

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

PURPOSE OF THE EIR

The purpose of this Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is to review the existing conditions, analyze potential environmental impacts, and suggest feasible mitigation measures to reduce significant adverse environmental effects of the proposed Carbon Canyon Dam Sewer Pipeline Project. (Unless otherwise noted, “project” refers to all aspects of the proposed Carbon Canyon Dam Sewer Pipeline, including temporary construction-related effects and long-term effects associated with project construction and implementation).

It is the intent of this EIR to provide construction-level environmental documentation for the project by utilizing the most current and detailed plans, technical studies, and related information available. For more detailed information regarding the proposed project, refer to Section 3.0, *Project Description*.

This EIR will be used by the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) the lead agency, and other responsible agencies and interested parties to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project. Refer to Page 3.0-15 of Section 3.0, *Project Description*, for a list of responsible agencies and project approvals.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

This DEIR has been prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes (as amended through January 2003) and the CEQA Guidelines, particularly California Code of Regulations, Article 9, Sections 15120 through 15132 (Content of an EIR). As an EIR, this document will serve as the comprehensive compliance with CEQA pursuant to guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act.¹ This EIR evaluates the issues and impacts identified as potentially significant in the *Initial Study*,² in addition to issues identified in the course of project research and in the Notice of Preparation responses (Refer to Appendix A, *Notice of Preparation and Comments*).

The OCSD determined that the project may result in significant adverse effects and therefore requires a DEIR. This determination was based on the Initial Study and a preliminary review of available project information. As part of the review process, the DEIR is subject to a 45-day public review period by responsible and concerned agencies and interested parties. Following this period, responses to comments received from these agencies will be prepared. The Final EIR will consist of the DEIR or a revision of the draft, as well as comments received on the DEIR and the responses to these comments. Decision makers, prior to action on the project, will consider the EIR.

SCOPE OF THE EIR

An Initial Study was completed for the proposed project by the OCSD on September 22, 2004, to determine the potential environmental impacts of the project. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) was distributed by the OCSD on September 22, 2004. The comment period closed on October 22, 2004, following the state mandated 30-day Notice of Preparation review period.

¹ California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387.

² RBF Consulting, *Initial Study/Environmental Checklist, Carbon Canyon Dam Sewer Pipeline Project*, September 24, 2004 (Appendix A)

This EIR addresses potential significant impacts in the following areas, as identified in the Initial Study. Additionally, the EIR includes relevant issues raised throughout the EIR preparation process. Issues discussed within this EIR are as follows:

- Land Use and Relevant Planning
- Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Cultural Resources
- Aesthetics, Light and Glare
- Population and Housing
- Biological Resources
- Traffic
- Additional CEQA-mandated discussion (growth, cumulative impacts, alternatives, etc).

Based on significance criteria, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either “less than significant” or “potentially significant.” Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts, to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. In the event that the project would result in significant impacts with implementation of mitigation measures, the decision-makers are able to approve a project based on a “Statement of Overriding Considerations.” This determination would require the decision-makers to discuss how benefits of the project outweigh identified unavoidable impacts. The *CEQA Guidelines* provide in part the following:

- a) CEQA requires that the decision-maker balance the benefits of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental risks in determining whether to approve the project. If the benefits of the proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered acceptable.
- b) Where the decision of the public agency allows the occurrence of significant effects that are identified in the Final EIR but are not mitigated, the agency must state in writing the reasons to support its action based on the Final EIR and/or other information in the record. This statement may be necessary if the agency also makes the finding under Section 15901 (a)(2) or (a)(3) of the *CEQA Guidelines*.
- c) If an agency makes a statement of overriding considerations, the statement should be included in the record of the project approval and should be mentioned in the Notice of Determination (Section 15093 of the *CEQA Guidelines*).

The OCSD Board of Directors, having reviewed and considered the information contained in the DEIR for the Carbon Canyon Dam Sewer Pipeline Project, Responses to Comments, and the public record, may adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations that have been balanced against the unavoidable adverse impacts in reaching a decision on this project.

To ensure consistency with the previously certified Carbon Canyon Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report, this document identifies measures that are proposed by the project proponent included in the project as design features; measures proposed by the Lead,

Responsible, and Trustee Agency; and those measures that if implemented would enhance the project's betterment.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS

The EIR process has included agency scoping to gather information on concerns and issues that the general public may have regarding the project and the DEIR. A public scoping meeting was held on October 19, 2004. The only attendee at the scoping meeting was a representative of the Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks Department.

EIR ORGANIZATION

The DEIR is organized into nine sections, not including the Appendices:

- Section 1.0, *Executive Summary*, provides a brief project description, a summary of the environmental impacts, and the mitigation measures for each impact.
- Section 2.0, *Introduction and Purpose*, provides CEQA compliance information.
- Section 3.0, *Project Description*, provides a project location, environmental setting, background and history, project characteristics, project objectives, phasing, agreements, and approvals that are required for the project.
- Section 4.0, *Environmental Analysis*, discusses the existing conditions for each environmental issue area. This section describes the methodology for significance determination and identifies short-term and long-term environmental impacts associated with the project and their level of significance before mitigation; recommends feasible mitigation measures to reduce the significance of impacts; and identifies areas of unavoidable significant impacts after mitigation.
- Section 5.0, *Long-Term Implications of the Proposed Project*, discusses the significant environmental changes that would be involved in the proposed action, should it be implemented; growth-inducing impacts; and cumulative impacts associated with General Plan buildout and concurrent surrounding projects.
- Section 6.0, *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*, describes alternatives to the project, some of which may be considered during project deliberations.
- Section 7.0, *Effects Found Not To Be Significant*, provides an explanation of potential impacts, which have been determined not to be significant in the Initial Study checklist.
- Section 8.0, *Organizations and Persons Consulted*, identifies the lead agency, preparers of the EIR, all federal, state and local agencies and other organizations and individuals consulted during the preparation of the EIR.
- Section 9.0, *Bibliography*, identifies reference sources utilized for the EIR.
- Appendices (under separate cover).

USE OF THE EIR

This DEIR is part of the environmental review process for the project. It is the intent of this DEIR to enable OCSD and other responsible agencies and interested parties to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project. (Refer to Page 3.0-15 of Section 3.0, *Project Description*, for a list of responsible agencies having approval authority over the project.) This EIR suggests measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts of the proposed project. It is the intent of this EIR to provide construction-level environmental clearance for the project, such that Responsible Agencies would be able to utilize this EIR to satisfy CEQA requirements for project-related permits or approvals.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pertinent documents relating to this EIR have been cited and incorporated, in accordance with Sections 15148 and 15150 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, to eliminate the need for inclusion of voluminous engineering and technical reports within this environmental document. This EIR incorporates the following documents by reference, all of which are available for review at the Orange County Sanitation District office located at 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, California, 92728, or the appropriate agency.

CITY OF BREA GENERAL PLAN, 2003

The *City of Brea General Plan* is a policy-planning document that provides a long-term outlook for the future of the City of Brea. The *Brea General Plan* study area takes into consideration areas outside the City's current city limits and its Sphere of Influence (SOI), in recognition of the interrelationships between land use and other issues affecting the City and surrounding lands. Goals and objectives contained within the *Brea General Plan* were developed to guide existing and future land use, circulation, and open space decisions within the City. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 4.1 *Land Use and Relevant Planning*.

CITY OF BREA GENERAL PLAN DRAFT EIR, 2003

The *City of Brea General Plan Environmental Impact Report* (EIR) summarizes potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the *General Plan*, including growth-inducing and cumulative impacts. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 5.0 *Long-Term Implications of the Proposed Project*.

CARBON CANYON SPECIFIC PLAN, 1986 (AMMENDED 1991)

The *Carbon Canyon Specific Plan* is a comprehensive set of plans, regulations, criteria, conditions, and programs for guiding the orderly development of the Carbon Canyon Specific Plan Area, of which the project is a part. This document provides guidelines for implementation based on the *City of Brea General Plan*. The *Specific Plan* ensures development of the project area as a coordinated project, allowing the mixture of residential densities and product types, open spaces, and commercial and recreational uses. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 4.1 *Land Use and Relevant Planning*.

CARBON CANYON SPECIFIC PLAN EIR, 1984 (ADDENDUM 1985)

The *Carbon Canyon Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report* summarizes potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of a Specific Plan for a 1,804-acre study area (which was later amended to 1,758 acres), located in the northeastern portion of the City of Brea. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 4.1 *Land Use and Relevant Planning*.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN REPORT FOR THE CARBON CANYON DAM SEWER AND PUMP STATION ABANDONMENT, CONTRACT NUMBER 2-24-1. (NOVEMBER 15, 2004)

The purpose of the *Preliminary Design Report* (PDR) is to evaluate the feasibility of constructing the gravity sewer pipeline to replace the existing pump station and force mains. It has been prepared specifically for this project. The PDR discusses the following:

- Design Parameters
- Pipeline Alignment
- Hydraulics
- Local Utilities and Agencies
- Construction Methods
- Odor Assessment and Odor Control Plan
- Implementation Plan
- Preliminary Drawings

The PDR is included as Appendix E of this DEIR and is also available at the OCSD office.

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN EIR, 1999

The *Orange County Sanitation District Strategic Plan Environmental Impact Report* summarizes potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the *Strategic Plan* through the year 2020. OCSD provides wastewater treatment services to the northern and central portions of the County, and has service agreements with other wastewater agencies, including the Irvine Ranch Water District. The *Strategic Plan EIR* assesses the potential impacts from OCSD's proposed infrastructure and service improvements through the year 2020. The effluent from the proposed project ultimately flows to the facilities discussed in this document.

CITY OF CHINO HILLS GENERAL PLAN, 1994

The *City of Chino Hills General Plan* is a policy and planning document that provides a long-term outlook for the future of the City of Chino Hills. The document's study area takes into consideration areas outside the current city limits and its Sphere of Influence (SOI), in recognition of the interrelationships between land use and other issues affecting the City of Chino Hills and surrounding lands. Goals and objectives contained within the *Chino Hills General Plan* were developed to guide existing and future land use, circulation, and open space decisions within the City of Chino Hills. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 4.1 *Land Use and Relevant Planning*.

CITY OF CHINO HILLS GENERAL PLAN FINAL EIR, 1994

The *City of Chino Hills General Plan EIR* summarizes potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the *General Plan*, including growth-inducing and cumulative impacts. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 5.0 *Long-Term Implications of the Proposed Project*.

COUNTY OF ORANGE GENERAL PLAN, 2003

The *County of Orange General Plan* is a policy and planning document that provides a long-term outlook for the future of the County. The *Orange County General Plan* sets forth goals and objectives to guide existing and future land use, circulation, and open space decisions within Orange County. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 4.1 *Land Use and Relevant Planning*.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN, 1980

The County of Los Angeles General Plan is a policy and planning document that provides a long-term outlook for the future of the County of Los Angeles. This general plan sets forth goals and objectives to guide existing and future land use, circulation, and open space decisions within the County of Los Angeles. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 4.1 *Land Use and Relevant Planning*.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN EIR, 1979

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN SUPPLEMENT TO THE FINAL EIR, 1980

The *County of Los Angeles General Plan EIR* and *County of Los Angeles General Plan Supplement to the Final EIR* summarize potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the *General Plan*, including growth-inducing and cumulative impacts. For a summary of the portion of the document that describes the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in this DEIR, refer to the discussion in Section 5.0 *Long-Term Implications of the Proposed Project*.

TECHNICAL REFERENCES

In accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15148, this *Carbon Canyon Dam Sewer Pipeline Project EIR* cites appropriate technical studies and other reference documents, as indicated throughout the EIR and listed in Section 9, *Bibliography*. These technical studies are available for review at the office of the Orange County Sanitation District, 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, California, 92728.