

\$10 - \$20 million

**FINAL
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Bureau of Engineering
ROBERT S. HORII
City Engineer**

JUNE 1991

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(Article V — City CEQA Guidelines)

APR 17 1991
 CONTINUED BY
 NEW ENTRY
 DOCUMENT FILED
 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

LEAD CITY AGENCY: Dept. of Public Works, Project Management Division
 COUNCIL DISTRICT: 1

The mitigated Negative Declaration for this project incorporates by reference the Environmental Assessment (produced in accordance with NEPA). Therefore, this volume includes both of these documents, as well as the comments received and responses to those comments. The comments and responses are for the combined CEQA and NEPA documents, which were circulated together.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: 1) Extend the current D.C. Dilman Water Reclamation Plant (WSP) Effluent Pipeline to discharge effluent from the Sepulveda Dam, 2) build a flood control dike around the site, and 3) excavate 567,000 cubic yards of soil from adjacent fields as well as provide storage volume.

DOCUMENTS IN THIS VOLUME:

1. Negative Declaration
 - Initial Study
 - Attachment 1. Environmental Checklist Form
 - Attachment 2. Mitigation Monitoring Plan
2. Environmental Assessment
3. Response to Comments

FINDING: The City Engineer of the City of Los Angeles has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

See Attached.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET(S) FOR ANY MITIGATION MEASURES IMPOSED.

"Any written objections received during the public review period are attached together with the responses of the Lead City Agency."

THE INITIAL STUDY PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT IS ATTACHED.

NAME OF PERSON PREPARING THIS FORM	TITLE	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Ann J. Karperian	Environmental Supervisor/II Project Management Division	(213) 485-6356
200 N. Spring Street, Room 307 Los Angeles, CA 90012	SIGNATURE (Official)	DATE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

ROOM 395, CITY HALL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(Article V — City CEQA Guidelines)

CITY CLERK'S USE

DOCUMENT FILED City Clerk's Office	No: <u>EXX31-91</u>	Certified by <u>MA</u>	Date: <u>JAN 17 1991</u>
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LEAD CITY AGENCY Dept. of Public Works, Project Management Division	COUNCIL DISTRICT 3
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PROJECT TITLE TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873	CASE NO.
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PROJECT LOCATION
 Northeastern end of the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin in the Encino-Tarzana District of the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
 1) Extend the current D.C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP) Effluent Pipeline to discharge to the Los Angeles River downstream from the Sepulveda Dam, 2) build a flood control dike around the TWRP, and 3) excavate 567,000 cubic yards of soil from adjacent fields as compensation for lost basin flood storage volume.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT IF OTHER THAN CITY AGENCY
 The Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP) Flood Protection Project is located in the eastern end of the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin in the Encino-Tarzana District of the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles.

FINDING:

► The City Engineer of the City of Los Angeles has determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

See Attached.

The proposed project has a dual purpose: 1) to enable the TWRP to continue to discharge treated effluent during a major flood, and 2) to protect the TWRP from inundation during a 100-year flood (as required by Executive Order 11788, Sec. 3(b)).

The existing 100-year flood level in the basin, as established by the USCE, is 712.2 feet, and will be increased to 714.4 feet if, as is anticipated, a recommended modified water control operation plan for the basin is approved by the USCE. Most of the TWRP lies below the 100-year flood elevation and is, therefore, at risk of

► SEE ATTACHED SHEET(S) FOR ANY MITIGATION MEASURES IMPOSED.

"Any written objections received during the public review period are attached together with the responses of the Lead City Agency."

THE INITIAL STUDY PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT IS ATTACHED.

NAME OF PERSON PREPARING THIS FORM Ara J. Kasparian <i>Ara Kasparian</i>	TITLE Environmental Supervisor II Project Management Division	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 485-6556
ADDRESS 200 N. Spring Street, Room 807 Los Angeles, CA 90012	SIGNATURE (Official)	DATE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

INITIAL STUDY

(Article IV---City CEQA Guidelines)

Council District: 3

Date: April 2, 1991

Lead City Agency: Department of Public Works,
Bureau of Engineering,
Project Management Division

Project Title: Tillman Water Reclamation Plant
Flood Protection Project

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Location

The Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP) Flood Protection Project is located in the eastern end of the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin, a dry-land reservoir under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCE), Los Angeles District (Figure 1). The TWRP sits on 80 acres leased to the City since 1969. Completed in 1984, the plant currently is operating at its average dry weather flow design capacity of 40 million gallons per day (mgd). Treated effluent is discharged to the Los Angeles River inside the basin via a buried gravity outfall pipeline (Figure 2).

B. Purpose

The proposed project has a dual purpose: 1) to enable the TWRP to continue to discharge treated effluent during a major flood, and 2) to protect the TWRP from inundation during a 100-year flood (as required by Executive Order 11988, Sec. 3(b)).

The existing 100-year flood level in the basin, as established by the USCE, is 712.2 feet, and will be increased to 714.4 feet if, as is anticipated, a recommended modified water control operation plan for the basin is approved by the USCE. Most of the TWRP lies below the 100-year flood elevation and is, therefore, at risk of flooding. The effects of a flooded TWRP would range from the temporary disruption of sewage treatment, as occurred on one occasion when storm water caused a backup in the plant's chlorine contact basins, to the uncontrolled discharge of sewage directly into the basin.

Currently, TWRP discharges treated effluent inside the basin directly into the Los Angeles River by means of a gravity outfall. However, the plant's effluent channel was designed for a water surface elevation of 701 feet. Consequently, the hydraulic head



FIGURE 1
REGIONAL MAP

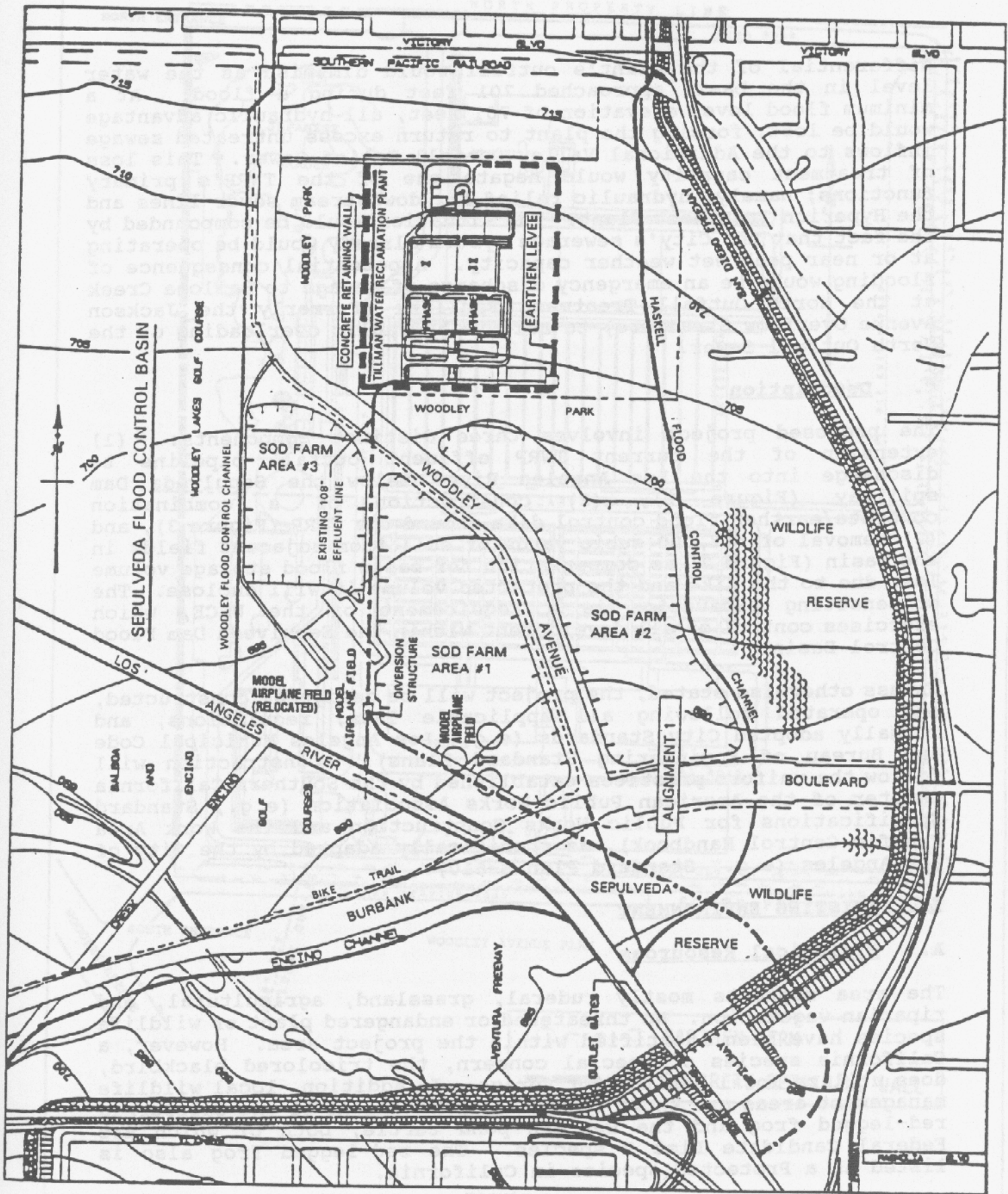


FIGURE 2
 PROPOSED PROJECT FEATURES
 IS-3

differential of the plant's outfall would diminish as the water level in the basin approached 701 feet during a flood. At a minimum flood level elevation of 701 feet, all hydraulic advantage would be lost, forcing the plant to return excess untreated sewage inflows to the Additional Valley Outfall Relief Sewer. This loss of treatment capacity would negate one of the TWRP's primary functions; namely, hydraulic relief for downstream sewer lines and the Hyperion Treatment Plant. The situation would be compounded by the fact that the City's sewerage system already would be operating at or near peak wet weather capacity. A potential consequence of flooding would be an emergency discharge of sewage to Ballona Creek at the North Outfall Treatment Facility (formerly the Jackson Avenue Overflow Structure) to relieve hydraulic overloading of the North Outfall Sewer.

C. Description

The proposed project involves three distinct components: (1) extension of the current TWRP effluent outfall pipeline to discharge into the Los Angeles River below the Sepulveda Dam spillway (Figure 2), (2) construction of a combination concrete/earthen flood control dike around the TWRP (Figure 3), and (3) removal of 567,000 cubic yards of soil from adjacent fields in the basin (Figure 2) as compensation for basin flood storage volume lost due to the dike and the protected volume it will enclose. The compensating excavation is a requirement of the USCE, which exercises control of all development within the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin.

Unless otherwise stated, the project will be designed, constructed, and operated following all applicable laws, regulations, and formally adopted City Standards (e.g., Los Angeles Municipal Code and Bureau of Engineering Standard Plans). Construction will follow the uniform practices established by the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (e.g., Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction and the Work Area Traffic Control Handbook), as specifically adapted by the City of Los Angeles (e.g., Standard Plan S-610).

II. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

A. Biological Resources

The area supports mostly ruderal, grassland, agricultural, and riparian vegetation. No threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species have been identified within the project area. However, a California species of special concern, the tricolored blackbird, does utilize local habitat for forage. In addition, local wildlife management areas are known to contain populations of the California red-legged frog and the western pond turtle, both of which are Federal Candidate List 2 species. The red-legged frog also is listed as a Protected species in California.

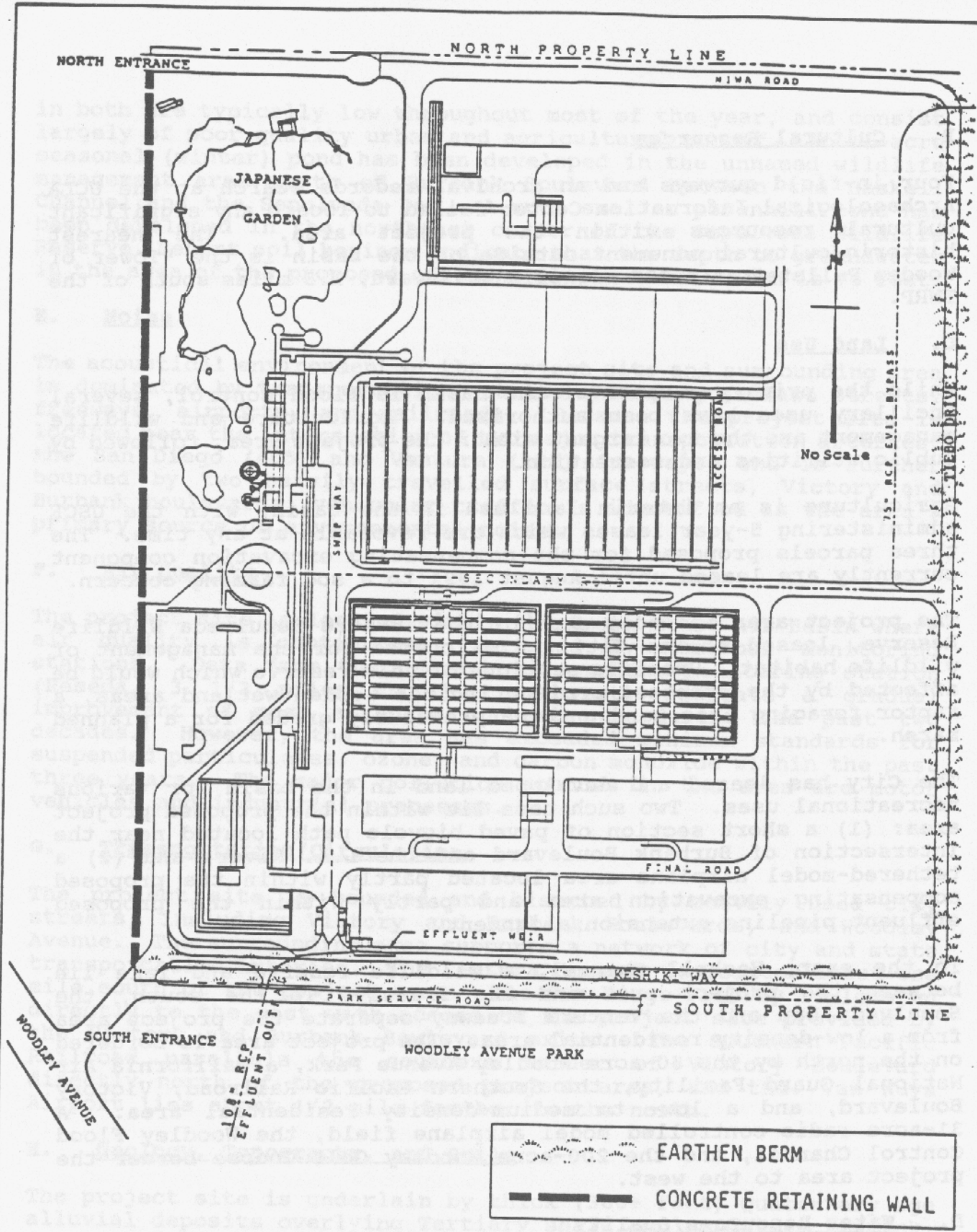


FIGURE 3
 DETAIL OF TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
 AND PROPOSED FLOOD CONTROL DIKE PROJECT COMPONENT

B. Cultural Resources

Four in-field surveys and an archival records search at the UCLA Archaeological Information Center failed to locate any significant cultural resources within the project area. The nearest historic/cultural monument outside of the basin is the "Tower of Wooden Pallets" at 15357 Magnolia Boulevard, 1.5 miles south of the TWRP.

C. Land Use

While the primary purpose of the basin is flood control, several ancillary uses have been authorized. Agriculture and wildlife management are the two largest within the project area, followed by public utilities and recreation.

Agriculture is an interim land use in the basin, with the USCE administering 5-year leases which are revocable at any time. The three parcels proposed for the compensating excavation component currently are leased until August 1991 to a sod farming concern.

The project area includes part of the 48-acre Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve, leased to the City and allocated for the management of wildlife habitat. Specific sections of this reserve which would be affected by the proposed project include wooded wetland areas, a raptor foraging area, and an area previously graded for a planned marsh.

The City has leased and developed land in the basin for various recreational uses. Two such uses lie within the proposed project area: (1) a short section of paved bicycle path located near the intersection of Burbank Boulevard and the L.A. River, and (2) a tethered-model airplane area located partly within the proposed compensating excavation area and partly within the proposed effluent pipeline extension alignment.

To the east, Haskell Channel, a wildlife reserve and lake lie between the project area and the freeway. To the south, the Sepulveda Dam and the Ventura Freeway separate the project area from a low-density residential area. The project area is bordered on the north by the 80-acre Woodley Avenue Park, a California Air National Guard Facility, the Southern Pacific Railroad, Victory Boulevard, and a low- to medium-density residential area. A 31-acre radio-controlled model airplane field, the Woodley Flood Control Channel, and the 200-acre Woodley Golf Course border the project area to the west.

D. Water Resources/Quality

Several drainages border the project site, including the Los Angeles River, and the Haskell Flood Control Channel. Water flows

in both are typically low throughout most of the year, and consist largely of poor quality urban and agricultural runoff. An 11-acre seasonal (winter) pond has been developed in the unnamed wildlife management area north of Burbank Boulevard between the Haskell Channel and the Sepulveda Dam. A much smaller perennial pond has been developed in the northeast corner of the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve. Recent soil borings indicate that the depth to groundwater in the area of the proposed effluent pipeline extension is 70 feet.

E. Noise

The acoustical environment of the project site and surrounding area is dominated by transportation sources including surface streets, freeways, airports, and railroads. Because the project site is located near the intersection of two major transportation arteries, the San Diego (405) and Ventura (101) freeways, and is further bounded by two heavily travelled surface streets, Victory and Burbank boulevards, vehicular traffic is identified as the area's primary source of environmental noise.

F. Air Quality

The project site is located within the South Coast Air Basin where air quality is continuously surveyed by numerous monitoring stations. Data from the nearest air quality monitoring station (Reseda, 3 1/2 miles to the northwest) indicate a gradual improvement of most airborne contaminants during the past two decades. However, the area has exceeded minimum standards for suspended particulates, ozone, and carbon monoxide within the past three years. The major pollution sources in the area are motor vehicles and industrial processes.

G. Transportation/Circulation

The project site is bounded and bisected by heavily used city streets, including Victory and Burbank Boulevards, and Woodley Avenue. The surrounding area supports a network of city and state transportation arteries. The Ventura Freeway is located about one mile south of the project area. The San Diego Freeway is located directly to the east with access to the project site provided by the Victory and Burbank Boulevard exits. The Southern Pacific Railroad parallels the southern border of Victory Boulevard directly north of the proposed project area, and the Van Nuys Airport lies about 1/2 mile farther to the north.

H. Geology, Topography, and Soils

The project site is underlain by thick (300+ feet) Quaternary age alluvial deposits overlying Tertiary shale and sandstone bedrock. The area's topography is classified as flat, with slopes ranging from 0 to 2 percent. The area's soils are generally classified as sandy clays with poor drainage characteristics; however, a

nutrient-rich topsoil is associated with the site's agricultural areas and the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Refer to the attached Environmental Checklist Form (Attachment 1).

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

A. Earth

1.b. The project will result in disruption, displacement, compaction and overcovering of the soil. The pipeline installation component will involve open trenching in fields, tunnelling under the dam, and boring under the Haskell Channel. Trenching and boring depths will range from 14 to 28 feet, with temporary spoil piles located adjacent to the trench in the construction ROW. The pipeline installation components could result in the significant depletion of nutrient-rich topsoils.

The compensating excavation will involve the removal of a 3- to 4-foot layer of soil in three separate areas. These areas are currently leased for sod farming and contain improved topsoils. Consequently, the project's compensating excavation component could result in the significant depletion of improved topsoils.

The flood control dike will involve construction of an earthen levee in the area of an open field around the TWRP. Material from the compensating excavation will be used for this purpose. No significant impacts to earth resources are anticipated from the levee construction.

1.c. Both the compensating excavation and flood control dike project components will alter the area's topography. The areas used for the compensating excavation will be permanently lowered 3 to 4 feet. However, this alteration will not be significant because the relative preconstruction topography and drainage patterns in these areas will be maintained. The flood control dike will be constructed to a constant crest elevation of 715 feet, and will, therefore, range in height from 1 to 15 feet, as dictated by local topographic conditions. The dike will result in the loss of flood storage volume in the basin; however, this loss will be offset by the removal of an equivalent volume of basin soil below the 100-year flood level during the compensating excavation component.

1.e. Devegetation and soil disturbance associated with the pipeline installation and compensating excavation components could generate a potentially significant short-term increase in wind and/or water erosion of soils on the project site.

1.f. If conducted during the rainy season, devegetation and soil disturbance associated with the pipeline installation and compensating excavation components could generate significant incidental siltation of local drainages.

B. Air

2.a. Construction vehicles and equipment will produce exhaust emissions. However, these emissions will be short-term and will not exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District threshold criteria. Construction operations may result in significant short-term fugitive dust impacts. This is a concern because the Sepulveda area has been in violation of suspended particulates standards within the last 3 years.

C. Water

3.c. The proposed flood control dike project component will alter the basin's current flood water flow pattern; however, this impact will be insignificant as the dike will not impede the passage of flood flows.

3.i. The tunnelling operations associated with the Sepulveda Dam would temporarily increase the potential for flood waters to undermine the dam. This potential hazard is considered very remote.

D. Plant Life

4.a. The project will result in the disturbance of riparian, ruderal, and grassland vegetation associated with the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve. Any loss of riparian vegetation would be considered significant. Also, USCE ecologists are concerned about potential impacts to recently planted trees within the pipeline ROW, and about the unique vegetation management requirements of certain areas of the reserve. Consequently, the USCE has developed revegetation plans for this area (EA-8.1.a.).

4.d. Sod production would be interrupted during the compensating excavation, but this interruption would be short-term and is not considered significant.

E. Animal Life

5.d. The compensating excavation would temporarily disturb the foraging habitat of the tricolored blackbirds. If conducted during the period of November through early March, this component could also result in the temporary, although potentially significant, disturbance of foraging habitat for Canada geese. However, other similar habitat for these birds is available nearby (e.g. the sod farm east of the plant and the cornfields southwest of the river). Also, incidental siltation and/or fuel spills could result in

potentially significant indirect impacts to aquatic and wetland species, including the California red-legged frog and the western pond turtle; both are Federal Candidate List 2 species, while the red-legged frog also is protected from take in California.

F. Noise

6.a. Construction activities will result in increased noise levels. However, given the project site's relative isolation and the project's short duration, this impact will not significantly impact sensitive receptors outside of the basin. Nevertheless, construction noise could impact users of the adjacent recreation areas.

G. Land Use

8. The project could generate potentially significant short-term impacts to: (1) wildlife management, due to habitat disturbance and topsoil depletion; (2) recreation, due to increased noise and reduced safety; and (3) agriculture, due to the interruption of agricultural activities during the compensating excavation.

H. Transportation/Circulation

13.a. The project will generate additional truck and commuter (employee) traffic during construction. A maximum of 100 round-trip (200 one-way) truck operations per day has been estimated for the project. A traffic impact analysis was conducted based on this worst-case scenario. The analysis determined that the impact of the additional truck traffic will not be significant, as it will represent a negligible increment of the area's existing and projected traffic volumes. Nevertheless, local peak hour congestion could be exacerbated if hauling operations were to coincide with these periods.

13.f. Construction activities and equipment could create significant short-term traffic hazards for pedestrians, bicyclists, and commuters by increasing the potential for an accident. This accident potential could be exacerbated by the proximity of recreation areas to certain project construction components.

I. Public Services

14.a. While the proposal will not have a significant effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered fire protection services, it is noted that the USCE is concerned about the potential hazard of a brush fire accidentally ignited by construction equipment.

14.d. The pipeline installation component will result in potentially significant short-term impacts to the wildlife reserve. The compensating excavation component will result in insignificant

short-term impacts to a portion of a bicycle path and the tethered model airplane area. User safety of the bicycle path will be enhanced through realignment of a dangerous curve, and the tethered model airplane pads will be replaced in an area more conducive to their use (EA-7.3.a(1)).

14.e. The project's soil excavation and hauling operations could generate the need for additional road maintenance, such as cleaning; however, any impact would be short-term and insignificant.

J. Aesthetics

18. The project's earthen levee will create a potentially significant long-term aesthetic impact. In addition, excavation operations may produce a negative aesthetic effect due to disturbed soils and impacted vegetation; however, any impact would be short-term and insignificant.

K. Recreation

19. The project will directly impact a section of bicycle path and the tethered model airplane area by temporarily closing these facilities during a portion of the compensating excavation component (EA-7.3.a(1)). However, the impact will be insignificant as the closures will be very short-term. Moreover, the net effect on the bicycle path will be a permanent increase in user safety, as the path will be realigned, at the request of the Department of Recreation and Parks, to eliminate a dangerous curve that currently exists.

V. MITIGATION MEASURES

A. Earth

The significant impact of topsoil depletion to the agricultural areas will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of Corps soil retention requirements (EA-4.1.c) and the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.9(1)) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

The potential for significant incidental siltation impacts to surface drainages will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.1.b(2)) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

B. Air

The potentially significant short-term fugitive dust impacts will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.6) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

C. Water

The remote potential for flood waters undermining the Sepulveda Dam during pipeline tunneling operations will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through project scheduling restrictions (EA-4.3.a), and through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.12) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

D. Plant Life

The potentially significant impacts to floral resources will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the USCE-developed revegetation plans outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.1.a) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

E. Animal Life

The potentially significant impacts to faunal resources will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the procedures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.1.b) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2). There are no feasible alternatives to mitigate potential construction noise impacts to wildlife; however, any impact will be short-term.

F. Noise

The potentially significant short-term construction noise impacts to nearby sensitive receptors will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.7) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2). There are no feasible alternatives to mitigate potential construction noise impacts to wildlife; however, any impact will be short-term.

G. Land Use

The potentially significant impacts to land use will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.3) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

H. Transportation/Circulation

The potentially significant short-term impacts to traffic flow during AM and PM peak traffic hours, and to commuter and pedestrian safety throughout the work day, will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.8) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

I. Public Services

The potentially significant impacts to the wildlife reserve will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.1) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2). The potentially significant impact of a construction equipment-ignited brush fire will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.12) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

J. Aesthetics

The potentially significant short- and long-term aesthetic impacts will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.10) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

K. Recreation

The potentially significant short-term impacts to recreation resources and users will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA-8.12) and the Draft Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachment 2).

VI. COMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING ZONING AND PLANS

According to the Encino-Tarzana District Plan, the entire project area is zoned for open space land use. The entire Sepulveda Flood Control Basin is Federally-owned land acquired solely for the execution of water control actions (Source: 27 August 1986 Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers disposition form, "Criteria for Lease and Development of [Los Angeles District] Reservoir Lands"). Nevertheless, developments that meet specific criteria, such as operational and environmental compatibility, are permitted on reservoir lands. The proposed project is in full compliance with all such development criteria, as well as with City land use zoning.

VII. NAMES OF PREPARERS

This Initial Study was prepared by HARMSWORTH ASSOCIATES, under the supervision of Dr. Rodney V. Harmsworth, Project Director, in conjunction with Mr. Carl McCalla, Project Engineer for the City of Los Angeles. The following individuals were primarily responsible for developing this Initial Study.

A. Harmsworth Associates

Dr. Rodney V. Harmsworth	Project Director
Randall P. Preston	Project Manager
Kathleen E. Bergin	Project Archaeologist
Thomas J. Gardiner	Project Noise and Traffic Analyst
David E. Bramlet	Project Biologist (Consultant)

B. City of Los Angeles

The following individuals from the City of Los Angeles, divisions of Wastewater Systems Engineering, Wastewater Program Management, and Project Management, provided the project engineering information and additional technical review:

Carl R. McCalla	Supervisory Project Engineer
Thomas T. Shimazu	Supervisory Project Engineer
Albert A. Ujiie	Effluent Pipeline Engineering
Keith W. Hanks	Compensating Excavation/Flood Control Dike Engineering
Bradley M. Smith	Technical Review
Donald Marske	Technical Review
James E. Doty	Technical Review
Linda Moore	Technical Review and Revision

ATTACHMENT 1
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
(To be Completed by Lead Agency)

VIII. DETERMINATION - RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A. Summary

The City of Los Angeles proposes to protect its Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, located in the federally-operated Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin, from inundation by a 100-year flood. To accomplish this, the City proposes to construct a dike around the plant, grade areas near the plant, and extend the plant's treated effluent outfall pipeline to a point downstream of Sepulveda Dam. An Initial Study identified potential impacts on earth, air, water, plants, animals, noise, land use, traffic, public services, aesthetics, and recreation. However, measures which will mitigate these impacts to insignificant levels have been adopted.

B. Recommended Environmental Documentation

On the basis of this initial evaluation, I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in Section V have been added to the project. A Mitigated Negative Declaration should be prepared.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Environmental Checklist Form

2. Mitigation Monitoring Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
(To Be Completed By Lead Agency)

I. Background

1. Name of Proponent Department of Public Works, WSED
2. Address and Phone Number of Proponent City Hall East, Suite 650
200 North Main Street, Los Angeles, California 90012
213/485-3127
3. Date of Checklist Submitted 13 August 1990
4. Agency Requiring Checklist Project Management Division
5. Name of Proposal, if applicable Tillman WRP Flood Protection Project

II. Environmental Impacts

(Explanations of all "yes" and "maybe" answers are required on attached sheets.)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Earth. Will the proposal result in:			
a. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcovering of the soil?	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
g. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

Yes Maybe No

2. **Air.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? _____ X _____
 - b. The creation of objectionable odors? _____ _____ X _____
 - c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate either locally or regionally? _____ _____ X _____
3. **Water.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? _____ _____ X _____
 - b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? _____ _____ X _____
 - c. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters? _____ _____ X _____
 - d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? _____ _____ X _____
 - e. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? _____ _____ X _____
 - f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters? _____ _____ X _____
 - g. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? _____ _____ X _____
 - h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? _____ _____ X _____
 - i. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? _____ X _____
4. **Plant Life.** Will the proposal result in:
- a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? _____ _____ X _____

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
	b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	c. Introduction of new species plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	d. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
5.	Animal Life. Will the proposal result in:			
	a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of animals (bird, land animals including reptiles, fish and shell fish, benthic organisms or insects)?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	c. Introduction of new species of animal into an area, or in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	d. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
6.	Noise. Will the proposal result in:			
	a. Increase in existing noise levels?	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
	b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
7.	Light and Glare. Will the proposal produce new light or glare?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
8.	Land Use. Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
9.	Natural Resources. Will the proposal result in:			
	a. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
10.	Risk of Upset. Will the proposal involve:			
	a. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
	b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
11.	Population. Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
12.	Housing. Will the proposal affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
13.	Transportation/Circulation. Will the proposal result in:			
	a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
	b. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	c. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	d. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	e. Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
14.	Public Services. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:			
	a. Fire protection?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	b. Police protection?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	c. Schools?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	d. Parks or other recreational facilities?	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
	e. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
	f. Other governmental services?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
15.	Energy. Will the proposal result in:			
	a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	_____	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
	b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
16.	Utilities. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:			
	a. Power or natural gas?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	b. Communications systems?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	c. Water?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	d. Sewer or septic tanks?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	e. Storm water drainage?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	f. Solid waste and disposal?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
17.	Human Health. Will the proposal result in:			
	a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
18.	Aesthetics. Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
19.	Recreation. Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
20.	Cultural Resources.			
	a. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	b. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	c. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

Yes

Maybe

No

d. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? _____

X

21. **Mandatory Findings of Significance.**

a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? _____

X

b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.) _____

X

c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable: (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.) _____

X

d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? _____

X

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) Project Title/Work Order Number: Tiller Water Reclamation Plant 117004
 Work Order Number: EXX11225, EXX11225, EXX11225
- 2) Project Location/Address: 117004 Tiller Water Reclamation Plant, 117004 Tiller Water Reclamation Plant, 117004 Tiller Water Reclamation Plant
- 3) Project Engineer/Manager: [Name]
- 4) Mitigation Measure Progress: [Status]

ATTACHMENT 2

MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN

- 1) General Comments: [Text]
- 2) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature: [Text]
- 3) Date: [Text]
- 4) Project Engineer/Manager: [Text]
- 5) Project Location/Address: [Text]
- 6) Project Title/Work Order Number: [Text]
- 7) Mitigation Measure Progress: [Text]
- 8) Project Engineer/Manager: [Text]
- 9) Project Location/Address: [Text]
- 10) Project Title/Work Order Number: [Text]
- 11) General Comments: [Text]

PLANT LIFE

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title/Work order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
 - 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
 - 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
 - 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** PLANT LIFE: (see attached for details)
 - 1) salvage and replant trees in pipeline construction ROW
 - 2) implement USCE revegetation plans for both wildlife reserves
 - 3) fence pipeline construction ROW in wildlife reserve
 - 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
 - 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
 - 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check) 1) Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications, 2) maintenance report to be submitted to USCE at end of each growing season (see attached)
 - 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance
- This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
 - 10) **Date:**
 - 11) **General Comments:**

**MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(1 of 3)**

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: PLANT LIFE

- 1) The USCE has expressed concern for the larger trees within the recommended effluent pipeline ROW that would be removed during construction, particularly those recently planted for wildlife enhancement, and would prefer that the trees be salvaged. Pre-operations planning shall be coordinated with the USCE to facilitate salvage of the proper trees and to ensure compliance with established wildlife management goals and policies in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve.
- 2) The USCE has formulated the following revegetation plans for the mitigation of impacts to vegetation and wildlife habitat in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve.

Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve

- 1) Mitigation shall be conducted at the areal ratio of 3:1 for the disturbance of 1.5 acres of riparian scrub and associated vegetation in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve.
- 2) The total area in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve outside the pipeline ROW to be revegetated shall be 4.5 acres. The exact location and configuration of the area to be revegetated lying outside of the construction ROW shall be determined by the contractor in consultation with the USCE before the start of mitigation.
- 3) Planting of the area shall be with the following plant material, and at the densities summarized below. The numbers are for a per acre basis and do not reflect the total amount that shall be planted on the site.
- 4)
 - 30 *Baccharis pilularis* (Coyote Bush)
 - 15 *Prunus illicifolia* (Holly Leaf Cherry)
 - 10 *Rhamnus californica* (California Coffeeberry)
 - 50 *Ribes aureum* (Golden Currant)
 - 15 *Rosa californica* (California Rose)
 - 25 *Rubus ursinus* (California Blackberry)
 - 60 *Sambucus mexicanus* (Elderberry)
 - 15 *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon)
 - 15 *Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade Berry)
 - 15 *Artemisia californica* (California Sagebrush)
 - 30 *Lotus scoparius* (Deerweed)
 - 05 *Acer negundo* (Boxelder)
 - 30 *Populus fremontii* (Desert Cottonwood)
 - 10 *Populus trichocarpa* (Black Cottonwood)
 - 05 *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak)

This is a total of 280 one-gallon shrubs and 50 five-gallon trees per acre.

**MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(2 of 3)**

- 5) Any of the trees in Haskell Channel that are injured or die as a result of the pipeline installation work done in the channel area shall be replaced.
- 6) There shall be a five year maintenance requirement on the planted material to ensure survival. The project proponent and/or contractor shall provide written assurances to the USCE ecologist that the plant material shall receive adequate water. The design of the watering system shall be left to the project proponent, but must receive USCE approval before the start of mitigation.
- 7) Planting shall be conducted during the late fall or early winter, preferably commencing in late November or early December, immediately after completion of the pipeline construction. Planting shall be completed by the end of March, with no planting allowed after 1 April. Should the planting not be completed during the specified time period, the contractor will have to wait until the following year.
- 8) All plants shall be inoculated with mycorrhizal fungus to aid soil development and help ensure survival of the plant material.
- 9) No fertilizers shall be used in field conditions.
- 10) Planted areas shall be kept free of the following weeds:

Riccinus communis (Castor Bean)
Nicotiana glauca (Tree Tobacco)
Xanthium sp. (Cocklebur)
Cirsium vulgare (Bull Thistle)
Arundo donax (Giant reed)
Silybum marianum (milk thistle)
Centaurea melitensis (star thistle or tecolote)
Sorghum halepense (Johnson grass)
Marrubium vulgare (horehound)
Salsola kali (Russian thistle)
Foeniculum vulgare (sweet fennel)
Brassica nigra (black mustard)

Methods of control shall be primarily mechanical, with herbicide use restricted to eradication of the *Arundo* grass. Plant basins shall be kept weed-free. Also, a three-foot buffer strip around each plant basin shall also be maintained throughout the five-year maintenance period.

- 11) A maintenance report shall be submitted to the USCE Operations Branch ecologist at the end of each growing season, stating the exact numbers planted, how much water the plants are receiving, the number of plants surviving, and the species of weeds (if any) present.

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(3 of 3)

- 12) Plant survival shall be 80 percent at the end of the five-year contract. Plants which do not survive the first growing season shall be replaced in the fall of the second year. If mortality exceeds 20 percent, the project proponent and/or contractor shall determine the cause of mortality and adjust the revegetation project accordingly. It is strongly recommended that a biological consultant or revegetation consultant be hired to conduct this work.
- 13) All of the California roses and blackberries shall be planted in the basins of the trees to receive shade. The basins shall also be fitted with cages to provide herbivore protection. The cages shall be removed at the end of the five-year maintenance period. All other plants could be planted in a random arrangement, with the exception of plants used to replace riparian vegetation directly disturbed during pipeline placement.
- 3) Weed growth shall be controlled on all disturbed areas of the project during the construction phase. Where feasible, the soil should be scraped as weeds begin to appear.
- 4) All staging areas shall be located within the compensating excavation areas and/or the pipeline ROW. Ingress and egress for the pipeline ROW shall be only from the dam and/or Burbank Boulevard where it intersects the ROW.
- 5) The trenching areas of the pipeline ROW will be fenced to ensure confinement of construction equipment to the ROW.
- 6) The larger trees, along with the sensitive riparian area along Haskell Channel, within the pipeline ROW shall be flagged to help avoid inadvertent disturbance.
- 7) The larger trees within the pipeline ROW shall be mapped prior to the start of construction to facilitate monitoring.
- 8) The contract specifications shall identify Haskell Channel, northerly of Burbank Boulevard, as part of the wildlife reserve, prohibit personnel from entering the channel, and require the contractor to avoid disturbing the channel in any way. Signs shall be posted along the service road to the west of the channel identifying the area to the east as environmentally sensitive and not to be disturbed. Use of the road as a haul route shall be prohibited.

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** ANIMAL LIFE: (see attached for details)
 - 1) reestablish foraging habitat by implementing USCE revegetation plans (refer to PLANT LIFE mitigations)
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
 - 1) Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications,
 - 2) maintenance report to be submitted to USCE at end of each growing season (see attached)
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET

(1 of 1)

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: ANIMAL LIFE

1) Refer to PLANT LIFE mitigations.

2) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

3) Date:

4) General Comments:

5) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

6) Date:

7) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

8) Date:

9) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

10) Date:

11) General Comments:

12) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

13) Date:

14) General Comments:

15) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

16) Date:

17) General Comments:

18) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

19) Date:

20) General Comments:

21) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

22) Date:

23) General Comments:

24) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

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26) General Comments:

27) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

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192) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

193) Date:

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195) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

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197) General Comments:

198) Name of Monitor/Title/and Signature:

199) Date:

200) General Comments:

SENSITIVE SPECIES

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** SENSITIVE SPECIES: (see attached for details)
 - 1) Restrict compensating excavation operations to one side of Woodley Avenue at a time. Replant before starting construction on other side.
 - 2) Implement measures to mitigate possible siltation/contamination impacts.
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check) Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications report to be submitted to USCE at end of each growing season (see attached)
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

11A

**MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(1 of 1)**

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: SENSITIVE SPECIES

- 1] The potential impacts to tricolored blackbirds and Canada Geese through the disturbance of forage habitat in the areas of the compensating excavation component shall be mitigated by employing a phased construction strategy. Construction activities shall be confined to one side of Woodley Avenue at a time. That side must be replanted before construction can begin on the other side.

- 2] The potential for impacts to sensitive aquatic or aquatic-dependent species from an incidental fuel spill shall be mitigated by conducting all in-field refueling in a below-grade location which has been lined to capture fuel spills. No refueling shall be conducted in or adjacent to drainage channels or any wetland areas.

The potential for impacts to sensitive species from incidental siltation shall be mitigated by rapidly reseeding newly devegetated areas to help limit erosion. The reseeding program shall be coordinated with the USCE to ensure that the erosion control species used are consistent with wildlife management objectives. Also, all spoil piles shall be established away from drainage channels to help further obviate potential siltation impacts.

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** AIR: (see attached for details)
 - 1] minimize total area of soil disturbance/excavation at any one time
 - 2] water disturbed areas as needed to suppress fugitive dust
 - 3] suspend soil-disturbing operations during dry, windy periods
 - 4] quickly reseed newly devegetated areas as soon as is practicable
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1] Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2] Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(1 of 1)

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: AIR

- 1] No additional details.
- 2] No additional details.
- 3] Temporary suspension of soil-disturbing operations shall occur during periods of climatic dryness combined with periods when the average wind velocity exceeds 15 miles per hour (e.g., during 'Santa Anas').
- 4] The reseedling program shall be coordinated with the USCE to ensure that the species used are consistent with wildlife management objectives.

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** EARTH: (see attached for details)
 - 1) preserve agricultural and wildlife reserve topsoils by stockpiling and replacing
 - 2) return agricultural topsoils to condition suitable for renewed agricultural use
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(1 of 1)

WATER

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: EARTH

- 1] The improved topsoils in the agricultural and wildlife reserve areas of the effluent pipeline extension and compensating excavation project components shall be preserved as follows:
 - o the upper 2 feet of soil shall be stockpiled separately from all other excavated soils
 - o the stockpiled topsoil shall be replaced following construction/ excavation in the area
- 2] The replaced agricultural topsoil shall be ripped and cross-ripped to a depth of between 18-24 inches, and then tilled to a condition suitable for resumed agricultural use.

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** WATER: (see attached for details)
 - 1] implement measures to mitigate possible siltation/contamination impacts
 - 2] restrict dam tunnelling to dry season (May-September)
 - 3] develop flood evacuation plan as contingency for an unseasonable storm
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1] Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2] Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance
 - 3] USCE to approve flood evacuation plan prior to start of construction

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

REVISED

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(1 of 1)

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: WATER

- 1] The tunnelling operations associated with the Sepulveda Dam shall be restricted to dry season months (i.e., May through September, inclusive) to avoid the rainy season and thereby substantially reduce the remote potential hazard of flood waters undermining the dam.
- 2] No additional details.
- 3] An emergency flood evacuation plan shall be formulated by the project proponent and/or contractor for approval by the USCE prior to the start of pipeline construction. The plan shall provide assurances to the USCE that project personnel and equipment can safely be evacuated from flood-prone areas within four hours following an evacuation notice from the USCE. The plan shall also indicate how the contractor proposes to seal the tunnel shaft opening to prevent infiltration of flood waters beneath the dam, should a flood occur during the tunnelling operation beneath the dam.

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed: AESTHETICS: (see attached for details)**
- 1] landscape earthen levee with native vegetation
 - 2] quickly reseed disturbed/devegetated areas, pending implementation of USCE revegetation plans
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
- 1] Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2] Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance
- This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

**MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(1 of 1)**

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: AESTHETICS

- 1) The long-term aesthetic impact of the earthen levee shall be mitigated by landscaping the levee with native plants. Landscape planning and design shall be coordinated with the USCE to ensure compliance with established Basin development goals and policies, particularly as regards appropriate species selection. As with the revegetation programs discussed for PLANT LIFE mitigations, the levee landscaping operation shall be conducted during the first winter following levee construction. Also, all plantings shall receive supplemental irrigation until such time as the plantings are established.

- 2) The short-term aesthetic impacts from exposed soils and disturbed vegetation shall be mitigated by the interim reseeded and subsequent salvage and revegetation programs discussed for EARTH and PLANT LIFE mitigations.

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed: NOISE:**
 - 1) strictly adhere to federal, state, and local noise regulations/ordinances
 - 2) employ commonly accepted equipment operation, maintenance, & retrofit practices
 - 3) establish reasonable equipment operating hours
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification: Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)**
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone: (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)**
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed: RECREATION:**
 - 1) refer to NOISE for mitigations to potential noise impacts
 - 2) refer to TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION for mitigations to potential safety impacts
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification: Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)**
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone: (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)**
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

LAND USE

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** LAND USE:
 - 1) for Recreation, refer to NOISE and TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION mitigations
 - 2) for Wildlife Management, refer to PLANT/ANIMAL LIFE and EARTH mitigations
 - 3) for Agriculture, refer to EARTH mitigations
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION:
 - 1) restrict off-site material hauling operations to non-peak hours
 - 2) as necessary, employ appropriate safety/warning devices and practices
 - 3) restrict public access to construction/excavation areas
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

- 1) **Project Title\Work Order Number:** Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, Work Order Numbers: EXX31235, EXX31872, EXX31873
- 2) **Name and Address of Lead Agency:** City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Project Management Division: 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 807, LA, CA 90012
- 3) **Project Engineer\Manager:** Carl R. McCalla, Sanitary Engineer, Wastewater Systems Engineering Division, 213/485-3127
- 4) **Mitigation Measure Proposed:** PUBLIC SERVICES: (see attached for details)
 - 1) develop fire prevention and suppression plan
 - 2) utilize muffler spark arrestors to reduce brush fire potential
 - 3) for impacts to the wildlife reserves, refer to PLANT/ANIMAL LIFE and EARTH
- 5) **Feasible\Not Feasible:** Feasible
- 6) **Responsible Party and Signature:**
- 7) **Verification:** Monitoring and Reporting Process (e.g. Plan Check)
Provisions to be included in project plans and specifications
- 8) **Monitoring Milestone:** (e.g. Prior to grading, prior to excavation)
 - 1) Project Engineer to verify provision in bid package prior to advertisement
 - 2) Contract Administration to certify compliance prior to contract acceptance
 - 3) USCE to approve fire plan prior to start of construction

This mitigation measure was incorporated into the conditions for approval for this project. A completed and signed form for each mitigation measure indicates that this mitigation measure has been completed with and implemented per P.R.C. 21081.6. The completed form should be sent to Project Management Division's Environmental Monitoring Section (Stop #490).
- 9) **Name of Monitor\Title\and Signature:**
- 10) **Date:**
- 11) **General Comments:**

**MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT
CONTINUATION SHEET
(1 of 1)**

Details of Mitigation Measure(s) Proposed: PUBLIC SERVICES

- 1) The project proponent and/or contractor shall formulate a written fire prevention and suppression plan for approval by the USCE prior to the start of project construction. The plan shall provide assurances to the USCE that adequate measures will be taken to prevent brush fires and that, in the event of an accidental brush fire, the contractor shall possess the proper expertise and have on-site the equipment and personnel necessary to execute rapid and effective fire suppression. Definitive plans and specifications shall also be submitted to the Los Angeles City Fire Department for permits before construction begins.
- 2) No additional details.
- 3) Refer to PLANT LIFE, ANIMAL LIFE, and EARTH mitigation discussions.

PROPOSED PROJECT:
TEPMA WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Prepared for:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Los Angeles District
Environmental Resources Branch
2300 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Prepared by:
City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works

MAY 1991

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

APPLICANT:

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works

LOCATION:

Sepulveda Flood Control Basin
Los Angeles, California

PROPOSED PROJECT:

**TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**

Prepared for:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Los Angeles District
Environmental Resources Branch
300 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Prepared by:

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works

MAY 1991

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2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Tillman Flood Protection Project
Project Type: Institutional

Project Location:
City: Los Angeles
County: Los Angeles
State: California

Applicant/Local Sponsor/Cooperating Agency: City of Los Angeles

1. PROJECT LOCATION

The Tillman Flood Protection Project is located within the northeastern portion of the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin, a dry-land reservoir on the upper Los Angeles River in the northeast corner of the Encino-Tarzana District of the San Fernando Valley (Figure 1). This site, which occupies approximately 190 acres, is roughly bounded by Victory Boulevard to the north, the Woodley Flood Control Channel to the west, the Sepulveda Dam to the south, and the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) to the east. The project site lies within Los Angeles City limits, and is about 2 miles west of the Van Nuys Civic Center, and about 15 miles northwest of the Los Angeles Civic Center.

Dry-weather flow treatment capacity of 40 million gallons per day (MGD).

The WRF is an integral part of the City's Hyperion wastewater system. The plant provides hydraulic relief for major interceptor sewers in the San Fernando Valley as well as the North Outfall Sewer. The Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley Relief Sewer tunnel through the Santa Monica Mountains, and downstream portions of the Hyperion system including the Hyperion Treatment Plant. In 1981, the plant provided wastewater service for approximately 207,000 people in the western and central San Fernando Valley.

FIGURE 1
REGIONAL MAP



FIGURE 1
REGIONAL MAP

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Sepulveda Dam and Flood Control Basin are federally-owned and are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1985b). As authorized in the River and Harbor Act of 1936, and subsequently revised by the Flood Control Act of 1941, this reservoir is an integral part of the comprehensive plan for flood control in the Los Angeles County drainage area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1981). The dam regulates runoff from a drainage area of about 152 square miles, including the San Gabriel, Santa Monica, and Santa Susana mountains, and the Simi Hills. All of the major inflow and impoundment events in the history of the reservoir have been the result of winter storms, and a peak flood elevation of 705.10 feet was registered in 1980 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1985b).

In 1969, the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, leased 80 acres in the northeast corner of the basin for construction of the Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant, later renamed the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP). Construction of this facility began in 1981 with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of California, and the City of Los Angeles (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1987).

The 1982 Wastewater Facilities Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) called for phased TWRP expansions to accommodate planned growth in the San Fernando Valley. Phase I operations began in 1984 with an average dry-weather flow treatment capacity of 40 million gallons per day (mgd).

The TWRP is an integral part of the City's Hyperion wastewater system. The plant provides hydraulic relief for major interceptor sewers in the San Fernando Valley, as well as the North Outfall Sewer, the La Cienega-San Fernando Valley Relief Sewer tunnel through the Santa Monica Mountains, and downstream portions of the Hyperion system including the Hyperion Treatment Plant. In 1986, the plant provided wastewater services for approximately 287,000 people in the western and central San Fernando Valley.

Additionally, the Corps of Engineers has informed the City of its general policy regarding development of Los Angeles District reservoir land, which states that "the development should not reduce the ability of the dam and reservoir to fulfill authorized project purposes." Such purposes include, but are not limited to, "flood control, water supply, water quality enhancement, fish and wildlife enhancement, recreation, and control of runoff to facilitate construction activities in the downstream channel, channel inspection and maintenance, emergency activities, and actions in response to future congressional and presidential mandates" (U.S. Corps of Engineers 1988). Because the proposed

3. NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

3.1. FLOOD PROTECTION: The Sepulveda Dam is part of a flood control system which provides protection to communities in the Los Angeles Drainage Area. Originally, the dam provided protection from a Standard Project Flood which had a recurrence interval of about 300 years. However, due to the intense urbanization of the watershed upstream, the dam can no longer provide protection against 100-year floods. It is thus unable to provide the Standard Project Flood level of protection appropriate for urban areas.

Consequently, the Corps of Engineers is currently reanalyzing the water control plan for the Sepulveda Dam. Indications are that a modification of the Sepulveda Dam spillway gate operation will ultimately be adopted. This modification will effect the 100-year flood water surface elevation level (WSEL). The Corps of Engineers has calculated this elevation under present and future watershed development conditions using the current water control plan and the modified spillway gate operating plan as follows (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1988):

	<u>100-year WSEL, CURRENT PLAN</u>	<u>100-year WSEL, MODIFIED PLAN</u>
Present:	712.2'	713.6'
Future:	712.9'	714.4'

Because most of the TWRP facilities lie below this elevation, and because the plant was built with EPA funds, the City of Los Angeles is required to protect the plant from the 100-year flood (Executive Order 11988, Sec. 3(b)). A dike surrounding the plant has been proposed for this purpose and the City requested the Corps of Engineers to provide the elevation of the 100-year flood upon which the design of the dike should be based. The Corps of Engineers has recommended that the City utilize the 714.4-foot elevation based on the recommended modified water control operation plan and on future watershed development conditions.

Additionally, the Corps of Engineers has informed the City of its general policy regarding development of Los Angeles District reservoir land, which states that "the development should not reduce the ability of the dam and reservoir to fulfill authorized project purposes." Such purposes include, but are not limited to, "flood control, water supply, water quality enhancement, fish and wildlife enhancement, recreation, and control of runoff to facilitate construction activities in the downstream channel, channel inspection and maintenance, emergency activities, and actions in response to future congressional and presidential mandates" (U.S. Corps of Engineers 1988). Because the proposed

floodproofing of the TWRP would result in a loss of flood storage capacity in the basin, thereby increasing the chances of an uncontrolled spillway flow, the Corps of Engineers requires that the lost flood storage capacity be compensated for at or below the elevation from which it is taken. Removal of basin soil equal in volume to the lost flood storage capacity has been proposed to fulfill this compensatory requirement.

3.2. OPERATIONAL CRITERIA: Currently, the TWRP discharges effluent inside the basin directly into the Los Angeles River by means of a gravity outfall pipeline. The plant's effluent collection channel, designed for a water surface elevation of 701 feet, directs effluent to the existing outfall pipeline. The effluent is discharged to the Los Angeles River where the existing pipeline outlet elevation is 680 feet. As a result, the outfall's hydraulic head differential diminishes as basin flood waters rise. Once the flood level elevation reaches 701 feet, all hydraulic advantage is lost, forcing the plant to return excess raw sewage inflows to the Additional Valley Outfall Relief Sewer. This negates one of the TWRP's primary functions: hydraulic relief for downstream sewer lines and the Hyperion Treatment Plant. The situation is compounded by the fact that much of the City's sewerage system already is operating at or near peak wet weather capacity. A potential consequence of this scenario would be an emergency discharge of sewage to Ballona Creek at the North Outfall Treatment Facility (formerly the Jackson Avenue Overflow Structure) to relieve hydraulic overloading of the North Outfall Sewer.

At flood levels in excess of 701 feet, the plant will begin to be inundated by the rising flood waters. Depending upon the ultimate flood level elevation, the effects on the TWRP would range from the temporary disruption of sewage treatment, as occurred on one occasion when a flood event caused a storm water backup into the plant's chlorine contact basins, to the uncontrolled discharge of sewage directly into the basin. Any discharge of sewage to either Ballona Creek or the Sepulveda Basin would constitute a "condition of pollution and a potential public health hazard", as defined by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and could, therefore, lead to civil penalties.

To maintain uninterrupted plant operations during flood events, the effluent must either be piped out of the flood control basin to a point downstream of the dam or pumped beyond the proposed dike and into the flood control basin.

3.3. HYDRAULIC CRITERIA: The 1982 Wastewater Facilities Plan (City of Los Angeles 1982) projects the TWRP System flow to reach 85 mgd by the year 2000. The second modular expansion phase (40 mgd), currently under construction, will be operational by September, 1991.

4. PROPOSED PROJECT

4.1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project involves three construction components: (a) extension of the plant's current effluent outfall pipeline beyond the flood control basin; (b) construction of a flood control dike around the TWRP facilities; and (c) compensating excavation. Each of these project components is discussed below.

a. Effluent Pipeline Extension Alignment 1: The proposed pipeline extension alignment is depicted in Figures 2 and 3. A diversion structure would be installed on the existing effluent pipeline several hundred feet upstream of the outfall structure. The diversion structure would permanently divert all effluent to the extended pipeline for discharge outside of the flood control basin. Thus, the final reach of the existing effluent pipeline downstream from the proposed junction structure would be abandoned. However, the effluent would not be diverted to the new pipeline until the planned 30 mgd outfall for the new recreation lake upstream becomes operational. Therefore, this project would still provide flow to the river within the basin.

The pipeline extension would proceed southeasterly from the diversion structure (parallel to the Los Angeles River) beneath an open field for 1,300 feet before reaching Burbank Boulevard. The pipeline would cross Burbank Boulevard in a 350-foot long tunnel and continue in the same direction beneath a wooded/riparian area for a distance of 750 feet. At this point, a transition structure would split the pipeline into a double barrel pipeline which would then proceed under the Haskell Channel and a proposed wetland/marsh for a distance of 600 feet. The double barrel pipeline would then change course slightly to the south and proceed 300 feet to the Sepulveda Dam. The double barrel pipeline would cross beneath the dam in a 500-foot long tunnel at a point approximately 450 feet east of the dam spillway. On the downstream side of the dam, the double barrel pipeline would make another southerly turn and proceed 400 feet to another transition structure where the double barrel pipeline would switch back to a single line. The last stretch of the proposed alignment would continue in a southwesterly direction for 900 feet before terminating at the east sidewall of the Los Angeles River 900 feet downstream of the dam's outlet gate structure. The overall length of this alignment would be approximately 5,260 feet.

Approximately 3,460 feet would be constructed of single barrel, 108-inch diameter, reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) having a slope which would closely follow the Basin's present grade. Jacking or tunnelling would be used to install the pipe under Burbank Boulevard, while the remainder of this single-line pipe would be laid in an open trench.

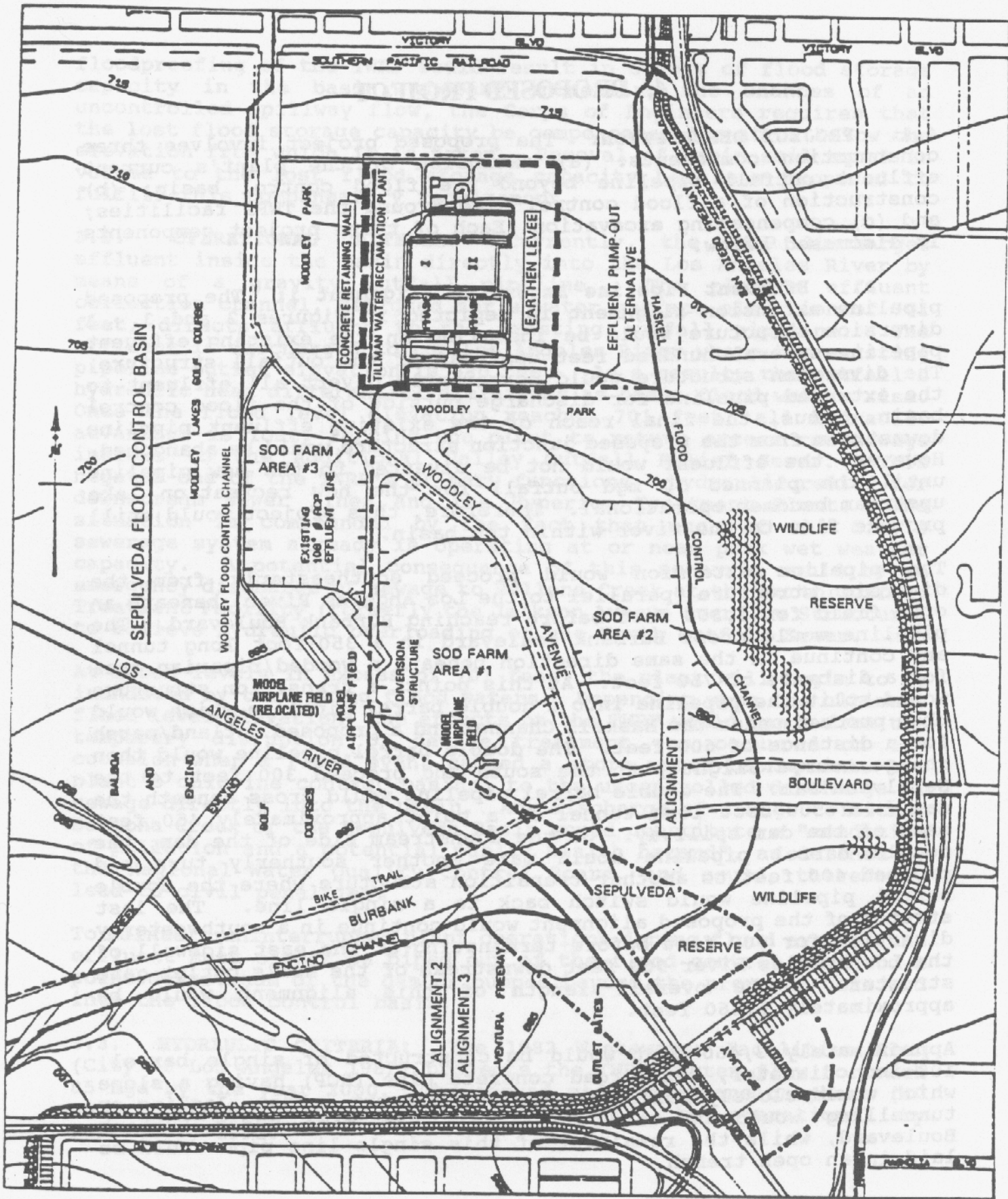


FIGURE 2
EA-8

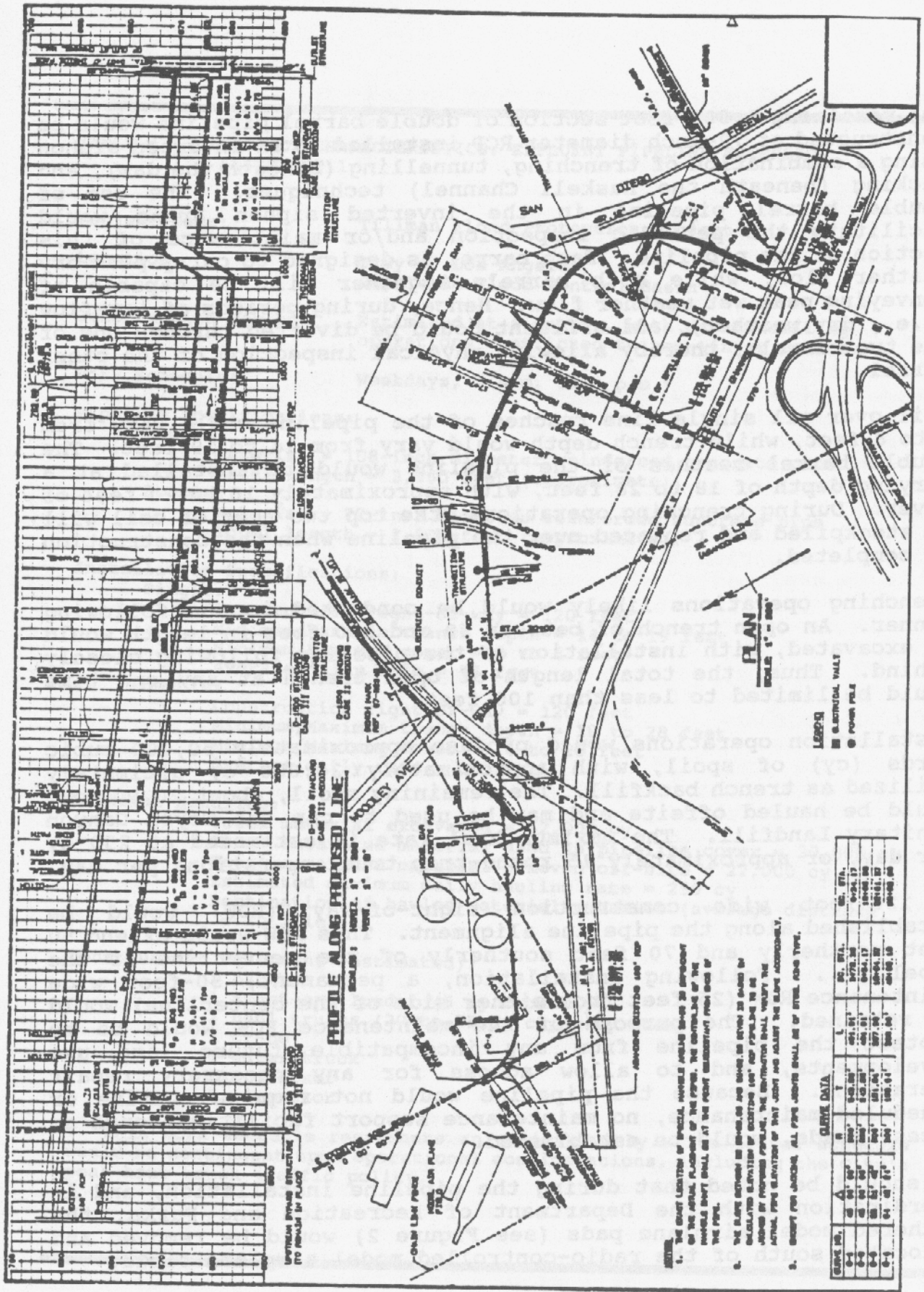


FIGURE 3
PLAN AND PROFILE VIEWS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT
EFFLUENT PIPELINE EXTENSION (ALIGNMENT 1)

The remaining 1,800-foot section of double barrel pipeline would be constructed of 72-inch diameter RCP installed in an inverted siphon using a combination of trenching, tunnelling (beneath the dam), and jacking (beneath the Haskell Channel) techniques. The use of double barrel pipeline in the inverted siphon areas would facilitate the periodic inspection and/or maintenance of this section of the pipeline. Each barrel is designed to carry peak dry weather flow, while both barrels together will be capable of conveying peak wet weather flow. Hence, during periods of low-flow (i.e., dry weather), all effluent could be diverted through one of the two barrels, thereby allowing physical inspection of the other barrel.

Soil over all single line reaches of the pipeline would vary from 2 to 8 feet, while trench depth would vary from 14 to 19 feet. The double barrel reaches of the pipeline would be installed at a varying depth of 18 to 28 feet, with approximately 16 to 20 feet of cover. During trenching operations, the top two feet of soil will be stockpiled and replaced over the pipeline when the construction is completed.

Trenching operations likely would be conducted in the following manner. An open trench of between 50 and 100 feet in length would be excavated, with installation of the pipeline following closely behind. Thus, the total length of open trench at any one time would be limited to less than 100 feet.

Installation operations would produce approximately 50,000 cubic yards (cy) of spoil, with approximately 30,000 cy ultimately utilized as trench backfill. The remaining spoil, about 20,000 cy, would be hauled offsite and may be used to cap the Toyon Canyon Sanitary Landfill. The maximum haul rate is estimated at 250 cy per day, or approximately 15 round-trip truck operations per day.

A 120-foot wide construction right-of-way (ROW) would be established along the pipeline alignment. This ROW would extend 50 feet northerly and 70 feet southerly of the centerline of the pipeline. Following installation, a permanent, 50-foot wide maintenance ROW (25 feet from either side of the centerline) would be retained. The purpose of the maintenance ROW would be to protect the pipeline from any incompatible future land use developments, and to allow access for any necessary repair operations. Because the pipeline would not require routine or scheduled maintenance, no maintenance support facilities, such as access roads, would be established.

It should be noted that during the pipeline installation, and in coordination with the Department of Recreation and Parks, the tethered model airplane pads (see Figure 2) would be removed and relocated south of the radio-controlled model airplane field.

TABLE 1. PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS: EFFLUENT PIPELINE EXTENSION ALIGNMENT 1

Project Name: Tillman Flood Protection Project

Location: City of Los Angeles,
Sepulveda Flood Control Basin

Construction Period: Estimated at 6 months, with dam tunnelling operations restricted to non-winter months.

Work Schedule: Weekdays, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

Pipeline Specifications:

Single:

Material = 108-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe
Total length = 3,460 feet (approximate)

Double:

Material = 72-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe
Total length = 1,800 feet (approximate)

Installation Specifications:

Single:

Construction right-of-way = 120 feet
Minimum/Maximum trench depth = 14 to 19 feet
Minimum/Maximum cover = 2 to 8 feet
Average daily rate = 75 feet

Double:

Construction right-of-way = 120 feet
Minimum/Maximum trench depth = 18 to 28 feet
Minimum/Maximum cover = 16 to 20 feet
Average daily rate = 50 feet

Material Handling:

Total material excavated = 52,000 cy
Total excavated material used as pipeline cover = 30,000 cy
Total excavated material removed off-site = 22,000 cy
Estimated maximum daily hauling rate = 250 cy
Destination of hauled material = Varies (average distance = 10 miles)

Construction Equipment (estimated):

1 backhoe
1 front-end loader (5 cy capacity)
2 haul trucks (20 to 25 cy capacity each)
1 crane
1 water truck
1 bulldozer
1 compactor

* This work schedule represents an estimate only. The actual schedule would be contingent upon operational considerations, including the City's peak hour truck traffic policy.

The projected equipment list and other operational parameters relating to the proposed pipeline extension component are listed in Table 1. The total construction cost for the proposed pipeline extension is estimated at \$5.2 million and would be made up entirely of the pipeline materials and installations. The operations and maintenance costs would be insignificant and no acquisition cost is anticipated for the pipeline ROW which is entirely within federal property.

Aside from being the least expensive project alternative, Alignment 1 would require only one inverted siphon, compared with two each for Alignments 2 and 3. Thus, Alignment 1 would be less complicated to construct, would be more efficient to operate, and would require the least maintenance. In addition, this alignment is the most direct route to the dam and would afford a safer dam crossing than Alignment 3. Alignment 1 would result in the removal of some of the mature trees and the temporary disturbance of other ROW vegetation and wildlife habitat within the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve. However, whenever possible, removed trees would be salvaged and unsalvageable trees would be replaced. In addition, disturbed riparian vegetation in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve would be replaced at a 3:1 acreage ratio during the first winter following pipeline construction. That is, three acres would be planted for every acre disturbed.

b. TWRP Flood Control Dike: The proposed dike would consist of a combined earthen levee-concrete retaining wall structure situated as shown in Figure 2. The earthen levee would extend in continuous fashion along the plant's entire southern and eastern borders and for a portion of the northern border. Respective lengths would be 1,311 feet, 1,595 feet, and 690 feet, with the actual height above ground level varying according to local topographic conditions in order to maintain a constant crest elevation of 715 feet. The levee would be constructed with a 2:1 slope on both sides. A 10-foot wide service road with 2-foot wide shoulders would traverse the top of the levee. The current plant access road off Woodley Avenue would be raised to surmount the levee by construction of a ramp and then descend into the plant and parking area. In order to avoid rerouting of the current Woodley Avenue Park service road, which parallels the TWRP's southern boundary and the TWRP entrance road, the base of the levee along these roads would be truncated and held in place by a reinforced concrete wall.

The total volume of soil required to construct the levee has been estimated at 56,560 cy. This would be supplied by the compensating excavation, and made available through short hauls from the excavation areas of less than one-half mile. Haul volume would range to an estimated maximum of 4,500 cy per day, or approximately 200 round-trip truck operations per day.

The concrete retaining wall would extend for 1,595 feet along the

plant's western boundary, varying in height above ground level from about two feet at its northern terminus to about sixteen feet at its southern terminus, thereby maintaining a crest elevation of 716 feet. This section of the flood control dike will be one foot higher than the earthen berm, which is a compensation for the fact that this upstream section of the dike will be subject to greater wave action during a flood event. The total volume of concrete required to construct the retaining wall has been estimated at 4,000 cy.

The projected equipment list and other operational parameters relating to the flood control dike component are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2. PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS: FLOOD CONTROL DIKE

Project Name:	Tillman Flood Protection Project
Location:	City of Los Angeles, Sepulveda Flood Control Basin
Construction Period:	Estimated at 3 months
Work Schedule:	Weekdays, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.*
Dike Specifications:	
	Material = compacted soil and reinforced concrete
	Total soil volume required = 56,560 cy
	Total concrete volume required = 4,000 cy
	Total area enclosed = 48 acres
	Total basin flood volume lost = 567,000 cy
Construction Equipment (estimates):	
	5 haul trucks (20 to 25 cy capacity each)
	1 water truck
	1 bulldozer
	2 compactors (sheeps-foot)
	2 cement trucks (11 cy capacity each)
	1 back hoe
	2 road graders

* This work schedule represents an estimate only. The actual schedule would be contingent upon operational considerations, including the City's peak hour truck traffic policy.

c. **Compensating Excavation:** The required compensating volume of soil has been calculated at 567,000 cubic yards (cy). The criteria for the site selection were: 1) it must be at a lower elevation than that of the plant, 2) it must not be within 100 feet of the dam, and 3) it must not be within a developed recreation area. In addition, the Corps excluded from consideration (due to engineering difficulties and previous excavation) the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve between Haskell Channel and the dam, and the

agricultural area south of Burbank Boulevard and the L.A. River.

Originally, a 30-acre section of the wildlife reserve lying north of Burbank Boulevard and east of the 11-acre wildlife pond had been considered for the compensating excavation. Mitigation measures for impacts to vegetation, wildlife, sensitive species, recreation, and soils were considered feasible, if costly, but it was not possible to assure the success of such mitigation. Therefore, it was determined that this area is not suitable for project needs.

The area proposed for the compensating excavation is roughly bounded by the TWRP and the Woodley Avenue Park to the north, Haskell Channel to the east, the Los Angeles River and Burbank Boulevard to the south, and Woodley Channel to the west, excluding that area currently developed as a radio controlled model airplane field (see Figure 2). Woodley Avenue and the existing TWRP outfall pipeline traverse the area roughly from north to south, thereby creating three separate areas. All three areas are currently under lease for sod farming until August 1991, with monthly leases thereafter until the start of construction.

The compensating excavation would involve removing an average of 3 to 4 feet of soil from the above-described areas. All areas would be excavated to a uniform slope to facilitate drainage. The western parcel will drain through a culvert to Woodley Channel; the central area will drain to the L.A. River, and the eastern area will drain to Haskell Channel just northerly of Burbank Boulevard.

To preserve the quality of the sod farm area's improved topsoil for future agricultural use, the Corps of Engineers has required that the upper 2 feet of soil be stockpiled and the underlying soil removed as the compensating material. The stockpiled soil would then be replaced, ripped, cross-ripped to a depth of between 18-24 inches, and then tilled to a condition suitable for planting. Removal rates are estimated at a maximum of 2,250 cy per day, or approximately 100 round-trip truck operations per day.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has requested that, during the compensating excavation in the central area, the Bureau of Engineering realign a short section of the bicycle path which includes a hazardous curve. Bicyclists will be required to dismount and walk their bikes through a short detour during this reconstruction activity.

Regarding the 567,000 cy of compensating material removed, approximately 56,560 cy would be utilized in construction of the earthen dike. The balance of excavated soil, approximately 510,440 cy, would be hauled away to be used for various purposes; one possible use would be to cap the Toyon Canyon Sanitary Landfill, as required by the landfill's closure plan in accordance with State law.

The hauling operations associated with the pipeline extension and compensating excavation components likely would utilize 20 to 25 cy capacity haul trucks. Because the material may have several destinations, the hauling route is described only to the nearest freeway. The Los Angeles City Department of Transportation will be contacted to determine a proper haul route for the final destination(s).

For the compensating excavation areas and the pipeline construction ROW north of Burbank Boulevard, loaded outbound trucks would enter southbound onto Woodley Avenue directly from the construction areas and continue to the Burbank Boulevard intersection. Here they would turn left (east) onto Burbank Boulevard, proceed to the San Diego Freeway (405) and continue to their various destinations. The average round trip to the Toyon Canyon Sanitary Landfill is estimated to be approximately one hour; for other destinations, a 10-mile radius/one hour round trip is used as an average.

The hauling route for the portion of the pipeline extension located south of Burbank Boulevard would be identical to the above route, except that the trucks would enter Burbank Boulevard directly from existing service roads, instead of from Woodley Avenue. The service roads, as described below, are wide enough to accommodate two-way hauling truck traffic; consequently, no widening of the existing service roads is anticipated. The gated entrance to the first service road is near the Burbank Boulevard-Woodley Avenue intersection. This service road would be utilized by all construction vehicles and hauling trucks to access the construction ROW in the area to the west of Haskell Channel. Access to the construction ROW in the area to the east of Haskell Channel, including the area to the east of the Sepulveda Dam, would be provided via an existing service road that traverses the crest of the Dam. This gated service road meets Burbank Boulevard at a signalized intersection immediately west of the San Diego Freeway overpass. Access from the dam crest service road down to the construction ROW would be provided by the existing spur ramps located on both sides of the dam.

The projected equipment list and other operational parameters relating to the compensating excavation component are listed in Table 3.

4.2. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: The implementing agency for the proposed project is the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works.

4.3. WHEN TO BE ACCOMPLISHED: The proposed project, with its three construction components, would be constructed by a private contractor under contract with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, pending final design approval by the Corps of Engineers. All excavation, construction and material-hauling operations would be conducted in accordance with all Federal, State, and Local laws and ordinances. Specifically identified

TABLE 3. PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS: COMPENSATING EXCAVATION

Project Name: Tillman Flood Protection Project
Location: City of Los Angeles, Sepulveda Flood Control Basin
Construction Period: Estimated at 12 months
Work Schedule: Weekdays, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.*
Excavation Specifications:
Total area involved = 123 acres (approximate)
Material removed = 3 to 4 feet of sub-topsoil matrix
Total volume of material removed = 567,000 cy

Material Handling:
Total volume of material used for dike = 56,560 cy
Total volume of material removed off-site = 510,440 cy
Estimated maximum daily hauling rate = 1,963 cy
Destination of hauled material = To be determined

Construction Equipment (estimates):
2 front-end loaders (5 cy capacity each)
30 haul trucks (20 to 25 cy capacity each)
1 water truck
1 bulldozer
4 self-loading scrapers

* This work schedule represents an estimate only. The actual schedule would be contingent upon operational considerations, including the City's peak hour truck traffic policy.

requirements include a Section 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers and a Section 1601 permit from the California Department of Fish and Game.

a. Construction Season: In order to avoid potential impacts to the tricolored blackbirds and Canada geese through disturbance of foraging habitat, the compensating excavation operations would be constructed in two phases, thus minimizing the area of disturbance. Construction would be restricted to one side of Woodley Avenue at a time. That side would be replanted before excavation operations began on the opposite side of Woodley.

A seasonal restriction is identified for the effluent pipeline installation. The tunnelling operations associated with the Sepulveda Dam would be restricted to dry season months (i.e., May through September, inclusive) in order to substantially reduce the remote potential of flood waters undermining the dam. In the event of an unseasonable storm, the Corps of Engineers would, if possible, provide evacuation notice at least four hours in advance of an impending flood. All project equipment and personnel would then be evacuated and the tunnel shaft opening would be covered to

help prevent flood waters from entering the tunnel.

No seasonal restrictions are anticipated for the flood control dike component of the project.

b. Duration of Construction: The dike construction is expected to last approximately 3 months. The compensating excavation will require from 6 to 12 months, depending on certain operational parameters such as the daily material hauling rate and the length of the construction day. Construction of the effluent pipeline extension is expected to last approximately 6 months.

4.4. MITIGATION: A detailed discussion of mitigation measures relevant to this project is provided in Section 8 of this document.

a. Accomplished by Whom: Mitigation would be accomplished by the project's contractor(s). Mitigation monitoring would be the responsibility of the Bureau of Contract Administration, Department of Public Works. Vegetation mitigation would also be overseen by the Corps of Engineers. However, ultimate responsibility for the satisfactory implementation of all required mitigation would rest with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works.

b. When to be Accomplished: Mitigation would be accomplished within the time constraints established and included as conditional in any and all project permits. Whenever possible, recommended mitigation schedules have been provided in Section 8 of this document.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, 2200 California Street, Los Angeles, California 90007
The proposed diversion structure and outlet and transition structure are located at the intersection of the Los Angeles River and the Los Angeles River Channel. The proposed diversion structure is a 30-degree curve structure, located 150 feet north of the dam's spillway structure, would again convert the pipeline to a double barrel line. The pipeline would then continue to its terminus at the Los Angeles River below the spillway structure, following identically the final transition structure, a final 90-degree curve, and an outlet structure. The total length of this alignment alternative is 5,850 feet, 190 feet longer than the

4.5. PREVIOUSLY PREPARED NEPA DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THIS PROJECT:

City of Los Angeles. 1975. Final EIS/EIR for the Sepulveda Water Reclamation Plant. Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering.

City of Los Angeles. 1982. Final EIS/EIR for the City of Los Angeles wastewater facilities plan. Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering.

Martz, P. 1977. Description and evaluation of the cultural resources within Haines Debris Basin, Hansen Dam, Lopez Dam, and Sepulveda Dam, Los Angeles County, California. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Planning Section, Los Angeles, California.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1981. Sepulveda Basin master plan and final EIR/EIS.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1985. EA/FONSI for the water control plan, Sepulveda flood control basin, Los Angeles County, California.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1985. Water control manual for flood control, Sepulveda reservoir, Los Angeles County drainage area, Los Angeles River.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1986. Final biological resources report: Special status species of the Los Angeles county drainage area (LACDA). Prepared by Environmental Resources Branch, Los Angeles, California.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1988. Disposition on Tillman Reclamation Plant in the Sepulveda FCB. Reference CESPL-ED-HR (1110-2-240b), Engineering Division, Los Angeles, California.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1986. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, concerning the Sepulveda Basin.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1987. Planning aid letter on the Los Angeles County drainage area (LACDA) control study. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

6. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

This section contains discussions of environmental resources and parameters within areas that would be directly and indirectly affected by the proposed and alternative projects.

6.1. Biological Resources: The biological resources of the Sepulveda Basin have been described in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coordination Act reports to the Corps of Engineers (Bontrager 1984; USFWS 1986, 1987), and in the 1986 Corps of Engineers Final Biological Resources Report. The purpose of these studies was to describe the existing biological resources in light of development of a water control and master control manual for the basin by the Corps of Engineers. For these reports, the USFWS and Corps of Engineers conducted field surveys within the basin and determined potential species of concern which have been observed or may occur in the area.

To determine the biological resources potentially affected by the proposed project, site reconnaissances were conducted on November 3, 1988 and January 9, 1990. These field surveys examined reported plant communities and their composition along the proposed effluent pipeline ROW and alternative alignments, respectively. Wildlife species observed during the walkover surveys were noted. (Comprehensive floral and faunal species lists are included as Appendix A.) These surveys also generally examined the areas for the compensating excavation and the flood control dike. It should be noted that many of the plant species could not be identified, especially annual grasses, due to the season of the surveys. Other data for this section were obtained from the USFWS and Corps of Engineers documents and field reconnaissances. Several California Department of Fish and Game documents (CDFG) (1986, 1987a, 1987b, 1987c) provided additional data, as did numerous other sources which are cited below in the discussions.

a. Vegetation:

(1) **Within Directly Affected Area (Project Area):** Native vegetation within the project area generally is restricted to the riparian areas along the three main waterways - Haskell Channel, Encino Channel, Los Angeles River - fallow fields, and the wildlife reserve. Following are descriptions of the observed vegetation associated with each of the three component areas of the proposed project, as well as with the effluent outfall extension alignment and effluent pump-out alternatives.

(a) Effluent Pipeline Extension:

1. **Alignment 1:** The proposed effluent pipeline extension alignment begins near the current outlet to the Los Angeles River. This is an area of fallow fields and the

tethered model airplane pads. The scattered weedy vegetation in these fields consists of Russian thistle, tumbling pigweed, Jerusalem oak, jimson weed, bristly ox-tongue, common sow thistle, redscale, curly dock, summer mustard, western ragweed, and Johnson grass. Other areas which are not disked as frequently contain annual grasses including ripgut brome, slender wild oats, and barnyard grass. Forbs, especially western sunflower, black mustard and bull thistle, were commonly found. In moist areas, stands of dwarf nettle, Johnson grass, small-flowered nightshade and Indian tree tobacco were found.

Besides a highly disturbed or ruderal community containing mostly weedy species such as black mustard, Russian thistle, bull thistle, and tocalote, remnants of coastal sage scrub community were found on the western side of the existing access road. The remnants of the sage scrub community included California sagebrush, coyote brush, California buckwheat, thick-leaved yerba santa, and black sage. Some mesic species, especially mulefat and mugwort, are also found in this area. The understory is composed of annual bromes and black and summer mustards, but does contain some open areas of foxtail fescue similar to less disturbed areas.

The pipeline ROW then crosses Burbank Boulevard and enters a mulefat-arroyo willow scrub in the western portion of the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve. Although there are no apparent drainage channels, agricultural runoff keeps the soil sufficiently saturated to support this open scrub. The community is characterized by a very open stand of mulefat, arroyo willow, and a few red willows. Among the willows is a very weedy vegetation composed of dense stands of black mustard, horehound, tocalote, bull thistle, Russian thistle, and annual grasses.

The ROW then crosses the Burbank Ditch near the Woodley Avenue and Burbank Boulevard intersection. The ditch contains a willow scrub community, with arroyo willow, mulefat, Mexican elderberry, and giant reed as the principal species. The overstory is dominated by Arizona ash, and California walnut. In addition, Fremont cottonwood have been planted along the ditch. The understory is composed of mugwort, Parish's goldenbush, Indian tree tobacco, black mustard, bull thistle, common horseweed, California sagebrush, and California blackberry.

Beyond this ditch, the ROW traverses some 750 feet of annual grassland in an area managed as raptor foraging habitat. This area contains a very scattered scrub cover of mulefat, Mexican elderberry, giant reed, coyote bush, Indian tree tobacco bush, castor bean, and California sagebrush. Some coast live oak and buckbrush also have been planted in this area. The community is typically dominated by dense stands of black mustard and annual grasses, especially ripgut brome, slender wild oats, foxtail fescue, horehound, mugwort, dove weed, common horseweed, bull thistle, California cudweed, and bract vervain.

The ROW then reaches the Haskell Channel, which is characterized by a dense willow riparian forest. The forest contains an overstory of 20-30 foot tall arroyo willow, black willow, and red willow. These species have been augmented by plantings of box elder, white alder, Arizona ash, Fremont cottonwood, and black cottonwood. Beneath this canopy is a shrub layer of smaller arroyo willows, mulefat, giant reed, coyote bush, and castor bean. There is often little understory, but in more open areas mugwort, Parish's goldenbush, western sunflower, bract vervain, horehound, bull thistle, cocklebur, jimson weed, and common horseweed are found. The stream channel also contains California bulrush, broad-leaf cat-tail, tall flat sedge, and willow smartweed.

To the east of Haskell Channel, the reserve has been planted with a variety of native plant species. These plantings include coast live oak, Arizona ash, Mexican elderberry, white alder, California blackberry, California sycamore, holly-leaved cherry, golden currant, and other species.

The pipeline ROW continues eastward through an area recently graded in an attempt to create a marsh for enhancement of wildlife habitat. This area contains only a few castor bean seedlings, small-flowered nightshade, telegraph weed, alkali-mallow, and dove weed.

The pipeline continues underneath the dam and traverses an open field to its discharge point on the Los Angeles River. The field is generally dominated by black mustard and annual grasses, especially slender wild oat, ripgut brome, and foxtail barley. Between and underneath this dense herbaceous cover are a variety of forbs including pinnate-leaved verbena, fascicled tarweed, wild radish, cheeseweed, curly dock, tumble mustard, prickly lettuce, common sow thistle, and horseweed. Russian thistle, tumbling pigweed, Italian ryegrass, horehound, redscale, beggar-ticks, bull thistle, and wild beet were commonly found in the more disturbed areas.

The Los Angeles River at the discharge point is in a concrete channel and no riparian vegetation is found adjacent to the channel. Portions of the adjacent field recently had been disked.

2. **Alignment 2:** The vegetative resources along this alignment alternative are nearly identical to those described above for Alignment 1, with the following exception. After crossing Burbank Boulevard, the ROW dips south to more closely parallel the Los Angeles River than Alignment 1. Consequently, this alignment intersects the Haskell Channel just below the juncture of the Burbank Ditch and the Haskell Channel. The vegetation along this section of the Haskell Channel is restricted to the stream channel, as the channel banks are lined with concrete for about the final 100 feet. Vegetation along this section of the channel is limited to riparian herb species such as

California bulrush, broad-leaf cat-tail, tall flat sedge, and willow smartweed; no trees have become established in or along this section of the channel.

3. Alignment 3: As with the previous two alignments, this alignment begins near the current outlet to the Los Angeles River in an area of fallow fields supporting scattered weedy vegetation. The ROW then crosses the Los Angeles River which supports a diverse riparian habitat of herbaceous vegetation consisting of California bullrush, broad-leaf cat-tail, tall flat sedge, and Johnson grass, as well as scattered scrub cover of mulefat, arroyo willow, giant reed, and castor bean.

After crossing the river, the ROW then traverses a small, triangular, very disturbed, open area nestled between the Encino Golf Course, Burbank Boulevard, and the Los Angeles River. From here, the ROW continues across Burbank Boulevard before intercepting the Encino Channel. The Encino Channel is characterized by a dense willow riparian forest very similar to that described for the Haskell Channel and is half again as wide as the riparian zone along the Haskell Channel in the area of the Alignment 1 crossing.

The ROW then traverses an agricultural field before reaching the Sepulveda Dam. When not fallow, the field is utilized for the production of corn. After passing beneath the dam, the ROW crosses an open field before reaching the discharge point on the south bank of the Los Angeles River. The field in this area generally is dominated by black mustard and annual grasses, especially slender wild oat, ripgut brome, and foxtail barley. Between and underneath this dense herbaceous cover are a variety of forbs including pinnate-leaved verbena, fascicled tarweed, wild radish, cheeseweed, curly dock, tumble mustard, prickly lettuce, common sow thistle, and horseweed. The Los Angeles River at the discharge point is in a concrete channel and no riparian vegetation is found adjacent to the channel.

(b) TWRP Flood Control Dike/Retaining Wall: The areas that would be affected by construction of the dike and wall are the Woodley Avenue Park to the west and an undeveloped section of the TWRP lease to the east. The park area contains turf, tree, and shrub plantings, while the undeveloped area contains sod farms and fallow fields, and the construction staging area for the TWRP facilities Phase II expansion. The fallow fields contain ruderal vegetation composed of a scattered cover of Russian thistle, nettle-leaf goosefoot, western sunflower, prickly lettuce, tumbling pigweed, horehound and Jerusalem oak. In mesic areas, Mexican elderberry, common sow thistle, quillweed, smilo, barnyard grass, white sweet-clover, and fescue grass were frequently observed.

(c) Compensating excavation: The area slated for this operation is currently used by sod farms and is covered by

turf grasses. There are several fallow agricultural fields which are used to grow corn, pumpkins, and potentially other truck crops. Currently, the fallow fields contain many ruderal species including tumbling pigweed, Jerusalem oak, common sow thistle, horehound, western ragweed, curly dock, castor bean, Russian thistle, bristly ox-tongue, western sunflower, jimson weed, heliotrope, redscale, bull thistle, common purslane, narrow-leaved milkweed, tumble mustard, black mustard, Indian tree tobacco, and cocklebur. Grasses in these areas consist of Johnson grass, barnyard grass, slender wild oats, ripgut brome, and Italian ryegrass.

The Haskell Channel borders the eastern compensating excavation parcel. In this area the channel bottom contains mostly herbaceous vegetation composed of California bulrush, broad-leaved cattail, willow smartweed, mugwort, tall flat sedge, willow water-weed, and barnyard grass. Arroyo willow and mulefat are also infrequently found in the channel. The banks of the channel contain a weedy vegetation of black mustard, wild radish, mugwort, white sweet-clover, bur-clover, poison hemlock, Parish's goldenbush, red-stemmed filaree, and ripgut brome.

(d) Effluent Pump-out Pipeline: The pump-out alternative would require an effluent pipeline ROW extending from the southeast corner of the TWRP to the Haskell Channel. The vegetation in this area is different from that described above for the proposed project.

Presently, the area east of the plant contains ruderal (disturbed) areas, agricultural fields (sod farms), and a mulefat-willow scrub along the Haskell Channel. The ruderal areas are mostly open ground with little vegetative cover. Scattered throughout the area are mostly weedy species including tumbling pigweed, Russian thistle, Jerusalem oak, western sunflower, summer mustard, common horseweed, and Indian tree tobacco.

The rest of the ROW is within sod farms until it reaches the Haskell Channel area. The banks of the channel have a dense weedy vegetation composed of Johnson grass, giant reed, black mustard, Russian thistle, white sweet-clover, western ragweed, slender-leaved sunflower, cocklebur, horehound and Canada thistle. The channel contains mostly herbaceous vegetation in this area, with only a few scattered mulefat and arroyo willow shrubs. Other species in the channel include broad-leaved cattail, willow smartweed, mugwort, willow-herb, Mexican tea, milk thistle, and cocklebur.

(2) Within Indirectly Affected Area (Project Vicinity): Native vegetation within the vicinity of the proposed and alternative projects generally is restricted to the riparian areas, fallow fields, the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve, and the area surrounding the northern wildlife lake. The riparian areas are

found along the unchannelized portions of the Los Angeles River, the Haskell and Woodley Flood Control Channels, and the Encino Channel. Generally, these riparian areas contain herbaceous vegetation consisting of California bulrush, broad-leaf cat-tail, tall flat sedge, and Johnson grass. These drainages also have a scattered shrub cover of mulefat, arroyo willow, giant reed, and castor bean. However, both the Encino Channel and parts of the Haskell Channel have dense riparian forests containing arroyo willow, black willow, and red willow.

The Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve generally is composed of old field vegetation, especially black mustard and annual grasses. However, due to agricultural irrigation runoff many areas contain a scattered scrub of mesic species, including mulefat and Mexican elderberry. Some areas have formed dense willow or mulefat thickets. In addition, the Reserve has been planted with a variety of native trees and shrubs to enhance the wildlife habitat of this area.

b. Wildlife:

(1) **Within Directly Affected Area:** The proposed and alternative effluent project areas contain a wide variety of habitats for wildlife, especially in the dense riparian thickets. In these thickets, or adjacent to open water, mallards, great egrets, belted kingfishers, bushtits, black phoebes, and yellow-rumped warblers were observed. Roof rats and Audubon's cottontail were observed in the understory vegetation.

The fallow field areas provide a more open habitat. In these areas, western fence lizards and side blotched lizards were noted. Birds seen in these areas included turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, killdeer, mourning and rock doves, common raven, American crow, loggerhead shrike, mockingbird, Anna's hummingbird, western meadowlark, Brewer's blackbird, starling, red-wing blackbird, brown towhee, English and white-crowned sparrows, and house finches. Mammals observed in these areas included the Audubon's cottontail and Botta's pocket gopher.

The habitats adjacent to the TWRP consist of disturbed agricultural lands which, nevertheless, still contain suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife species. During the field survey, Canada geese (which winter in the basin), red-shouldered hawk, Anna's hummingbird, killdeer, western meadowlark, and flocks of starlings, Brewer's blackbirds, and house finches were observed.

The open fields proposed for the compensating excavation are used as foraging areas by a number of wildlife species, especially important are the wintering flocks of Canada geese (USFWS 1987). The one reptile observed in these areas was the western fence lizard. Avian species noted include great egret, killdeer, Say's phoebe, American crow, common raven, mourning dove, western

meadowlark, Brewer's blackbirds, and starlings. The Botta's pocket gopher and Audubon's cottontail were the only mammals observed.

The disturbed riparian vegetation along the Haskell Channel near the TWRP supports a wide variety of bird life. Cooper's hawk, long-billed dowitchers, Anna's hummingbirds, Bewick's wren, lesser goldfinch, and white-crowned sparrows were all observed in this area. Mammals noted in this area included Botta's pocket gopher, California ground squirrel, Audubon's cottontail, and coyote.

(2) **Within Indirectly Affected Area:** The habitats within the vicinity of the proposed and alternative project areas are, in many cases, similar to those described within the project areas. The Woodley Channel, for instance, contains mostly herbaceous vegetation similar to that found along much of the Haskell Channel and the Encino Channel, with California bulrush, broad-leaf cat-tail, tall flat sedge, and Johnson grass represented. Hence, the wildlife species represented in these surrounding areas are essentially identical to those described above.

c. **Threatened, Endangered, or Otherwise Sensitive Species:** This section discusses those species of concern to the USFWS, CDFG, and the California Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB), as summarized in the List of Special Animals (NDDB 1987a) and Plants (NDDB 1987b). Other lists consulted include the California Native Plant Society (1984), Remsen (1978), Tate (1986), and Williams (1986). Determination of the potential species of concern within the Sepulveda Basin involved review of the USFWS Coordination Act Reports (Bontrager 1984; USFWS 1986a, 1986b, 1987), and the NDDB Element Reports for the Van Nuys and Canoga Park 7.5 minute USGS quadrangles (NDDB 1987c).

(1) **Within Directly Affected Area:**

(a) **Sensitive Plant Species:** No plant species of special concern is known or would be expected in the proposed or alternative project areas.

(b) **Sensitive Animal Species:** The wildlife management areas are known to contain populations of the California red-legged frog and the western pond turtle. The Haskell Channel, Encino Channel, Los Angeles River, and other open water areas attract a number of wading birds and shore birds. Several sensitive species, including the great blue heron, great egret (observed), snowy egret, and canvasback may winter in these areas. The American and least bitterns, and black-crowned night heron reside in marshy sections of the wildlife management areas or along the Haskell Channel. The blue grosbeak has been reported nesting in the Haskell Channel. Other sensitive shore bird species observed include the California gull and Caspian tern.

Raptors use the large open areas for foraging and utilize the area's larger trees for roosting and/or nesting. The red-shouldered hawk, western osprey, white-tailed kite, sharp-shinned hawk, harrier, Cooper's hawk, common barn owl, great horned owl, and burrowing owl are all declining raptors which commonly utilize the area or reside within the basin. (The Corps of Engineers biologist has indicated the presence of a nesting pair of red-shouldered hawks associated with the Haskell Channel.) Other declining raptors, including the American peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, golden eagle, and short-eared owl are either infrequent visitors or rare transients in the area.

The dense riparian thickets along the Haskell Channel and the Encino Channel contain habitat for several songbirds of special concern. These include the Bewick's wren, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak (a rare nester), and Traill's flycatcher. These riparian areas also contain potential habitat for the endangered least Bell's vireo. However, this species was not historically known in the area and has not been located in field surveys conducted by the USFWS (1987) and the Corps of Engineers (1986). The margins of the open fields are known to contain loggerhead shrikes, while large flocks of tricolored blackbirds have been observed in these fields. The only mammal of concern that might occur in the area is the California mastiff bat, which potentially forages within the basin. These and other species of concern which potentially may occur in and around the project area are summarized in Table 7.

(2) Within Indirectly Affected Area:

(a) Sensitive Plant Species: No specific species of concern to the NDDB (1987b) or to the Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area Study (England and Nelson 1976) have been noted for the Sepulveda Basin. However, all wetland and riparian areas are of concern to the USFWS and the CDFG. The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (1974) has classified Encino Channel and parts of the Los Angeles River and Haskell Channel as palustrine scrub-shrub wetland. Other areas in the basin, including Bull Creek and the remaining sections of the Los Angeles River and Haskell Channel, were noted as palustrine scrub-shrub/emergent wetlands. In addition, the USFWS has expressed its concern that no additional wetland area be lost within the basin (USFWS 1987).

(b) Sensitive Animal Species: Sensitive animal species in the vicinity of the proposed and alternative project areas are largely the same as those discussed within the project areas. In addition, the Los Angeles River has been known to contain populations of the arroyo chub, which is declining due to loss of open stream habitat and competition with exotic fish species. There also have been historic records of the San Diego horned lizard occurring in the basin; however, little if any habitat remains for this species.

TABLE 7. WILDLIFE SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN THE STUDY AREA

Species	Status			Notes
	Federal	State	Local	
FISH				
Arroyo chub (<u>Gilia orcutti</u>)		Watch		Los Angeles River
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES				
California red-legged frog (<u>Rana aurora draytoni</u>)	Candidate	Protected		Reported
San Diego horned lizard (<u>Phrynosoma cornatum blainvillei</u>)	Candidate	Protected		Historical Record, Extirpated?
Western pond turtle (<u>Clemmys marmorata</u>)	Candidate			Reported
BIRDS				
American bittern (<u>Botaurus lentiginosus</u>)			Audubon	Reported
American peregrine falcon (<u>Falco peregrinus anatum</u>)	Endangered	Endangered		Reported, Rare, Transient
Bewick's wren (<u>Thryomanes bewickii</u>)			Audubon	Reported, Observed
Black-crowned night heron (<u>Nycticorax nycticorax</u>)		Watch		Reported
Blue grosbeak (<u>Guiraca caerulea</u>)			Concern	Reported, Nesting in LA River-Haskell Channel
Burrowing owl (<u>Athene cunicularia</u>)		Concern, Watch		Reported
California gull (<u>Larus californicus</u>)		Concern		Reported
Canvasback (<u>Aythya valisineria</u>)			Audubon	Reported
Caspian tern (<u>Sterna caspia</u>)		Watch		Reported

(continues)

TABLE 7. WILDLIFE SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN THE STUDY AREA
(CONTINUED)

Species	Status			Notes
	Federal	State	Local	
Common barn owl (<u>Tyto alba</u>)			Audubon	Reported
Cooper's hawk (<u>Accipiter cooperi</u>)		Concern	Audubon	Reported, Observed
Golden eagle (<u>Aquila chrysaetos</u>)	Protected	Concern		Reported, Rare, Transient
Great blue heron (<u>Ardea herodias</u>)		Watch		Reported
Great egret (<u>Casmerodius albus</u>)		Watch		Reported, Observed
Great horned owl (<u>Bubo virginianus</u>)				Reported
Harrier (<u>Circus cyaneus</u>)		Concern	Audubon	Reported
Least Bell's vireo (<u>Vireo bellii pusillus</u>)		Endangered	Endangered	No Historical Record or Recent Observations
Least bittern (<u>Ixobrychus exilis</u>)		Concern	Audubon	
Loggerhead shrike (<u>Lanius ludovicianus</u>)			Audubon	Reported, Observed
Prairie falcon (<u>Falco mexicanus</u>)			Concern	Reported, Rare, Transient
Red-shouldered hawk (<u>Buteo lineatus</u>)			Audubon	Reported, Observed
Sharp-shinned hawk (<u>Accipiter striatus</u>)		Concern	Audubon	Reported
Short-eared owl (<u>Asio flammeus</u>)		Concern		Reported
Snowy egret (<u>Leucophoyx thula</u>)		Watch		Reported

(continues)

TABLE 7. WILDLIFE SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN THE STUDY AREA
(CONTINUED)

As noted in a 13 September 1977 letter to Marty from Lawrence C. ...

Species	Status			Notes
	Federal	State	Local	
Traill's flycatcher (<u>Empidonax traillii</u>)		Concern	Audubon	
Tricolored blackbird (<u>Agelaius tricolor</u>)		Concern		Reported, Observed
Western osprey (<u>Pandion haliaetus</u>)				Reported Observed
White-tailed kite (<u>Elanus caeruleus</u>)		Protected		Reported
Yellow-breasted chat (<u>Icteria virens</u>)		Concern		Reported
Yellow warbler (<u>Dendroica petechia</u>)		Concern		Reported
MAMMALS				
California mastiff bat (<u>Eumops perotis californicus</u>)		Concern		Potentially in Area?

Federal:

- Candidate - Federal Candidate List 2: Insufficient information for listing at this time.
- Endangered - Listed as federally endangered.
- Protected - Protected from take by federal law.

State:

- Endangered - Listed as endangered by the State of California.
- Concern - California species of special concern.
- Watch - Watch list (NDDB 1987a).
- Protected - Protected from take by California law.

Local:

- Audubon - National Audubon Society Blue list.
- Concern - Of local Concern.

Notes:

- Reported - Reported in the Sepulveda Basin, Bontrager (1984), USFWS (1986a).
- Observed - Observed during the 3 November 1988 field reconnaissance.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This section discusses the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and the four alternatives. Table 14, located at the end of this section, provides a comparative summary of these impacts.

7.1. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: The potential environmental effects discussed below were determined on the basis of previous USFWS (Bontrager 1984; USFWS 1986, 1987) and Corps of Engineers (1986) field survey data, and the findings of the November 3, 1988 and January 9, 1990 site reconnaissances.

a. Vegetation: No specific community type of concern to the NDDDB (1987b) or the Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area Study (England and Nelson 1976) has been noted for the Sepulveda Basin. However, all wetland and riparian areas are of concern to the USFWS and the CDFG. The USFWS has expressed its concern that no additional wetland area within the basin be lost (USFWS 1987). Any alteration of a wetland or riparian habitat is subject to a stream alteration agreement (1601) from the CDFG. In developing this agreement, the CDFG must consider their wetland policy which allows for no net loss of wetland habitat (CDFG 1987a). In addition, any alteration of a drainage channel may require a Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit from the Corps of Engineers. Discussed below are the environmental effects to the biological resources that would result from the proposed project and each alternative, with particular attention paid to wetland and riparian impacts.

(1) Proposed Project, Effluent Pipeline Extension Alignment 1

(a) Direct Impacts: The proposed project would temporarily remove or disturb some 11.7 acres of vegetation, resulting directly from installation of the effluent pipeline extension. The area of each plant community that would be disturbed by these activities includes:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Acres Disturbed</u>
Ruderal and annual grassland	10.63
Coastal Sage Scrub	0.26
Riparian scrub	<u>0.79</u>
Total	11.68

This disturbance would occur within the pipeline extension ROW where it traverses the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve and the grassland below the dam. Jacking under Haskell Channel involves no surface disturbance of vegetation, but is nonetheless considered a disturbance of approximately 0.8 acres of riparian habitat. The areas of the Reserve that would be disturbed currently are being managed as raptor foraging habitat by the Corps of Engineers. The proposed project would also impact about 0.3 acre of coastal sage scrub community, which contains species infrequently found elsewhere in the basin. It should be noted that the coastal sage scrub community in the area of impact is currently in poor condition.

(b) Indirect impacts: If weeds are allowed to grow on the stockpiled soil or disturbed areas, they could spread into the adjacent wildlife reserve areas, thus impacting the native vegetation.

(3) Alternative 1, No Action

(a) Direct Impacts: No direct impacts to vegetation resources would be generated by this alternative, as the status quo would be maintained.

(b) Indirect Impacts: No indirect impacts to vegetation resources would be generated by this alternative, as the status quo would be maintained.

(3) Alternative 2, Effluent Pipeline Extension Alignment 1

(a) Direct Impacts: This alternative would temporarily remove or disturb some 12.89 acres of vegetation, resulting directly from installation of the effluent pipeline extension. The area of each plant community that would be disturbed by these activities includes:

Community	Acres Disturbed
Federal and annual grassland	12.72
Coastal Sage Scrub	0.26
Riparian scrub	0.50
Riparian herb	0.25
Total	13.73

This alternative would impact about 0.8 acre of riparian scrub community, or about one quarter acre less than the proposed project, and about 0.25 acre of riparian herb community located in the Haskell Channel. This alternative would also impact about 0.3 acre of coastal sage scrub community, which is comparable to the

(3) Alternative 4, Effluent Pump-out Pipeline

(a) Direct Impacts: This alternative would temporarily remove or disturb some 7.77 acres of vegetation, resulting directly from installation of the effluent pump-out pipeline. The area of each plant community which would be disturbed by these activities includes:

Community	Acres Disturbed
Ruderal	7.63
Riparian scrub/herb	0.14
Total	7.77

This is about 0.63 acres less riparian scrub community and about 9 acres less ruderal and annual grassland vegetation than the proposed project. The disturbance of riparian vegetation would occur along the Haskell Channel in the area of the outfall caused by the concrete lining improvement. This channel alteration would require a 1601 Stream or Lake Alteration Agreement from the CDFG, and/or a 404 Dredge and Fill Permit from the Corps of Engineers.

(b) Indirect Impacts: No indirect impacts to vegetation resources would be generated by the pump-out alternative.

b. Wildlife:

(1) Proposed Project, Effluent Pipeline Extension Alignment 1

(a) Direct Impacts: The proposed project could temporarily impact avian wildlife through the disturbance of riparian habitat. This disturbance would disrupt habitat for numerous riparian-dependent bird species. Similar disturbance to grassland areas in the wildlife reserve would temporarily impact raptor foraging habitat. However, the availability of similar habitat adjacent to the areas of disturbance in both cases would serve to reduce these impacts. Also, construction noise would temporarily impact wildlife.

(b) Indirect Impacts: The proposed project could generate several adverse impacts to wildlife. If constructed during the rainy season, siltation from the spoil piles and disturbed areas might impact some riparian species. In addition, a fuel spill could seriously impact aquatic species and waterfowl. Any fuel spill would be considered adverse, with degree of impact contingent upon the volume and location of the spill.

(b) Indirect Impacts: Same as the proposed project.

c. Threatened, Endangered, or Otherwise Sensitive Species: Neither the proposed project nor the alternatives would impact any Federal- or State-listed threatened or endangered species. However, several candidate or other species of concern might be subjected to short-term disturbances.

(1) **Proposed Project, Effluent Pipeline Extension Alignment 1**

(a) **Direct Impacts:** Any disturbance of the Haskell Channel stream bed caused by installation of the effluent pipeline might impact the red-legged frog and the western pond turtle. In addition, disturbance of riparian habitat might impact the Cooper's hawk, Bewick's wren, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat. The compensating excavation operations could impact tricolored blackbirds through the temporary disturbance of foraging habitat. If excavation operations were conducted during the winter foraging season (November to early March), the Canada geese could also be temporarily impacted in the same manner. In addition, construction noise might temporarily disturb these and other sensitive species.

(b) **Indirect Impacts:** The proposed 30 mgd discharge of reclaimed TWRP effluent from the Sepulveda Recreation Lake at a point 2/3 mile further upstream from the existing effluent outfall likely would generate beneficial impacts to aquatic- and riparian-dependent species such as arroyo chub, red-legged frogs, western pond turtles, and several watch-listed bird species, including herons and egrets. Contrarily, any siltation from spoil piles and disturbed areas might impact red-legged frogs in the smaller drainages, such as the Haskell Channel. Similarly, a major fuel spill could reach the Los Angeles River, or other drainages, and adversely affect arroyo chub, red-legged frogs, western pond turtles, and waterfowl species. Any fuel spill would be considered adverse, with degree of impact contingent upon the volume and location of the spill.

8. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section identifies mitigation measures that may be implemented to reduce or fully negate the environmental impacts identified for both the proposed project and alternatives 2 through 4. Alternative 1 (No Action) maintains the status quo, involves no project, and, therefore, requires no mitigation.

8.1. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

a. Vegetation:

(1) **Mitigation for Direct Impacts:** The Corps of Engineers has expressed concern for the larger trees within the recommended effluent pipeline ROW that would be removed during construction, particularly those recently planted for wildlife enhancement, and would prefer that the trees be salvaged. These trees will be mapped prior to the start of construction and, along with the sensitive riparian area associated with Haskell Channel, will be flagged to help avoid inadvertent disturbance to vegetation during pipeline installation. All staging activities should be located within the compensating excavation areas and/or the pipeline ROW. The pipeline ROW within the trenching areas of the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve will be temporarily fenced to ensure confinement of all project activity to the ROW. Openings will be left to accommodate hikers whenever possible. In addition, the Corps of Engineers has formulated the following revegetation plans for the mitigation of impacts to vegetation and wildlife habitat in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve:

- 1] Mitigation should be conducted at the ratio of 3:1 for the disturbance of 1.5 acres of riparian scrub and associated vegetation in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve.
- 2] The total area in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve (in addition to the ROW) to be revegetated should be 4.5 acres. The exact location and configuration of the area to be revegetated lying outside of the construction ROW should be determined by the contractor in consultation with the Corps of Engineers before the start of mitigation.
- 3] Planting of the area should be with the following plant material, and at the densities summarized below. The numbers are for a per acre basis and do not reflect the total amount that would be planted on the site.

30 *Baccharis pilularis* (Coyote Bush)
15 *Prunus illicifolia* (Holly Leaf Cherry)
10 *Rhamnus californica* (California Coffeeberry)

- 50 *Ribes aureum* (Golden Currant)
- 15 *Rosa californica* (California Rose)
- 25 *Rubus ursinus* (California Blackberry)
- 60 *Sambucus mexicanus* (Elderberry)
- 15 *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon)
- 15 *Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade Berry)
- 15 *Artemesia californica* (California Sagebrush)
- 30 *Lotus scoparius* (Deerweed)
- 05 *Acer negundo* (Boxelder)
- 30 *Populus fremontii* (Fremont Cottonwood)
- 10 *Populus trichocarpa* (Black Cottonwood)
- 05 *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak)

This is a total of 280 one-gallon shrubs and 50 five-gallon trees per acre.

- 4] Any of the trees in Haskell Channel that are injured or die as a result of the pipeline installation work done in the channel area should be replaced.
- 5] There would be a five year maintenance requirement on the planted material to ensure survival. The project proponent and/or contractor would have to provide assurances to the Corps of Engineers ecologist that the plant material would receive adequate water. The design of the watering system would be left to the project proponent, but would have to have Corps of Engineers approval before the start of mitigation.
- 6] Planting should be conducted during the late fall or early winter, preferably commencing in late November or early December, immediately after completion of the pipeline construction. Planting should be completed by the end of March, with no planting allowed after 1 April. Should the planting not be completed during the specified time period, the contractor would have to wait until the following year.
- 7] All plants should be inoculated with mycorrhizal fungus to aid soil development and help ensure survival of the plant material.
- 8] No fertilizers should be used in field conditions.
- 9] Planted areas should be kept free of the following weeds:

- Ricinus communis* (Castor Bean)
- Nicotiana glauca* (Tree Tobacco)
- Xanthium sp.* (Cocklebur)
- Cirsium vulgare* (Bull Thistle)
- Arundo donax* (Giant reed)

Silybum marianum (milk thistle)
Centaurea melitensis (star thistle or tecolote)
Sorghum halepense (Johnson grass)
Marrubium vulgare (horehound)
Salsola kali (Russian thistle)
Foeniculum vulgare (sweet fennel)
Brassica nigra (black mustard)

Methods of control should be primarily mechanical, with herbicide use restricted to eradication of the *Arundo* grass. Plant basins should also be kept weed-free. A three-foot buffer zone around each plant basin should also be maintained throughout the five-year maintenance period.

- 11] A maintenance report should be submitted to the Corps of Engineers Operations Branch ecologist at the end of each growing season, stating the exact numbers planted, how much water the plants are receiving, and the number of plants surviving.
- 12] Plant survival should be 80 percent at the end of the five-year contract. Plants which did not survive the first growing season should be replaced in the fall of the second year. If mortality exceeded 20 percent, the project proponent and/or contractor should determine the cause of mortality and adjust the revegetation project accordingly. It is strongly recommended that a biological consultant or revegetation consultant be hired to conduct this work.
- 13] All of the California roses and blackberries should be planted in the basins of the trees to provide shade. The basins should also be fitted with cages to provide herbivore protection. The cages should be removed at the end of the five-year maintenance period. All other plants could be planted in a random arrangement, with the exception of plants used to replace riparian vegetation directly disturbed during pipeline placement.

In order to protect the sensitive area of Haskell Channel north of Burbank Boulevard and east of the eastern compensating excavation area, signs identifying the area as environmentally sensitive and not to be disturbed would be posted along the dirt road lying between the channel and the sod farm. The contractor would be prohibited from using the road as a haul route.

(2) **Mitigation for Indirect Impacts:** In order to prevent weed growth in the disturbed areas from spreading into the adjacent wildlife reserve areas, weed growth in all areas of the project would be controlled for the duration of the project. Where feasible, the soil would be scraped as weeds began to appear.

Methods of control should be primarily mechanical, with herbicide use restricted to eradication of the Arundo grass.

b. Wildlife:

(1) **Mitigation for Direct Impacts:** Impacts to wildlife through the disturbance of riparian habitat, as well as the raptor foraging habitat (grasslands), could be mitigated by the salvage and revegetation programs discussed above. There are no feasible alternatives to mitigate potential construction noise impacts to wildlife; however, any impacts would be short-term.

(2) **Mitigation for Indirect Impacts:** The potential for impacts to aquatic or aquatic-dependent species from an incidental fuel spill could be mitigated by conducting all in-field refueling in a below-grade location which has been lined to capture fuel spills. No refueling should be conducted in or adjacent to drainage channels or any wetland areas. The potential for impacts from incidental siltation could be mitigated by rapidly reseeding newly devegetated areas to help limit erosion. Any reseeding program should be coordinated with Corps of Engineers biologists to ensure that the erosion control species used are consistent with wildlife management objectives. Also, requiring that spoil piles be established away from drainage channels would further help to obviate potential siltation impacts. A berm will be left between the eastern compensation area and Haskell Channel to prevent siltation into the channel. In order to prevent weed propagation, the stockpiled topsoil would be periodically scraped as weeds began to appear. The duration of soil disturbance in the compensating excavation areas will be minimized, with reseeding as discussed above.

c. Threatened, Endangered, or Otherwise Sensitive Species:

(1) **Mitigation for Direct Impacts:** The potential impacts to tricolored blackbirds and Canada Geese through the disturbance of forage habitat which would occur in the compensating excavation areas could be mitigated by restricting construction activities to one side of Woodley Avenue at a time and requiring that that side be replanted before construction could begin on the other side of Woodley. This strategy would require either the immediate resumption of sod farming, or reseeding with an appropriate species which would not preclude the return to agriculture (or other use).

(2) **Mitigation for Indirect Impacts:** The potential for impacts to sensitive aquatic or aquatic-dependent species from an incidental fuel spill could be mitigated by conducting all in-field refueling in a below-grade location which has been lined to capture fuel spills. No refueling could be conducted in or adjacent to drainage channels or any wetland areas. The potential for impacts to sensitive species from incidental siltation could be mitigated

by rapidly reseeding newly devegetated areas to help limit erosion. Any reseeding program should be coordinated with Corps of Engineers biologists to ensure that the erosion control species used are consistent with wildlife management objectives. Also, all spoil piles should be established away from drainage channels to further obviate potential siltation impacts.

8.2. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

(1) Mitigation for Direct Impacts: No direct impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; consequently, no mitigation measures are identified. However, if during any project construction it was determined that such operations would impact, or had impacted, previously unidentified cultural resources, the provisions set forth in 36 CFR 800.11(b)(2) would be followed.

(2) Mitigation for Indirect Impacts: No indirect impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; consequently, no mitigation measures are identified.

8.3. LAND USE:

(1) Mitigation for Direct Impacts: Measures for mitigating the short-term noise and safety impacts to recreational land uses are discussed in Sections 8.7 and 8.12, respectively. Measures for mitigating the habitat disturbance impacts to the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve are discussed in Sections 8.1 and 8.9.

(2) Mitigation for Indirect Impacts: No indirect impacts to land use are anticipated; consequently, no mitigation measures are identified.

8.4. FARMLAND RESOURCES:

(1) Mitigation for Direct Impacts: No direct impacts to farmland resources are anticipated; consequently, no mitigation measures are identified.

(2) Mitigation for Indirect Impacts: No indirect impacts to farmland resources are anticipated; consequently, no mitigation measures are identified.

8.5. WATER RESOURCES/QUALITY:

(1) Mitigation for Direct Impacts: No direct impacts to water resources or quality are anticipated; consequently, no mitigation measures are identified.

(2) Mitigation for Indirect Impacts: Measures for mitigating incidental siltation of water resources are discussed in Section 8.1. Similarly, measures for mitigating the potential for contamination of water resources from an accidental fuel spill are

accordance with the manufacturer's safety specifications and all applicable laws and regulations.

At the points where construction vehicles cross the bicycle paths (to access the compensating excavation areas), as well as at the bike path realignment area, signs would be posted to instruct bicyclists to dismount and walk their bikes across the accessway or construction zone. In addition, flaggers could be used during periods of heavy traffic.

The potential brush fire impact during construction, while substantially reduced by the on-site presence of a water truck and a bulldozer, could be further mitigated by requiring the installation of muffler spark arresters. In addition, the Corps of Engineers has requested that a fire prevention and suppression plan be formulated by the project proponent or contractor for approval by the Corps of Engineers prior to the start of project construction. Definitive plans and specifications would be submitted to the Los Angeles City Fire Department, with necessary permit requirements satisfied before commencement of the project.

With regard to the evacuation of pipeline construction personnel and equipment in the event of an impending flood, the Corps of Engineers has requested that a formal evacuation plan be formulated by the project proponent or contractor for approval by the Corps of Engineers prior to the start of pipeline construction. The plan must provide assurances to the Corps of Engineers that project personnel and equipment can safely be evacuated from flood-prone areas within four hours following an evacuation notice from the Corps of Engineers. The plan should also indicate how the contractor proposes to seal the tunnel shaft opening to prevent infiltration of flood waters beneath the dam, should a flood occur during the tunnelling operation beneath the dam.

(2) Mitigation for Indirect Impacts: No adverse indirect health or safety impacts are anticipated; consequently, no mitigation measures are identified.

8.13. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS:

Analysis of the environmental consequences of the proposed project has resulted in the establishment of three categories of environmental commitment for follow-up: biological resources, land use, and aesthetics. As a point of clarification, it should be noted that while the environmental commitments noted below would be conducted by the project's contractor(s), ultimate responsibility for satisfactory compliance of these commitments would rest with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works.

a. Biological Resources: The following commitments have been established for biological resources:

- salvage of the larger trees in the effluent pipeline construction ROW, especially those specifically planted for wildlife management purposes,
- restoration of managed raptor foraging habitat in the effluent pipeline construction ROW,
- revegetation of 4.5 acres of the Sepulveda Wildlife reserve outside of the pipeline ROW in accordance with the mitigation program prescribed by the Corps of Engineers,
- avoidance of adverse impacts to tricolored blackbirds and Canada geese during compensating excavation operations, and through phasing construction,
- retention of the upper two feet of topsoil in the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve during installation of the effluent pipeline.

(1) **Accomplished by Whom:** The tree salvaging, vegetation/ habitat restoration, and topsoil retention operations would be conducted by the project's contractor(s). Pre-operations planning would be coordinated with Corps of Engineers and Department of Recreation and Parks biologists (as appropriate) to ensure compliance with established wildlife management goals and policies in the wildlife reserve area.

(2) **When to be Accomplished:** The tree salvaging and raptor habitat restoration operations would be ongoing during installation of the effluent pipeline. The ROW revegetation operations would be conducted during the 1991-92 and 1992-93 winter months, with supplemental irrigation of the plantings continuing for five years, as prescribed. The topsoil mitigation would be ongoing during the pipeline trenching and backfilling/cover operations.

b. Land Use: The following land use commitments have been established:

- realignment of a section of the existing bicycle path near the intersection of Burbank Boulevard and the L.A. River,
- replacement of the existing tethered model airplane pads in a new location just south of the radio controlled model airplane fields,
- retention of the upper two feet of improved agricultural topsoil in all areas of the compensating excavation, followed by rippage, crossrippage, and tillage to a depth

of at least 18 inches to restore the topsoil to a condition suitable for replanting.

(1) **Accomplished by Whom:** The above land use commitments would be accomplished by the project's contractor(s). Pre-construction design of the recreation facilities would be coordinated with the City's Department of Recreation and Parks to ensure compliance with the Department's design and function goals for these facilities.

(2) **When to be Accomplished:** As regards the recreation facilities mitigations, the Department of Public Works shall, prior to opening the Tillman Flood Protection Project to contract bidding, establish a realignment and replacement schedule in coordination with the Department of Recreation and Parks. The topsoil mitigation would be ongoing during the compensating excavation and pipeline installation.

c. Aesthetics: The following aesthetic commitment has been established:

- landscaping of the flood control dike's earthen levee with California native vegetation.

(1) **Accomplished by Whom:** The above aesthetic commitment would be accomplished by the project's contractor(s). Landscape planning and design would be coordinated with Corps of Engineers biologists to ensure compliance with established basin development goals and policies, particularly as regards appropriate species selection.

(2) **When to be Accomplished:** The landscaping operation would be conducted during the 1991-92 and/or 1992-93 winter months, with supplemental irrigation of the plantings continuing as needed.

9. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

9.1. Relationship of Plans to Environmental Protection Statutes and Other Environmental Requirements: Applicable environmental regulations, laws, and other policies have been complied with in the preparation of this report as described below:

a. **Clean Air Act:** Construction activities would result in potentially significant short-term fugitive dust impacts. These impacts would be mitigated by appropriate operation stipulations included in the construction contract. Construction equipment and traffic would produce pollutant emissions, however, these emissions would not reach a level of significance.

b. **Clean Water Act:** The pipeline boring operation associated with the Haskell Channel may require a Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit from the Corps of Engineers, and will require a California Fish and Game Code Section 1601 Stream and Lake Alteration Agreement. In addition, the recommended relocation of the effluent outlet may require that the City modify its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit in order to be in compliance with Section 402 of this Act.

c. **Coastal Zone Management Act:** This Act is not applicable because the recommended project site is outside the coastal zone and would have no direct effect on the coastal zone.

d. **Endangered Species Act:** Pursuant to Section 7 of this Act, the Corps of Engineers in 1987 requested an updated list of potentially affected species. According to the USFWS (1987), no federally endangered, threatened, or recommended endangered species occur within the recommended project area. Additionally, no sensitive plant species are found nor are expected to occur within the project area.

e. **Estuary Protection Act:** This Act is not applicable because the recommended project site is not associated with a recognized estuary and would have no direct effect on a recognized estuary.

f. **Farmland Protection Policy Act:** Agricultural land designated as "Prime Farmland" under the definitions of the Soil Conservation Service would be impacted by the recommended project. The topography of this land would be altered. However, no acreage would be lost, and the improved topsoil would be retained, so the alteration would not significantly affect current or future uses in the long-term.

g. **Federal Water Project Recreation Act:** This Act is not applicable because the recommended project would not significantly impact currently established recreational uses, nor would it

involve the implementation of additional recreational uses.

h. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act: The USFWS has been providing the Corps of Engineers with Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act reports on the biological resources within the Sepulveda Basin since 1984 (Bontrager 1984, USFWS 1986a, 1986b, 1987).

i. Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act: This Act is not applicable because the recommended project would have no direct effect on any marine habitat.

j. National Environmental Policy Act: This Environmental Assessment has been prepared in accordance with NEPA requirements. Reasonable alternatives to the recommended action have been considered. Potential environmental effects have been included in the evaluation of the recommended project.

k. National Historic Preservation Act: Three archaeological surveys (1977, 1984, 1988) have determined that the recommended project would not affect any known historic, cultural, or paleontological resources or properties. The only known Sepulveda Basin cultural resources near the recommended project area were destroyed in 1977.

l. Rivers and Harbors Act: This Act has a provision exempting public works considered necessary and proper.

m. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act: This Act is not applicable because the project does not involve the planning for, or establishment of, a watershed.

n. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: This Act is not applicable because the recommended project would have no direct effect on any recognized wild or scenic river(s).

o. Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management: The applicable provisions of this Order have been met in that the administrating Federal agency, the Corps of Engineers, has reviewed the recommended project and determined that: (1) it is the only practicable alternative consistent with the law, and (2) it requires siting in a floodplain. The Corps of Engineers has further determined that the recommended project has been designed to minimize potential harm to or within the floodplain.

p. Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands: The applicable provisions of this Order have been met in that the administrating Federal agency, the Corps of Engineers, has reviewed the recommended project and determined that: (1) there is no practicable alternative that would not also impact a wetland area, and (2) the recommended action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands. In addition, revegetation would

adequately mitigate any wetland disturbances.

q. State and Local Policies and Laws: The proposed project is not in conflict with any State or local policies or laws. However, pursuant to Section 2770.5 of the Public Resources Code (see Appendix B for a copy of this section), the lead agency has notified the Department of Transportation concerning its application for a permit for surface mining operations in a 100-year floodplain streambed, because the operations are within one mile of a state highway bridge.

r. Land Use Plans: The proposed project is not in conflict with any zoned land use plans.

Responsibilities: Technical Review and Quality Assurance.
Experience: Over twenty years in environmental (land use, resource, and site) management, including environmental assessment.
Responsibilities: Biological Resources.
Experience: Six years in technical review and revision of environmental impact statements, and fifteen months in other environmental investigations.
provided review and comments:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Wanda Kiehalo | Outdoor Recreation Planner |
| Mina Parra | Biologist |
| T.J. Stetz | Biologist |

TABLE A-1
FLORAL INVENTORY

LEGEND

APPENDIX A

Plant Community

SPECIES LISTS

Cs	-	Coastal sage scrub
Ag	-	Annual grassland
Rs	-	Riparian scrub
RF	-	Riparian forest
Ru	-	Ruderal (Disturbed)/Agricultural

TABLE A-1
FLORAL INVENTORY

LEGEND

Plant Community

- Css - Coastal sage scrub
- Ag - Annual grassland
- Rs - Riparian scrub
- Rf - Riparian forest
- Ru - Ruderal (Disturbed)/Agricultural

<u>Plants</u>	<u>Css</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
CONIFERAE - CONIFERS					
<u>Pinus sp.</u> Pine				X	
ANGIOSPERMAE - FLOWERING PLANTS					
ACERACEAE - MAPLE FAMILY					
<u>Acer negundo</u> Box elder			X	X	
AMARANTHAEAE - PIGWEED FAMILY					
<u>Amaranthus blitoides</u> Tumbling pigweed	X	X	X		X
<u>Amaranthus sp.</u> Pigweed					X
ANACARDIACEAE - SUMAC FAMILY					
<u>Rhus integrifolia</u> Lemonade berry		X			
<u>Rhus laurina</u> Laurel sumac		X			
<u>Rhus ovata</u> Sugar bush		X			
<u>Schinus molle</u> Brazilian pepper			X		
APIACEAE - CARROT FAMILY					
<u>Conium maculatum</u> Poison hemlock				X	
APOCYNACEAE - DOGBANE FAMILY					
<u>Nerium oleander</u> Oleander					X
ASCLEPIACEAE - MILKWEED FAMILY					
<u>Asclepias fascicularis</u> Narrow-leaved milkweed					X

Plants (continued)

	<u>Css</u>	<u>Aq</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
ASTERACEAE - SUNFLOWER FAMILY					
<u>Ambrosia psilostachya</u> Western ragweed	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</u> Spiny ragweed		X	X		X
<u>Artemisia californica</u> California sagebrush	X	X	X		
<u>Artemisia douglasiana</u> Mugwort	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Baccharis emoryi</u> Emory's baccharis			X		
<u>Baccharis glutinosa</u> Mulefat	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Baccharis pilularis</u> Coyote brush	X		X		
<u>Bidens pilosa</u> Beggar-ticks					X
<u>Centaurea melitensis</u> Tocalote	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Cirsium vulgare</u> Bull thistle	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Cirsium arvense</u> Canada thistle			X		X
<u>Conyza canadensis</u> Common horseweed	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Gnaphalium californicum</u> California cudweed		X			
<u>Haplopappus arborescens</u> <u>parishii</u> Parish's goldenbush			X	X	
<u>Helianthus annuus</u> Western sunflower		X	X	X	X
<u>Helianthus gracilentus</u> Slender-leaved sunflower	X		X		X

Plants (continued)_

	<u>Css</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
<u>Hemizonia fasciculata</u> Fascicled tarweed		X			
<u>Heterotheca grandiflora</u> Telegraph weed		X			X
<u>Latua serriola</u> Prickly lettuce		X	X		X
<u>Malacothrix saxatilis</u> Quillweed					X
<u>Picris echioides</u> Bristly ox-tongue			X		X
<u>Silybum marianum</u> Milk thistle			X	X	X
<u>Sonchus oleraceus</u> Common sow thistle		X	X	X	X
<u>Xanthium strumarium</u> Cocklebur			X	X	X
BETULACEAE - BIRCH FAMILY					
<u>Alnus rhombifolia</u> White alder			X	X	
BORAGINACEAE - FORGET-ME-NOT FAMILY					
<u>Heliotropium curvassavicum</u> Heliotrope		X	X		X
BRASSICACEAE - MUSTARD FAMILY					
<u>Brassica geniculata</u> Summer mustard	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Brassica nigra</u> Black mustard	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Raphanus sativa</u> Wild radish		X			X
<u>Sisymbrium altissimum</u> Tumble mustard					X

Plants (continued)

	<u>Css</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
CAPRIFOLIACEAE - ELDERBERRY FAMILY					
<u>Sambucus mexicana</u> Mexican elderberry		X	X	X	
CHENOPODIACEAE - GOOSEFOOT FAMILY					
<u>Atriplex rosea</u> Redscale		X	X		X
<u>Beta vulgaris</u> Wild beet			X	X	
<u>Chenopodium album</u> Lambs quarters			X		X
<u>Chenopodium botrys</u> Jerusalem oak			X		X
<u>Chenopodium ambrosioides</u> Mexican tea			X		
<u>Chenopodium murale</u> Nettle-leaf goosefoot					X
<u>Salsola kali</u> Russian thistle	X	X	X	X	X
CONVOLVULACEAE - MORNING-GLORY FAMILY					
<u>Convolvulus arvensis</u> Bindweed		X			X
<u>Cuscuta californica</u> California dodder			X		
CUCURBITACEAE - GOURD FAMILY					
<u>Cucurbita pepo</u> Pumpkin					X
EUPHORBIACEAE - SPURGE FAMILY					
<u>Eremocarpus setigerus</u> Dove weed		X	X		X
<u>Euphorbia polycarpa</u> Small-seed sandmat		X	X		X
<u>Ricinus communis</u> Castor bean		X	X	X	X

Plants (continued)

	<u>Css</u>	<u>Aq</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
FABACEAE - PEA FAMILY					
<u>Medicago polymorpha</u> Bur-clover			X	X	
<u>Melilotus albus</u> White sweet-clover			X	X	X
FAGACEAE - BEECH FAMILY					
<u>Quercus agrifolia</u> Coast live oak		X			
GERANIACEAE - GERANIUM FAMILY					
<u>Erodium cicutarium</u> Red-stemmed filaree		X			X
HYDROPHYLLACEAE - WATER-LEAF FAMILY					
<u>Eriodictyon crassifolium</u> Thick-leaved yerba santa	X				
JUGLANDACEAE - WALNUT FAMILY					
<u>Juglans californica</u> California walnut			X		
LAMIACEAE - MINT FAMILY					
<u>Marrubium vulgare</u> Horehound		X	X		X
<u>Salvia mellifera</u> Black sage	X				
MALVACEAE - MALLOW FAMILY					
<u>Malva parviflora</u> Cheeseweed		X	X		X
<u>Sida leprosa hederacea</u> Alkali-mallow			X		X
MYRTACEAE - MYRTLE FAMILY					
<u>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</u> Red gum		X	X		X
<u>Eucalyptus globosus</u> Blue gum					X

Plants (continued)

	<u>Css</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
OLEACEAE - OLIVE FAMILY					
<u>Fraxinus velutina</u> Arizona ash		X	X	X	
ONAGRACEAE - EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY					
<u>Epilobium adenocaulon</u> Willow-herb			X	X	
<u>Ludwigia peploides</u> Willow water-weed			X	X	
PLANTANACEAE - SYCAMORE FAMILY					
<u>Platanus racemosa</u> California sycamore		X			
POLYGONACEAE - BUCKWHEAT FAMILY					
<u>Eriogonum fasciculatum</u> California buckwheat	X	X			
<u>Polygonum lapathifolium</u> Willow smartweed			X	X	
<u>Polygonum sp.</u>			X	X	
<u>Rumex crispus</u> Curly dock		X	X	X	X
PORTULACAEAE - PURSLANE FAMILY					
<u>Portulaca oleracea</u> Common purslane					X
RHAMNACEAE - BUCKTHORN FAMILY					
<u>Ceanothus cuneatus</u> Buckbrush		X			
<u>Rhamnus californica</u> Coffee berry		X			
ROSACEAE - ROSE FAMILY					
<u>Heteromeles arbutifolia</u> Toyon		X			
<u>Prunus ilicifolia</u> Holly-leaved cherry		X			

Plants (continued)

	<u>Css</u>	<u>Aq</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
<u>Rubus ursinus</u> California blackberry		X	X	X	
SALICACEAE - WILLOW FAMILY					
<u>Populus fremontii</u> Western cottonwood			X	X	
<u>Populus trichocarpa</u> Black cottonwood			X	X	
<u>Salix gooddingii</u> Black willow				X	
<u>Salix hisiandra</u> Sandbar willow			X		
<u>Salix laevigata</u> Red willow		X	X		
<u>Salix lasiolepis</u> Arroyo willow		X	X	X	
SAXIFRAGACEAE - SAXIFRAGE FAMILY					
<u>Ribes aureum</u> Golden currant		X			
SIMAROUBACEAE - QUASSIA FAMILY					
<u>Alianthus altissima</u> Tree of Heaven			X		
SOLANACEAE - NIGHTSHADE FAMILY					
<u>Datura meteloides</u> Jimson weed		X	X	X	X
<u>Lypersicon esculentum</u> Tomato					X
<u>Nicotiana glauca</u> Indian tree tobacco	X	X	X		X
<u>Solanum nodiflorum</u> Small-flowered nightshade		X	X		X
URTICACEAE - NETTLE FAMILY					
<u>Urtica urens</u> Dwarf nettle					X

Plants (continued)

	<u>Css</u>	<u>Aq</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
VERBEANACEAE - VERBENA FAMILY					
<u>Verbena bipinnatifida</u> Pinnate-leaved verbena					X
<u>Verbena bracteata</u> Bract vervain		X	X	X	
MONOCOTYLEDONES - MONOCOTS					
CYPERACEAE - SEDGE FAMILY					
<u>Cyperus eragrostis</u> Tall flat sedge			X	X	
<u>Eleocharis sp.</u> Spike sedge			X		
<u>Scirpus californicus</u> California bulrush			X	X	
POACEAE - GRASS FAMILY					
<u>Arundo donax</u> Giant reed		X	X	X	X
<u>Avena barbata</u> Slender wild oat	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Bromus diandris</u> Ripgut brome	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Bromus rubens</u> Red brome	X	X	X		X
<u>Bromus willdenovii</u> Rescue grass					X
<u>Cynodon dactylon</u> Bermuda grass		X	X	X	X
<u>Echinochloa crusgalli</u> Barnyard grass		X	X	X	
<u>Festuca megalura</u> Foxtail fescue	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Hordeum leporinum</u> Foxtail barley		X			X

Plants (continued)

- Leptochloa univera
Sprangle top
- Lolium multiflorum
Italian ryegrass
- Oryzopsis miliacea
Smilo
- Paspalum dilitatum
Dallis grass
- Sorghum halepense
Johnson grass
- Zea mays
Corn

TYPHACEAE - CAT-TAIL FAMILY

- Typha latifolia
Broad-leaf cat-tail

SAXIFRAGACEAE - SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

SIMARUBACEAE - QUASSIA FAMILY

SOLANACEAE - NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

URTICACEAE - NETTLE FAMILY

<u>Css</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Rf</u>	<u>Ru</u>
		X		X
	X			X
		X	X	X
		X		X
	X	X		X
				X
		X	X	X

TABLE A-2
FAUNAL INVENTORY

Animals

AMPHIBIANS

ANURA - FROGS

Rana aurora draytoni
California red-legged frog

BIRDS

ALCEDIFORMES - KINGFISHERS

Megaceryle alcyon
Belted kingfisher

ANSERIFORMES - WATERFOWL

Anas platyrhynchos
Mallard

Branta canadensis
Canada goose

APODIFORMES - SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS

Calypte anna
Anna's hummingbird

CHARADIFORMES - SHOREBIRDS

Charadrius vociferus
Killdeer

Limnodromus scolopaceus
Long-billed dowitcher

CICONIIFORMES - HERONS

Ardea herodias
Great blue heron

Botaurus lentiginosus
American bittern

Animals (continued)

Casmerodius albus
Great egret

Leucophoyx thula
Snowy egret

Nycticorax nycticorax
Black-crowned night heron

COLUMBIFORMES - PIGEONS AND DOVES

Columba livia
Rock dove

Zenaida macroura
Mourning dove

FALCONIFORMES - VULTURES AND HAWKS

Accipiter cooperii
Cooper's hawk

Aquila chrysaetos
Golden eagle

Buteo jamaicensis
Red-tailed hawk

Buteo lineatus
Red-shouldered hawk

Cathartes aura
Turkey vulture

Circus cyaneus
Harrier

Elanus leucurus
White-tailed kite

Falco mexicanus
Prairie falcon

Falco peregrinus anatum
American peregrine falcon

Falco sparverius
Sparrow hawk

Animals (continued)

LARIDIFORMS - GULLS AND TERNS

Hydroprogne caspia
Caspian tern

Larus californicus
California gull

PASSERIFORMES - PERCHING BIRDS

Agelaius phoeniceus
Red-wing blackbird

Agelaius tricolor
Tricolored blackbird

Corvus brachyrhynchos
American crow

Corvus corvax
Common raven

Carpodacus mexicanus
House finch

Carduelis psaltria
Lesser goldfinch

Dendrioca coronata
Yellow-rumped warbler

Dendrioca petechia
Yellow warbler

Euphagus cynocephalus
Brewer's blackbird

Guiraca caerulea
Blue grosbeak

Icteria virens
Yellow-breasted chat

Lanius ludovicianus
Loggerhead shrike

Mimus polyglottos
Mockingbird

Passer domesticus
English sparrow

Animals (continued)

Pipilo fuscus
Brown towhee

Psaltriparus minimus
Bushtit

Sayornis nigricans
Black phoebe

Sayornis saya
Say's phoebe

Sturnella neglecta
Western meadowlark

Sturnus vulgaris
Starling

Thryomanes bewickii
Bewick's wren

Vireo bellii pusillus
Least Bell's vireo

Zonotrichia leucophrys
White-crowned sparrow

STRIGIFORMS - NOCTERNAL BIRDS

Asio flammeus
Short-eared owl

Athene cucularia
Burrowing owl

Tyto alba
Common barn owl

MAMMALS

CARNIVORA - FLESH EATERS

Canis latrans
Coyote

Felis domesticus
Cat

Animals (continued)

LAGOMORPHA - RABBITS AND HARES

Sylvilagus audubonii
Audubon's cottontail

RODENTIA - RODENTS

Citellus beecheyi
California ground squirrel

Rattus rattus
Roof rat

Thomomys bottae
Botta's pocket gopher

APPENDIX B

REPTILES

PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE

CHELONIA - TURTLES

Clemmys marmorata
Western pond turtle

SQUAMATA - LIZARDS

Sceloporus occidentalis
Western fence lizard

Uta stansburiana
Side-blotched lizard



THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

March 6, 1991

Robert S. Horii, City Engineer
Attn: Environmental Engineering
Room 807 CH
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Tillmann Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project

Dear Mr. Horii:

The City of Los Angeles should **not** approve the Negative Declaration on this project until the following questions have been answered and CNPS recommendations have been incorporated in the mitigation plans:

1. LONG RANGE PLANS FOR THE TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT (TWRP).

- a. Is future expansion planned?
- b. In the original EIR for the TWRP, how many phases of expansion were proposed or approved?

2. OUTFLOW PIPE

- a. Will the proposed outflow pipe handle a sufficient volume to accommodate all future proposed expansions for TWRP?
- b. If not, how does TWRP propose to handle outflow in excess of the proposed pipe?
- c. If not, will another pipeline have to be dug?
- d. How will this affect the Wildlife Reserves?

The decision made at this stage in regards to the pipe size and configuration must consider long-term effects to minimize future disturbances of the Wildlife Areas.

3. FLOOD CONTROL DIKE AROUND THE TWRP

- a. Are there any proposed or approved plans for expansion of the TWRP beyond the boundary of the proposed Flood Control Dike?
- b. If there are such proposed or approved plans for such expansion, what areas would be used for compensating excavation?
- c. Would such compensating excavation take place in the north Wildlife Reserve?
- d. On page EA-8, Figure 2, there is a dashed line (one long, two short pattern) around the TWRP. What does this dashed line signify?

Steven Hartman
4444 Longridge Avenue
continued... CA 91423

12

4. REPLANTING AND RESEEDING

a. What are the plant species recommended for planting on the Flood Control Dike or levee mentioned in the Mitigation Monitoring Report (MMR) section on *Aesthetics*? CNPS recommends that only native southern Californian plant species be planted on the levee. Native plants in the long run will be drought tolerant and are very pleasing to the eye and will enhance the Wildlife Reserves by providing additional habitat for birds and insects. Also, non-native plants should be avoided in the "interim reseedling" mentioned.

5

b. What is the proposal for "replanting" as mentioned on EA-16, 4.2.a (Construction Season) and "reseedling" as described on EA-87, b.2 (Wildlife, Mitigation for Indirect Impacts)? Exactly what species are being proposed?

6

With a Wildlife Reserve adjacent to the area of compensating excavation east of Woodley, consideration should be given to creating a buffer zone of native plants along the west bank of Haskell Channel. Non-native plant species that might invade the Reserve should not be planted.

4

5. MITIGATION

a. In the MMR section on *Earth*, why is there no mention of weed eradication after tilling and before resumed agricultural use? There should be mitigation proposed for keeping weed free all areas where the earth is disturbed by this project.

1

b. On page EA-13 it is stated that for the 30-acre section of the north Wildlife Reserve "mitigation measures for impacts to vegetation, wildlife, sensitive species, recreation, and soils were considered feasible, if costly, but it was not possible to assure the success of such mitigation." If it was not possible to assure the success of mitigation for the north area, what are the extenuating reasons justifying the claim that the City of Los Angeles can "assure mitigation" for the pipeline installation in the south Wildlife Reserve?

7

c. Why is there no mitigation for weed growth in areas of compensating excavation except for on the stockpiled topsoil?"

The primary indirect impact to vegetation would occur from weeds being allowed to grow on stockpiled soil or disturbed areas (EA-60). The only mitigation reads (EA-88), "In order to prevent weed propagation, the stockpiled topsoil would be periodically scraped as weeds began to appear." This is not sufficient. Every area where the soil is disturbed must be scraped for weeds, including but not limited to the dike/levee; all areas of compensating excavation (before, during, and after the project is complete, until the ground ceases to be fallow); and along roadways where earth-removal trucks travel (spilled dirt has weed seeds, sometimes trucks don't stay on path). The monitoring for weeds must begin as soon as areas are disturbed, during the entire phase of operation (weeds don't stop growing if workers stop working for the rainy season), and afterwards until weed growth has abated.

1

continued...



THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Re: Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project

5. MITIGATION (continued)

d. Why is the list of weeds to be kept out of the planted areas different in the EA-86 thru EA-87 and on the Mitigation Monitoring Report (Continuation sheet 2 of 3 for *Plant Life*)? The following species were excluded on the MMR: *Silybum marianum*, *Centaurea melitensis*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Marrubium vulgare*, *Salsola kali*, *Foeniculum vulgare*, and *Brassica nigra*.

1

Item 5 (EA-86) states that "Any of the trees in Haskell Channel that are injured or die as a result of the pipeline installation work done in the channel should be replaced."

e-1. Who will perform the survey to see if any trees have been injured or die?

3

e-2. How often will these surveys take place?

e-3. Will a map be made before and after the tunneling to verify the survey?

f. Why does item 11 (EA-87) not require the maintenance report to evaluate the success of weed eradication? The maintenance report should also include a survey of number of weeds (of all species listed in EA-86, item 10). Since weed control is an important aspect of the mitigation, there must be some oversight and review of the success of the weed control program.

1

g. Why is there is no mitigation for indirect impacts (EA-87)? It was stated that weeds would grow in disturbed areas (EA-60), thus there will be weeds growing in the compensating excavation area directly west of the Wildlife Reserve. The City should at least be required to keep free of the weeds previously listed the areas along the west bank of Haskell Channel and in Haskell Channel, as well as throughout the south Wildlife Reserve in the area where the pipeline was dug.

2

h. How can the City ensure the success of revegetation if there is no one person responsible for its implementation? Item 12 (EA-87) should be changed to read "It is **REQUIRED** that a biological consultant or revegetation consultant be hired to conduct this work." The City of Los Angeles has shown exactly what its capabilities are for handling native revegetation projects as seen in the less than 4% survival for natives planted in the north Wildlife Reserve in 1988-1989. Now the City has even less money to spend on Recreation and Parks. Unless there is the requirement that a person is hired to be responsible for the success of this project, the City will not be able to provide someone with the proper knowledge and experience to monitor this revegetation project. As far as I know, there is no one currently on staff with the City who can do this.

8

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Steven Hartman

Steven Hartman
444 Longridge Avenue
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Friends of Los Angeles River

Technical Advisory Board
Christine Perala, Chair

11 March, 1991

U.S. Army Corps Engineer district
ATTN: SPLCO-0
P.O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Re: Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Friends of Los Angeles River recommends that the U.S. Army Engineer District should not approve this project as proposed until the following questions have been addressed:

1. Where is there a map of the vegetation for the project site? How will the Dept. of Public Works know whether vegetation is lost in construction progress unless there is initial documentation of the resource?

Recommendation: Map the existing vegetation for the entire southern and eastern parts of Sepulveda Basin.

2. Why is there no mitigation for weeds in areas of compensating excavation outside the stockpile area? The movement of trucks, equipment and people will certainly increase opportunities for weed growth all along the ROW.

Recommendation: Monitor the entire construction site for all weeds listed on EA-86,87 begin the project with weed clearance and apply controls monthly.

2. As described on EA-18, the vegetation mitigation is to be overseen by a (staff ecologist with) the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps Operations Branch has three vacancies for the position of ecologist, with little prospect of filling these positions in the foreseeable future. This project should not be approved without the vegetation management plan in place from the start.

Recommendation: The Dept. of Public Works should be required to hire a vegetation ecologist for this project, to oversee the mapping of existing vegetation, control weeds during the construction process and oversee the replanting of the 4.5 acres of native vegetation upon project completion.

3. The Vegetation section of Mitigation (pg EA-85):

a. does not require the use of mulch to control weeds and reduce drought stress.

b. does not state who is responsible for insuring that injured or killed trees will be replaced.

c. does not require a revegetation specialist to conduct this work. In light of previous failures in planting the Northern Reserve, the plan should specify that the contractor be a revegetation specialist.

The document states that there are no indirect impacts to vegetative resources (pg EA-87), yet on pg EA-60, indirect impacts would be seen from the spread of weeds into areas of native vegetation. This contradiction underscores a lack of understanding of the impact of this project to the wildlife areas.

2

The City should be required to keep free of weeds ALL areas of the project.

1

Finally, the City should be required to hire a person to be responsible for the success of the revegetation phase of this project. Without such a commitment, the implementation of the mitigation measures will be weak and will further undermine the quality of wildlife habitat in Sepulveda Basin.

8

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Christine Perala
Friends of Los Angeles River
5280 Village Green
Los Angeles, CA 90016

4

10

15

13



SIERRA CLUB
ANGELES CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
CLEAN COASTAL WATERS TASK FORCE

March 10, 1991

VIA FAX

Mr. Robert S. Horii
City Engineer
Attn: Linda Moore Environmental Engineering Rm 807 CH
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

U.S. Army Engineer District
Attn: Mr. Charles S. Dwyer Chief, Operations Branch SPLCO-O
P.O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Re: Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project

Dear Mr. Horii & Mr. Dwyer:

The following are our comments regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment and the Negative Declaration for the above mentioned project.

At the outset, let me say that we understand the need for the project given the location of Tillman and the flood control needs resulting from increased population in the Sepulveda Basin area. However, we believe certain areas of the Draft Environmental Assessment document to be incomplete and/or inaccurate. In addition, we believe the monitoring programs are inadequate to insure that the planned mitigations reduce the adverse impact on wildlife to insignificance.

Our specific concerns are the following:

(i) AREAS FOUND TO BE INCOMPLETE:

- 1. The draft environmental assessment does not adequately address the environmental impacts resulting from the compensating excavation.

Section 7 of the Draft Environmental Assessment, "Environmental Effects", describes the impacts on vegetation and wildlife caused by the pipeline extension. However, there is no discussion in this section relating to the effects of the compensating excavation. This violates CEQA guideline 15151 which states "Courts have looked for adequacy, completeness and a good faith effort at full disclosure. The EIR must include detail sufficient to enable those who did not participate in its preparation to understand and to consider meaningfully the issues raised by the proposed project."

SIERRA CLUB -- ANGELES CHAPTER

150 WEST SIXTH STREET, SUITE 301, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015

Page two

Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project

Cont.

2. What is the impact of the excavation on the riparian vegetation and wildlife along the Haskell Channel ?

Section 6 of the Draft Environmental Assessment, "Existing Environment", states that native vegetation is generally restricted to the riparian areas along the three main waterways - Haskell Channel, Encino Channel, Los Angeles River and the wildlife reserve. The Assessment also notes that the riparian habitat along the Haskell Channel supports a wide variety of birds and mammals.

The document does not clarify the proximity of excavation to any of the main waterways. The border of sod farm #2 parallels Haskell Channel, and is therefore of particular concern given the significant presence of native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

4

Does the City intend to set back the excavation to preclude any impact on the channel? If so, what would this set back be? Additionally, we recommend that a buffer zone of native vegetation be established to protect this habitat. The EIR should be amended to discuss the impacts on, and mitigation measures to be taken in, the areas to be excavated beyond discussion of the staggered construction schedule in this area.

3. Alternative not considered: Substituting sod farm #2 for the wildlife reserve area south of Burbank for the compensating excavation.

Plans for the reserve area just South of Burbank call for a lake and marsh area. Development was begun, but not completed due to improper grading of the marsh area. Excavating this area for the Tillman project would provide the opportunity to complete the lake and marsh project in a more efficient and expedient manner than if pursued as an independent project. This alternative seems appropriate given the recommended pipeline extension, which calls for excavation and movement of heavy machinery in this area.

10

(ii) AREAS FOUND TO BE INACCURATE:

The baseline inventory of wildlife is inaccurate.

The inventory provided in the Draft Environmental Assessment is based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studies (1984, 1986 and 1987) and was supplemented by two days of site reconnaissance.

According to annual Audubon Society inventory walks, which take place the first Sunday of every month, the inventory includes at least six species of birds which have not been seen in the basin for a period ranging from one to three years. Additionally, the report indicates that The Tricolored Blackbird is seasonal. The Tricolored Blackbird is a year-round inhabitant.

15
13

The conclusion to be drawn from this inaccurate inventory, is that the state of wildlife in the Sepulveda Basin is not as healthy as this "report card" suggests. Appropriate plan designs and mitigation measures should be based on accurate baseline data. A comprehensive baseline inventory is recommended.

Page three
Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project
Cont.

(iii) WILDLIFE MONITORING:

A. program to monitor wildlife should be conducted to assess whether mitigation objectives have been achieved.

The purpose of this wildlife monitoring program would be three-fold: (i) achievement of mitigation goals can be clearly assessed (ii) results of the monitoring will provide a basis for adjustments to be made to the mitigation plan during the 5 year monitoring period to achieve a higher degree of success and (iii) this program will provide invaluable baseline data which will be useful to any future projects planned in the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Randi P. Spivak
Clean Coastal Waters Task Force
156 Barlock Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90049
(213) 471-7588

cc: Rodney V. Harmsworth, Ph.D: Harmsworth Associates

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SIERRA CLUB — ANGELES CHAPTER

3550 WEST SIXTH STREET, SUITE 321, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

(213) 387-4287

Local Parks Subcommittee, Angeles Chapter: for
faster response, please address: 19261 Wells Drive,
Tarzana 91356

Robert S. Horii, City Engineer
Att.: Environmental Engineer
Room 807, City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles 90012

FAX (213) 687-6556

U.S. Army Engineer District
Att.: SPLCO-0
P.O. Box 2711
Los Angeles 90053

FAX (213) 894-6418

RE: Willman Water Reclamation Plant Flood
Protection Project: Initial Study, DEA
Revised Neg. Declaration

Gentlemen:

We respectfully request that the following comments and questions
be considered and included in your document for evaluation and pre-
paration of the Final Neg. Dec.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: (EA-44, 45; IS Checklist #20)

What provision is there for on-site monitoring of the activities
related to the "trenching and boring depths (which) will range
from 14 to 28 feet, with temporary spoil piles located adjacent
to the trench in the construction ROW"?

The surveys (Martz - 1977, 1988, 1990) which appear to be field
and on-foot reconnaissance throughout the are of the proposed and
alternative effluent extension alignments do not take into account
that soil depths would possibly reveal intact artifacts or potential
artifacts.

Since this is a federally permitted project, the National Historic
Preservation Act obviously applies and the "no effect" should be
at least changed to a "maybe" if not "yes".

Current experience with the MetroRail projects in downtown Los
Angeles and environs has revealed numerous artifacts which will
be displayed permanently, a part of Los Angeles' rich cultural
history. The Corps of Engineers has a unique opportunity once
again to demonstrate its multi-faceted approach to public projects
which will in turn benefit future generations as well.

Since the area known as "Sepulveda Flood Control Basin" is presumed
to be on large lakebed, it is not unlikely that this end of the dam
(as referred to in the 1977 letter from the County Museum of Natural
History) may indeed store some pre-European surprises.

COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PLAN:

We urge consideration and creation of the above to insure that prior, during and after the project, the diminution or extinction of species (which appears on recent independent bird counts) will not be exacerbated.

A consortium of Corps of Engineers, (Calif.) Dept. of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, (Calif.) Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District, City of Los Angeles, and other related and interested agencies and organizations would insure that flood plain management goals would be given a long-range focus and the wildlife values would equally benefit. Precedents exist: Legg Lake, Prado Dam (see enclosed article re least Bell's vireo).

9

Not only would this be an excellent public relations "bonus" for the Corps (similar to the City of Palo Alto's Baylands Interpretive Center concept, a joint-venture with P.G. & E., City of Palo Alto, local schools, sanitation district) but a public assurance that natural systems are critical to good flood plain management.

FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS:

Compensation for loss of flood capacity created by Tillman I & II is both understood and accepted. However, theoretical expansion for Phases III and IV, a subject referred to on occasion, raises logical and logistical questions to future sitings for compensation excavation. Will they be in areas excavated presently?? New areas?? Areas already proposed and rejected?? What will be the cumulative impacts of a phased expansion?

12

BIOLOGICAL CONSULTANT: (Mitig. Monitoring Report 3 of 3, item 12)

We suggest the sentence read (line 5, par. 1): "A biological consultant and revegetation consultant shall be hired etc conduct this work." The data collection (biological and botanical resources) for the Master Plan and the references in the Mitigation Monitoring would lead the public to believe that there is "sanctuary" in the Basin; in reality, some species have disappeared and there has been no accounting other than organizations on a voluntary basis.

8

DEA (cover) DATE ERROR: (January 1990)

Since the Corps meticulously documents all such publications (for reference during public analysis, such as the Revised and Master Plan) this error in date could significantly alter the time frames for responses, legal actions, etc. It is incumbent upon the lead agency to correct an error which could have serious consequences in the future.

22

TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION: IS -10

200 rt/day translates into 15 trucks per hour or 1 truck every 4 minutes. With the maximum speed of 50 miles per hour along Burbank Blvd. this might be a major disruption, not as indicated, a "negligible increment."

18

UPDATED MASTER PLAN:

Do these documents constitute an "Updated Master Plan"? (The last one was Nov. 7, 1983, and indicates that "Details of the plan may change as conditions dictate, but the plan should remain as a framework for

19

(UPDATED MASTER PLAN, cont.)

the general intensity and distribution of recreational uses in the basin." (emphasis added) It should be noted that this particular Negative Declaration is not a subject of recreational use, but rather three construction components to compensate for the loss of flood storage capacity in the Sepulveda Basin, based on modified water control operations and on future watershed development conditions.

19

REFERENCE ERRORS: (between the DEA and IS/Neg. Dec.)

Especially noted are those existing between the Mitigation Measures (Attachment 2) of the City and the Draft Environmental Assessment (Corps). For example:

IS-12 refers (par. 1, line 3): ... "implementaian of Corps soil retention requirements (EA-12).." In fact, EA-12 deals with TWRP Flood Control Dike. We believe they meant EA-89.

22

The same applies for many other errors (Animal Life refers to EA-83, probably means EA 87-89; Noise refers to EA-86 but probably means EA-90; Land Use refers to EA-85 but probably means EA-90; and so on.

The purpose of environmental documents is to educate the public, not confuse it. The errors may seem inconsequential to the preparer of the document, but the average citizen---trying to correct the errors or understand the intended mitigation is somewhat helpless in the review process.

We appreciate the opportunity to review these two documents and hope that our comments will prove beneficial to the stated goals.

Sincerely,

Jill Swift

Jill Swift, Chair
Local Parks Subcommittee
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

FOR FASTER REPLY:
19261 Wells Drive
Tarzana 91356
(818) 344-8714

cc: Joyce Coleman, Cons. Chair
Peter Saundry, Clean Coastal Waters Task Force Chair
Audubon
CNPS



SIERRA CLUB — ANGELES CHAPTER

3550 WEST SIXTH STREET, SUITE 321, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

(213) 387-4287

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Letter Files Section

MAR 15 1991

Robert S. Horii, L.A. City Engineer
Attention: Environmental Engineer
Room 807 - City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles 90012

W/ENC
Assigned To *PMD*

RE: Tillman Water Reclamation Plant
Flood Protection Project: Initial
Study, DEA, Revised Neg. Dec.

Enclosure omitted:

Gentlemen:

The enclosed was inadvertently omitted from our transmittal by FAX yesterday and should be included as part of our response.

Thankyou for your assistance in appending this.

Sincerely,

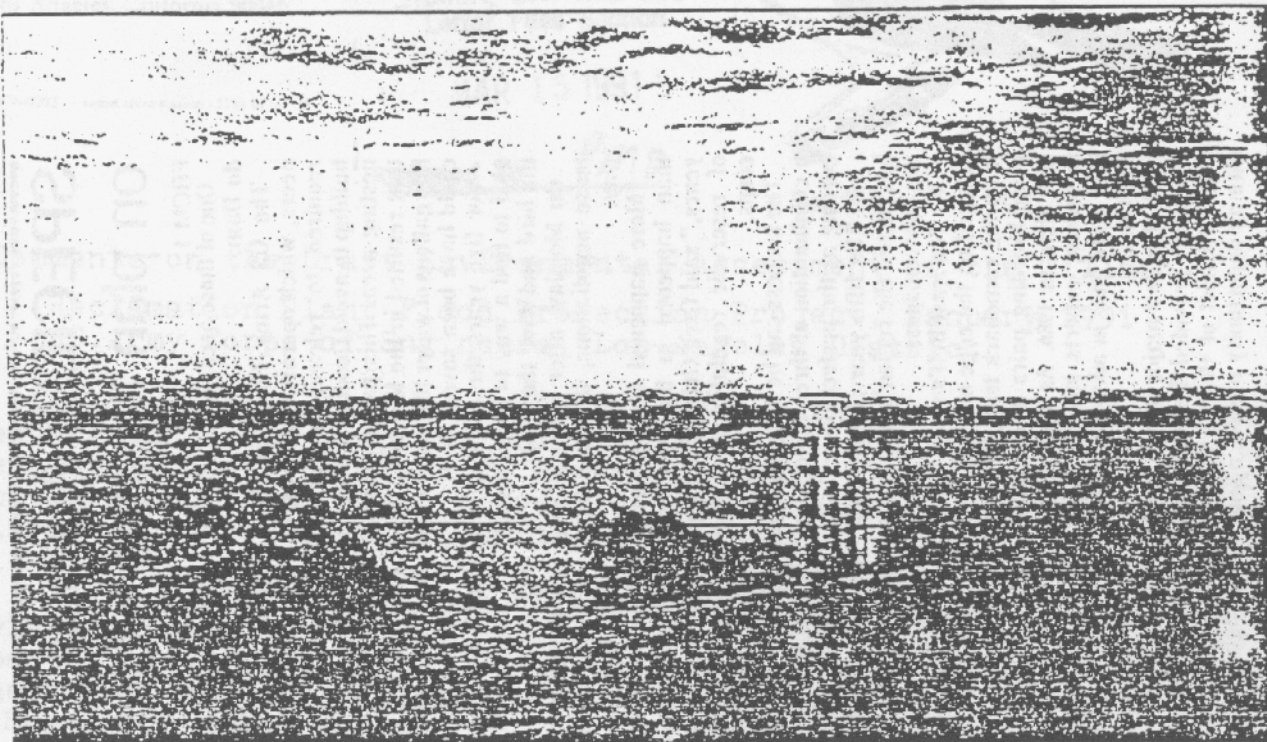
Jill Swift

Jill Swift, Chair
Local Parks Cmte.
Angeles Chapter - Sierra Club

FOR FASTER RESPONSE, please address to:
19261 Wells Drive
Tarzana 91356

March 12, 1991

Saving water and a species



Paul E. Rodriguez/The Orange County Register

Prado Dam's reservoir is a habitat for the least Bell's vireo — a protected species — and as such, its water level is regulated by federal law.



Orang Purvey/The Register
The least Bell's vireo has made a comeback in recent years.

Middle ground is found at Prado Dam

By Ailna Tugend
The Orange County Register

In the 19th century, it flew in abundance throughout the state, a tiny gray and yellow songbird with a raspy voice.

But as urban development expanded, more than 90 percent of its favorite habitat — scrubby, dense willow thickets — disappeared, and the least Bell's vireo began to die off, too.

By 1966, the once-common bird had dwindled to a mere 300 pairs statewide, and it was added to the federal endangered species list.

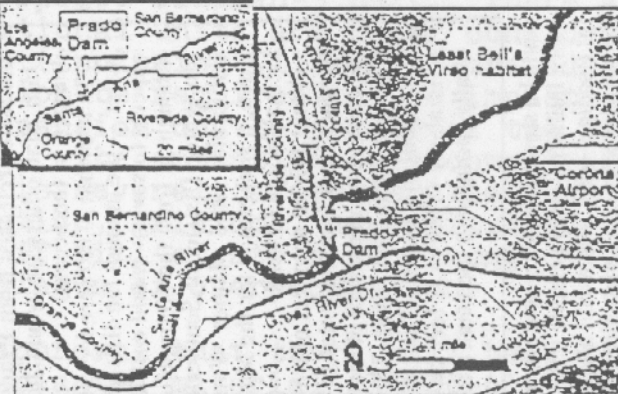
But as the least Bell's vireo became more scarce, it also became more powerful. The bird's nesting areas were given protection by federal law.

Please see SPECIES 2

The engineers' balancing act

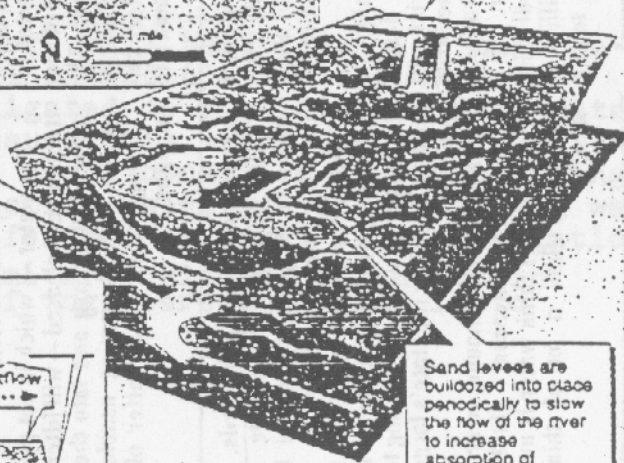
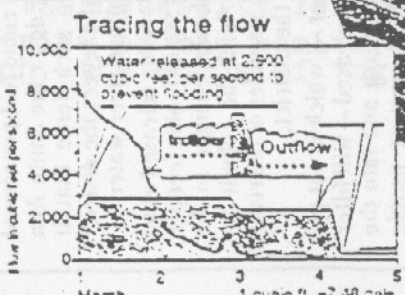
With billions of gallons of rainwater washing out to sea, the Army Corps of Engineers cut the amount of water it pours into the Santa Ana River from the Prado Dam. High water levels damaged sand

levees, designed to slow water and allow it to seep into the water table. The reduced flow still allows enough drainage to protect the habitat of the endangered least Bell's vireo.



Federal law mandates that the Army Corps of Engineers must release water from behind the dam whenever it impinges on the least Bell's vireo habitat, as it did during last week's rains.

Water from the Santa Ana River trickles down through 80 feet of sand and gravel into the water table.



Sand levees are bulldozed into place periodically to slow the flow of the river to increase absorption of ground water.

Source: Army Corps of Engineers, Orange County Water District

Paul Carbo, George Turney/The Orange County Register

SPECIES: Agencies agree on plan to save water, birds

FROM 1
One of these areas is behind Prado Dam.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the dam, is required to release any water buildup to avoid flooding the bird's nesting area. This past weekend, that resulted in the loss of 6.5 billion gallons of water that otherwise could have been saved.

For five years the corps straggled to find a way to both protect the bird and save the water.

On Monday, after a day of intense negotiations, it found that way.

"More happened in five hours than happened in the past five years," said Greg Grigorian, chief of reservoir regulations for the corps.

The success can be attributed to a combination of three factors occurring at the perfect time:

■ The fifth year of a drought has jarred the region's water-saving consciousness.

■ The least Bell's vireo, which hovered on the edge of extinction, is on the comeback trail, with 100 more breeding pairs in existence now than in 1986. As the species increases, experts say, it might find more ease in adapting to new habitats.

■ The first major storm in several years provided the Municipal Water District of Orange County with an opportunity to save a sub-

stantial amount of free water, if it was allowed to slow the dam's release.

About 40 pairs of least Bell's vireo live in Prado Dam's scrubby willows after they migrate from Baja California in mid-March, said Larry Solata, a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Solata said the agency has no option but to protect the bird.

"The service is fulfilling its legal mandate," he said. "The American people want that."

But the growing demand for a shrinking supply of water led government officials to seek ways to balance the needs of its residents and the needs of the birds.

The first heavy rainfall in several years broke the stalemate.

Rainwater started building up behind the dam during the storm Wednesday. As news reports appeared about the loss of 6.5 billion gallons of water, people starting asking if there wasn't something that could be done.

"The timing — if you put all those together, you couldn't ask for a better combination," Grigorian said. "It's like if you make soup. You need all the perfect ingredients."

On Monday, the water district, the corps and the US Fish and Wildlife Service came up with a solution. The fish and wildlife service agreed that the dam's flow

Savings of \$2 million seen in Prado Dam plan

By Alina Tugend
The Orange County Register

The Municipal Water District of Orange County will save \$2 million to \$3 million by trapping the water released from Prado Dam that otherwise would be dumped in the ocean.

That's what 20,000 acre-feet of water — the amount the district expects to save — would cost if it bought it from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said James Van Ham, a spokesman for the Municipal Water District.

About 300,000 acre-feet of water goes back into the water table each year, about half of that from the Santa Ana River. The Metropolitan Water District sells about 40,000 acre-feet annually throughout the county to

could be slowed, which would allow more buildup — and possible habitat flooding — but also would allow the district to capture virtually 100 percent of the water.

Although some habitat might be lost under the agreement, James Van Ham of the water district said the hope is that most of the birds will move to higher elevations, away from flooding danger.

In exchange, the water district will contribute almost \$1 million to mitigate possible damage to the

replenish the ground water. One acre-foot is enough to supply a family of five for a year.

Before Monday, water was being released from the dam at up to 2,400 cubic feet per second — pouring down the Santa Ana River with such force that it damaged the levees the district uses to capture river water.

Now, it is being released at an average of 500,000 cubic feet per second, slowly enough to be trapped behind the rebuilt levees in the six miles of the river owned by the district.

The water — which is not potable when released — will filter through the earth and into the water table, becoming usable drinking water in a matter of months.

habitual and monitor the birds. The district will dedicate 122 acres of its property behind the dam for future habitat.

Not everyone is happy. The 122 acres that will be set aside for the bird is prime pheasant hunting territory, leased by the state's largest pheasant club.

But, as Mike Raehauge, owner of Raehauge's Pheasant Hunting Club, said: "I think water is more important than a lot of things now."

Sep. Brown

IN - Closest Waterbird

Blue Greenish species of

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established 1910

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Plummer Park
Los Angeles, California 90046

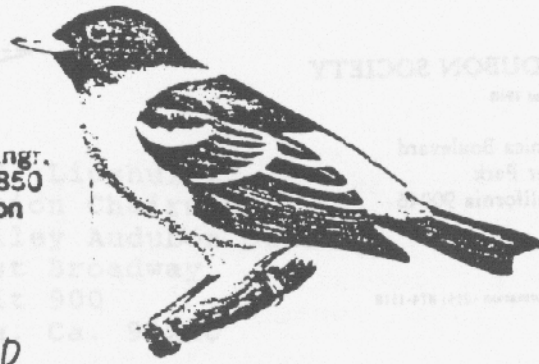
(213) 876-0202 - taped information (213) 874-1418

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Letter Files Section

MAR 15 1991

Assigned To

pmd



March 6, 1991

Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment of the Tillman
Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, January 1991
US.Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

Los Angeles Audubon Society approves the revised compensating excavation sites proposal which eliminates excavation in the northern section of the Wildlife Reserve. Care should be taken in excavating Sod Farm #2 to prevent damage to Haskell Channel, particularly to any vegetation on the west bank.

In commenting on the effluent pipeline extension we are faced with choosing the lesser of four evils. Alternative #1 seems to be the least offensive. Alternative #1 cuts directly across the heart of the southern section of the Wildlife Reserve (labeled "Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve" on the map.) Any future pond or marsh to be built in the area should not be constrained by a pipeline. Either the pipeline should be deep enough so it would not prevent such wetland construction or it should be re-routed to allow space for ponds or marsh.

The earthen berm on the south and eastern faces of the Tillman plant include the proposed Tillman-3 unit. There are reports that one or even two additional units are under consideration. When any additional units (including Tillman-3) are added will further compensating excavation be required? The impact of further water reclamation plant expansion on the growth of the San Fernando Valley is of great concern. The intensive development of all remaining space in the valley is severely affecting the quality of life. Increased visual pollution, gridlock, air pollution, water consumption and storm-water runoff will create a hamstrung city that is already suffering from the plague of overpopulation.

We note with approval that there will be a five-year maintenance requirement on planted material (EA-86-6). We see that the project proponent/contractor is obligated to provide "adequate water" for the mitigation planting. We assume this means for the full five-year maintenance period. The sorry condition of the plantings in the northern wildlife reserve section where adequate watering was not done illustrates the necessity for proper care. Drip irrigation seems appropriate in view of the semi-arid climate of the basin. In this same paragraph, the Corps of Engineers ecologist is to

21

12

8

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established 1910

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Los Angeles, California 90046

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Page 2

receive "assurances" of adequate watering, and in EA 87-11, the ecologist is get an annual maintenance report from the proponent/contractor. We suggest that the work be monitored frequently year-round.

8

The DEA does not mention "the future foraging areas" for Canada Geese indicated on page 3 of the Public Recreational Use Plan of 1987 which was signed by the Corps, the City Recreation and Parks Department and the California Department of Fish and Game. The 40-acre site east of Hjelte Park and south of the Los Angeles River is mentioned specifically. The other location is not specified but the signers agreed to "seek to establish at least 60 acres of additional permanent foraging sites...within the Sepulveda Basin..."

20

The wintering populations of Canada Geese, which have appeared in the Basin for hundreds of years, must not be discouraged from making their annual visit. They are extremely visible and attract much attention from the general public. Maintaining their presence should have the highest priority. The foraging areas are not mentioned in the mitigation pages of the DEA. This fifth winter of drought provided very little food for the geese. It is essential that the DEA address the status of Canada Geese in the Basin.

Thank you for this opportunity for comment.

Sanford Wohlgenuth
Sanford Wohlgenuth
19354 Calvert St
Reseda, Calif 91335
Conservation Chair

*10/11/88
The Chair
Sanford Wohlgenuth*

RECEIVED
MAR 1 1991
ROBERT S. HORII

Michael I. Lipshultz
Conservation Chairman
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
100 West Broadway
Suite 900
Glendale, Ca. 91210

818-242-6859
Ext. 318

February 27, 1991

U.S. Army Engineer District
ATTN : SPLCO-0
P.O. BOX 2711
Los Angeles , Ca. 90053

Robert S. Horii
City Engineer
Attn: Environmental Engineering
Room 807 CH
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Dear Sir/Madam,

In reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment there are two main points of focus.

1. Does it meet the legal requirements established by CEQA for an EIR (One should also keep present and past court rulings in mind when making this evaluation).
2. The merits of the project itself and the effects on the environment around it.

If upon review for the first point of focus (CEQA) the document fails to live up to the proper legal requirements, then there is no need to review any further, for the project has failed at this point and must be abandoned, or the documentation and review process must be started over.

If one were to choose to proceed with any project whose EIR was indeed flawed the courts would have no option but to halt the project. In addition, knowingly going ahead with such a project, leaves one open to court imposed sanctions and penalties.

In the case of this project one of the important laws to keep in mind is Calif. Pub. Res. Code 21002.1 (a) An adequate EIR " must be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences."

An important CEQA Guideline to keep in mind is Guideline 15151 "Courts have looked for adequacy, completeness and a good faith effort at full disclosure" further this guideline states "The EIR "must include detail sufficient to enable those who did not participate in its preparation to understand and to consider meaningfully the issues raised by the proposed project". For additional information please see the inclosed.

In light of the above it is clear that this EIR fails to meet the above standards.

Without going into every detail, I will review some of the more serious failures.

By not including comments and questions asked in the earlier version of this document (see inclosed letters dated 12 04 90, 01 24 91 and 02 07 91) there is a breach of good faith at full discloser. See CEQE Guideline 15151.

27

From the Negative Declaration page IS-4, section a: Biological resources "a California species of special concern, the Tricolored Blackbird, does utilize local habitat for seasonal forage" This statement is in error the Tricolored Blackbird is a year round inhabitant of the area. With this in mind the document would not meet the requirements of Calif. Pub. Code 21002 or CEQA Guideline 15151.

13

Still from the Negative Declaration Attachment 1 part II, section 1, Earth, Item G " Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards" the answer is marked "No". Not being a participate in the preparation of this document I can not understand how you can answer this with a "no" when under section 3, water, Item I "Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves" the answer checked is "Maybe" How can one be "No" and the other " Maybe". There are a multitude of answers in the Negative Declaration that on the face of it are at odds with each other and not having been a participate in the preparation I can not understand the complete consequences of the effects to the environment. This shows a violation of CEQA Guideline 15151 and to Calif. Pub Res. Code 21002.

23

If we move on to attachment 2 Mitigation Monitoring plan on page 2 of 3 part 6 " There shall be a five year maintenance

requirement. Then read part 10 " maintained throughout the three-year maintenance period". Again without having participated in the preparation of this document I can't understand how you went from five years down to three.

22

If we continue on the same attachment and look at Details of Mitigation Measure(s) proposed: ANIMAL LIFE . All this page states is "Refer to Plant Life Mitigation". Again not having participated in the preparation of this document I haven't the slightest idea on the meaning of this. What? Are you going to plant and water animals, what does this mean? This is not up to any legal standards.

24

Again continuing on the attachment, page one of one SENSITIVE SPECIES. (in talking about the Tricolor Blackbird) "all compensating excavation operations to non-foraging months". The Tricolor Blackbird is in the area year round. Having not Participated in the preparation of this document I can't figure out which months out of the year this bird does not eat. I know it does not hibernate. I apologize for any sarcasm. The point of it is to show the extent of the problems with this document.

13

If we now move to the DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT itself, Looking at table A-2, under Birds, ANSERIFORMES- WATERFOWL, the only duck you have listed is the Mallard. There is a multitude of ducks in the Sepulveda Basin and I can assure you they are not all Mallards. Under COLUMBIFORMES- PIGEONS AND DOVES, you list two types of Doves but not one Pigeon. It is clear that no one has looked over by the sod field as "Bud" the owner/operator of the sod field is inundated with them. Looking under the heading REPTILES you show turtles and lizards, but not one snake, YES THERE ARE SNAKES IN THE SEPULVEDA BASIN. All of the above at best shows that what ever source you are relying on for your information to compile an accurate and complete listing of Flora and Faunal is at best outdated and flawed.

25

26

With all of the above in mind there is sadly no other decision one can reach other than to call for the documentation to be redone, starting with a new accurate Flora and Faunal inventory to be done in the field, and to account for seasonal variations it must be done over a minimum of 12 consecutive months.

Sincerely,

Mike Lipshultz

1. CEQA Environmental Impact Report Requirements

Under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code, the purpose of an EIR is to identify the "significant effects of a project on the environment, . . . identify alternatives to the project, and . . . indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided." Calif. Pub. Res. Code §21002.1(a) An adequate EIR "must be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." CEQA Guidelines, §15151. The sufficiency of an EIR is reviewed in light of what is reasonably feasible, and courts have looked "for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure." CEQA Guidelines, §15151. The EIR "must include detail sufficient to enable those who did not participate in its preparation to understand and to consider meaningfully the issues raised by the proposed project." Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of University of California (1988) 47 Cal. 3d. 376, 405.

Lipshultz attachment

California Statewide Modeling
California Air Resources Board.

6. Legal Challenges to the Deficient EIR

Inadequate EIRs are increasingly the subject of lawsuits. The court's inquiry in an action to set aside an agency's decision under CEQA is whether the agency committed a prejudicial abuse of discretion in the preparation of an EIR. An adequate EIR must be "prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decisionmakers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (Guidelines, §15151) A prejudicial abuse of discretion occurs when the failure to include relevant information precludes informed decisionmaking and informed public participation, thereby thwarting the statutory goals of the EIR process. In Kings County Farm Bureau, et al., v. City of Hanford, 90 Daily Journal D.A.R. 7240 (June 28, 1990), the 5th District Court of Appeal for the state of California ruled that the EIR was inadequate because it contained insufficient information for the City of Hanford City Council to have made an informed decision whether to approve the subject project. The suit challenged the EIR on several grounds, including the adequacy of its discussion on the impact the project (a 26.4 megawatt coal-fired cogeneration plant) would have on the local environment with regard to air and water quality; the adequacy of the discussion of the cumulative impacts of the project and others on air and water quality; and the adequacy of the discussion of alternatives to the proposed project. In invalidating the EIR, the court (among other issues) specifically addressed the inadequacy of the EIR's ozone analysis which contained only very limited modeling:

*in Sequoia:
air quality
problem*

The EIR's analysis used the magnitude of the current ozone problem in the air basin in order to trivialize the project's impact. In simple terms, the EIR reasons the air is already bad, so even though emissions from the project will make it worse, the impact is insignificant. The point is not that, in terms of ozone levels, the proposed Hanford project will result in the ultimate collapse of the environment into which it is to be placed. The significance of an activity depends upon the setting. . . . The information and analysis regarding the significance of increases in ozone levels attributable to the GWF project is inadequate. Id. at 7244.

Lipshultz attachment

Michael I. Lipshultz
Conservation Chairman
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
100 West Broadway
Suite 900
Glendale, Ca. 91210

818-242-6859
Ext. 318

January 24, 1991

Robert S. Horii
City Engineer
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Att: Environmental Engineering
Room 907 CH
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Subject: Draft Mitigated Negative
Declaration and Environmental
Assessment for the Tillman Water
Reclamation Plant Flood
Protection Project

Dear Sir,

This letter is in response to your letter of 12-04-90 (see enclosed copy). I was glad to hear that you have decided to revise the project, however I am deeply concerned by the statement, "Therefore, the comments you submitted for the old document will not appear in the new draft".

I find this blanket statement almost unbelievable. A great amount of time, energy and effort, by myself and other individuals went into responding to the above Assessment. This included but was not limited to preparing written reports and comments. Additionally as you should know a public meeting was held on the above project. The format of the meeting was not only for comments to be received on the record but to take in questions from the public, with the promise that written answers would be provided at a later date. I should also mention that as this was a formal meeting a transcript was made by a court reporter. One should also keep in mind that the questions asked and the comments made included the project in its entirety and not just the areas that have been altered in the new document. The comments and questions brought up at this meeting covered a very wide array of thoughts and ideas, including the very legality of placing a dirt berm around Tillman as that would be in violation of the original environmental impact report and planned mitigation.

Lipshultz attachment

It appears now that if you do indeed go ahead and leave out the above, all of the comments and question that still need to be addressed will simply be discarded.

Yes, I am aware that all the questions and comments can be resubmitted. However, you should be aware that in addition to the great difficulty in reassembling all the prior work done, not all individuals may be available and the only complete record of all the questions and comments is held by you. Also a lot of the questions asked were done so in order to get the right information and facts needed in order to formulate additional comments and remarks on the project in its entirety.

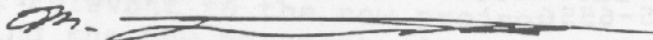
Please take the time to reassess your decision not to include the above in the new draft. I am sure that upon reviewing the multitude of City, State, and Federal rules, regulations, guide lines and laws, involved that you will come to the inevitable conclusion that the above material has become a matter of public record and for this reason among the many others, must be included in the new document, and all other applicable documents.

It should go without saying that doing so would be in the best interest of all parties concerned, for if not done, this project will be looking at the very real possibility of protracted delays in a project that is already running against the clock, should the courts invalidate the Assessment and subsequent work and documents done.

With all of the above in mind, at this time I am formally requesting that an open-ended extension to respond to the new draft be given to all parties involved. I would recommend that said extension run for 45 days past the date of the resolution of this matter.

In light of the urgency of this matter (as the new draft was just released the 45 day clock is running on responding to it) I will expect your reply within 20 days of this letter.

Sincerely,



Michael I Lipshultz
Conservation Chairman
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

CC: Pete Wilson, Governor, State of Calif.
James Hahn, City Attorney, City of Los Angeles
Tom Bradly, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Tony Knight, Reporter, Daily News
Jill Swift, Parks Chairperson, Sierra Club
Anthony Seilenson, Congressman, 23rd District

Lipshultz attachment
Lipshultz attachment

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

Date: DEC 04 1990

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CITY ENGINEER

ROOM 800, CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Mike Lipshultz
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
100 W. Broadway, Suite 900
Glendale, CA 91210

Dear Mike Lipshultz:

Recently, the Bureau of Engineering circulated for public review a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment for the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project. We would like to thank you for the comments you submitted regarding this project. After reviewing and evaluating all of the comments received during the 30 day review period and the subsequent public hearing, we have decided to revise the project.

Normally, after the initial review of the draft document, a final document is prepared which incorporates the comments received and responses to those comments. However, because of the substantial changes in the project description, we will recirculate a new draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment for public review. -Therefore, the comments you submitted for the old document will not appear in the new draft. We appreciate your input, however, and hope that you will review the new document, which we will send to you when it becomes available.

Thank you again for your interest and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please call Linda Moore at 213-485-6556.

Sincerely,

ROBERT S. HORII
City Engineer

By

Andres Santamaria

ANDRES SANTAMARIA
Division Engineer
Project Management Division

AS/LM:newdoc.ltr

Lipshultz attachment

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY ENGINEER

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ROOM 800, CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

February 7, 1991

Mr. Mike I. Lipshultz
Conservation Chairman
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
100 W. Broadway, Suite 900
Glendale, CA 91210

Dear Mr. Lipshultz:

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 1991, to City Engineer Robert S. Horii concerning the environmental documents for the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project. You expressed concern about our letter to respondents dated December 4, 1990, which stated that comments submitted for the previous document would not appear in the document for the revised project.

Comments received on a draft environmental document are usually either included in their original form or otherwise incorporated into the final document. In this case, though, the project was substantially revised after reviewing all of the comments received. The revisions were made in direct response to the environmental concerns expressed in these comments. The new draft document attempts to address all of these concerns. Be assured, then, that your comments have not been "discarded."

We appreciate the time and effort which each respondent has put into commenting on this project. It is assumed that most people keep copies of comments they submit; however, many of the previous comments are not relevant to the new project description. After reading the new document, if you feel your concerns remain essentially the same and you do not have a personal copy of your original comments, please let me know and I will gladly send you a photocopy to assist you.

Publishing in a draft document comments pertaining to a previous project description would serve no purpose and would lead to confusion. Likewise, there is nothing to be gained by publishing responses to comments on parts of a project which have been abandoned. It is true that these documents are a matter of public record and as such may be examined in our office.

Lipshultz attachment

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY ENGINEER

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

001500

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIV.
ROOM 807 C.H.

MAR 15 1991

DATE: March 12, 1991

TO: Andres Santa Maria, Division Engineer
Project Management Division
Bureau of Engineering
Room 807, City Hall, Mail Stop 490
Attention: Linda Moore *AS/A*

FROM: Frank S. Catania, Director
Planning and Development
Department of Recreation and Parks
Room 1330, City Hall East, Mail Stop 625-11

SUBJECT: SEPULVEDA BASIN - TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT (TWRP)
FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the revised version of the proposed Negative Declaration for this project.

SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT:

Flat grading (i.e. with a resulting slope of less than 1%) of the compensation area will cause water ponding. This change will cause a significant long term adverse impact on Planned Land Use/Recreational Development.

My staff has discussed this significant adverse impact with your engineering staff, and the Corps of Engineers; however as of now the matter is still unresolved.

BACKGROUND:

The Sepulveda Flood Control Basin is operated by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks, excluding the water reclamation plant, but including the recreational and wildlife preserve areas. This property has been operated under a lease from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since the late '40s.

Development is being done in accordance with the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan; this plan and its FEIR/FEIS has been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City's Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners. A copy was mailed with our previous comments.

Andres Santa Maria
March 12, 1991
Page Two

The proposed recreational area, (part of the proposed flood storage compensation area) is presently used for sod farming. The Negative Declaration states that this land use will terminate when the current lease expires. The Sepulveda Basin Master Plan delineates development of this area as a recreational playing field.

Accomplishing this will require a gently sloping site of one to two percent to facilitate surface drainage. However, the grading plan for the TWRP project shows a slope of four tenths of a percent for the future playing field area. This situation, complicated by the Department's inability to make further topographical changes without causing a loss in the basin's flood storage capacity, virtually precludes development of the playing field.

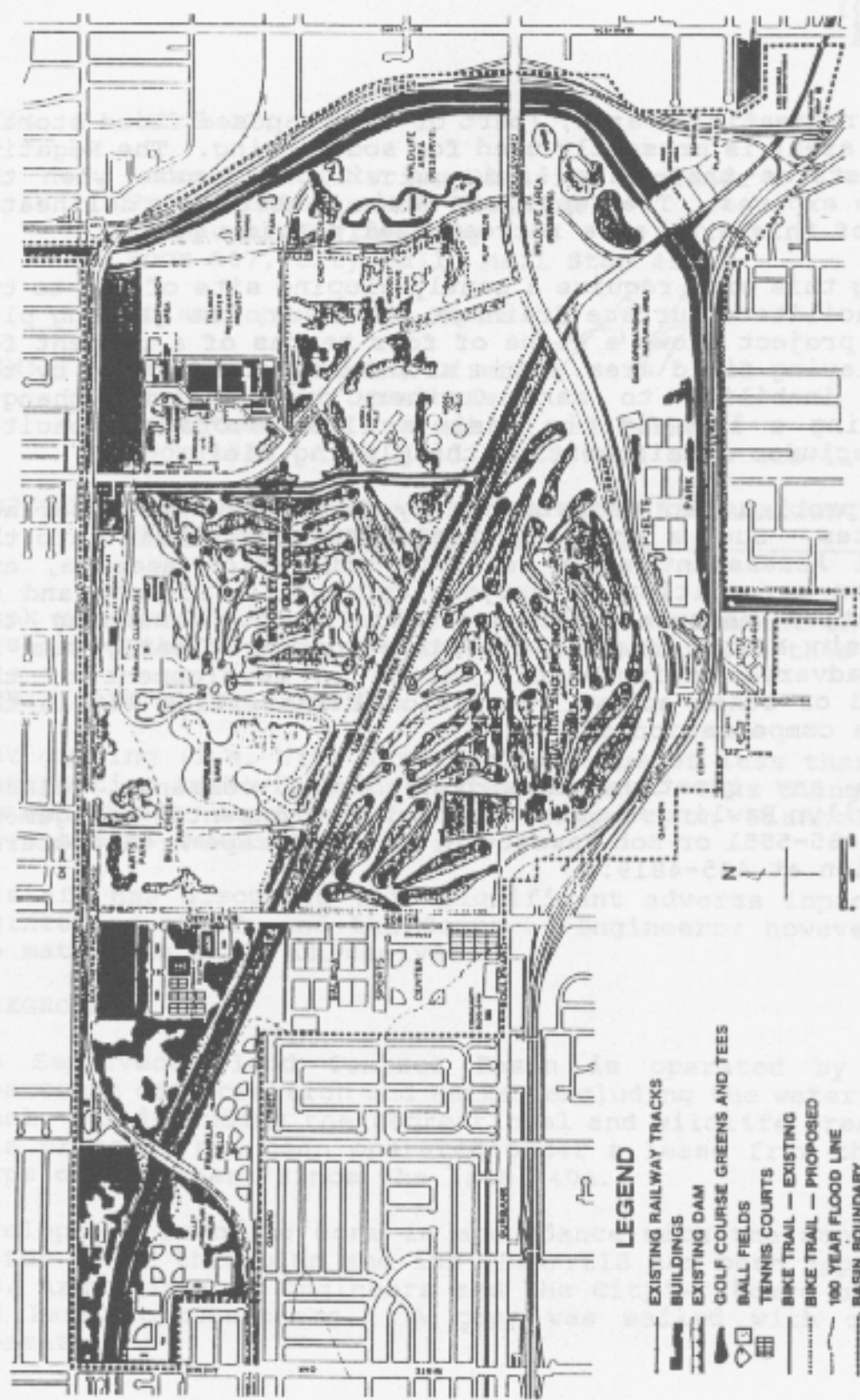
The grading problem can be overcome by installing a subsurface drainage system. Such a proposal should be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment as a feasible mitigation measure, and implemented as a condition of project approval. If not, and no other mitigation measures are available (e.g., amending the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan), then the project clearly has an unavoidable adverse environmental effect on development of the playing field or other active recreational facilities within the flood storage compensation area.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please telephone Marilyn Rawlings in our Land and Environmental Management Division, at 485-5551 or Bob Fawcett in our Landscape Architectural Design Division at 485-4819.

FSC:MR:mr
A:\TWRP2

City of Los Angeles
Department of Planning
Director and General Manager
100 North Main Street, Room 1000
Los Angeles, California 90012
Tel: (213) 473-3100
Fax: (213) 473-3100





LEGEND

- EXISTING RAILWAY TRACKS
- ▭ BUILDINGS
- ▭ EXISTING DAM
- ▭ GOLF COURSE GREENS AND TEES
- ▭ BALL FIELDS
- ▭ TENNIS COURTS
- BIKE TRAIL — EXISTING
- BIKE TRAIL — PROPOSED
- 100 YEAR FLOOD LINE
- ▭ BASIN BOUNDARY
- ▭ MILITARY FACILITIES

SEPULVEDA BASIN MASTER PLAN

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

March 1, 1991

TO: Ara Kasparian, Environmental Supervisor II
Department of Public Works

FROM: Fire Department

SUBJECT: NEGATIVE DECLARATION
TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

The proposed project consists of the current Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (T.W.R.P.) Effluent Pipeline to discharge to the Los Angeles River downstream from the Sepulveda Dam, build a flood control dike around the TWRP, and excavate 567,000 cubic yards of soils from adjacent fields.

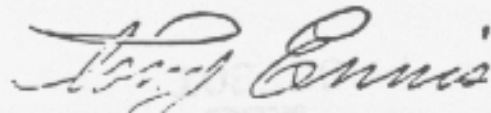
Access for Fire Department apparatus and personnel shall be required.

The proposed project shall comply with all applicable State and local codes and ordinances, and the guidelines found in the Fire Protection and Fire Prevention Plan, as well as the Safety Plan, both of which are elements of the General Plan of the City of Los Angeles (C.P.C. 19708).

Definitive plans and specifications shall be submitted to this Department and requirements for necessary permits satisfied prior to commencement of any portion of this project.

For any additional information, please contact our Hydrant Unit, at (213) 485-5964.

DONALD O. MANNING
Chief Engineer and General Manager



Tony Ennis, Assistant Bureau Commander
Bureau of Fire Prevention

TE:ASM:cr/3140E

cc: Councilman Joy Picus
Environmental Affairs Commission
Fire Department Planning Section

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Victory Blvd. &
Woodley Ave.

Date: March 5, 1991

To: Robert S. Horii, City Engineer
Bureau of Engineering
Attention: Environmental Engineering
Room 807 City Hall

Harold Vellins
From: Harold Vellins, Senior Transportation Engineer
Department of Transportation

Subject: NEGATIVE DECLARATION-TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION
PLANT FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

We concur that a Negative Declaration is in order. This project is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on traffic circulation in the vicinity of the project site. However, the West Valley District Operations Section of LADOT should be contacted to determine a proper haul route and schedule for the 200 trucks that will access the project site on a daily basis.

If you need any additional information, please contact Armen Terhovhatians of our Department at (818) 376-6929.

AT:at
2TILLMAN.DOC

CC: Councilwoman Joy Picus, 3rd District ✓
Ray Wellbaum, West Valley District, LADOT

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIV.
ROOM 307 C.H.

MAR 13 1991

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Victory Bl. & Woodley Av.

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MAR 5 1991
ROBERT S. HORII

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031706
PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIV.
RCCM 807 C.H.

Date: February 28, 1991

To: Robert S. Horii, City Engineer
Attention Environmental Engineering

MAR 07 1991

From: Harold Vellins, Senior Transportation Engineer
Department of Transportation

[Signature]

Subject: NEGATIVE DECLARATION - TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has reviewed the negative declaration for Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project.

This report adequately describes traffic impacts of this project and no significant traffic impacts are anticipated.

MB:ib
HOLWES/five

cc: Council District No. 3
West Valley District, DOT

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ADMIN. DIV. RM. 850
Letter Files Section

MAR - 7 1991

Assigned To *PMD*

David C. [Signature]
Deputy Director, [Title]



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

818 West Seventh Street, 12th Floor • Los Angeles, California 90017-3435 ☐ (213) 236-1800 • FAX (213) 236-1825

AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM

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for
Notices of Preparation of Environmental Impact Reports/Statements,
Negative Declarations, and Initial Studies

Project Applicant: Ctiy of Los Angeles SCH No.:
Project Title: TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT SCAG No.: LA-54638-WP
Date: Feb. 26, 1991

The project title and SCAG number should be used in all correspondence with SCAG concerning this project. Correspondence should be sent to the attention of the Clearinghouse Coordinator. Staff can be reached by telephone at (213) 236-1800.

We have concluded review of the above project and determined that it is of areawide significance. Therefore, the project does not warrant clearinghouse comments.

We have concluded review of the above project and determined that it is regionally significant. Enclosed you will find a copy of our general requirements for environmental documents being prepared for regionally significant projects. As appropriate, the environmental document should address each of the issues outlined in these requirements. In addition, it should address AQMP conformity using the procedures included in the Guidance for Implementation of AQMP Conformity Procedures. Upon completion, the environmental document should be submitted to SCAG for review and comment.

The description provided in the above referenced document is not sufficient for us to determine whether or not the project is regionally significant. If, when further defined, the project meets any of the criteria for regional significance (list attached), then the document should be submitted to SCAG for additional review and comments.

In conducting the areawide notification for this project, SCAG received the attached comments from outside agencies.

PAUL HATANAKA
Clearinghouse Official

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Feb 28, 1991

LINDA MOORE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
200 N. SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012Subject: TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLAN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
SCH # 90010827

Dear LINDA MOORE:

The State Clearinghouse has submitted the above named proposed Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period is now closed and the comments from the responding agency(ies) is(are) enclosed. On the enclosed Notice of Completion form you will note that the Clearinghouse has checked the agencies that have commented. Please review the Notice of Completion to ensure that your comment package is complete. If the comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Remember to refer to the project's eight-digit State Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104 of the California Public Resources Code required that:

"a responsible agency 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."

Commenting agencies are also required by this section to support their comments with specific documentation. Should you need more information or clarification, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency at your earliest convenience.

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 Tom Loftus at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David C. Nunenkamp".

David C. Nunenkamp
Deputy Director, Permit Assistance

Enclosures

cc: Resources Agency

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
LOS ANGELES REGION101 CENTRE PLAZA DRIVE
MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754-2156
(213) 266-7500

2/28

February 22, 1991

File: 700.135

U. S. Army; Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
Environmental Resources Branch
300 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - FOR TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT FLOOD PROTECTION AND TO MAINTAIN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SEPULVEDA FLOOD CONTROL DAM: 1-EXTEND EFFLUENT PIPELINE TO BELOW DAM; 2-BUILD FLOOD CONTROL DIKE AROUND TILLMAN PLANT; AND 3-EXCAVATE COMPENSATORY FLOOD STORAGE VOLUME. SCH#90010827:
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

We have reviewed the subject document regarding the proposed project, and have the following comments:

Based on the information provided, we recommend the following:

- We have no further comments at this time.
- The proposed project should address the attached comments.

Thank you for this opportunity to review your document. If you have any questions, please contact Eugene C. Ramstedt at (213) 266-7553.

JOHN L. LEWIS, Unit Chief
Technical Support Unit

cc: Terri Lovelady, State Clearinghouse

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
LOS ANGELES REGION101 CENTRE PLAZA DRIVE
MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754-2156
(213) 266-7500

February 14, 1991

File: 700.354

Linda Moore
City of Los Angeles
Bureau of Engineering
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

NEGATIVE DECLARATION - FOR FLOOD PROTECTION: 1-EXTEND EFFLUENT PIPELINE TO BELOW DAM; 2-BUILD FLOOD CONTROL DIKE; AND 3-EXCAVATE COMPENSATORY FLOOD STORAGE VOLUME, TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT, SEPULVEDA DAM. SCH#90010827: CITY OF LOS ANGELES

We have reviewed the subject document regarding the proposed project, and have the following comments:

Based on the information provided, we recommend the following:

- We have no further comments at this time.
- The proposed project should address the attached comments.

Thank you for this opportunity to review your document. If you have any questions, please contact Eugene C. Ramstedt at (213) 266-7553.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Lewis".

JOHN L. LEWIS, Unit Chief
Technical Support Unit

cc: Terri Lovelady, State Clearinghouse

(07-13-89)

008503

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

DIVISION OF CLEAN WATER PROGRAMS
2014 T STREET, SUITE 130
P.O. BOX 944212
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2120
(916) 739-4414
(916) 739-2300 FAX

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ROBERT S. HORII

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MAR - 5 1991

Assigned To PMD

Mr. Robert S. Horii
City Engineer
Environmental Engineering
Room 807 CH
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Horii:

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CITY OF LOS ANGELES TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT, SCH # 90C10827, C-06-4024-31

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above document. We commented on the original Negative Declaration on September 20, 1990. We have no additional comments at this time.

Please call me at (916)739-4414, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Allan Patton, Chief
Environmental Services Unit

cc: State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regional Water Quality
Control Board
101 Centre Plaza Drive
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Thank you for this opportunity to review the above document. We commented on the original Negative Declaration on September 20, 1990. We have no additional comments at this time.

JOHN L. LEWIS, Unit Chief
Technical Support Unit

cc: Terri Lovelady, State Clearinghouse

(916-739-4414)

Memorandum

To : Mr. Tom Lostus
 State Clearinghouse
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
 Sacramento, CA 95814

2/20

Date : February 19, 1991
 File No.:

IGR/CEQA
 NEG DEC
 Van Nuys
 Burbank Bl/Woodley Av
 Reclaimed Water Plant
 Vic. LA-101-17.17

From : Wilford Melton - District 7
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Subject : Project Review Comments
SCH# 90010827

Caltrans has reviewed the above-referenced document. Based on the information received we find no apparent impact on the State transportation system.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please call me at (ATSS) 8-640-3163 or (213) 620-3163.

Wilford Melton
 WILFORD MELTON
 IGR/CEQA Coordinator
 Transportation Planning & Analysis Branch

cc: Linda Moore, City of Los Angeles Public Works Proj. Management



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063

(213) 267-2481

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MAR 07 1991

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P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

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Letter Files Section

MAR 7 1991

February 22, 1991

Mr. Robert S. Horii, City Engineer
Department of Public Works
200 N. Spring Street, Room 807 CH
Los Angeles, California 90012

Assigned To *PMD*

Attention: Environmental Engineering

Dear Mr. Horii:

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT -- (ENCINO-TARZANA)
CITY OF LOS ANGELES -- (TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION
PLANT FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT) SAN FERNANDO VALLEY**

We have reviewed the Negative Declaration/Initial Study for the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Flood Protection Project, located in the Encino-Tarzana District of the San Fernando Valley in the City of Los Angeles. This project does not appear to have any negative impact on this Department. Therefore, at this time we have no additional comments.

Very truly yours,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

BY
JOSEPH FERRARA, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION AND CONSERVATION BUREAU

JF:lc

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF

AGUANGA HILLS	BRADBURY	CLARTE	LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE	MAYWOOD	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
ARTESIA	CARSON	GLENDORA	LAKEMOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
AZUSA	CERRITOS	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA MIRADA	PALMDALE	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BAKERSFIELD	CLAREMONT	HIDDEN HILLS	LANCASTER	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELL	COMMERCE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LA PUENTE	PARAMOUNT	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE
BELLFLOWER	COTATI	INDIO	LANALED	PICO RIVERA	SIGNAL HILL	WHITTIER
BELLMEAD	DUARTE	IRVINE	MANA	RANCHO PALMS VERTICES	SOUTH EL MONTE	