japanese Garden, construction noise and vibration impacts would be considered significant. Similar to the approved project, the project modifications would be required to implement Mitigation Measures NOI-B through NOI-G and Mitigation Measures NOI-I and NOI-J. As construction of the project modifications are not anticipated to exceed three months in duration, and the project site is not located within 500 feet of land uses sensitive to increased nighttime noise levels, Mitigation Measures NOI-A and NOI-H would not be required. Implementation of Mitigation Measures NOI-B through NOI-G and Mitigation Measure NOI-I would reduce construction noise impacts. The Japanese Garden relies on a serene setting and is particularly sensitive to increased noise, especially instantaneous noise spikes. Therefore, similar to the approved project, because the project modifications would generate audible noise at the Japanese Garden, the construction noise impact would remain significant and unavoidable. This impact is similar to what was previously identified and analyzed in the 2016 EIR and does not represent a new significant impact.

Mitigation Measure NOI-J would prevent vibration from interfering with events at the Japanese Garden. Therefore, similar to the approved project, implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-J would ensure that construction vibration impacts associated with the project modifications would be less than significant.

#### **5.1.11 Population and Housing**

##### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not induce substantial population growth or displace housing. There are no existing housing units or residential uses within the approved project site. Implementation of the approved project would require both temporary construction workers and an additional 16 employees during operation. It is likely that both construction and operations workers would be from the local labor force and that relocation within the regional would be minimal. As such, the approved project would not directly induce substantial population growth or displace housing. Additionally, because the approved project is intended to replace existing imported supplies, it would not increase overall water supplies to the City in a manner that would indirectly induce substantial population growth.

## **Project Modifications**

There are no existing residential uses at the Japanese Garden. Therefore, the project modifications would not displace any existing people or housing. It is anticipated that up to 15 personnel would be required during construction of the project modifications and no additional employees would be required for operations. Similar to the approved project, the existing local labor supply would be sufficient to provide these temporary construction workers. Additionally, the project modifications would support the overall purpose of the approved project to reduce the City's dependence on imported water supply. Therefore, the project modifications would not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth.

### **5.1.12 Public Services**

#### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that temporary lane closures required for installation of the pipelines within the road rights-of-way could impact emergency response time and access during the construction period. The approved project would coordinate with emergency service providers regarding construction schedules and worksite traffic control and detour plans to minimize short-term construction impacts to emergency response. Additionally, construction activities would increase the potential for accidental on-site fires from such sources as the operation of mechanical equipment and use of flammable construction materials. The implementation of appropriate best management practices (BMPs), such as the appropriate storage of flammable materials, by the construction contractors and work crews would reduce these hazards to a less than significant level. With coordination with the Los Angeles Fire Department and Los Angeles Police Department and implementation of appropriate BMPs, construction-related impacts of the approved project to fire and police protection services would be less than significant.

As previously discussed, implementation of the approved project would require both temporary construction workers and an additional 16 employees during operation. It is likely that both construction and operations workers would be from the local labor force. The approved project would not generate a substantial number of new permanent residents that would increase the demand for fire and police protection services, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

#### **Project Modifications**

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. No lane closures on public roads would be required during construction of the project modifications. As such, the project modifications would not impact emergency response or access. Similar to the approved project, appropriate construction BMPs would be implemented to minimize the risk of accidental on-site fires. Therefore, construction-related impacts of the project modifications to fire and police protection services would be less than significant.

It is anticipated that up to 15 personnel would be required during construction of the project modifications and no additional permanent employees would be required for operations. Similar to the approved project, the existing local labor supply would be sufficient to provide these temporary construction workers. The project modifications would not generate a substantial number of new permanent residents that would increase the demand for fire and police protection services, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

### **5.1.13 Transportation and Traffic**

#### **Approved Project**

At the time the 2016 EIR was prepared, Level of Service (LOS) was used to evaluate CEQA impacts to transportation. The 2016 EIR determined that construction activities associated with installation of the recycled water pipeline within the road right-of-way, which would require temporary lane closures, would worsen LOS during the morning and/or evening peak hours. Implementation of Mitigation Measure TRA-A would be required to reduce potential impacts associated with installation of the recycled water pipeline within the road right-of-way. Mitigation Measure TRA-A requires the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in coordination with and subject to approval by the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT). The TMP would consist of traffic control plans, methods to inform the public about project construction and detours, and other measures, such as coordinating with transit service providers. The 2016 EIR concluded that, even with implementation of Mitigation Measure TRA-A, impacts to LOS would remain significant and unavoidable.

The temporary lane closures along public roadways during construction of the approved project could impact emergency access as vehicular access to intersecting streets along the pipeline alignment would be limited. The approved project would coordinate with emergency service providers regarding construction schedules and worksite traffic control and detour plans to minimize short-term construction impacts to emergency access. Additionally, active construction areas within the right-of-way would be covered with metal plates during non-work hours. Development of plans and consultation with emergency service providers would ensure that impacts related to emergency response and access during construction of the approved project would be less than significant. Operation of the approved project would not affect emergency response.

Construction activities for the approved project related to recycled water pipeline installation would require the temporary closure of up to two lanes of the roadway, including parking lanes, which may result in turn restrictions that could affect transit facilities. Construction activities are also anticipated to temporarily affect bicycle or pedestrian facilities. Mitigation Measure TRA-A, requiring preparation and implementation of a Traffic Management Plan, would be required. With implementation of Mitigation Measure TRA-A, the approved project's temporary construction impacts to transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities would be less than significant. No long-term impacts to such facilities would occur during operation of the approved project.

#### **Project Modifications**

Construction of the project modifications would occur within paved and unpaved areas near the entrance of the Japanese Garden within the DCTWRP property. No lane closures on public roads would be required during construction of the project modifications. As such, the project modifications would not impact emergency access or transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, and Mitigation Measure TRA-A would not be required.

A comprehensive update to the State CEQA Guidelines which implemented legislative changes to CEQA, became effective in 2018. One of the legislative changes includes Senate Bill 743, which required development of an alternative metric to LOS for determining significant impacts to the transportation system, with vehicle miles traveled (VMT) identified as the new metric in assessing impacts. The State CEQA Guideline changes also indicate that a project's effect on automobile delay (i.e., LOS) shall not constitute a significant environmental impact, except possibly when analyzing a transportation project. Therefore, an updated LOS analysis was not conducted for the project modifications.



The LADOT Transportation Assessment Guidelines establishes instructions and standards for preparation of transportation assessments in the City of Los Angeles.<sup>12</sup> LADOT has not established a significance threshold for construction impacts. Construction of the project modifications is anticipated to generate a maximum daily total of 15 worker vehicle trips, 3 haul truck trips, and 2 delivery truck trips. Due to the limited and temporary nature of construction traffic associated with the project modifications, and the relatively low increase in added traffic trips from construction workers, haul/delivery trucks, and equipment, a substantial increase in VMT is not anticipated to result from construction. During operation, the project modifications would require maintenance similar to existing conditions at the DCTWRP and would not generate additional vehicle trips during operation. Therefore, the project modifications would not result in significant transportation impacts.

#### **5.1.14 Utilities and Service Systems**

##### **Approved Project**

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements, require new water or wastewater treatment facilities, or require additional potable water supply. Construction of the approved project would require preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan outlining BMPs to be implemented to avoid or minimize runoff discharges into the LA River and other watercourses, as well as compliance the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements. Additionally, neither construction nor operation of the approved project would consume large amounts of water or generate large amounts of wastewater that would require the construction of new water or wastewater facilities. The approved project would help offset the use of imported water, resulting in a decrease in demand for local supplies of potable water.

Construction of the approved facilities within the DCTWRP could increase the rate of surface runoff, which is subject to the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit requirement for hydromodification. Compliance with the permit requirements would manage the amount of runoff generated onsite to acceptable levels that would protect the downstream watercourse. Following the completion of construction of the approved project, storm water flows would be routed through existing infrastructure. As such, the approved project would not require or result in the construction of new or expanded storm water drainage facilities.

Construction of the approved project would generate solid waste in the form of excavated material and debris. Non-recyclable construction waste would be disposed of at an area landfill approved to accept such waste. Additionally, the approved project would be required to incorporate source reduction techniques and recycling measures in accordance with the Citywide Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Ordinance. Operation of the approved project would generate limited quantities of solid waste. The approved project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, which would ensure that impacts of the approved project are less than significant.

##### **Project Modifications**

Development of the project modifications would involve installation of approximately 90 feet of pipeline linking the existing outlet pipeline of the Japanese Garden Lake to the existing intake pipeline routing recycled water to the DCTWRP headwork facility. Neither construction nor operation of the project modifications would require additional water supplies, generate

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<sup>12</sup> City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Transportation Assessment Guidelines, July 2019, available at: [https://ladot.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ta\\_guidelines\\_-20190731\\_0.pdf](https://ladot.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ta_guidelines_-20190731_0.pdf).

wastewater, or result in changes to drainage patterns from the site. Limited excavation would be required to install the proposed pipeline. Excavated materials would be stored onsite and reused as backfill following the pipeline installation. As such, construction of the project modifications would not generate substantial solid waste that would need to be disposed of at an offsite landfill.

Operation of the project modifications would not require additional employees at the DCTWRP that would increase the demand for potable water supply or generate solid waste. Additionally, the project modifications would help offset the use of imported water, resulting in a decrease in demand for local supplies of potable water. Therefore, the project modifications would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems.

## **5.2 Mitigation Measures Applicable to the Project Modifications**

The mitigation measures listed below are from the 2016 EIR and would be applicable, as necessary, to the project modifications.

### **Air Quality**

**AQ-A** The City shall ensure that diesel-powered construction equipment greater than 50 horsepower meets the USEPA Tier 3 emission standards.

### **Biological Resources**

**BIO-A** The following measures shall be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats:

1. Work areas shall be clearly delineated with fencing or other boundary markers prior to start of construction.
2. The project limits shall be clearly marked on project maps provided to the construction contractor(s) by the City, and areas outside of the project limits shall be designated as “no construction” zones. A construction manager shall be present during all construction activities to ensure that work is limited to designated project limits.
3. During construction, construction workers shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the designated construction limits.
4. During construction, all equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other such activities shall occur in designated areas outside of jurisdictional wetlands or waters and within the fenced project limits. Fueling of equipment shall take place within existing paved areas greater than 100 feet from water features. Contractor equipment shall be checked daily for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary.
5. During construction, the construction work zone shall be kept as clean of debris as possible to avoid attracting predators of sensitive wildlife. All food-related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and removed daily from the work zone.
6. Pet of project personnel shall not be allowed on the project site during construction.
7. Disposal or temporary placement of excess fill, brush, or other debris shall be strictly prohibited in or along the banks or water features during construction. Stockpile areas shall be designated prior to the start of construction and shall be locked in disturbed areas presently lacking vegetation and delineated on grading

plans.

8. Prior to the start of construction, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared to reduce the potential for accidental releases of fuel, pesticides, and other materials. This plan shall outline refueling locations, emergency response procedures, and reporting requirements. During construction, equipment for immediate cleanup shall be kept on-site. This plan shall also include erosion control measure to control surface runoff, erosion, and sedimentation outside of the project footprints.

**BIO-B** If feasible, the clearance of vegetation during construction activities shall occur outside of the nesting bird season (generally February 15 through September 15). If avoidance of construction within this time period is not feasible, the following additional measures shall be employed:

1. A pre-construction nesting survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 3 days prior to the start of construction activities to determine whether active nests are present within or directly adjacent to the construction zone. All nests found shall be recorded.
2. If construction activities must occur within 300 feet of an active nest of any passerine bird or within 500 feet of an active nest of any raptor, a qualified biologist shall monitor the nest on a weekly basis and the construction activity shall be postponed until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.
3. If the recommended nest avoidance zone is not feasible, the qualified biologist shall determine whether an exception is possible and obtain concurrence from the appropriate resource agency before construction work can resume within the avoidance buffer zone. All work shall cease within the avoidance buffer zone until either agency concurrence is obtained or the biologist determines that the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site.

### **Cultural Resources**

**CR-A** A qualified archaeological consultant shall conduct training of construction personnel and supervisory staff on possible archaeological resources that may be present in the area in order to establish an understanding of what to look for during ground-disturbing activities and apprise them of appropriate handling of such resources. In the event archaeological resources are encountered, the City shall be notified immediately and work in the vicinity of the discovery shall be halted until appropriate treatment of the resource is determined by a qualified archaeological Principal Investigator in accordance with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The archaeological Principal Investigator shall have the authority to redirect construction equipment and activities in the event potential archaeological resources are encountered. Work may continue on other parts of the project while consultation and treatment are conducted. If prehistoric archaeological sites are encountered within the project area, a trained Native American consultant shall be engaged to monitor ground-disturbing work in the area containing the Native American cultural resources. This monitoring shall occur on an as-needed basis and shall be intended to ensure that Native American concerns are taken into account during the construction process.

**CR-C** If human remains are discovered, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall immediately be suspended and the Los Angeles County Coroner shall be contacted. If the remains are deemed Native American in origin, the Coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and identify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and CCR Section 15064.5. Work may commence only after consultation and treatment have been concluded. Work may continue on other parts of the project while consultation and treatment are conducted.

### **Geology and Soils**

**CR-B** If paleontological deposits are encountered during excavation, the City would contact a qualified paleontologist to evaluate and determine appropriate treatment for the resource in accordance with California Public Resource Code Section 21083.2(i). If any paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work would be temporarily halted in the vicinity of the find and the paleontologist would be called to the Project site to examine and evaluate the resource in accordance with the provisions of CEQA. Work may continue on other parts of the project while consultation and treatment are conducted.

### **Noise**

**NOI-B** Construction equipment shall be properly maintained and equipped with mufflers.

**NOI-C** Rubber-tired equipment, rather than tracked equipment, shall be used when feasible.

**NOI-D** Equipment shall be turned off when not in use for an excess of five minutes, except for equipment that requires idling to maintain performance.

**NOI-E** A public liaison shall be appointed for project construction who would be responsible for addressing public concerns about construction activities, including excessive noise. As needed, the liaison shall determine the cause of the concern (e.g., starting too early, bad muffler) and implement measures to address the concern.

**NOI-F** The public shall be notified in advance of the location and dates of construction hours and activities.

**NOI-G** Truck routes shall be limited to major arterial roads located within non-residential areas, when feasible.

**NOI-I** The site administrator for the Japanese Garden shall be consulted to discuss construction activities associated with the warehouse that may generate high noise levels (e.g., heavy-duty equipment activity near the warehouse). If construction-related noise interferes with an event at the Japanese Garden, the activity shall be stopped until the event is over, or another construction technique is used that eliminates the noise disturbance.

**NOI-J** The site administrator for the Japanese Garden shall be consulted to discuss construction activities associated with the warehouse that may generate perceptible vibration (e.g., heavy-duty equipment activity). If construction-related vibration interferes with an event at the Japanese Garden, the activity shall be stopped until the

event is over, or another construction technique is used that eliminates perceptible vibration.

### **5.3 Significant and Irreversible Environmental Changes**

Public Resources Code Section 21100(b)(2)(B) and Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze the extent to which the project's primary and secondary effects would create significant irreversible environmental changes and make irretrievable commitments of nonrenewable resources.

The construction of the project modifications would result in the use of nonrenewable resources, including fossil fuels and pipeline materials. However, the project modifications are limited in nature and do not represent an uncommon construction project that uses an extraordinary amount of raw material in comparison to other development projects of similar scope and magnitude. As described in Section 5.1.5, Energy, operation of the project modifications would not consume additional energy beyond what is already required to operate the DCTWRP. Additionally, the production and use of recycled water is more energy efficient than imported potable water. Therefore, the project modifications are not anticipated to consume substantial amounts of energy in a wasteful manner. Additionally, as discussed in 5.1.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the project modifications would help offset imported water supplies, which would also offset the GHG emissions associated with importing water, resulting in an overall net reduction in energy usage and GHG emissions. No significant irreversible environmental changes would result from the project modifications.

### **5.4 Growth-Inducing Impacts**

Section 15125.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of the ways in which a project could induce growth. This includes ways in which a project would foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.

Induced growth is any growth that exceeds planned growth and results from new development that would not have taken place without the implementation of the project modifications. Typically, the growth-inducing potential of a project would be considered significant if it resulted in growth or population concentration that exceeds those assumptions included in pertinent master plans, land use plans, or projections made by regional planning authorities. However, the creation of growth-inducing potentials does not automatically lead to growth, whether it would be below or in exceedance of a projected level.

Any environmental effects of induced growth would be secondary or indirect impacts of the project modifications. Secondary effects of growth could result in significant, adverse environmental impacts, which could include increased demand on community public services, increased traffic and noise, degradation of air and water quality, and conversion of agricultural land and open space to developed uses.

As discussed in Chapter 2, Project Description, the project modifications would involve installation of approximately 90 feet of pipeline linking the existing outlet pipeline of the Japanese Garden Lake to the existing intake pipeline routing recycled water to the DCTWRP headwork facility. The project modifications include recirculation of the Japanese Garden Lake water to the DCTWRP treatment facilities which would provide influent of recycled water to the AWPf to generate sufficient purified water effluent to meet the needs of non-potable reuse customers and the groundwater replenishment program, as described in the 2016 EIR. The project modifications

would not include the construction of any residential uses or other uses that would result in an increase in the population of the project area. The project modifications would require up to 15 temporary construction workers and no additional operations workers. As such, the project modifications would not stimulate significant employment, involve the development of new housing, or significantly affect the economy of the region. Therefore, the project modifications would not result in a direct significant growth-inducing impact in the project area.

The fundamental purpose of the approved project in the 2016 EIR is to help reduce the City's dependence on imported water sources by increasing the local groundwater supply available for potable use. The project modifications would support the fundamental purpose of the approved project and help offset imported water supplies, thereby supplementing the City of Los Angeles' local potable water supply and increasing system reliability and sustainability. The project modifications would not increase overall water supplies to the City in a manner that would induce population growth. Therefore, the project modifications would not indirectly result in a significant growth-inducing impact.

## **5.5 Alternatives**

Alternatives to the approved project were considered in the 2016 EIR to explore potential means to mitigate or avoid the significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the approved project while still achieving the primary objectives of the project. Pursuant to Section 15126.6(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.

The 2016 EIR determined that the approved project would result in temporary significant impacts related to air quality, noise, and traffic during construction. Impacts would be less than significant for all other environmental factors during construction of the approved project, and there would be no significant impacts created during operation of the approved project. A range of alternatives was evaluated in the 2016 EIR to identify means by which environmental impacts related to implementation of the approved project could be lessened to the extent practicable. From the alternatives to the approved project that were considered, the 2016 EIR included analyses of two alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, a requirement under CEQA.

As discussed in Chapter 1, Introduction, the project modifications require only minor additions and changes to the 2016 EIR and, pursuant to Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Supplemental EIR only needs to contain information necessary to analyze the project modifications that triggered the requirement for additional environmental review. The purpose of an alternatives analysis in an EIR is to identify alternatives to a project that would avoid or lessen the significant impacts associated with a project while achieving the primary objectives of the project. As demonstrated throughout this Supplemental EIR, implementation of the project modifications would not result in any new significant environmental impacts or require new or additional mitigation measures beyond what was identified for the approved project in the 2016 EIR. Additionally, the project modifications would support the overall purpose of the approved project to help reduce the City's dependence on imported water supply. As such, no new alternatives need to be identified to avoid or substantially lessen impacts associated with implementation of the project modifications, and no additional analysis of alternatives beyond those identified in the 2016 EIR is required.

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## CHAPTER 6 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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2016 EIR	Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project Environmental Impact Report
Approved project	Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project
AWPF	Advanced Water Purification Facility
Basin Plan	Los Angeles Region Basin Plan
BMP	Best Management Practice
BWRP	Burbank Water Reclamation Plan
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act of 1970
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CIRP	California Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants
City	City of Los Angeles
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
COMM	Commercial and Sport Fishing
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
County	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
CRPR	California Rare Plant Ranks
CWA	Clean Water Act
DCTWRP	Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant
E285	Gaging Station located at Burbank Western Storm Drain
EPA SWMM	US Environmental Protection Agency's Storm Water Management Model
EST	Estuarine Habitat
F252	Gaging Station located at Verdugo Wash
F300	River Station 195289.1
F319	River Station 20500
F57C	Gaging Station located in Los Angeles River

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
Flows Project	Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Project
ft	feet
ft/s	feet per second
GLEN	River Station 156292.5
GWR	Groundwater Recharge
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System
HSG and PSG area	Eastern part of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin
IND	Industrial Service Supply
Industrial General Permit	General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
ITP	Incidental take permit
kg/day	kilogram per day
LA 13	River Station 161377.1
LA 14	River Station 169392.4
LA River	Los Angeles River
LACPW	Los Angeles County Public Works
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
LAGWRP	Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant
LARWQCB Basin Plan	LARWQCB Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LASAN	Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation and Environment
LID	low impact development
MAR	Marine Habitat
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mg/L	milligrams per liter



MGD	Million gallons a day
MIGR	Migration of Aquatic Organisms
mL	100 millimeters
MPN	most probable number
MS4	Municipal Storm Water Permitting Program
MUN	Municipal and Domestic Water Supply
N	nitrogen
NAV	Navigation
Nitrogen compounds	ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate
NMFS	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service
NO <sub>2</sub> -N	Nitrite-nitrogen
NO <sub>3</sub>	nitrate
NO <sub>3</sub> -N	Nitrate-nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NWI	USFWS National Wetlands Inventory
pH	potential of hydrogen
Porter-Cologne	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
PROC	Industrial Process Supply
project modifications	modifications to the approved project
RARE	Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species
REC-1	Water Contact Recreation
REC-2	Non-Contact Water Recreation
RS	River Station
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCCWRP	Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
SEA	Griffith Park Significant Ecological Area
SEP	Sepulveda Gaging Station
SFB	San Fernando Groundwater Basin

SHELL	Shellfish Harvesting
SNMP	Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
SPWN	Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development
SSC	California Species of Special Concern
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TDS	total dissolved solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geologic Survey
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WARM	Warm Freshwater Habitat
WDR	waste discharge requirements
WET	Wetland Habitat
WILD	Wildlife Habitat
WL	CDFW Watch List
WY	Water Year

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## CHAPTER 7

### LIST OF PREPARERS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

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## CHAPTER 8 REFERENCES

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### **ES Executive Summary**

No references were used.

### **1 Introduction**

No references were used.

### **2 Project Description**

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Programs, Basin Plan, available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/), accessed September 3, 2024.

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## **6 Acronyms and Abbreviations**

No references were used.

## **7 List of Preparers and Persons Consulted**

No references were used.