

# SECTION 10

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## Introduction to the Final EIR

### 10.1 Overview of the Final EIR and CEQA Requirements

This Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (California Administrative Code Section 15000 et seq.). The Final EIR incorporates, by reference, Draft EIR Sections 1 through 9, and Appendices 1 through 11 (State Clearinghouse No. 2015081087) as they were originally prepared and published by West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) for the Ocean Water Desalination Project (Project).

In accordance with Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Final EIR consists of the following:

- a. The Draft EIR or a revision of the draft
- b. Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary
- c. A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR
- d. The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process
- e. Any other information added by the Lead Agency

Before West Basin considers approval of the Project, it must certify that the Final EIR: (1) has been completed in compliance with CEQA; (2) was presented to the West Basin Board of Directors who reviewed and considered it prior to approving the Project; and (3) reflects West Basin's independent judgment and analysis (CEQA Guidelines Section 15090).

Section 15004 of the CEQA Guidelines states that before the approval of any project subject to CEQA, the Lead Agency must consider the final environmental document, which in this case is the Final EIR. This Final EIR for the Ocean Water Desalination Project includes the following sections as a continuation of sections included in the Draft EIR:

**Section 10: Introduction to the Final EIR.**

**Section 11: Refinements to the Project Description.** The Project Description has been revised based on comments received on the Draft EIR and is presented here in its entirety.

**Section 12: Master Responses.** This section provides comprehensive discussions on a set of reoccurring themes identified by commenters on the Draft EIR.

**Section 13: State Agency Comments and Responses.** This section includes all comments received on the Draft EIR from state agencies, followed by all written responses to each state agency comment.

**Section 14: Local Agency Comments and Responses.** This section includes all comments received on the Draft EIR from local agencies, followed by all written responses to each local agency comment.

**Section 15: Tribal Nation Comments and Responses.** This section includes all comments received on the Draft EIR from Tribal Nations, followed by all written responses to each Tribal Nation comment.

**Section 16: Organization Comments and Responses.** This section includes all comments received on the Draft EIR from organizations or non-governmental organizations, followed by all written responses to each organization comment.

**Section 17: Individual Comments and Responses.** This section includes all comments received on the Draft EIR from individuals, followed by all written responses to each individual comment.

**Section 18: Revisions to the Draft EIR Text.** This section includes all changes made to the Draft EIR in response to comments received on the Draft EIR, or otherwise initiated by West Basin as the Lead Agency. Changes are shown in ~~strikeout~~ for deletions, and underlined for additions.

**Section 19: References.** This section includes all new references cited in the Final EIR. Any references cited from the Draft EIR are not repeated.

**Section 20: Report Preparers.** This sections lists all West Basin staff and consultants who assisted in preparation of the Final EIR.

**Appendices 4A, and 12 through 15:** These include the technical appendices to Draft EIR Appendix 4A (Intake Effects Assessment Report) and Final EIR Appendices/Supplemental Studies.

## **10.2 CEQA Process**

### **Public Participation Process**

#### **Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping**

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR was prepared and circulated for review to applicable local, state, and federal agencies and the public. The NOP was distributed on August 31, 2015, with a 45-day public review period concluding on October 15, 2015. A public scoping meeting was held on September 30, 2015, at

the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility, located at 1935 South Hughes Way, El Segundo, California. The NOP provided the public and interested public agencies with the opportunity to review the proposed Project and to provide comments or concerns on the scope and content of the environmental review document, including: the range of actions; alternatives; mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the EIR. In addition to this public scoping meeting, three additional outreach meetings were held: one for the environmental community on September 29, 2015; one for neighboring El Porto community residents within 300 feet of the proposed ocean water desalination facility site on September 29, 2015; and one for agencies and interested parties on September 30, 2015. These meetings were formatted as an informational open-forum where members of the environmental community, neighboring El Porto residents, public agencies, and interested parties/members of the public could learn about the proposed Project as well as orally present input directly to West Basin staff in an effort to assist in further refining the intended scope and focus of the EIR, as described in the NOP. A total of 19 comment letters were received in response to the NOP. The comment letters received during the NOP comment period, along with a summary of the issues raised during the public scoping meetings, are included in Draft EIR Appendix 1B.

### **Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR**

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR was posted on March 27, 2018, with the Los Angeles County Clerk-Recorder and filed with the Office of Planning and Research. The Draft EIR was circulated to federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties requesting a copy of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR was also posted on West Basin's website online (<http://westbasindesal.com/draft-eir.html>). Copies of the Draft EIR were also made available to the public at the following locations:

- West Basin Municipal Water District (17140 South Avalon Boulevard, Carson, CA 90746)
- Carson Library (151 East Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745)
- Culver City Julian Dixon Library (4975 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230)
- El Segundo Public Library (111 West Mariposa Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245)
- Gardena Mayme Dear Library (1731 West Gardena Boulevard, Gardena, CA 90247)
- Inglewood Public Library (101 West Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood, CA 90301)
- Malibu Library (23519 West Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA 90265)
- Manhattan Beach Library (1320 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Center Library (701 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274)
- Redondo Beach Main Library (303 North Pacific Coast Highway, Redondo Beach, CA 90277)
- West Hollywood Public Library (625 N San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069)

Given the scale and complexity of the Project, the public review period was extended by West Basin, from the initial 60 days to a total public review period of 91 days, beyond the legal obligation of 45 days under CEQA requirements. The public comment period concluded on June 25, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(a) requires that a Lead Agency provide notice of availability of a Draft EIR in at least one of three ways: (1) publication in a newspaper; (2) physical posting of the notice where the project would be located; and (3) direct mailing to the owners and occupants of property contiguous to the project's location. As the Lead Agency, West Basin exceeded these CEQA public notification requirements in the following ways: produced press releases; published newspaper ads/legal notices in 12 newspapers; conducted a radius mailing of owners and occupants up to 1,500 feet from the project site; mailed the NOA to approximately 213 public agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties; and posted a large poster board of the NOA at the project site's southern boundary at the intersection of 45th Street and Ocean Drive in Manhattan Beach.

### **Draft EIR Public Meetings**

During the Draft EIR public review period, West Basin held two public meetings, on April 25, 2018, and May 12, 2018, to provide Project information and receive public comments on the Draft EIR. At the public meetings, a number of technical experts who were involved in preparation of the Draft EIR were available at technical stations to engage with and answer questions from interested parties. Additionally, West Basin staff gave a plenary overview presentation on the Project and the associated environmental impacts. Following the presentation at the public meetings, West Basin management and staff engaged in a plenary question and answer session with attendees and explained that questions asked and answered at the meetings would not be included in the Final EIR. Formal comments would continue to be accepted via an online Public Comment Form or by email as explained at the meeting, and attendees were encouraged to submit written comments. As a result, the comments responded to in this Final EIR include all written comments received on the Draft EIR via email or in writing. The questions received at the public meetings, which were submitted via speaker cards, were all responded to verbally at the public meetings and therefore are not included as official comments in the Final EIR.

A cumulative total of 151 attendees signed in upon arrival to the public meetings. Attendees included representatives or staff from elected official offices, federal agencies, and community organizations.

### **Potential Final EIR Certification and Approval**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15088 requires that West Basin, as the Lead Agency, evaluate and prepare written responses to comments on significant environmental issues received from parties that have reviewed the Draft EIR. The written responses to commenting public agencies shall be provided at least 10 days prior to the certification of the Draft EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b)).

Prior to considering the Project for approval, West Basin, as the Lead Agency, will review and consider whether the information presented in the Final EIR:

- a. Has been completed in compliance with CEQA
- b. Has been presented to the Board of Directors as the decision-making body for the Lead Agency, which reviewed and considered it prior to approving the Project
- c. Reflects West Basin’s independent judgment and analysis

If and when the Final EIR is certified, the West Basin Board of Directors may proceed to consider Project approval (CEQA Guidelines Section 15090). Prior to approving the Project, West Basin must make written findings and adopt statements of overriding considerations for each unmitigated significant environmental effect identified in the Final EIR in accordance with Sections 15091 and 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines.

If the Project is approved and the Final EIR is certified, West Basin will file a Notice of Determination (NOD) pursuant to Section 15094 of the CEQA Guidelines with the Office of Planning and Research and the Los Angeles County Clerk.

## 10.3 Comments Received on the Draft EIR

**Table 10-1** includes a comprehensive list of all comments received on the Draft EIR. As described in Section 10.1, state agency comments and responses are included in Section 13; local agency comments and responses are included in Section 14; Tribal Nation comments and responses are included in Section 15; organization comments and responses are included in Section 16; and individual comments and responses are included in Section 17. Comment letters are generally organized alphabetically rather than by the date they were received. A total of 213 comment letters were received on the Draft EIR.

**TABLE 10-1  
LIST OF DRAFT EIR COMMENT LETTERS**

Letter Code	Commenting Party	Date Received
<b>State Agency</b>		
CALT	California Department of Transportation	May 24, 2018
CCC	California Coastal Commission	June 22, 2018
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	June 25, 2018
CEC	California Energy Commission	June 25, 2018
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control	June 20, 2018
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board	June 25, 2018
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission	May 23, 2018
SLC	California State Lands Commission	June 25, 2018
<b>Local Agency</b>		
CARS	City of Carson	June 25, 2018
CULV	City of Culver City	June 4, 2018

Letter Code	Commenting Party	Date Received
ELSEG	City of El Segundo	June 21, 2018
HAW	City of Hawthorne	May 21, 2018
HBCH	City of Hermosa Beach	June 25, 2018
MLBU	City of Malibu	June 25, 2018
MBCH	City of Manhattan Beach	April 24, 2018
MBCH2	City of Manhattan Beach 2	May 1, 2018
MBCH3	City of Manhattan Beach 3	June 25, 2018
RBCH	City of Redondo Beach	May 8, 2018
LADPR	Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	May 24, 2018
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	June 25, 2018
LASAN	Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation	April 9, 2018
MWD	Metropolitan Water District	June 25, 2018
SCAQ	South Coast Air Quality Management District	May 15, 2018
SCG	SoCal Gas	April 19, 2018
SCG2	SoCal Gas 2	July 17, 2018
<b>Tribe</b>		
GK	Gabrieleno Band of Missions Indians - Klzh Nation	April 1, 2018
GK 2	Gabrieleno Band of Missions Indians - Klzh Nation 2	April 4, 2018
<b>Organization</b>		
BP	Brenntag Pacific	April 23, 2018
EJ	Environmental Justice, Community, and Indigenous Groups	June 25, 2018
EOGB	Environmental Organizations and Green Business	June 25, 2018
GSW	Golden State Water Company	June 25, 2018
HTB	Heal the Bay	June 25, 2018
LAW	Los Angeles Waterkeeper	April 27, 2018
LAW2	Los Angeles Waterkeeper 2	June 25, 2018
NRG	NRG Energy, Inc.	June 25, 2018
OFSP	Ocean Front Strand Properties	May 23, 2018
SCLA	Sierra Club Angeles Chapter	June 21, 2018
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad	May 25, 2018
<b>Individual</b>		
ABD	Abdelnur, Diego	April 25, 2018
ADA	Adams, Gladi	March 29, 2018
AFF	Affonso, Jane	May 1, 2018
AHE	Ahearn, Grant and Lynn	April 24, 2018
ALV	Alvarez, Jose and Liz	April 6, 2018
ANO	Anonymous	May 12, 2018
ARE	Arensdorf, Karen	April 11, 2018

Letter Code	Commenting Party	Date Received
ASH	Ashouri, Aida	June 25, 2018
BAC	Bachelder, Laura	March, 29, 2018
BAR	Barisa, Bart	May 12, 2018
BAUJ	Baumann, James	April 6, 2018
BAUL	Baumann, Liane	April 10, 2018
BECB	Becker, Bill	June 22, 2018
BECR	Becker, Richard	April 23, 2018
BES	Beswick, Paul	June 20, 2018
BOO	Boone, Peter	April 26, 2018
BOR	Boroch, Frank	April 7, 2018
BRAD	Brady, Theresa	June 25, 2018
BRAI	Braitman, Samuel J.	April 6, 2018
BRAU	Braunecker, Bonnie	June 21, 2018
BRAU2	Braunecker, Bonnie 2	June 21, 2018
BRI	Bringleston, Niklas	April 26, 2018
BUE	Bueltel, Michelle	April 10, 2018
CHA	Chang, Peter	April 6, 2018
CHR	Christopher, D.	April 25, 2018
CLA	Clayton, Ben	June 20, 2018
COC	Cochran, Brian	May 7, 2018
COC2	Cochran, Brian 2	June 20, 2018
COHJ	Cohen, Julia	April 25, 2018
COHS	Cohen, Stephen	May 14, 2018
CON	Constant, Terry	April 29, 2018
CROC	Croce, Renee	April 7, 2018
CROF	Croft, Amy	June 21, 2018
CUN	Cunningham, Glenn E.	May 16, 2018
DAV	Davidov, Thomas	April 25, 2018
DEF	DeFrank, Victoria Lynn	June 21, 2018
DEL	Delk, Patricia	March 28, 2018
DOD	Dodd, Clinton D.	June 8, 2018
DOL	Doll, Dina	May 7, 2018
DUN	Dunlap, Lesley	April 7, 2018
DUN2	Dunlap, Lesley 2	May 15, 2018
EVE	Everts, Conner	April 25, 2018
FEA	Feakins, Sarah	June 23, 2018
FER	Ferniany, Michael	March 29, 2018
FON	Fontana, Barbra	April 24, 2018
FOR	Forrest, Christopher	April 26, 2018
FRAN	Francois, Dean	April 25, 2018

Letter Code	Commenting Party	Date Received
FRAN2	Francois, Dean 2	April 25, 2018
FRAS	Fraser, Robert	April 5, 2018
FREE	Freeman, Robert	June 22, 2018
FREG	Frego, Scott	June 25, 2018
GAL	Gallman, Robert	April 12, 2018
GILM	Gilmer, Carrie	April 24, 2018
GIL	Gilmoure, Steve	April 6, 2018
GIL2	Gilmoure, Steve 2	April 7, 2018
GRA	Grant, Margaret	June 18, 2018
GUR	Gurewitz, David	April 26, 2018
GUT	Gutierrez, Felipe	June 20, 2018
HARD	Hardin, Mary	May 25, 2018
HAR	Harris, Susan	May 18, 2018
HIR	Hirsch, Emanuel	April 25, 2018
HOP	Hopwood, Marsha	May 12, 2018
JASJ	Jasaitis, Jay	March 28, 2018
JASJ2	Jasaitis, Jay 2	June 23, 2018
JASM	Jasaitis, Maria Dalia Sofija	June 20, 2018
JOH	Johnson, Dave	April 7, 2018
KAR	Karen	April 29, 2018
KEL	Keller, Harry E.	April 10, 2018
KEN	Kendall, Rebecca	June 24, 2018
KER	Kernan, Lindsey	May 4, 2018
KLA	Klafter, Aaron	April 12, 2018
KLI	Klink, Karen	May 29, 2018
KRE	Kreger, Michael	March 28, 2018
LEL	Lelchuck, Andrew	April 6, 2018
LIB	Libbey, Thomas	June 20, 2018
LOM	Lombard, David	June 20, 2018
LON	London, Janet	March 28, 2018
MAGG	Maggay, Kevin	April 30, 2018
MAGI	Magiawala, Dr. Kiran R.	April 25, 2018
MAL	Malpee, Peggy	April 11, 2018
MARA	Marron, Andrea	April 6, 2018
MARA2	Marron, Andrea 2	April 25, 2018
MARJ	Marron, Joseph	June 21, 2018
MAS	Mason, Allan	April 30, 2018
MATL	Matlosz, Shawn	April 24, 2018
MATT	Matthes, Ella	March 30, 2018



Letter Code	Commenting Party	Date Received
MCM	McManis, Craig	March 28, 2018
MCM2	McManis, Craig 2	June 20, 2018
MCP	McPherson, Rachel	June 25, 2018
MER	Merkin, Arthur	May 2, 2018
MIC	Michel, Suzanne	May 26, 2018
MIL-Z	Miller-Zarneke, Tracey	June 25, 2018
MILE	Miller, Emmett	April 7, 2018
MILM	Millington, Manuela	May 25, 2018
MIT	Mitchell, Jane	April 25, 2018
MOE	Moe, Annelisa	April 25, 2018
MOI	Moir, Elizabeth	May 12, 2018
MOO	Moore, Lynne	June 12, 2018
MURE	Munillo, Esteban	March 28, 2018
MURS	Steve Murillo	April 25, 2018
MURS2	Murillo, Steve 2	April 25, 2018
MURS3	Murillo, Steve 3	April 25, 2018
MUP	Murphy Perkins, Bob & Michelle	June 24, 2018
MYE	Myers, Frank	June 21, 2018
NEA	Neal, Jan	June 25, 2018
NEE	Neel, Sean	March 28, 2018
NEL	Nelson, Tennyson	May 8, 2018
NOL	Nolan, Phoebe	April 7, 2018
NOR	Norrie, Robert	April 25, 2018
ORA	Oram, Kelly	April 24, 2018
ORT	Ortega, Evan	April 25, 2018
PAN	Pancake, Jerry	April 6, 2018
PAN2	Pancake, Jerry 2	April 25, 2018
PAR	Parker, Kathleen	May 16, 2018
PER	Perelson, Cindy	April 26, 2018
PHE	Phelps, Andrew	March 27, 2018
PHE2	Phelps, Andrew 2	June 25, 2018
PHI	Phillips, Wendy	June 25, 2018
POL	Pollard, Linda	June 20, 2018
POM	Pompilio, Joie	April 26, 2018
POP	Pope, Mary	June 09, 2018
RAM	Ramirez, John	April 26, 2018
REN	Reniche, Michele	May 9, 2018
RIZ	Rizzi, Joseph	March 30, 2018
RIZ2	Rizzi, Joseph 2	April 23, 2018

Letter Code	Commenting Party	Date Received
SAB	Sabosky, Terri	March 28, 2018
SAC	Sackett, Amanda	April 25, 2018
SALA	Salas, Steve	June 18, 2018
SALO	Salonen, Laura	April 7, 2018
SBE	Sberna, Angelina	May 14, 2018
SCHR	Schroeder, Matthew	April 11, 2018
SCHU	Schultz, Janice	March 28, 2018
SCHUJ	Schulz, Juli	June 20, 2018
SCHUV	Schulz, Vic	March 28, 2018
SEN	Senser, Gary	April 11, 2018
SHA	Shamos, Elias	April 6, 2018
SIE	Sievers, Bob	March 28, 2018
SIE2	Sievers, Bob 2	March 28, 2018
SIEN	Sievers, Nate	April 25, 2018
SLO	Slominski, Marilyn	May 12, 2018
SMI	Smith, K.	April 10, 2018
SOD	Soderberg, Jane	April 26, 2018
SPI	Spiewak, Aaron	April 10, 2018
STAC	Stanich, Christy	May 12, 2018
STAJ	Stanich, Jim	May 12, 2018
STAN	Stansbury, Travis	April 12, 2018
STAU	Stauber, Nic	April 12, 2018
STAV	Stavropolous, William	March 28, 2018
TEL	Tellis, Ed	May 7, 2018
TIS	Tisdale, Ralph	March 28, 2018
TIS2	Tisdale, Ralph 2	April 25, 2018
UGA	Ugarte, Gregory	May 25, 2018
UNG	Ungoco, Joseph	April 2, 2018
VAN	Van Neas, Debra	April 24, 2018
VIC	Vickers, Norman	April 12, 2018
WAL	Wald, Mark	April 24, 2018
WEI	Weinsheim, Kyle	May 7, 2018
WEN	Wenglikowski, Laura	April 25, 2018
WIC	Wickemeyer, Kelly	April 09, 2018
WILC	Wilcox, John	June 24, 2018
WIL	Williams, Tom	March 30, 2018
WIL2	Williams, Tom 2	March 31, 2018
WIL3	Williams, Tom 3	April 1, 2018
WIL4	Williams, Tom 4	April 25, 2018

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<b>Letter Code</b>	<b>Commenting Party</b>	<b>Date Received</b>
WIL5	Williams, Tom 5	June 25, 2018
WIN	Wingate, Carol	April 25, 2018
WOO	Woodcock, Darryl	May 29, 2018
YOCO	Young, Colleen	June 25, 2018
YOJE	Young, Jefferson	April 25, 2018
YOJU	Young, Julie	April 25, 2018
ZAN	Zani, Chad	May 16, 2018
ZAR	Zaremski, Dr. Lori	April 25, 2018
ZAR2	Zaremski, Dr. Lori 2	April 25, 2018
ZUA	Zuanich-Ferrell, Jacqueline	April 26, 2018
ZUA2	Zuanich-Ferrell, Jacqueline 2	June 20, 2018