

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Introduction

The Los Angeles Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was distributed on April 19, 2012, for a 30-day public review period pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its implementing guidelines. The public review period concluded on May 21, 2012. The MND was distributed to interested or involved public agencies and organizations for review. The MND was also made available for general public review at the Granada Hills Branch Public Library (10640 Petit Avenue, Granada Hills) and the Sylmar Branch Public Library (14561 Polk Street, Sylmar). In addition, the MND was available online at: <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>.

During this public review period, a total of five comment letters or emails were received. Each letter (or email) has been assigned a number code, and individual comments in each letter have also been coded to facilitate responses. For example, the letter from the Native American Heritage Commission is identified as Comment Letter 2, with comments noted at 2-1, 2-2, etc. Copies of each comment letter are provided prior to the response to each letter. Comments that raise issues not directly related to the substance of the environmental analysis in the MND are noted but, in accordance with CEQA, did not receive a detailed response.

Responses to Written Comments That Address Environmental Issues in the MND

The written comment letters and emails received on the MND are listed in Table 1 below. The comments and associated responses are arranged by the date of receipt of the comment letter or email. The individual comments in the letters have been numbered and are referred to in the responses that directly follow the comment letter.

Table 1 List of Written Comment Letters Received in Response to MND

Letter #	Agency/Organization/Individual	Date	Page # of Response
1	City of Los Angeles Department of Planning <i>Signed: Anita Cerna</i>	April 20, 2012	3
2	Native American Heritage Commission <i>Signed: Dave Singleton</i>	May 1, 2012	8
3	Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council <i>Signed: Anne Ziliak</i>	May 20, 2012	15
4	City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation <i>Signed: Sergio Valdez</i>	May 21, 2012	29
5	State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse <i>Signed: Scott Morgan</i>	May 21, 2012	32

Comment Letter 1

From: Anita Cerna [<mailto:anita.cerna@lacity.org>]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 9:32 AM
To: Chung, Nancy
Subject: NOI and MND for the LA Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project

Hi Nancy.

I just want to bring it to your attention that the reservoir is not located in Sylmar but in the community of Granada Hills-Knollwood within the City of Los Angeles. The project description states that it is in the Sylmar area.

1-1

Take care.

--

Anita Cerna
City Planner
dcp | policy planning | valley
mail 6262 van nuys blvd., rm 430 van nuys, ca 91401
p: 818.374.5042 | f: 818.374.9955
e: anita.cerna@lacity.org

Letter 1: City of Los Angeles Department of Planning

Response 1-1

As stated in the comment, the MND incorrectly states in several instances that the VNC is located in the Sylmar area of Los Angeles, which abuts the Van Norman Complex (VNC) to the east. However, in numerous instances (pages 2-1, 3-1, 3-3, 3-34, and 3-39), the VNC is correctly identified as being located within the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan area. The MND correctly references the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan in relation to land use or other pertinent issues.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
 (916) 653-6251
 Fax (916) 657-5390
 Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
 ds_nahc@pacbell.net



May 1, 2012

Mr. Charles C. Holloway, Manager of Environmental Planning & Assessment

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Attn: Nancy Chung

111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: SCH#2012041054 CEQA Notice of Completion; proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the for the "Los Angeles Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project;" located on 1,340-acres near the Community of Granda Hills ; Los Angeles County, California.

Dear Mr. Holloway:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the State of California 'Trustee Agency' for the protection and preservation of Native American cultural resources pursuant to California Public Resources Code §21070 and affirmed by the Third Appellate Court in the case of EPIC v. Johnson (1985: 170 Cal App. 3rd 604).

This letter includes state and federal statutes relating to Native American historic properties of religious and cultural significance to American Indian tribes and interested Native American individuals as 'consulting parties' under both state and federal law. State law also addresses the freedom of Native American Religious Expression in Public Resources Code §5097.9.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – CA Public Resources Code 21000-21177, amendments effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as 'a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ... objects of historic or aesthetic significance.' In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. The NAHC did not conduct a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search within the 'area of potential effect (APE) due to the absence of the United States Geological Service (USGS) coordinates.

The NAHC "Sacred Sites," as defined by the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Legislature in California Public Resources Code §§5097.94(a) and 5097.96. Items in the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory are confidential and exempt from the Public Records Act pursuant to California Government Code §6254 (r).

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources or burial sites once a project is underway. Culturally affiliated tribes and individuals may have knowledge of the religious and cultural

2-1

2-2

significance of the historic properties in the project area (e.g. APE). We strongly urge that you make contact with the list of Native American Contacts on the attached list of Native American contacts, to see if your proposed project might impact Native American cultural resources and to obtain their recommendations concerning the proposed project. Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code § 5097.95, the NAHC requests cooperation from other public agencies in order that the Native American consulting parties be provided pertinent project information. Consultation with Native American communities is also a matter of environmental justice as defined by California Government Code §65040.12(e). Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code §5097.95, the NAHC requests that pertinent project information be provided consulting tribal parties. The NAHC recommends *avoidance* as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370(a) to pursuing a project that would damage or destroy Native American cultural resources and Section 2183.2 that requires documentation, data recovery of cultural resources.

Furthermore, the NAHC if the proposed project is under the jurisdiction of the statutes and regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (e.g. NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321-43351). Consultation with tribes and interested Native American consulting parties, on the NAHC list, should be conducted in compliance with the requirements of federal NEPA and Section 106 and 4(f) of federal NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq*), 36 CFR Part 800.3 (f) (2) & .5, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CSQ, 42 U.S.C 4371 *et seq.* and NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) as appropriate. The 1992 *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including cultural landscapes. Also, federal Executive Orders Nos. 11593 (preservation of cultural environment), 13175 (coordination & consultation) and 13007 (Sacred Sites) are helpful, supportive guides for Section 106 consultation. The aforementioned Secretary of the Interior's *Standards* include recommendations for all 'lead agencies' to consider the historic context of proposed projects and to "research" the cultural landscape that might include the 'area of potential effect.'

2-2
Cont.

Confidentiality of "historic properties of religious and cultural significance" should also be considered as protected by California Government Code §6254(r) and may also be protected under Section 304 of he NHPA or at the Secretary of the Interior discretion if not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary may also be advised by the federal Indian Religious Freedom Act (cf. 42 U.S.C., 1996) in issuing a decision on whether or not to disclose items of religious and/or cultural significance identified in or near the APEs and possibility threatened by proposed project activity.

Furthermore, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, California Government Code §27491 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for inadvertent discovery of human remains mandate the processes to be followed in the event of a discovery of human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery'.

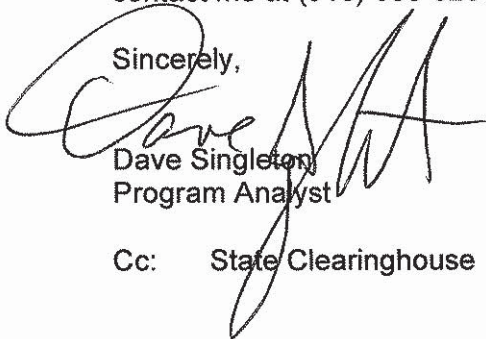
To be effective, consultation on specific projects must be the result of an ongoing relationship between Native American tribes and lead agencies, project proponents and their contractors, in the opinion of the NAHC. Regarding tribal consultation, a relationship built around regular meetings and informal involvement with local tribes will lead to more qualitative consultation tribal input on specific projects.

2-3

Finally, when Native American cultural sites and/or Native American burial sites are prevalent within the project site, the NAHC recommends 'avoidance' of the site as referenced by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(a).

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contact List

Native American Contacts

Los Angeles County

May 1, 2012

Beverly Salazar Folkes
1931 Shadybrook Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
folkes@msn.com
805 492-7255
(805) 558-1154 - cell

Chumash
Tataviam
Fernandeño

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Delia Dominguez, Chairperson
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305
deedominguez@juno.com
(626) 339-6785

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Ronnie Salas, Cultural Preservation Department
601 South Brand Boulevard, Suite 102
San Fernando CA 91340
rsalas@tataviam-nsn.gov
(818) 837-0794 Office

Fernandeno
Tataviam

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
John Valenzuela, Chairperson

P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA 91322
tsen2u@hotmail.com
(661) 753-9833 Office
(760) 885-0955 Cell
(760) 949-1604 Fax

Fernandeño
Tataviam
Serrano
Vanyume
Kitanemuk

(818) 837-0796 Fax

LA City/County Native American Indian Comm
Ron Andrade, Director
3175 West 6th St, Rm. 403
Los Angeles, CA 90020
randrade@css.lacounty.gov
(213) 351-5324
(213) 386-3995 FAX

Randy Guzman - Folkes
6471 Cornell Circle
Moorpark, CA 93021
ndnRandy@yahoo.com
(805) 905-1675 - cell

Chumash
Fernandeño
Tataviam
Shoshone Paiute
Yaqui

Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
John Tommy Rosas, Tribal Admin.
Private Address
Gabrielino Tongva

tattnlaw@gmail.com
310-570-6567

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2012041054; CEQA Notice of Completion proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Los Angeles Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project; located on 1,340-acres in the Granda Hills area of Los Angeles county, California.

Letter 2: Native American Heritage Commission

Response 2-1

The comment presents introductory remarks and does not address specific issues or concerns related to the adequacy of the environmental impact analysis in the Draft MND. No response is necessary.

Response 2-2

An MND was prepared for the Los Angeles Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project. However, it was determined in the MND that the proposed project would not create a significant impact to a historical resource. See Section V(a) on pages 3-17 and 3-18 of the MND for a detailed discussion of impacts to historical resources and identification of the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

As stated on page 3-19 of the MND, “a Native American contact program was conducted to determine if the project area may contain sacred lands. A letter was prepared and mailed to the Native American Heritage Commission requesting that a Sacred Lands File check be conducted for the proposed project and that contact information be provided for Native American groups or individuals that may have concerns about cultural resources in the project area. The Sacred Lands File search did not identify any Native American cultural resources within 0.5-mile radius of the project area.” However, as explained in Section V(b) on page 3-18 through 3-20 of the MND, 10 prehistoric and one multi-component site have been previously recorded within the Van Norman Complex (VNC). Additionally, resources have been found during recent construction monitoring within the VNC and included three sites: VNCS 1 consists of isolated prehistoric artifacts recorded as a single prehistoric site; VNCS 2 includes a prehistoric and archaeological site; and VNCS 2-1 is a historic refuse deposit. Therefore, Section V(b) of the MND concluded that “although no archaeological resources have been previously recorded within the project area itself, it is possible that subsurface archaeological materials may be present.”

Ground disturbing activities in previously undisturbed soils undertaken within the VNC are governed by Permanent (Q) Qualified Conditions of City Plan Case No. 90-0596, which require observation by archaeological and Native American monitors during all subsurface excavation work. In addition, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, in the event that archaeological materials are encountered during ground disturbing activities, the construction contractor would be required to cease activity in the affected area until the discovery can be evaluated by a qualified cultural archaeologist (see pages 3-19 and 3-20 of the MND).

Response 2-3

As discussed in Section V(d) on page 3-21 of the MND, no formal cemeteries or other places of human internment are known to exist within the project site. “No evidence of human remains was observed on the surface during site surveys within the VNC property (see Appendix D [of the MND]). In addition, as discussed in Section V(b) above, a Sacred Lands File search and Native American contact program were conducted for the proposed project.” The Sacred Lands File search did not identify any Native American cultural resources within 0.5-mile radius of the project area. Therefore, human remains are not expected to be encountered during construction. In the event that any human remains or related resources are discovered, such resources would be treated in accordance with state and local regulations and guidelines for disclosure, recovery, relocation, and preservation, as appropriate, including CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e). If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted and a Most Likely Descendent identified.

Response 2-4

The comment provides a list of Native American contacts in support of Comments 2-2 and 2-3 above. See Responses 2-2 and 2-3 above.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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**GRANADA HILLS
NORTH
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL**

11862 Balboa Boulevard #137
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Telephone (818) 360-4346
www.ghnnc.org

May 20, 2012

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street Room 1044
Los Angeles, California 90012
FAX: (213) 367-4710

RE: Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Los Angeles Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project.

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC) was certified by the City of Los Angeles on September 10, 2002, and has had a duly elected and installed Board of Directors since March 31, 2003. The area it represents and services is bounded by the Los Angeles City/County line and I-5 (Golden State Freeway) to the north, the 405 (San Diego Freeway) to the east, the 118 (Ronald Reagan Freeway) to the south, and to Aliso Canyon in the west. It is composed of 3 districts. District 1 - Sunshine Canyon Landfill, District 2 - DWP/MWD, and District 3 – All Residential Areas to the south encompassing approximately 28,600 stakeholders.

3-1

Apart from our other comments on the MND which follow, the DWP needs to add all of the Neighborhood Councils to their list for distribution of all documents and notifications for any and all projects that fall inside their respective boundaries including those of any adjacent Neighborhood Councils which adjoin the project area.

3-2

Due to a lack of proper notification we have lost 15 days of the 30 days for comments to the MND. Additionally, since Neighborhood Councils are official entities approved by the City of Los Angeles, we are required to act under the Brown Act including the need for us to generate agendas and public meetings along with the appropriate posting guidelines. This has resulted in our Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) having to submit comments prior to our regularly scheduled meeting on May 21, 2012, and prior to our full Board Meeting which is scheduled for May 29, 2012 without benefit of having DWP personnel address our respective bodies on this issue.

3-3

Respectfully,

Anne Ziliak, Vice President and Planning and Land Use Chair, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
For Leon Marziller, President, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

Enclosure

GHNNC COMMENTS
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE LOS ANGELES RESERVOIR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
DATED APRIL 2012

Project Description

As provided in the cover letter dated April 20, 2012 of the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the project description indicates that DWP proposes to make improvements to Bull Creek Extension Channel and that this is being undertaken to comply with updated drinking water quality regulations promulgated by the EPA.

This project description and the subject statement infers that the Bull Creek Extension Channel constitutes the entire Water Quality Improvement Project which does not comport with the realities of the project envisioned by the DWP to improve the water quality as mandated by the EPA.

The DWP by this action has instituted a program which constitutes incremental approval of the entire project which is a violation of CEQA. Namely, the program for the Los Angeles Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project at one point involved the placing of approximately 78 million black plastic balls on the Los Angeles Reservoir in 2013, the relocation of the Bull Creek Extension Channel, the construction of two smaller covered reservoirs between the relocated channel and Woodley Avenue, the taking out of service of the Los Angeles Reservoir and dividing it in two and covering it in 2020.

3-4

Although we understand that there have been changes, elements of that program still exist and the public has not been notified of said changes. Further, the DWP has started construction of a new water treatment facility (again the public has not been notified), and we understand that a second facility is also being planned, again with no public notification.

Section 1.1, Project Description

The same comments apply as included above under Project Description.

Section 1.2, California Environmental Quality Act

The same comments apply as included above under Project Description.

3-5

Section 1.5, Project Objectives

The same comments apply as included above under Project Description.

Section 1.6 Description of the Proposed Project Construction

The same comments apply as included above under Project Description.

Figure 3, Overview of Proposed Improvements

This figure on pages 1 - 8 indicates that the DWP plans to stockpile dirt in two areas west of the Bull Creek channel and directly behind the homes on Woodley Avenue. Stockpiling indicates a temporary condition, and that this material will be removed. The only discussion occurs under 1.6, Description of the Proposed Project Construction on Page 1-7, paragraph 2 which states that “*any excess earth material would be stockpiled within the VNC, including within the Lower Debris Basin, ravines along western*

3-6

perimeter of the complex, or other areas.” There appears to be no other individual discussion of the results of the Fugitive Dust Stockpiling analysis included under Appendix C in the MND of the impacts of placing and removing of this particular material, some of which is located in close proximity to residents. Further, there is no discussion of the final disposition of this material when finally removed. As the DWP well knows this part of Granada Hills is subject to very high wind conditions, which can arise with little or no warning, and that conditions here are not reflected by the Reseda Wind Monitoring Station which is 11 miles southwest of the project. Why was Complex Terrain Modeling not used in this area when determining the dispersion of particulate matter? Dispersion of stockpiles of soil to some “other areas” is totally unacceptable, not only for the reasons already given, but the fact that the failure of the MND to address all of these other areas where this material might be potentially be placed, deprives the public of the ability to assess the true impacts of the project.

3-6
Cont.

1.7 Construction Schedule and Procedures

Under number 2 it states that the construction contractor would be required to utilized at least one of the following measures at each vehicle egress from the project site to a paved public road. The statement seems to anticipate that there may be more than one egress. According the Traffic Analysis there is only one ingress/egress that was analyzed, and that is on Sepulveda Boulevard. The statement should be modified to reflect Sepulveda Boulevard. Also there are two potential ingress/egress points to DWP property located on Sepulveda Boulevard. Which one is planned to be used, and what is the planned route through DWP property to reach the proposed construction site? A statement should be included in the MND that indicate that only one ingress/egress location for all construction related activities will be used, and in no event will Balboa Boulevard or Rinaldi Street ever be used for ingress or egress.

3-7

Under the last bullet point on Page 1-14 it states that: “*Construction would comply with the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance which limits the hours of construction to between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday*” et cetera, yet in the list of required permits that follows in Section 1.8 Required Permits and Approvals it fails to indicate that a permit would be required as it would be a violation under 41.40 LAMC – Construction Noise, for engaging in construction, repair, or excavation work with any construction type device, or job-site delivering of construction materials without a Police Commission permit (emphasis added).

3-8

1.8 Required Permits and Approvals

A full list of any additional discretionary permits potentially required should be included including the agencies and the permits required that would use this MND. Also see our comment above in the last paragraph regarding at least one of these permits. If a hearing/meeting in which the respective permit or other discretionary approvals is applied for will it be the project proponent who is responsible for notifying the public or will it be the respective agency? Who in each case would be responsible for notifying the public and how far would that notification if given extend (i.e. 500-foot property boundaries)?

3-9

Section 1.8 Required Permits and Approvals

Same comment as in last paragraph above.

3-10

Section III Air Quality

Table 1 Regional Construction Emissions

This table lists the unmitigated pounds per day of the various emissions. Immediately following is a statement that by implementing various AQ measures there would be reductions in various emissions. This forces the public to look backward and forward between a chart and written words in order to try and assess the mitigated impacts. This presentation is totally unsatisfactory and a second table of the mitigated impacts should be provided and/or a combined table showing emissions before, the reductions, and the remaining emissions.

3-11

(d), Exposure sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant?

On page 3-8 and 3-9 it indicates that the impacts would be less than significant. It indicates that single-family residences located to the west and the Granada Hills Youth Recreation Center located to the northwest would be the most impacted, along with additional sensitive receptors located farther from the project site that would be less impacted. This does not comport with the Air Quality Report in Appendix D, prepared for AECOM which states under 3.3.4, page 26 that: *“As shown in Figure 3-3, sensitive receptors near the project site include single-family residences located on the bluff adjacent, and to the west, and the Granada Hills Youth Recreation Center located approximately 485 feet to the northwest”* (emphasis and punctuation added). The MND goes on to say that the AERMOD dispersion model indicated that the maximum concentrations would occur at the exterior of the single-family residences along “Knollbrook Drive” (sic). There is no such street in Granada Hills. Do you mean Knollwood Drive? However, in reviewing Figure 3-3 Receptor Locations under 3.4.1 Methodology, page 27 of the Air Quality Report in Appendix D, prepared for AECOM it appears that the street in question may have been Woodley Avenue in which it starts (for our purposes) it starts at Rinaldi Street in the south, heads north before eventually turning westward to join Balboa Boulevard. In either case the comments apply equally to both. The MND included Appendix D, Localized Construction Modeling for PM_{2.5} Analysis which only has some coordinates, and does not name any streets. This is totally useless information for informing the public. Figure 3-3 Receptor Locations under 3.4.1 Methodology, page 27 are of poor quality, lack color, definition and appear to only show one level of potential impact.. Graphic data must be made available of sufficient clarity and include all level of impacts in order for the public to be able to assess the veracity of the statements in the MND or for determining other impacted areas in order for them to assess the levels of particulate matter reaching them. The fact that the MND fails to correctly identify the most impacted area does nothing to reassure the public that the all the data provided by the AERMOD dispersion model has been correctly analyzed and reported. Please note that Knollwood Drive starts at Balboa Boulevard to the west of the project heads east toward the project curving up north before turning east again and terminating in the vicinity of the DWP property boundary and Middlecoff Place. How can only the rear of residences on one side of a common street be impacted while the residences across the street that face the same impacts not be equally impacted? Precisely what areas are impacted, to what degree, and where are the most impacted areas? In either case the

3-12

The data from the Reseda Wind Monitoring Station utilized by the MND and the Air Quality Report in Appendix B prepared by AECOM do not represent the local wind conditions. Data is available from a number of sources such as studies already conducted by BFI/Allied Waste/Republic Sunshine Canyon Landfill and their consultants and presented to the City of Los Angeles Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as a condition of their CUP to monitor the Van Gogh Elementary School since 2006. Additional information has also been presented to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) 2010 – Present in order to satisfy an Abatement Order for Odors. Night drainage and inversion layers patterns have been identified. The location of the Reseda Monitoring Station is 11 miles away and located to the southwest and does not represent nor typify the winds which blow out of the Newhall-

Saugus Pass. The proposed project is located near the mouth of this pass. Indeed the winds in this area are so bad that the trees in the area are permanently bent to the south east, a fact which prompted a thesis at CSUN titled The Winds of the Newhall-Saugus Pass by Koutnik. Why was local data which is readily available not used, or why were studies not commissioned when the DWP was aware that this data from Reseda was not representative of local conditions? Additionally, we question the use of PM₁₀ and SO₂ measurements from the Burbank Measuring Station that is located 16 miles away.

This project area is located in the SCAQMD Non Attainment Area for Particulate Matter. The MND fails to assess the impacts from other projects both proposed and existing. For example there are a number of DWP projects such as the Terminal Hill Tunnel and Shaft Project just north of the proposed site, the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant Disinfection Contact Tank Project located within Figure 2, Project Vicinity Map (see comments regarding additional other proposed projects under Project Description that are also located within Figure 2, Project Vicinity Map), the MWD construction of 18 acres of sludge pits and a sludge treatment plant directly adjacent to the project, the ongoing 100-million ton expansion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill which is causing extreme air quality issues which cannot be mitigated, including the addition of a Gas-to-Energy project that will also increase particulate emissions. Indeed, 20% of all calls to the SCAQMD came from the Granada Hills area in 2011 regarding odor from methane and garbage. The fact is that this landfill's complaint rate within the SCAQMD's purview is 10 times worse than all of the 15 other landfills combined.

3-12
Cont.

XII Noise

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of applicable standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

On page 3 – 35 it notes that construction activities would generally occur only on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. and (sic) to approximately 3:30 p.m. However, it also states that: *“the noise would also diminish substantially when transmitted over the soft surfaces between the construction site and the western boundary of the VNC, which lies approximately 170 feet from construction activities at its closest point, but usually in excess of 400 feet. Noise from construction would also be further reduced at the residential properties west of the VNC by the intervening ridgeline.”* We believe that the MND should investigate and address the potential for additional dba of the construction sounds because the property lies in a virtual bowl which can magnify and distribute the effects to the other cardinal directions. This affect was predicted, and was apparent when the LAPD's uncovered shooting ranges located in the original Lower San Fernando Dam area was audible around the entire periphery of DWP property.

3-13

The MND makes no mention of limiting safety devices. There has been a history of past complaints from the residential area west of Balboa Boulevard/north of Sesnon Boulevard directed at the MWD which is directly adjacent to the propose project, that excessive noise created from past construction activities from backup warning devices (beepers), vibrations from construction activities, and the removal of material from ongoing operations such as the removal of filtration media were disturbing them during the a.m. and p.m.

(b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Same comment as in last paragraph to (a) above.

3-14

Letter 3: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

Response 3-1

The comment presents introductory remarks and summarizes the boundaries of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC). The comment does not address specific issues or concerns related to the adequacy of the environmental impact analysis in the MND. No response is necessary.

Response 3-2

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21091, the MND was made available for the required 30-day public review period. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15072, a copy of the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration ran in the Los Angeles Times on April 19, 2012, was posted on the LADWP website, and posted at the Los Angeles County Clerk's office in Norwalk. Additionally, a copy of the Notice of Intent and copies of the MND were mailed to City departments and applicable county departments and state agencies, including the GHNNC and Los Angeles City Council District 12, in which the project site is located. The project site itself is located entirely within the boundaries of the GHNNC boundaries and does not adjoin the boundaries of an adjacent neighborhood council.¹

Response 3-3

A Notice of Intent and a copy of the MND were sent via United Parcel Service (UPS) directly to the GHNNC office on April 18, 2012, for delivery on April 19, 2012. At that time, the address listed on the GHNNC website contact information page (<http://ghnnc.org/contact-us/>) was 11139 Woodley Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344. Per the comment letter, the address posted on the website contact information page is not the mailing address for the GHNNC. UPS, after making three delivery attempts, returned the document to sender. The website was rechecked and the mailing address was still listed as 11139 Woodley Avenue under the contact information page (note: the contact page still lists the Woodley Avenue address as of June 29, 2012). The package was then resent via UPS for next day delivery to the Los Angeles City Council District 12 office, the other mailing address provided on the GHNNC website homepage, and it appears the Council District office forwarded the hard copy to the GHNNC. Accordingly, the package was received after the public review period had started. Nonetheless, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15072, a copy of the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration ran in the Los Angeles Times on April 19, 2012, was posted on the LADWP website, and posted at the Los Angeles County Clerk's office in Norwalk. The Notice of Intent notified agencies, organizations, and interested individuals of the availability of the MND for public review, the dates of the public review period, and information on how to submit comments. The Notice of Intent also provided the locations where a copy of the MND could be reviewed for the duration of the public review period, including on the LADWP website, at the LADWP John Ferraro Building, and at the Sylmar and Granada Hills Branch Libraries. In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21091, the MND was made available for a 30-day public review period beginning April 20, 2012, and ending May 21, 2012.

¹ City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering. *North Valley Area Council District 12: Granada Hills North NC*. Certified September 10, 2002. Website: <http://navigatela.lacity.org/common/mapgallery/pdf/neighborhood/4.pdf>, accessed May 23, 2012.

Response 3-4

As discussed in the MND project description, the proposed project is intended to eliminate the function of the Lower Debris Basin at the VNC as a receptacle for storm water overflow from Bull Creek Extension Channel (BCEC), thereby eliminating the potential for contaminated storm water to enter Los Angeles Reservoir via the existing spillway connecting the debris basin to the reservoir. This would be achieved by rerouting storm water overflow from BCEC downstream to a new diversion structure that would direct the excess flows into the Lower San Fernando Storm Water Detention Basin. The Lower San Fernando Storm Water Detention Basin is not connected to Los Angeles Reservoir and has a substantially larger storage capacity than the Lower Debris Basin. As discussed in the project description, this functional elimination of the spillway connection between the Lower Debris Basin and Los Angeles Reservoir is mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the provisions of the Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR). In this regard, the proposed project, as implied by the project name, is directly related to the implementation of upgrades required to improve the quality of the drinking water stored in Los Angeles Reservoir, in accordance with updated EPA regulations.

Also as discussed in the project description, other aspects of the proposed project involving the widening and/or realignment of BCEC and alterations to other flood control facilities at the VNC are mandated by the California Division of Safety of Dams due to updated dam safety standards. A review of these standards was required at the VNC based on the proposed changes to BCEC necessary to remove the Lower Debris Basin as a receptacle for storm water overflow. In this regard, certain aspects of the proposed project are indirectly related to the implementation of upgrades required to improve the quality of the drinking water stored in Los Angeles Reservoir in accordance with updated EPA regulations.

While the alterations to BCEC entailed in the proposed project do not constitute all the elements required to achieve compliance with updated water quality regulations at the VNC, the proposed project currently represents the primary construction effort related to water quality compliance for Los Angeles Reservoir. Other approved and planned projects to comply with updated water quality regulations at VNC include:

- covering the surface of Los Angeles Reservoir with shade balls to help achieve compliance with the EPA's Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D-DBPR);
- an ultraviolet (UV) treatment facility located upstream of Los Angeles Reservoir to provide a final stage of drinking water disinfection before the distribution or storage in the reservoir of water that has undergone primary disinfection and filtration at the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant; and
- a UV treatment facility located downstream of Los Angeles Reservoir to provide disinfection treatment for drinking water after it is discharged from the reservoir but before it enters the distribution system.

However, the commenter is correct that over the past decade other projects have been contemplated and investigated at the VNC to achieve compliance with the mandates of both the LT2ESWTR and the D-DBPR. A single, comprehensive water quality improvement program was previously contemplated primarily involving the installation of a flexible floating cover over the surface of Los Angeles Reservoir. Although floating covers have been successfully installed at other reservoirs, due to the size of Los Angeles Reservoir, a floating cover installation would not be comparable to other existing and proposed floating cover installations in the LADWP system

(e.g., at Green-Verdugo, Lower Franklin Canyon, Santa Ynez, Upper Stone Canyon, and Elysian Reservoirs), which are at least an order of magnitude smaller than Los Angeles Reservoir. Because of the large surface area of the reservoir and the extreme stresses that would be placed on a floating cover of this size, the cover would need to be installed in at least two separate sections. In order to achieve this, an earth division dam was proposed to be constructed across the center of the Los Angeles Reservoir to reduce its surface area by essentially subdividing it into two smaller reservoirs. Even at this size, the individual floating covers would be the largest such installations in the world. It was estimated the division dam would require approximately 2 to 3 million cubic yards of earth material, the majority of which would be excavated from the hillsides along the western border of the VNC. In addition to the earthen outer shell of the division dam, approximately 500,000 cubic yards of clay material would be required to provide an impermeable core for the dam. The former Chatsworth Reservoir site, located approximately 10 miles southwest of the VNC, was considered the most likely feasible source for this clay material.

The division dam construction and floating cover installation would require the temporary draining and removal from service of Los Angeles Reservoir. It would also entail the reconstruction of the reservoir, including the demolition of the existing side walls, outlet tower, and inlet structure; the repaving of the reservoir sides and bottom; the installation of new mechanical mixers, inlet and outlet manifolds, and chemical injection pipelines; the removal of the existing spillway and the construction of new spillways; the construction of a perimeter anchoring system for the floating cover; and various perimeter drainage systems. The delivery of the reservoir paving material would require a minimum of approximately 5,000 truck trips to the VNC, and the delivery of the clay material from the Chatsworth Reservoir site would require a minimum of approximately 25,000 truck trips, depending on the size of the trucks employed in the transport of the material.

Because Los Angeles Reservoir would be removed from service for approximately 4 years during this construction, an alternative mechanism to temporarily provide operational flexibility to meet fluctuations in drinking water demand in the City would need to be established. To partially provide for this operational flexibility during the loss of use of Los Angeles Reservoir, a new 300-million gallon (MG) covered operational water storage reservoir had been proposed on the site of the Lower Debris Basin, to the west of Los Angeles Reservoir. Additional purchased supplies of water from the Metropolitan Water District would also be required during the period when Los Angeles Reservoir was out of service. The construction of the new operational reservoir would require the excavation of substantial quantities of material from the Lower Debris Basin and the realignment of BCEC farther to the west than is proposed under the current project. All the storm water facility improvements proposed under the current project (i.e., the relocation of the BCEC diversion structure to the Lower San Fernando Storm Water Detention Basin, the widening and realignment of the BCEC channel, the raising of the dike structure, and the modification to the Lower San Fernando Dam spillway) would also be required.

In addition to the above described improvements, a partially buried disinfection contact tank located upstream of Los Angeles Reservoir was proposed to provide a controlled environment to properly regulate disinfectant concentrations and contact times. The tank would adequately disinfect the drinking water prior to entering the reservoir or the water distribution system.

All of these improvements were anticipated to take a total of approximately 12 years to complete. They would require a relatively major and continuous construction effort that would involve considerable ground disturbance within the VNC; the excavation, movement, stockpiling,

processing, and placement of millions of cubic feet of earth material; tens of thousands of delivery and haul truck trips to and from the VNC; a construction workforce of several hundred personnel during peak construction periods; and the operation of very large numbers of construction equipment on site.

In light of the magnitude, cost, and intensity of this construction effort; the loss of use of Los Angeles Reservoir for an extended period of time; and the potential extent and significance of environmental impacts associated with the effort, LADWP has endeavored to develop alternative solutions that would meet the drinking water quality mandates specified in both the LT2ESWTR and the D-DBPR. In this regard, many previously studied facility improvements, especially those directly or indirectly related to the installation of a floating cover on Los Angeles Reservoir, have been considered but have never been formally proposed as projects at the VNC. Since the initial engineering analysis related to LT2ESWTR and D-DBPR compliance for VNC facilities was initiated over a decade ago, several factors have influenced the course and feasibility of the current facility improvements.

The new UV water treatment facility currently under construction upstream of Los Angeles Reservoir was originally proposed as a chlorination contact tank. The tank was required because insufficient contact time would be available within the distribution pathways exiting the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant for adequate initial disinfection to be provided by chlorine after LADWP implements a system-wide conversion to secondary disinfection with chloramines (rather than chlorine) that is necessary to meet the mandates of the D-DBPR. Furthermore, it became necessary to implement this contact tank project in advance of other components of the VNC water quality program when increases in the level of bromate, a potentially carcinogenic chemical compound, were detected in the LADWP drinking water system. Bromate can be a byproduct of the ozonation disinfection process used at the filtration plant if the source water contains bromide, which can occur in relatively high concentrations in supplies received at the plant from the State Water Project, which originates in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system. The implementation of the contact tank would provide a controlled environment for drinking water disinfection, allowing for a reduction in the ozonation disinfection process when necessary to minimize the formation of bromate.

The proposed Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant Disinfection Contact Tank was addressed in accordance with CEQA in an MND that was distributed in July 2009 to agencies and concerned organizations, including the GHNNC. Two comment letters, including one from the GHNNC, were received during the MND review period. The comment letters and responses to the comments were included in the City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners review package that accompanied the Board Resolution to adopt the MND and approve the project. This item was considered at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on October 20, 2009, which was open to public attendance and comment. It was also announced in the project's Notice of Intent, which was sent to commenters with the MND and on the LADWP website. The CEQA Notice of Determination indicating adoption of the MND and approval of the project was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on October 23, 2009.

After approval of the disinfection contact tank project, the use of UV light, rather than chlorine, became a viable technology to provide adequate disinfection prior to drinking water entering the reservoir or the water distribution system. UV disinfection would substantially reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts as compared to chlorine disinfection. This technology would also minimize the use of the ozonation process upstream at the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant when necessary to reduce the formation of bromate. Although UV technology had been available in the past, it was untested for the disinfection of the large quantities of drinking water

exiting the filtration plant, and its use was not approved for such purposes by the California Department of Public Health, which maintains jurisdiction over the implementation of the D-DBPR and the LT2ESWTR. However, based on the implementation and testing of UV technology at other facilities in California, it was approved by the Department of Public Health after the Board of Water and Power Commissioners had approved the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant Disinfection Contact Tank (which would employ chlorine), but prior to the actual facility design and construction.

The changeover to UV disinfection treatment (from chlorine disinfection) had two primary advantages. First, it would limit the amount of chlorine required for the water disinfection process at the VNC and correspondingly reduce the chlorine delivery and storage requirements when compared to the proposed contact tank. Second, it would minimize the use of chlorine in the water exiting the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant, thereby reducing the production of the chlorine-related disinfection byproducts addressed in the D-DBPR. Therefore, rather than a chlorine-based disinfection contact tank as originally described in the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant Disinfection Contact Tank MND, a UV disinfection treatment facility is currently under construction at the VNC.

Based on the substantially smaller size of this UV facility compared to the contact tank and the associated reduction in earthwork, equipment operation, truck deliveries, and numbers of construction personnel, it was determined that the potential environmental impacts of the UV facility were less than those associated with the contact tank addressed in the MND. Therefore, no additional publicly circulated environmental documentation was required under CEQA. Furthermore, a primary concern communicated by the GHNNC in its comment letter relative to the contact tank MND related to the removal of a stand of approximately 20 pine trees to accommodate the contact tank facility. Although the removal of the trees was determined in the MND to be less than significant in relation to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, or any other factor, the trees have now been preserved based on the reduced area requirements of the UV treatment facility.

Numerous alternatives to either cover or replace Los Angeles Reservoir were explored during the planning process over the last decade to simultaneously comply with the LT2ESWTR and D-DBPR, but no known alternative other than the floating cover was deemed feasible at the time, in terms of maintaining the necessary storage capacity and providing the required protection of the water supply. The use of shade balls as a covering technology for drinking water reservoirs had not been implemented or tested when the floating cover at Los Angeles Reservoir was first considered. However, in recent years, shade balls have been successfully employed at two other LADWP uncovered reservoirs and have proven to effectively limit the amount of sunlight that penetrates the water.

Limiting exposure to sunlight will significantly reduce the potential for algae growth in the water within the reservoir. This will in turn significantly reduce the need to apply chlorine to the reservoir, which has proven to be the only effective means to control algae blooms in progress. Along with the use of UV light (instead of chlorine) to provide upstream disinfection of water prior to its storage in the reservoir, this reduced requirement to add chlorine to control algae will greatly limit the formation of the potentially carcinogenic chlorine-related disinfection byproducts addressed in the D-DBPR. In addition, the shade balls and the associated reduction in the application of chlorine will also limit the formation of bromate in the reservoir, which can occur when naturally occurring bromide contained in source water interacts with chlorine in the presence of sunlight.

While shade balls are an effective covering solution in relation to the formation of chlorine-related disinfection byproducts, they do not provide the protection of the water surface required under the LT2ESWTR because they do not create a solid barrier, as would a floating cover. However, in addition to covering open reservoirs, the LT2ESWTR provides that water from the reservoirs may instead be treated as it is being discharged to the distribution system to reduce the presence of microbial pathogens to within acceptable limits. Prior to the advent of UV disinfection as an effective and approved method of treatment at the point of discharge, no method of treatment was available other than chlorination, which would inherently violate the mandates of the D-DBPR. But with the availability of UV treatment at the reservoir point of discharge to satisfy the requirements of the LT2ESWTR, shade balls became a viable reservoir covering solution to satisfy the requirements of the D-DBPR.

The installation of the shade balls would require virtually no construction activity at the VNC and an average of less than one truck trip per day to deliver the shade balls to Los Angeles Reservoir, which is located in the interior of the approximately 1,300-acre VNC property. Furthermore, there would be no increase in operational activity associated with the use of the shade balls. Therefore, it was determined that no significant environmental impacts would occur associated with the installation or maintenance of the shade balls. Based on this determination, a Notice of Exemption from the provisions of CEQA was prepared by LADWP for the shade ball installation. Under the provisions of Section 15301 of CEQA, the shade ball installation represents a Class 1(f) Categorical Exemption, which permits the addition of safety or health protection devices in conjunction with existing facilities where negligible or no expansion of existing use is involved. The Notice of Exemption for Shade Balls at Los Angeles Reservoir was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on January 22, 2010.

As discussed above, in order to eliminate the need for the floating cover at Los Angeles Reservoir, treatment of drinking water after it is discharged from the reservoir but before it enters the distribution system is required in accordance with the LT2ESWTR. Therefore, a second UV disinfection treatment facility has now been proposed downstream of the reservoir on a site that has been used on a long-term basis for the storage of pipe sections and other construction materials. The characteristics of construction of this facility differ in several respects from the construction of the UV treatment facility currently under construction upstream of Los Angeles Reservoir. First, it is located on an existing storage yard site that is entirely cleared and essentially level, which eliminates the requirement for the substantial excavation and grading necessary at the upstream UV facility site. Second, the schedule for the construction of the new UV facility is approximately 5.5 years, about twice the length for the upstream UV facility currently under construction. This extended schedule further reduces the intensity of the construction effort in terms of equipment, truck trips, and numbers of personnel, thereby significantly reducing associated impacts related to traffic and air quality.

The proposed UV facility site is located in the interior of the VNC property, adjacent to a vehicle storage lot, the LADWP heliport, and the Los Angeles Police Department training facility. It is located approximately 0.6 miles from the nearest residential uses to the west and 0.4 miles from the nearest residential uses to the east, which are separated from the VNC by the Golden State and San Diego Freeways. Based on the nature of construction activity and the character of the existing setting, it was determined that no significant environmental impacts would occur associated with the construction or operation of the proposed UV treatment facility. Based on this determination, a Notice of Exemption from the provisions of CEQA was prepared by LADWP for the proposed UV facility. Under the provisions of Section 15301 of CEQA, the UV facility represents a Class 1(b) Categorical Exemption, which permits the alteration of existing facilities of publicly owned utilities used to provide drinking water where negligible or no

expansion of existing use is involved. The Notice of Exemption for the Van Norman Complex Ultraviolet Facility was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on May 8, 2012.

Because some overlap in the construction activities related to the various projects at the VNC would occur, the potential for cumulatively considerable impacts related to simultaneous construction efforts was accounted for in the environmental analysis for the Los Angeles Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project MND (i.e., the BCEC realignment and modifications). No such cumulative impacts were determined to be significant.

As discussed above, the proposed project is necessary to comply with the provisions of the LT2ESWTR mandated by the EPA. Each of the other water quality projects approved or planned to be constructed relate in that they are located within the 1,300 acre VNC and are required to meet various EPA mandates. However, they represent independent actions developed separately in time, utilizing new technology as it became feasible, and create minimal potential construction impacts in order to achieved compliance with the increasing and numerous updates to the various mandates from EPA with regards to water quality in comparison to the potentially significant environmental impacts associated with construction of the Los Angeles Reservoir floating cover concept. The activities described above eliminate the requirement for the installation of a floating cover on Los Angeles Reservoir, along with the associated reservoir division dam, other required reservoir modifications, and the additional covered reservoir mentioned in the comment letter. As discussed above, these elements of the previously contemplated water quality improvement program (floating cover project) would require an extended construction process that would involve considerable ground disturbance within the VNC; the excavation, movement, stockpiling, processing, and placement of millions of cubic feet of earth material; tens of thousands of delivery and haul truck trips to and from the VNC; a construction workforce of several hundred personnel during peak construction periods; and the operation of very large numbers of construction equipment on site. Additionally, the combination of approved and planned projects, including the use of shade balls rather than a floating cover, would also allow the Los Angeles Reservoir to operate without the necessity of being drained and removed of service, thereby ensuring the reliability of the City of Los Angeles drinking water supply during program implementation.

Response 3-5

The comment refers to Comment 3-4 above. See Response 3-4 above.

Response 3-6

As stated on page 1-7 of the MND, “to accommodate the widened and in some cases realigned BCEC, portions of the existing hillside west of the channel must first be cut back. This would entail removing earth, processing the earth so it is suitable as structural fill material for channel construction, and placing it within the Lower Debris Basin to provide the support and flow elevations required for the realigned section of BCEC. Any excess earth material would be stockpiled within the VNC, including within the Lower Debris Basin, ravines along western perimeter of the complex, or other areas.” Suitable earth material would be reused throughout the reconstruction of the BCEC where it is necessary to raise up the channel to provide flow elevations and to raise the dike structure, as discussed on page 1-13 of the MND. Most excavated earth material is expected to be reused onsite as compacted fill. As shown in Appendix A of the MND, the movement of this material around the site from the excavated areas to the materials processing area to stockpile locations and to its final location within the project site has been accounted for in the onsite truck trip calculations. These earthwork quantities and onsite truck trips, types and hours of equipment operations, offsite truck trips (haul and delivery truck trips) and commuter trips, form the basis of the technical air quality

analysis that was completed for the proposed project to estimate regional and localized pollutant emissions. However, as indicated in the comment, it is anticipated that a small amount of excavated material would be unsuitable for use as backfill. This material would be retained in the canyons along the west side of Bull Creek and permanently revegetated in a manner consistent with the surrounding natural vegetation, to ensure that loose material would not be subject to erosion or become blowing dust in the project vicinity during long-term project operation.

Related to fugitive dust emissions, construction activity would generate onsite pollutant emissions associated with equipment exhaust and fugitive dust. Fugitive dust emissions from various sources, including stockpiling, excavation, scraping, grading, truck loading, and materials sorting, were estimated using EPA AP-42 emission factors (see Appendix B of the MND). A screening analysis was completed based on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) guidance, and the results indicated that localized maximum daily PM_{2.5} emissions would exceed the SCAQMD Localized Screening Thresholds. Based on SCAQMD guidance, a detailed PM_{2.5} (particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter) concentration assessment was completed using the AERMOD dispersion model. The model used U.S. Geological Survey terrain data to account for the complex terrain near the project site as opposed to modeling a flat site. In addition, AERMOD requires wind data at both the surface and the upper atmosphere. The SCAQMD has published wind data for modeling impacts associated with projects located in their jurisdiction. The SCAQMD acknowledges that site-specific wind data for specific project sites is not readily obtainable and available for public use. As a result, the guidance is to use the nearest applicable wind data prepared by the SCAQMD, which in this case, is the Reseda Wind Monitoring Station. As shown in Table 2 and discussed on pages 3-8 and 3-9 of the MND, the estimated “maximum daily PM_{2.5} concentration would be 6.4 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³), which would be less than the PM_{2.5} significance threshold of 10.4 µg/m³. Therefore, construction activities would not exceed the localized threshold of significance, and the impact to sensitive receptors would be less than significant.” Nonetheless, based on the comment, the analysis has been expanded to include the three closest and most representative monitoring stations (i.e., Reseda, Burbank, and Santa Clarita). The analysis indicated that the PM_{2.5} concentration would range from 5.4 to 6.8 µg/m³, depending on the wind data. This worst-case analysis generates PM_{2.5} concentrations that are still well below the 10.4 µg/m³ significance threshold. As concluded in the MND, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to localized concentrations. Additionally, in Comment 3-12, the commenter states that trees in the project area are permanently bent to the southeast. This indicates that the wind blows from the northwest. This prevailing wind condition would blow project emissions to the southeast and away from the adjacent residences.

It should be noted that it is mandatory for all construction projects in the South Coast Air Basin to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 for Fugitive Dust. As discussed in Section 1.7 (see pages 1-13 and 1-14 of the MND), Rule 403 control requirements include, but are not limited to, applying water in sufficient quantities to prevent the generation of visible dust plumes, applying soil binders to uncovered areas, reestablishing ground cover as quickly as possible, utilizing a wheel washing system to remove bulk material from tires and vehicle undercarriages before vehicles exit the project site, and maintaining effective cover over exposed areas. Compliance with Rule 403 would reduce regional PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ (particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter) emissions associated with construction activities by approximately 61 percent in accordance with SCAQMD guidance.

Response 3-7

The item referred to in the comment is located under the Best Management Practices established for the proposed project in the MND. It is drawn directly from the Rule 403 fugitive dust control measures adopted by SCAQMD, and represents the application of a broadly defined agency rule to the project. The phrase “at each vehicle egress” merely indicates the encompassing nature of the rule and is not meant to imply that more than a single access and egress point at the VNC is proposed for project construction. As discussed on page 3-42 of the MND, all construction workers, concrete deliveries, and haul/delivery trucks would use the VNC Sepulveda Boulevard gate, just north of Roxford Avenue.

Response 3-8

Section 41.40(a) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code expressly prohibits construction activity that would create loud noises that may disturb sleeping individuals in residential use areas between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day. Section 41.40(c) further prohibits such noise producing activity within 500 feet of residential use areas before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays or national holidays or at any time on Sundays. The last bullet point on page 1-14 limits the hours of construction activity for the proposed project to the allowable hours reflected in Section 41.40. The permission required from the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners referred to in the comment applies only to noise-generating construction activity that would occur outside the allowable hours specified in Section 41.40(a) (i.e., between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.).

Response 3-9

The list of permits in Section 1.8 of the MND includes the currently known permits required for the project. See Response 3-8 regarding the requirement for a Los Angeles Board of Commissioners permit related to the generation of construction noise. While the discretionary actions of the City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners related to the MND adoption and project approval are subject to a public hearing, the issuance of the individual permits that would rely on the MND are not subject to a similar public hearing process.

Response 3-10

The comment refers to Comment 3-9 above. See Response 3-9 above.

Response 3-11

As stated on page 3-7 of the Draft MND below Table 1, “mitigation measures AQ-1 through AQ-4 would reduce maximum 2012 NO_x emissions from 138 to 94 pounds per day. Maximum 2013 NO_x emissions would be reduced from 129 to 88 pounds per day.” Contrary to the comment, because the quantified mitigated emissions given in narrative form are provided on the same page as Table 1 and because the written words are self-evident, there is no compelling reason to provide a second table showing the mitigated emissions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15147).

Response 3-12

As stated on page 3-8 of the MND, “sensitive receptors near the project site include single-family residences located to the west and the Granada Hills Youth Recreation Center located to the northwest.” The closest residential uses to the project site include single family residences along the east side of Woodley Avenue and on the east side of Knollwood Drive (incorrectly referred to as Knollbrook Drive in Appendix B), specifically east of Woodley Avenue. However, additional sensitive receptors in the vicinity include other residential uses located west of the BCEC. As discussed in Response 3-6 above, construction activities would generate fugitive dust in proximity to these sensitive receptors. As shown in Table 2 and discussed on pages 3-8

and 3-9 of the MND, the estimated “maximum daily PM_{2.5} concentration would be 6.4 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³), which would be less than the PM_{2.5} significance threshold of 10.4 µg/m³. Therefore, construction activities would not exceed the localized threshold of significance, and the impact to sensitive receptors would be less than significant.” As such, the impact to sensitive receptors on the east side of Woodley Avenue, on the east side of Knollwood Drive, on Middlecoff Place, or any other residential area west of the proposed project site would be less than significant. Nonetheless, based on Comment 3-6 and this comment regarding wind, the analysis was expanded to include the three closest and most representative wind monitoring stations (i.e., Reseda, Burbank, and Santa Clarita). The analysis indicated that the PM_{2.5} concentration would range from 5.4 to 6.8 µg/m³, depending on the wind data. This worst-case analysis generates PM_{2.5} concentrations that are well below the 10.4 µg/m³ significance threshold. As concluded in the MND, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to localized concentrations. Further, as stated in Response 3-6 above, the prevailing wind condition described in the comment would blow project emissions to the southeast and away from the adjacent residences.

Regarding cumulative air quality, the proposed project’s incremental contributions to cumulative air quality is typically determined based on compliance with the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan. As per the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, the determination of cumulative air quality is not additive based on the known projects in the vicinity, as implied by the comment. The Air Quality Management Plan addresses long-term emissions, and the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook states that a project is consistent with the Air Quality Management Plan if the population and/or employment growth associated with the project exceed the growth levels forecasted in the Air Quality Management Plan. The proposed project would not generate long-term operational emissions, so this methodology is not applicable. Alternatively, the SCAQMD recommends that project-specific air quality impacts be used to determine the potential cumulative impacts to air quality. The SCQAMD has set forth significance thresholds designed to assist in the attainment of ambient air quality standards. All projects are measured against their individual contribution to these ambient air quality standards. Therefore, a project that would exceed the SCAQMD regional daily emissions thresholds would have both an individual and a cumulative air quality impact. As discussed on page 3-7 of the MND, with implementation of mitigation measures AQ-1 through AQ-4 for NO_x emissions, the proposed project would not generate emissions in excess of the SCAQMD’s regional daily emissions thresholds. Based on this conclusion, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact related to construction air quality (see page 3-8 of the MND).

Response 3-13

As stated on page 3-35 of the MND, “a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or other applicable standards.” The conclusion in the noise analysis was based on project compliance with Section 112.05 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Any powered equipment or hand tool that produces a maximum noise level exceeding 75 dBA at a distance of 50 feet in or within 500 feet of a residential zone is prohibited. However, this noise limitation is superseded where compliance is technically infeasible. Technically infeasible means the above noise limitation cannot be met despite the use of mufflers, shields, sound barriers and/or any other noise reduction device or techniques during the operation of equipment. For the proposed project, however, all equipment and tools would comply with the established federal noise limits. Further, the noise generated from construction would be temporary in any given section of BCEC. The noise would also diminish substantially when transmitted over the soft surfaces and would also be reduced by the intervening ridgeline.

Therefore, the construction of the proposed project would not generate noise levels in excess of local standards, and the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact related to construction noise. No mitigation measures are required.

It is possible that local topography could cause an acoustic effect that incrementally increases construction noise levels, including equipment noise and back-up-beepers on trucks and other equipment. However, the majority of construction activity would occur below the east-facing hillsides along the western boundary of the VNC. In this case, it is more likely that the hillsides would function as a barrier that reduces noise levels at adjacent residential uses rather than magnify construction noise through reflection from the opposite side of the VNC property, which is distant from the potentially affected residential uses. It is therefore not anticipated that the terrain would cause an increase in construction noise levels. Regardless, as discussed in the MND, construction noise would result in a less than significant impact with compliance with the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Further, back-up beepers, although potentially a short-term, intermittent nuisance when audible by nearby sensitive receptors, are necessary for personnel safety at construction sites per LADWP policy to comply with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health and Cal/OSHA requirements for worker safety.

Regarding vibration, as discussed on pages 3-36 and 3-37 of the MND, construction activity can result in varying degrees of vibration, depending on the equipment and methods employed. Operation of construction equipment causes vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in strength with distance. As shown in Table 5 on page 3-37 of the MND, “use of heavy equipment (e.g., a large bulldozer) generates vibration levels of 0.089 inches per second at a distance of 25 feet. The residences nearest to the project site would be approximately 250 feet from heavy-duty equipment activity and could experience vibration levels of 0.003 inches per second. Project-related vibration levels would be well below the building damage threshold of 0.2 inches per second at any receptor locations. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact related to construction vibration.”

Response 3-14

The comment refers to Comment 3-13 above. See Response 3-13 above.

Comment Letter 4

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

13101 Sepulveda Boulevard
DOT Case No. SFV-2012-100329

Date: May 21, 2012

To: Nic Brown, Associate Zoning Administrator
Department of City Planning



From: Sergio D. Valdez, Transportation Engineer
Department of Transportation

Subject: **TRAFFIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LADWP VAN NORMAN COMPLEX II AT 13101 SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has completed the traffic impact assessment for the proposed construction activities for the Van Norman Complex II project located at 13101 Sepulveda Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles. This traffic assessment is based on a Draft traffic study prepared by KOA Corporation on March 28, 2012. DOT has determined that the traffic study adequately describes all projected transportation impacts associated with the proposed development that fall within the City of Los Angeles.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADPW) has proposed to make improvements to a concrete-lined storm water conveyance and flood control facility located within the Van Norman Complex facility. This site consists of 1,340 acres and is located within the Knollwood neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. The proposed project will generate 150 new daily trips with 15 new a.m. peak hour trips and 15 new p.m. peak hour trips, as shown in Table 1 below. The trip generation estimates are based on formulas published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) *Trip Generation*, 8th Edition, 2008. DOT's policy on significant transportation impact thresholds is referenced in Table 2.

4-1

Table 1: Project Trip Generation Estimates

Description	Size	Unit	Daily Trips	AM Peak Hour Trips		PM Peak Hour Trips	
				IN	OUT	IN	OUT
Office Personnel	10	Employees	10	1	0	0	1
Field Personnel	80	Employees	80	10	0	0	10
Truck Delivery	60	Trucks	60	4	4	4	4
TOTAL TRIPS			150	15	4	4	15

Table 2: Significant Transportation Impact Thresholds

Level of Service (LOS)	Projected Volume to Capacity Ratio (V/C), including Project	Project-Related Increase in V/C
C	between 0.701 and 0.800	≥ 0.040
D	between 0.801 and 0.900	≥ 0.020
E and F	≥ 0.901	≥ 0.010

The traffic study reviewed three intersections for traffic impacts. DOT has concluded that the proposed construction project will not produce a significant transportation impact at any of the studied intersections. Additionally, after the improvements to the LADWP site are completed, this project will not generate new trips. These findings are summarized in Table 3, which is a summary of Volume to Capacity (V/C) Ratios and Levels of Service (LOS).

4-1
Cont.

If you have any questions, you may contact me or Vicente Cordero of my staff at 818-374-4699.

- c: Twelfth Council District
- Michael May, DOT East Valley District
- Ali Nahass, BOE Valley District
- Brian Marchetti, KOA Corporation

Table 3: Summary of Volume to Capacity Ratios (v/c) and Levels of Service (LOS)

LADWP Van Norman Complex II
13101 Sepulveda Boulevard

Intersection	Peak Hour	Year 2012 Existing		Year 2014 without Project		Year 2014 with Project		Project Impact $\Delta v/c$
		v/c Delay(sec)	LOS	v/c Delay(sec)	LOS	v/c Delay(sec)	LOS	
I-5 S/B Ramps & Roxford St. *	AM	Overflow 0.822	F	Overflow 0.849	F	Overflow 0.850	F	0.001
	PM	Overflow 0.660	F	Overflow 0.735	F	Overflow 0.742	F	0.007
I-5 N/B Off Ramps & Roxford St. *	AM	15.0 0.566	B	16.0 0.583	C	16.7 0.586	C	0.7 0.003
	PM	16.1 0.675	C	20.1 0.750	C	20.5 0.750	C	0.4 0.000
I-5 N/B Ramps/Encinitas Av. & Roxford St.	AM	0.825	D	0.856	D	0.856	D	0.000
	PM	0.667	B	0.775	C	0.779	C	0.004

* Unsignalized Intersection

4-1
Cont.

Letter 4: City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation

Response 4-1

The comment states that LADOT has determined that the traffic study prepared for the proposed project adequately describes all projected transportation impacts in the City of Los Angeles. No further response is necessary.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

Comment Letter 5

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

May 21, 2012

Nancy Chung
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Van Norman Complex Water Quality Improvement Project
SCH#: 2012041054

Dear Nancy Chung:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on May 18, 2012, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

5-1

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2012041054
Project Title Van Norman Complex Water Quality Improvement Project
Lead Agency Los Angeles County

Type MND Mitigated Negative Declaration
Description The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power proposes to make improvements to Bull Creek Extension Channel, a concrete-lined storm water conveyance and flood control facility located within the Van Norman Complex in the Sylmar area of Los Angeles. This project is being undertaken to comply with updated drinking water quality regulations promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and updated requirements related to maintaining the integrity of several VNC water impoundment dams that fall under the jurisdiction of the State of CA Division of Safety and Dams.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Nancy Chung
Agency Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Phone 213 367 0404 **Fax**
email
Address 111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
City Los Angeles **State** CA **Zip** 90012

Project Location

County Los Angeles
City Los Angeles, City of
Region
Lat / Long 34° 17' 49.9" N / 118° 29' 12.4" W
Cross Streets Sepulveda Boulevard and Roxford Street
Parcel No. 2605001909
Township **Range** **Section** **Base**

5-1
Cont.

Proximity to:

Highways Hwy 5, 405, 210
Airports
Railways
Waterways Bull Creek
Schools
Land Use Open Space and Public Facilities/Open Space ([Q]OS-1XL) and Public facilities

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Department of Parks and Recreation; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 7; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

Date Received 04/19/2012 **Start of Review** 04/19/2012 **End of Review** 05/18/2012

Letter 5: State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Response 5-1

This comment acknowledges that LADWP has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for the MND. One comment letter was submitted by a State agency (see Letter 2 from the Native American Heritage Commission). No response to the State Clearinghouse letter is necessary because no issues related to the adequacy of the environmental impact analysis in the MND were raised.