

SECTION 8

Effects Found Not to Be Significant

West Basin prepared an Expanded Notice of Preparation (NOP), which was distributed on August 31, 2015 to various responsible agencies, trustee agencies.¹ During the course of preparing the NOP and this Draft EIR, it was determined that the Project would result in “no impact” for various issue areas. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15128, the following statements briefly indicate the reasons that the Project’s possible significant effects concerning these issue areas were determined to result in no impact and are therefore not discussed in detail in this EIR. The Expanded NOP is provided in Appendix 1A.

8.1 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Would the Project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

The ocean water desalination facility (ESGS North and South Sites), screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge facilities, and desalinated water conveyance components proposed under the Local and Regional Projects would not be located within lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, pursuant to California Resources Agency Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program maps (CDC 2016). Therefore, the Local and Regional Projects would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to non-agricultural use. No impact would occur.

Would the Project conflict with the existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

According to the El Segundo Zoning Map (updated December 16, 2014), the Local and Regional Project ocean water desalination facility (ESGS North and South Sites) are zoned Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) (City of El Segundo 2015). The screened ocean intake and concentration discharge structures would be located within the Pacific Ocean and not in any area designated for agricultural use. Consequently, the Local and Regional Project ocean water desalination facility (ESGS North and South Sites) and screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge components are not located on any lands that are part of a Williamson Act Contract. The desalinated water conveyance components would be aligned within roadway rights-of-way, and the five regional pump station optional locations are not proposed in areas zoned for agricultural use or under a

¹ CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, *Initial Study*, specifies that if the Lead Agency can determine that an EIR will clearly be required for a project, preparation of an Initial Study is not required.

Williamson Act Contract. Therefore, the Local and Regional Projects would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract. No impact would occur.

Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

The ocean water desalination facility (North and South Sites), screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge, and desalinated water conveyance components (and regional pump stations) are not proposed in areas zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, the Local and Regional Projects would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. No impact would occur.

Would the Project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The ocean water desalination facility (North and South Sites), screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge, and desalinated water conveyance components (and regional pump stations) are not proposed in areas designated as forest land. All lands affected by the Local and Regional Projects are located within urbanized areas and are currently either developed or highly disturbed. No forest land or timberland is present within the proposed Local and Regional Project footprint. Therefore, Local and Regional Project implementation would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

Would the Project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location of nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

There is no Farmland or forest land on or in the vicinity of any lands affected by the proposed Local or Regional Projects, as such lands are located within an urbanized setting. Local and Regional Project implementation would not involve changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur in this regard.

8.2 Mineral Resources

Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

One designated mineral resource is identified within the city of El Segundo, the El Segundo Oil Field, which is currently operated by the Chevron/Texaco Refinery. According to the *City of El Segundo General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report*, over 13.6 million barrels of oil were produced from oil field operations between 1935 and 1987. No component of the Local or Regional Projects would be located within the Chevron/Texaco Refinery or would impede access to the resource in any way. Accordingly, the Local or Regional Project's construction and

operation would not impact the refinery's daily operations. Therefore, Local and Regional Project implementation would not result in the loss of a known mineral resource. No impact would occur.

Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

The Local and Regional Project's construction and operation would not be located on a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, the Local and Regional Project's construction or operation would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. No impact would occur.

8.3 Population and Housing

Would the Project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

The Local and Regional Projects would not result in the construction of new homes or businesses that would result in increased population growth in the El Segundo area. No residential housing is proposed that may have the potential to generate additional population growth in the area. Local Project operation would require an estimated 20 employees involved with operation, maintenance or administration of the desalination facility who would be employed by or contracted with West Basin. The Regional Project operation would require an additional 4 employees. Therefore, operation of the facility would not result in substantial population growth due new people moving to the area for work. The Local and Regional Projects do not require or propose the extension of roads; existing utilities already serve the area. Construction and operation of the desalinated water conveyance components (and regional pump stations) would involve extension of infrastructure (pipelines) from the ESGS site for the transfer of desalinated water. These new water conveyance pipelines are needed to convey the desalinated water to the West Basin service area and would not induce increased population. Because the Local and Regional Projects would not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure), no impact would occur.

Refer to Section 6.2, *Growth-Inducing Impacts* for a detailed discussion regarding population and housing as it relates to potential growth-inducing impacts.

Would the Project displace substantial numbers of existing housing or people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The Local and Regional Project ocean water desalination facility (ESGS North and South Sites), screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge facilities, and desalinated water conveyance components and regional pump stations, are proposed within an existing disturbed, industrialized area of the existing ESGS site, portions of the Pacific Ocean, and within road rights-of-way located within the City of El Segundo and surrounding jurisdictions within West Basin's service area. No existing residential land uses are present on any of the lands considered for Local and

Regional Project construction and operation of the proposed facilities. Therefore, Local and Regional Project construction or operation would not displace existing people or housing, or necessitate the construction of replacement housing. No impact would occur.

8.4 Sources Cited

California Department of Conservation (CDC), 2016. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp>, Accessed March 29, 2016.

City of El Segundo, 2015. Official Zoning Map (Updated December 16, 2014), <http://www.elsegundo.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=8100>, Accessed September 11, 2015.