

**Final Initial Study/  
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program,  
Response to Comments, and Errata**

**Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and  
Seismic Strengthening Project  
County of Los Angeles, California**

**SCH No. 2014101044**

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## SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the potential environmental effects of the proposed Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") have been analyzed in a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH No. 2014101044) dated October 2014.

Section 15074(b) of the CEQA Guidelines states that, prior to approving a project, the lead agency must consider the proposed IS/MND together with any comments received during the public review process. The lead agency must adopt the proposed IS/MND, only if it finds on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the project would have a significant effect on the environment and that the IS/MND reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis. Section 2.0, Response to Comments, includes all letters received during and after the close of the 45-day public review period, as well as the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) written responses to all comments received. Section 3.0, Errata, includes revisions to the text of the IS/MND either in response to a comment or in order to clarify information.

Section 15074(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states that, when adopting an MND, the lead agency shall adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring the changes that it has either required in the project or made a condition of approval to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects. Section 4.0, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), describes the mitigation program to be implemented by the LACFCD.

### 1.1 CEQA AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE IS/MND

In accordance with Section 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Negative Declaration (ND) or MND must be subject to a 30-day public review period when submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review by state agencies. However, the LACFCD voluntarily established an extended 45-day public review period. As such, the Draft IS/MND was made available for public review from Monday, October 20, 2014 through Thursday, December 4, 2014. Consistent with Sections 15072(b) and 15072(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) was published in the Arcadia Weekly, Los Angeles Times, and San Gabriel Valley Tribune and is on file at the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in the City of Norwalk. The Draft IS/MND and NOI or the NOI only was provided to 26 responsible agencies and interested groups; and was made available for review at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) in Alhambra, Arcadia Public Library, Sierra Madre Public Library, and Monrovia Public Library during business hours and online at [www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/SantaAnita/](http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/SantaAnita/). Also, a Public Information Meeting to discuss the Project was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the City of Arcadia City Hall (Council Chambers) at 240 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91066.

The LACFCD has reviewed all comments received from agencies, organizations and/or individuals related to the subject IS/MND to determine whether any substantial new environmental issues have been raised. Based on the evaluation in the Draft IS/MND together with all comments received, the LACFCD has determined that no substantial new environmental issues have been raised and that all issues raised in the comments have been adequately addressed in the Draft IS/MND and/or in the Responses to Comments, Errata, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. All potential impacts associated with the proposed Project were found to be less than significant with incorporation of relevant mitigation measures, where applicable. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in any significant impacts, and a

Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with CEQA is the appropriate environmental document for the proposed Project.

This document, combined with the Draft IS/MND, constitutes the Final IS/MND for the proposed Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project. This document includes all public comment letters; the LACFCD responses; and the State Clearinghouse letter that documents compliance with CEQA review requirements. The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors will consider the proposed IS/MND together with the comments received during the public review process, and can consider adoption of Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project Final IS/MND and approval of the Project.

## **1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY**

### **1.2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING**

The Project study area is located within the jurisdictions of the City of Arcadia, the City of Monrovia, a County-owned inholding within the United States Forest Service (USFS) boundary, and property within the USFS Angeles National Forest. The Project site is in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in Los Angeles County, approximately 15 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

The Dam is at the north end of the Project site, located in the Angeles National Forest and accessed via a private road off Chantry Flats Road, approximately 2.5 miles north of the City of Arcadia. The Headworks structure is located approximately 0.5 mile downstream of the Dam on the border of the Angeles National Forest and the City of Arcadia and accessed off Highland Oaks Drive. The Debris Dam is located approximately 0.5 mile downstream of the Headworks in the Cities of Arcadia and Monrovia, and can be accessed via a maintenance road that runs along the Santa Anita Wash.

Surface runoff from the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed drains along natural courses towards the Santa Anita Wash, which runs north-south beginning at the Dam. The purpose of the Dam is to decrease peak flood flow by retaining stormwater and discharging it at controlled release rates. The released flows continue downstream to the Headworks facility, which intercepts the creek flows and allows the flows to either continue downstream to the Debris Dam, to be diverted to the Sierra Madre Spreading Grounds, or to be diverted into the Santa Anita Spreading Grounds.

### **1.2.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS**

#### **Dam**

The Dam is located within the Angeles National Forest and within the boundary of the City of Monrovia; however, the USFS has jurisdiction over activities at the Dam. The Dam would be structurally altered to accommodate a new spillway with sufficient capacity to pass the probable maximum flood (PMF) of 26,100 cubic feet per second (cfs) in order to reduce the risk of Dam failure from uncontrolled overtopping during major storm events. The proposed improvements to the Dam would not result in changes to the existing maximum water surface elevation restrictions (which are set in place by California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams [DSOD]) at a maximum elevation of 1,230 feet above mean sea level (msl); therefore, the reservoir's operational capacity to retain water would not be altered by Project implementation.

The Dam's outdated electrical, mechanical, potable water, and control systems would be upgraded to ensure reliability and to modernize operations, allowing for the integrated control of the facilities to increase water conservation efficiency. Other ancillary facilities at the Dam would also be replaced or upgraded, including the secured access gate (including new power poles to supply electricity) and a storage shed/garage. The existing Dam Operator's house would be removed and a helipad would be constructed in its place to provide aerial access to the Dam in the event of an emergency.

The downstream canyon walls and the toe of the Dam would be re-armored with additional reinforced "gunite" or equivalent concrete erosion protection to dissipate the energy from the overtopping water as the flow cascades through the spillway and the orifice spillway or sluiceway. The flow would be directed onto the downstream armoring before flowing into the channel downstream of the Dam. The re-armoring would reinforce the existing armoring that extends approximately 100 feet downstream from the toe of the Dam. The re-armoring would be held in position with tie-back anchors to be drilled and grouted into the bedrock. The tie-ins for the re-armoring may include rock excavation, superficial grading, and subsurface pressure grouting.

### **Headworks and Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing**

Redevelopment of the Headworks would include reconstruction of the small earthen levee to ensure it can withstand flows produced by the 25-year storm event and replacement of the existing tainter gate (used to divert flows) with a new rubber diversion structure. The rubber diversion structure is a pneumatically<sup>1</sup> operated, bottom-hinged, spillway gate system. The majority of the existing Headworks structure would be removed, including the tainter gate, supporting walls, catwalk, and keys. The new facility would extend beyond the width of the current structure by approximately 20 feet into the existing levee in order to house the new rubber diversion structure. The existing earthen levee would be reinforced and built up approximately five feet higher to match the height of the new Headworks structure. The top layer of disturbed soil on the levee would be removed to expose the underlying engineered fill; it would then be recompacted with additional engineered fill to the proposed height. The access road leading to the Headworks would be modified to match the height of the reinforced earthen levee. The improvements would also include a new control house for operating the rubber diversion structure, which would include remote operation capabilities to increase efficiency of water conservation operations.

In addition to the improvements at the Headworks, removal and replacement of the Culvert Crossing to the City of Arcadia's Wilderness Park is needed to ensure that the roadway and crossing can withstand flows generated by a larger storm event. The existing Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing is located approximately 450 feet downstream of the Headworks. The Culvert Crossing includes the concrete slab and corrugated metal culverts, and it would be removed and replaced with a similarly functioning Culvert Crossing structure that is better designed to withstand storm flows. Approximately 30 feet of the channel upstream and downstream of the existing Culvert Crossing structure would be grubbed and graded to accommodate the new structure. In order to accommodate the new Culvert Crossing abutment, three sycamore trees along the eastern shore of the Wash may need to be removed (see Tree Numbers 220, 221, and 222 in Appendix B, see Tree Report). If possible, the design of the Culvert Crossing will not require the removal of the sycamore north of the culvert crossing, potentially through the means of a temporary closure of the access point into the Wilderness Park that is discussed later.

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<sup>1</sup> Pnuematic means operated through the use of compressed air or compressed gas.

However, in order to provide a conservative analysis, this IS/MND assumes these sycamore trees would be removed.

The LACFCD may transplant the root balls of the sycamores to a suitable riparian location and/or utilize the woody debris from the sycamore to enhance habitat value at another nearby location, if determined to be feasible and if approved by the County and other appropriate parties. In addition, new sycamore trees will be planted in the vicinity of any removed existing trees.

The channel immediately downstream of the new Culvert Crossing would be armored with a riprap apron to dissipate water flow energy. The new Culvert Crossing would be approximately ten feet wider than the existing crossing, and it would be built on top of a new abutment with a supporting wing wall. It would be designed with a permanent guard rail and flexible pavement driving surface adequate for emergency vehicles. The elevation of the Culvert Crossing structure would be raised above the existing roadway elevation to accommodate higher flows. Approximately 1,800 square feet of the roadways leading to and from the Culvert Crossing would be repaved and sloped to join the existing grade.

### **Debris Dam**

Remediation of the seismic deficiencies at the Debris Dam would involve a major reconfiguration of the existing structures, including the intake tower, spillway, and embankment. In 1995, following a seismic safety study of the Debris Dam, the DSOD determined that it did not meet standards for seismic safety and required the outlet gate to remain open at all times to prevent storage of water above an elevation of 761 feet above msl. Remediating the seismic deficiencies at the Debris Dam would result in DSOD removing the operational restrictions on the facility, thus restoring 119 acre-feet of water conservation capacity. The Debris Dam would also be enlarged by raising the existing spillway 4 feet, which would create 40 acre-feet of additional storage for a total of 159 acre-feet.

The intake tower located in the Debris Dam would be strengthened or replaced due to the inability of the existing tower to resist seismic loading. The intake tower would be connected to the existing diversion to the spillway channel or spreading grounds, which is a 48-inch outlet conduit that would be lined. In addition, portions of the Debris Dam embankment that are subject to potential liquefaction would be reinforced with structural buttressing. The top of the embankment ranges from an elevation of 796 feet above msl at its center to an elevation of 811 feet above msl at the western edge. The improvements would include removal of six non-native deodar cedar trees located at the toe of the downstream side of the embankment, as mandated by DSOD, to ensure the structural integrity of the Debris Dam. A new automated outlet gate and control system would be constructed to modernize operations and ensure compatibility with other Project components.



## SECTION 2.0 RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Letters commenting on the information and analysis in the Draft IS/MND were received from the parties listed below during the 45-day public review period (i.e., Monday, October 20, 2014 through Thursday, December 4, 2014), with the exception of the USFWS letter, which was received after the close of the public review period. The USFWS letter has been responded to in its entirety.

### **Federal Agencies**

- Natural Resources Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), December 9, 2014

### **State Agencies**

- California Department of Transportation, District 7 (Caltrans), November 18, 2014
- State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit (SCH), November 19, 2014
- Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), December 3, 2014

### **Local Agencies**

- County of Los Angeles, Fire Department (LACFD), November 14, 2014
- City of Arcadia, Public Works Services Department (Arcadia), December 3, 2014

### **Organizations**

- None

### **Individuals**

- None

Each letter listed above is included in this document, followed by the LACFCD response to each comment. Each comment letter has been divided into sequential numbered comments (e.g., 1, 2, 3), as shown on the enclosed letters. Each numbered comment corresponds to a matching numbered response.

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## **2.1 FEDERAL AGENCIES**

- Natural Resources Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), December 9, 2014

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## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250  
Carlsbad, California 92008



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS-LA-14B0376-15CPA0052

DEC 09 2014

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Water Resources Division  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, California 91802-1460

Subject: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project, Los Angeles County, California

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project located in Los Angeles County, California. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) proposes to modify existing flood control and water conservation facilities in Santa Anita Canyon to reduce flood risk to downstream communities, enhance local water supply, and improve access to Arcadia Wilderness Park. The primary project components include modifications to the Santa Anita Dam (dam), Santa Anita Headworks (headworks), Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing (culvert crossing), and the Santa Anita Debris Dam (debris dam). Project construction is anticipated to occur between winter of 2015 and fall of 2016, with the majority of construction scheduled during the spring and summer months.

The primary concern and mandate of the Service is the protection of public fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Service has a legal responsibility for the welfare of migratory birds, anadromous fish, and endangered animals and plants occurring in the United States. Specifically, the Service administers the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), and provides support to other Federal agencies in accordance with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

Based on biological surveys conducted in the 115-acre study area,<sup>1</sup> vegetation primarily consists of native scrub, chaparral, riparian forest/woodland, and oak woodland, located in and adjacent to Angeles National Forest. These natural vegetation communities combined with the perennial source of water found in Santa Anita Creek support a wide variety of wildlife (104 animal species) and at

<sup>1</sup> The study area extends approximately 1,200 feet upstream from Santa Anita Dam to approximately 1,000 feet below Santa Anita Debris Dam.

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least 12 special status species (MND Appendix B, Biological Technical Report). Approximately one third of the study area is mapped as disturbed or developed. Some portions of the study area were recently disturbed during implementation of the Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project (LACFCD 2009).

} 1

Our primary concerns with respect to this project are the extent of impacts to biological resources in Santa Anita Canyon that may occur as a result of the proposed project and the fact that the MND does not fully address these potential impacts. The analysis in the MND focuses on the direct impact associated with project construction but does not address the substantial changes in the magnitude, timing, and distribution of water flows enabled by the proposed project in combination with the Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project. Although the proposed project is anticipated to increase groundwater recharge by over 500-acre feet per year, the MND does not acknowledge any potential changes in the quality or extent of natural vegetation communities that will be inundated in water storage areas or dewatered downstream from water storage areas. While some plant species are tolerant to long periods of inundation, particularly outside of the growing season [e.g., black willow (*Salix gooddingii*)], evergreen riparian species [e.g., mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*)] can be severely impacted by long periods of inundation (Orange County Water District 2013), and upland vegetation communities (e.g., coastal sage scrub, chaparral) are likely to be impacted by even short periods of inundation. The extent of impacts to habitat in the study area will depend on the depth, duration, and timing of inundation but could include a reduction in the aerial extent, diversity, and structure (i.e., loss of understory) of the vegetation that reduces or eliminates its habitat value for wildlife.

} 2

We offer the following specific comments and recommendations regarding project-associated biological impacts based on our review of the MND and our knowledge of declining habitat types and species within Los Angeles County. These comments are provided in keeping with our agency’s mission to “work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”

1. **Dam Operations** – Modifications to the dam include but are not limited to: 1) constructing a new spillway to safely pass the probable maximum flood of 26,100 cubic feet per second; 2) plugging an auxiliary spillway located about 12 feet below the new spillway; 3) replacing existing valves to ensure the efficiency of operations; and 4) re-armoring the canyon walls and toe of the dam to provide protection from erosive flows. The LACFCD should provide the following additional information to clarify the changes in dam operations enabled by the proposed project and how the dam operations will impact natural vegetation communities and associated wildlife upstream and downstream from the dam.
  - a. Provide a figure that delineates the maximum extent of the reservoir pool behind the dam based on the new spillway at 1,300 feet above mean sea level (msl) and the area anticipated to be inundated by water conservation to a maximum of 1,230 feet above mean sea level (msl). How many days per year, on average, is the water conservation pool anticipated to be at or above 1,230 feet? How does this compare to past operations?

} 3

- b. The proposed additional protection of the toe of the dam and the canyon walls is an indication that erosive flows are anticipated due to the height of the new spillway and/or other modifications that will allow the dam to hold water at a higher elevation and for a longer period of time than was previously possible. How will the release rates during a 1-year, 5-year, 10-year, 25-year, and 100-year storm event change with proposed dam modifications? How will the anticipated storm flows affect natural vegetation communities and aquatic habitat below the dam? } 4
    - c. What are the minimum flows that will be released from the dam with the new, more efficient valves and how does this compare with operation of the existing valves? How will the minimum flow releases with the new valves affect the quality and extent of natural vegetation communities and aquatic habitat below the dam? In particular, minimum flows should be adequate to continue to support the naturally reproducing rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) found below the dam. } 5
  - 2. **Headworks Operations** – Currently, the headworks can divert flows up to 75 cubic feet per second (cfs) to downstream spreading grounds and will overtop during a 2-year storm event (300 cfs). The proposed headworks will include a new diversion structure that will allow water to be retained up to a 25-year storm event. Clarify how operation of the new headworks structure will affect the quality and extent of natural vegetation communities and aquatic habitat upstream and downstream from the structure. } 6
    - a. What is the maximum flow that can be diverted by the new diversion structure and how will the reduction in flows to areas below the headworks impact the quality and extent of natural vegetation communities and aquatic habitat downstream from the structure? } 7
    - b. Currently, water pools in the area upstream from the headworks. According to the MND, the pool created by the new structure will remain the same as the existing condition. Given that the height and width of the headworks structure will be increased and water may be retained up to a 25-year storm event it seems unlikely that the pool will remain the same size following completion of the project. Clarify the duration and extent of ponding and any changes in the surrounding vegetation communities that may occur as a result of the new headworks structure. } 8
  - 3. **Debris Dam** – The proposed modifications to the debris dam, including remediating seismic deficiencies and raising the spillway elevation by 4 feet, will increase the water storage capacity of the debris basin from 0 to 159 acre-feet. To address potential impacts associated with storing water behind the debris dam, the LACFCD proposes to monitor the health of 20 trees located in the additional water pool gained by the increase in spillway elevation (MM BIO-1D). This measure is inadequate to fully assess the potential impacts associated with operating the modified debris dam. Existing vegetation within the anticipated water storage area includes both riparian (areas mapped as southern cottonwood willow riparian forest and mule fat scrub) and upland (areas mapped as mixed coastal sage scrub, coast live oak woodland, oak woodland/southern mixed chaparral) vegetation communities. In addition, the monitoring program excludes portions of the water storage area that are most likely to be inundated for the longest period of time. The } 9

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monitoring program should be modified to address the entire inundation area and should include mitigation for impacts to all natural vegetation communities that may be affected by water storage. } 9 cont.

**4. Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project** – The proposed project anticipates impacts to 11.14 acres of existing disturbed areas (excluding potential impacts associated with operation of the project, as discussed above). The LACFCD should clarify if impacts will occur to areas disturbed as part of the Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project and if those impacts were considered permanent or temporary (i.e., anticipated to be restored following completion of that project). Similarly, the LACFCD should disclose if vegetated areas temporarily disturbed by Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project will remain unvegetated as a result operations associated with the proposed project (e.g., storing water). } 10

**5. Invasive Species** – Disturbance associated with construction of the project will result in an increase in the extent of invasive plant species within the project area. To ensure the proposed project does not result in the spread of invasive plant species to adjacent undisturbed areas of native habitat in and adjacent to Angeles National Forest, temporary impacts to upland areas should be restored with native upland vegetation. Temporary impacts to riparian vegetation should be restored by maintaining impact areas free of non-native vegetation until native riparian species have reestablished in the impact areas. } 11

**6. Federally Listed Species** – Protocol surveys were conducted in the study area for the federally listed least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) in 2012. Because the distribution of federally listed species can change from year to year, survey results are generally valid for one year. We recommend new surveys be conducted in suitable habitat prior to initiation of project construction. } 12

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the subject MND. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Christine Medak of this office at 760-431-9440, extension 298.

Sincerely,

*for* Karen A. Goebel  
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc:  
Erinn Wilson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Daniel Swenson, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers



County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (FWS-LA-14B0376-15CPA0052)

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**Literature Cited**

LACFCD. 2009. Final EIR for the Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal. Los Angeles, CA: LACDPW.

Orange County Water District. 2013. Effects of reduced outflow from Prado Dam water conservation 2012. Prepared for Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office, Palm Springs, California. February 2013.

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## 2.1.1 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)

**December 9, 2014**

### **Response USFWS-1**

The only portion of the study area that was re-disturbed by the Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project (LACFCD 2009) was the area where sediment was removed from bottom of Santa Anita Reservoir. However, this is a long-time disturbance area with much documentation prior to 2009. It should be noted that the Upper Sediment Placement Site that would be used as a source of sediment/fill material for the construction activities on the proposed Project is separate from the Lower Sediment Placement Site, which was used as a sediment placement site for the 2009 Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project.

### **Response USFWS-2**

As discussed in more detail in the responses below, the proposed Project would not change the magnitude, timing, or distribution of water flows; the operations of the Dam, Headworks, Culvert Crossing, and Debris Dam would remain the same as pre-project conditions. Flows and inundation are present when natural rainfall occurs, at which time the LACFCD moves the water into the spreading grounds as soon as capacity is available (i.e., once water has infiltrated and the spreading grounds can accept additional flows). The only portion of the proposed Project that would change the magnitude and distribution of water flows is the proposed raising of the Debris Dam spillway, which would allow for the basin to be inundated to a higher level; this change in operation is analyzed in Section 4.4, Biological Resources of the MND.

In their comment letter, the USFWS noted concerns regarding the inundation of mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) within the Debris Dam. The USFWS had similar concerns on a previous LACDPW project, the San Gabriel River Rubber Dams Project. Therefore, permits for the Rubber Dams Project included a requirement for post-project monitoring of native riparian vegetation that would potentially undergo increased inundation as a result of the San Gabriel Rubber Dams Project. Five years of monitoring were conducted following completion of the project. As stated in the final annual report, "little change was detected in the structure, composition, or extent of the preserved riparian habitat upstream of Rubber Dams No. 2 and No. 3, as compared to baseline conditions that were measured in 2004...Inundation of the study area has generally been brief and infrequent. Therefore, little or no effect on vegetation health or extent was expected or observed." (BonTerra Consulting 2013). It should be noted that one of the years included in the five-year monitoring period was a high rainfall year (2010-2011); therefore, even in a year with substantial water available, the inundation did not affect the extent of riparian vegetation.

As discussed further in Response USFWS-9, in a review of 14 years of runoff data (1996-2010), there were two years of extremely high rainfall (1997-1998 and 2004-2005). Of the remaining 12 years, six years had inundations levels at the Debris Dam of less than 761 feet, while six years had inundation levels of greater than 761 feet for 16 days or less for the year. In a review of 2-year, 5-year, and 10-year storms (based on inches of rain) during this time period, the maximum inundation was 11 days. Therefore, based on this data, inundation is generally expected to occur above 761 feet approximately every other year, and for a period of 10 days or less. During typical storms, two weeks of continuous impoundment are sufficient to allow LACDPW to capture storm runoff and conserve most of it within the local groundwater basin. It is important to note that the only new inundation area is that above 774 feet. As discussed on page 4-46 of the MND, the areas behind the Debris Dam where mule fat scrub and coastal sage scrub occur

are on the outer edge of the basin and would be inundated for the shortest duration, anticipated to be a few days at the most.

### **Response USFWS-3**

As stated on page 3-1 of the MND, the Santa Anita Dam's reservoir capacity to retain water would not be altered by Project implementation. The Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project did not remove the seismic restriction, rather, it installed an ungated outlet that ensures that the reservoir pool behind the Dam stays in compliance by keeping the reservoir pool at 1,230 feet above mean seal level (msl). Operation of the Dam would not change due to the proposed Project; therefore, it is unnecessary to provide a figure showing the reservoir pool behind the Dam with the current seismic restriction (1,230 feet above msl) and the reservoir pool behind the Dam with the seismic restriction removed (1,300 feet above msl). Since January 1, 2000, the reservoir has been at 1,230 feet above msl for 78% of the time, which averages to 268 days per year. However, since the Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project was completed (10/15/12), the reservoir has been at 1,230 feet above msl for 4% of the time, which averages to 16 days per year. This is likely due to the limited rainfall in the last few years, in addition to the new self-draining capability.

### **Response USFWS-4**

The Project would repair and replace existing erosion protection within the same footprint as the existing erosion protection. The height of the spillway would be reduced where the notch is cut; therefore, the Dam would not be able to hold water as high as it can currently. The purpose of the modifications to the spillway (i.e., cutting a notch in the Dam) is to allow for a more controlled spill than simply overtopping of the Dam. Operations (i.e., the way that the Dam holds or releases flows) would be the same as the current conditions, which are dictated by annual rainfall. Large storms would continue to overtop the spillway and would not be controlled by the Dam. Release rates for smaller storms would be the same as they are currently. Therefore, no change to the natural vegetation communities and aquatic habitat below the Dam is anticipated.

### **Response USFWS-5**

The purpose of replacing the valves is to ensure longevity and functionality of the valves; the new valves would not function differently and the size of the flows released would not change. Therefore, no change to the quantity and extent of natural communities and aquatic habitat below the Dam is anticipated. Flows are expected to continue to be adequate to support the naturally reproducing rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) found below the Dam.

### **Response USFWS-6**

The purpose of the improvements at the Headworks are to improve the strength of the structures. Under current conditions, flows resulting from a 2-year storm event or greater do not overtop the berm, but could damage the tainter gate and earthen berm. Installation of the rubber dam would replace the tainter gate at the Headworks. The new rubber dam structure could withstand flows up to a 25-year storm, but it would be operated the same as the tainter gate is currently operated (i.e., opening it when the Dam releases flows greater than 300 cfs). The new rubber dam structure would allow for more controlled flows because it would open by deflating, allowing water to flow over the top of the structure, while the tainter gate lifted up and water would flow under the gate through the opening and also over the gate structure. Additionally, under current conditions, the earthen berm needs to be repaired relatively frequently following

storms, but following the Project the berm will be reinforced so repairs would be needed less often.

It is important to note, that the height of the new rubber dam structure would be the same as the existing tainter gate; therefore, as stated on page 3-2 of the MND, the pool of water upstream of the Headworks would remain the same as under existing conditions. Because operations would remain the same, no change in the quality and extent of vegetation communities and aquatic habitat is anticipated either upstream or downstream from the structure.

#### **Response USFWS-7**

See Response USFWS-6. No reduction of flows to areas below the Headworks would occur as a result of Project implementation and no change in the quality and extent of vegetation communities and aquatic habitat is anticipated downstream from the structure.

#### **Response USFWS-8**

See Response USFWS-6. No change in the duration and extent of ponding is anticipated as a result of Project implementation and no change in the surrounding vegetation communities is anticipated downstream from the structure.

#### **Response USFWS-9**

See Response USFWS-2 for discussion of mule fat. DSOD requires that the Debris Dam gate remain open, even in the restricted condition. Under these conditions, the Debris Dam's basin can store water from 755 feet to the height of the gate at 761 feet; therefore, partial inundation of the basin is typical. Additionally, when the inflow to the Debris Dam exceeds the capacity of the outlet tower and outlet pipe (i.e., 94 cfs when the outlet is clear and slower when it is partially blocked with debris), a pool of water is impounded within the basin until it can drain from the basin. As a result, the entire 119-acre-foot capacity is currently utilized during and following storm events until flows subside. Because of this, the current inundation boundary utilized during storms is 774.7 feet, the height of the existing spillway. Raising the spillway by 4 feet would increase the inundation boundary to 778.7 (See Exhibit 4-3D in the MND). The four-foot increase was selected because it did not have substantial impacts on spillway capacity or the inundation area but still provided a substantial benefit for water conservation (i.e., over 40 acre-feet of additional water conservation capacity per storm event). It should be noted that inundation would only follow storm events or releases, as needed.

Inflow into the basin behind the Debris Dam can vary drastically from year to year, and even from beginning to end of a given storm season. Most years will not produce enough runoff to utilize the maximum capacity. Following implementation of the Project, impoundment above 768 feet (about halfway between current restriction and existing spillway) will be authorized for up to 30 days and for no more than a total of 60 days in a calendar year. Water would not be held in the basin any longer than necessary. The operational objective of the basin behind the Debris Dam is to send impounded waters into the spreading basins as soon as feasible to facilitate maximum groundwater infiltration and recharge. Generally, the entire basin can percolate into the spreading grounds in a period of approximately 2.5 days, assuming capacity exists. If capacity doesn't exist, the pool can be drained directly to the downstream channel in 5.5 hours assuming no additional inflow. The likelihood of using the full extent of the expanded inundation footprint is small in any given year. During extreme floods, no operations would be occurring under both current and future scenarios. The facility would fill up, spill, safely pass all flows, and then be drained as soon as practical.

In a review of 14 years of runoff data (1996-2010), there were two years of extremely high rainfall (1997-1998 and 2004-2005). Of the remaining 12 years, six years had inundation levels of less than 761 feet, while six years had inundation levels of greater than 761 feet for 16 days or less for the year. In a review of 2-year, 5-year, and 10-year storms (based on inches of rain) during this time period, the maximum inundation was 11 days. Therefore, based on this data, inundation is generally expected to occur above 761 feet approximately every other year, and for a period of 10 days or less. During typical storms, two weeks of continuous impoundment are sufficient to allow LACDPW to capture storm runoff and conserve most of it within the local groundwater basin.

During extreme floods, such as those during the large storms the very wet years of 1997-1998 and 2004-2005, no operations would be occurring, the facility would simply be allowed to spill and pass all flows. This is true of both current and future operations.

Because the basin currently operates with inundation up to 774.7 feet (as natural rainfall allows), the existing condition is that vegetation within the basin is currently inundated for up to 1-2 weeks duration. Therefore, the only areas that need to be monitored for changes due to increased inundation are the areas that would be within the additional inundation area as shown in Exhibit 4-3D in the MND.

Additionally, LACDPW currently holds permits that allow them to remove vegetation within a 16-foot area adjacent to the Debris Dam; a 15-foot radius around the outlet tower; and a 10-foot channel within the path of flow of water through the willows. The Flood Maintenance Division has already mitigated for ongoing maintenance impacts within these areas.

Approximately 0.58 acre of mixed coastal sage scrub would be potentially impacted by future inundation. As discussed on page 4-46 of the MND, these areas are along outer edge of the inundation footprint and would be expected to be inundated least frequently and for the least amount of time and therefore would not be expected to be significantly impacted by the inundation.

### **Response USFWS-10**

See Response USFWS-1. The proposed Project would not affect any areas previously vegetated or assumed to be a “temporary” impact (i.e., anticipated to be restored) in the 2009 Santa Anita Dam Riser Modification and Reservoir Sediment Removal Project.

### **Response USFWS-11**

The following has been added to MM BIO-5 (see **bold** text) on pages 1-19 and 4-56 of the MND. These revisions result in mitigation with the same or more stringent requirements and would be equally or more effective in reducing the significant impact. These revisions are included in Section 4.0, Errata.

**MM BIO-5:** Prior to initiation of Project activities, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) shall obtain all necessary permits for impacts to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW jurisdictional areas. Mitigation for the loss of jurisdictional resources shall be negotiated with the resource agencies during the regulatory permitting process. Potential mitigation options shall include one or more of the following: (1) payment to a mitigation bank or regional riparian enhancement program (e.g., invasive plant or wildlife species removal) and/or (2) restoration of riparian habitat either on site or off site at a ratio of no less than 1:1, determined through consultation with the above-listed resource agencies. If in-lieu mitigation

fees are required, prior to the initiation of any construction-related activities, the LACFCD shall pay the in-lieu mitigation fee to a mitigation bank/enhancement program for the in-kind (equivalent vegetation type and acreage) replacement of impacted jurisdictional resources. If a Restoration Program is required, prior to the initiation of any construction-related activities, LACFCD shall prepare and submit a Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Program (HMMP) for USACE and CDFW approval. If a Riparian HMMP is required, it shall contain the following items:

- A. Responsibilities and qualifications of the personnel to implement and supervise the plan. The responsibilities of the Landowner, Specialists, and Maintenance Personnel that would supervise and implement the plan shall be specified.
- B. Site selection. The mitigation site shall be determined in coordination with the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB. The site shall either be located in a dedicated open space area on County land, USFS land, or off-site land shall be purchased.
- C. Seed source. Seeds (or plantings) used shall be from local sources (within ten miles of the Project area) to ensure genetic integrity.
- D. Site preparation and planting implementation. Site preparation shall include (1) protection of existing native species; (2) trash and weed removal; (3) native species salvage and reuse (i.e., duff); (4) soil treatments (i.e., imprinting, decompacting); (5) temporary irrigation installation; (6) erosion-control measures (i.e., rice or willow wattles); (7) seed mix application; and (8) container species planting.
- E. Schedule. A schedule shall be developed which includes planting in late fall and early winter, between October 1 and January 30.
- F. Maintenance Plan/Guidelines. The Maintenance Plan shall include (1) weed control; (2) herbivory control; (3) trash removal; (4) irrigation system maintenance; (5) maintenance training; and (6) replacement planting.
- G. Monitoring plan. The Monitoring Plan shall include (1) qualitative monitoring (i.e., photographs and general observations); (2) quantitative monitoring (i.e., randomly placed transects); (3) performance criteria, as approved by the above-listed resource agencies; (4) monthly reports for the first year and reports quarterly thereafter; and (5) annual reports for five years, which shall be submitted to the resource agencies on an annual basis. The site shall be monitored and maintained for five years to ensure successful establishment of riparian habitat within the restored and created areas.
- H. Long-term preservation. Long-term preservation of the site shall also be outlined in the conceptual Mitigation Plan to ensure the mitigation site is not impacted by future development.

**Any areas of native riparian vegetation that would be temporarily disturbed by the Project's construction activities shall be maintained free of non-native vegetation for a period of five years or until native riparian species have become reestablished in the impact area. Removal of non-native vegetation shall occur at least one time per year over the five-year period in order to facilitate the establishment of native species.**

Upland vegetation that would be temporarily disturbed is limited in extent and surrounded by the Angeles National Forest, which is expected to provide seeds that would allow the area to restore naturally over time.

## **Response USFWS-12**

As requested by the USFWS and CDFW, LACFCD will repeat focused surveys for least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher in spring 2015. However, this additional survey is not required to respond to a new or more significant impact beyond what was discussed in the MND. The repeated focused surveys will be conducted to support the anticipated future issuance of regulatory permits.

An update of the coastal California gnatcatcher surveys is not considered necessary. As explained on pages 3-4 of the Coastal California Gnatcatcher Survey Report in Appendix G of the Biological Technical Report (Appendix B of the MND), "the only occurrence reported in the CNDDDB was from 1928 in an area that is now completely developed in the City of Arcadia (CDFG 2012). Based on the following information, the California gnatcatcher is likely absent from the Project Site at this time and is unlikely to occur in the near future: (1) the negative survey results reported here; (2) the lack of recent sightings in the survey area; (3) the presence of only marginally suitable habitat; (4) absence of an extant population of California gnatcatcher within known dispersal distances; and (5) the professional judgment of and experience of the surveying Biologist".



## **2.2 STATE AGENCIES**

- California Department of Transportation, District 7 (Caltrans), November 18, 2014
- Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), December 3, 2014

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
DISTRICT 7-OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
PHONE (213) 897-9140  
FAX (213) 897-1337  
www.dot.ca.gov



*Serious drought.  
Help save water!*

November 18, 2014

Mr. Matthew Frary  
Los Angeles County, Flood Control District  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

RE: Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management  
and Seismic Strengthening Project  
Mitigated Negative Declaration  
SCH#2014101044, IGR#141045FL  
Vic. LA/ 210/ PM R31.9

Dear Mr. Frary:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project would modify existing flood management and water conservation facilities along the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed.

Caltrans acknowledge RR TRA-1 on page 4-112 that oversize-transport vehicles on State highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. Also, we would like to remind you that any work to be performed within the State Right-of-way will need an Encroachment Permit. We recommend that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods. In addition, a truck/traffic construction management plan is needed for this project.

} 1

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Please be mindful that projects need to be designed to discharge clean run-off water. Additionally storm water run-off is not permitted to discharge onto State highway facilities.

} 2

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at (213) 897 – 9140 or project coordinator Frances Lee at (213) 897-0673 or electronically at [frances.lee@dot.ca.gov](mailto:frances.lee@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DIANNA WATSON  
Branch Chief, Community Planning & LD IGR Review

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system  
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

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## 2.2.1 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS)

November 18, 2014

### Response CalTrans-1

The proposed Project does not anticipate any work within Caltrans right-of-way or any other impacts to Caltrans facilities; therefore, the Project does not require an Encroachment Permit. Regarding the Project's truck traffic, RR TRA-2 in the MND requires the implementation of temporary traffic control in accordance with the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (Greenbook). The Contractor shall provide temporary traffic control in accordance with the Greenbook during construction activities. Regarding the limitation of truck traffic to off-peak commute periods, RR TRA-1 currently states that the Project would be subject to a moving permit, and requires revision. Accordingly PDF TRA-1 and RR TRA-1 have been revised to clarify peak-hour travel for heavy-duty truck traffic. The following text has been revised (see **bold** and ~~strikeout~~ text) in the MND for clarification.

**PDF TRA-1** Heavy-duty diesel truck vehicle (with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 10,000 lbs. or heavier) trips shall be scheduled to avoid school crosswalks at Highland Oaks Elementary School during peak drop-off hours between 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and pick-up hours between 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. **Heavy-duty diesel truck vehicle trips will be scheduled to avoid peak hours and holidays.** As required by State Commercial Vehicle Idling Regulations, trucks shall be prohibited from idling for more than 5 minutes if queuing within 100 feet from any residential area.

**RR TRA-1** The movement of large equipment on public roadways shall be made in compliance with the Los Angeles County Code (Title 16, Highway), ~~which requires a moving permit and which includes provisions regarding the size of vehicles/equipment; night moves; moving in inclement weather; parking on streets; travel outside peak hours and holidays; over-length, over-height, and over-width requirements; lighting; signs; and restricted routes.~~ Oversized transport vehicles on State highways, if required, would need to obtain a transportation permit from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Oversized transport vehicles on local roadways, if required, would need to obtain a transportation permit from the Cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre.

### Response CalTrans-2

The proposed Project would be implemented in compliance with all applicable regulations to ensure water quality, including RR HYD-1, with requires coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with the Construction and Land Disturbance Activities, and RR HYD-2, which compliance with all conditions of the Water Quality Certification issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to ensure that any discharge from the Project does not conflict with the applicable provisions of Sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, or any other applicable requirements of State law. Storm water runoff would not drain to State highway facilities.

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State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
South Coast Region  
3883 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 467-4201  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



December 3, 2014

Mr. Matthew Frary  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works, Water Resource Division  
900 S. Fremont Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91803  
[mfrary@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:mfrary@dpw.lacounty.gov)

**Subject: Comments on the Initial Study/Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project, Los Angeles County, (SCH# 2014101044)**

Dear Mr. Frary

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) dated October 20, 2014, for the abovementioned Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project (Project). The document was prepared by Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) acting as the Lead Agency (CEQA Guidelines § 15051). The Project, once approved, would allow LACFCD to modify existing flood management and water conservation facilities along the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed including the Santa Anita Dam (Dam), Santa Anita Headworks (Headworks), the Santa Anita Debris Dam (Debris Dam), and Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing.

The Project is located in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in Los Angeles County within the jurisdictions of the City of Arcadia, the City of Monrovia, County-owned land within the United States Forest Service (FS) boundary, and land located on the FS Angeles National Forest (ANF). The Dam is located at the northern most portion of the Project site on the ANF. The Dam is accessed via Chantry Flats Road, approximately 2.5 miles north of the City of Arcadia. The Headworks structure is located approximately 0.5 mile downstream of the Dam outside the ANF, and within the City of Arcadia just north of Highland Oaks Drive. The Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing is located approximately 450 feet downstream of the Headworks. The Debris Dam is located approximately 0.5 mile downstream of the Headworks within the cities of Arcadia and Monrovia, which is accessed via a maintenance road that runs along Santa Anita Wash. Released flow (during non-storm events) from the Dam runs downstream to the Headworks facility, which intercepts most of the flows and diverts them into an existing 30 inch reinforced concrete pipe diverting the flow to the Sierra Madre and Santa Anita Spreading Grounds. Water not taken in by the Headworks, continues downstream to the Debris Dam where it is diverted to the Santa Anita Spreading Grounds or released to the Santa Anita Channel downstream, which is tributary to the Rio Hondo and Los Angeles River.

The Dam, Headworks, and Debris Dam are operated and maintained by the LACFCD and serve to control and conserve the stormwater from the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed. The Project would improve the LACFCD's facilities ability to control and conserve water, and add an additional 518 acre-feet of additional water conservation capacity. The Project would be partially funded by a State of California Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

Mr. Matthew Frary  
County of Los Angeles  
December 3, 2014  
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and assistance from the City of Arcadia, the City of Sierra Madre, and the Raymond Basin Management Board. In addition to improving infrastructure for flood protection, the Project, as proposed, contributes to regional efforts to reduce dependence on imported water supplies by providing increased opportunities to recharge stormwater into the groundwater basin.

The Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing portion of the project includes the removal and replacement of the culvert located along the access road used to access the City of Arcadia's Wilderness Park and the Headworks. The upgrade of this crossing is proposed to ensure the roadway and crossing can withstand flows generated by a larger flood event. Approximately 30 feet of the channel upstream and downstream of the existing Culvert Crossing structure would be graded and recoutoured to accommodate the new structure.

The projected construction start dates and duration for the various Project components are detailed in the MND (see Table 3-1). Construction of the Project is anticipated to commence in the winter of 2015 and end in the fall of 2016. Certain elements of each Project component (the Dam, Headworks, Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing, and Debris Dam) would not be performed during the wet season (October to April) in order to ensure flood control and water conservation efforts proceed satisfactorily.

The area surrounding the Dam is undeveloped and comprised of natural vegetation types, including oak (*Quercus ssp.*), sycamore (*Plantanus ssp.*), cottonwood (*Populus ssp.*), and alder (*Alnus ssp.*) woodlands, southern mixed chaparral and mixed coastal sage scrub, as well as unvegetated cliff faces. The area along Santa Anita Canyon between the Dam and the Headworks consists of a canyon with vertical walls and very steep slopes that are either unvegetated or dominated by dense chaparral. Further downstream towards the Debris Dam, vegetation types include mixed coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, southern sycamore alder riparian woodland, southern riparian forest, sycamore alluvial woodland, mule fat scrub, coast live oak woodland, mixed woodland, oak woodland, ornamental, and non-native annual grasses and forbs.

The Project covers an area of 115.50 acres (ac.), consisting of 14.09 ac. mixed coastal sage scrub, 4.99 ac. disturbed mixed coastal sage scrub, 9.08 ac. southern mixed chaparral, 12.72 ac. southern mixed chaparral/mixed coastal sage scrub, 0.50 ac. disturbed southern mixed chaparral/mixed coastal sage scrub, 1.15 ac. southern mixed chaparral/ rock outcroppings, 6.36 ac. southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, 1.80 ac. sycamore alluvial woodland/southern riparian forest, 3.83 ac. southern sycamore alder riparian woodland, 5.99 ac. mule fat scrub, 2.61 ac. coast live oak woodland, 0.55 ac. mixed woodland, 6.03 ac. oak woodland/southern 3.86 ac. ornamental, 3.38 ac. ornamental/coast live oak woodland, 0.63 ac. ruderal, 23.87 ac. disturbed, 8.90 ac. developed, 0.17 ac. rock outcroppings and 4.99 ac. open water (see *Biological Technical Report*, Table 4).

The Project, as proposed in the MND (see Table 4-8 for specific breakdown), would have permanent impacts to 2.32 ac. and temporary impacts to 17.60 ac. of abovementioned vegetation communities. The additional inundation area is not currently described as a permanent or temporary impact in the MND, but is disclosed as affecting an additional 3.10 acres above the existing condition where stormwater is temporarily impounded and returned to 761 feet above mean sea level as soon as practicable after each storm event (MND, pg. 2-5).



Mr. Matthew Frary  
County of Los Angeles  
December 3, 2014  
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The following statements and comments have been prepared pursuant to the Department's authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the Project (California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines §15386) and pursuant to our authority as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Guidelines Section 15381 over those aspects of the proposed Project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code §2050 et seq.) and Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq.

1. **Project Description.** One goal for the Project is to improve the facilities to better manage stormwater runoff from the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed, and add a total of 518 acre-feet of water conservation capacity (pg. 2-3). As an example, the MND assumes impacts based on the original design build and not the current conditions. The Project Description and the impact analysis for the Debris Basin should more adequately reflect direct and indirect effects to the existing biological resources based on the current operations versus the 119 acre foot original design capacity (MND pg. 3-4)<sup>1</sup>. Because the MND does not completely describe current and future operating conditions, the MND provides an incomplete assessment of the significance of the Project's impacts as it relates to biological resources. The Department recommends the final MND include a complete Project Description of the current conditions and the anticipated operations along with an explanation as to why each Project-related impact (direct and indirect) is not significant or is mitigated to below a level of significance. } 1
  
2. **Effect of Additional Inundation Behind Debris Dam.** The MND states seismic retrofit will result in a total of 159 acre-feet of water conservation storage capacity behind the Debris Dam when combining the re-establishment of design capacity of 119 acre-feet (last achieved in 1995) with the additional 40 acre-feet capacity gained from raising of the spillway. The MND concludes that the increased frequency of flooding and elevated standing water would increase the duration and depth of inundation, but would not substantially impact the riparian vegetation within the 159 acre-feet elevation limits (MND, pg. 4-45). While mulefat and willow riparian habitats can tolerate significant flooding and inundation, sage scrub and cottonwood/alders may not. Effects to less tolerant species may result in mortality, significantly stunted growth, or type conversion to more tolerant species. These effects would result in additional impacts to habitat not disclosed in MND. The Department recommends the final MND fully analyze the impacts associated with other non-riparian habitats, including sage scrub that would be impacted by the expansion of the inundation area. } 2
  
3. **CESA.** The Department considers adverse impacts to a species protected by CESA, for the purposes of CEQA, to be significant without mitigation. As to CESA, take of any endangered, threatened, or candidate species that results from the Project is prohibited, except as authorized by state law (Fish and Game Code, §§ 2080, 2085.) Consequently, if the Project, Project construction, or any Project-related activity during the life of the Project will result in take of a species designated as endangered or threatened, or a candidate for listing under CESA, the Department recommends that the Project proponent seek appropriate take authorization under CESA prior to implementing

<sup>1</sup> Effects of a project considered under CEQA are defined in Guidelines Section 15358. A significant effect on the environment is generally defined as a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the physical environment at the time the Initial Study is prepared.

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the Project. Appropriate authorization from the Department may include an incidental take permit (ITP) or a consistency determination in certain circumstances, among other options (Fish and Game Code §§ 2080.1, 2081, subds. (b),(c)). Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. The issuance of an ITP by the Department is subject to CEQA. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January, 1998, may require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of an ITP unless a CEQA document that may be currently associated with the activity addresses all project impacts to CESA-listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of an ITP. For these reasons, biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA ITP.

a. **Riparian Bird Species.** The MND indicates that CESA or Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) species are not expected to occur in the Project area based on negative survey results or lack of suitable habitat. Focused surveys for FESA- and CESA-listed least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), were conducted in 2012. No observations were detected. To avoid impacts to these CESA-listed species, the Department recommends additional focused surveys occur for these species in suitable habitat, prior to construction, as these species may be absent one year and present the next.

3A

b. **Townsend's Big Eared Bat.** Focused surveys for CESA-listed (candidate species) Townsend's big eared bat, were conducted in July, 2014, and Townsend's big eared bat were detected. The MND states that although the roosting location was not definitively determined, it is assumed to be significantly distant from Study Area. The MND concludes substantial adverse effects to this species would be avoided because suitable roosting habitat is not present within or adjacent to project work areas, so direct impacts to individuals can be avoided. Townsend's big eared bat populations appear to be sedentary, and individuals are not known to move more than a few kilometers from their natal roost, and the species may use separate sites for night, day, hibernation, or maternity roosts (Harris 2000)<sup>2</sup>.

3B

The MND proposes MM BIO-4 to avoid direct impacts to individual bats by installing exclusionary devices. Because Townsends's big eared bat demonstrates high fidelity to roost sites and suitable roosts are limited for this species, the Department would consider this impact significant enough to cause mortality and requires consultation with the Department under CESA. The Department recommends the final MND commit to additional surveys to determine the use of the Project area by Townsend's big eared bat and coordinate survey results with the Department to determine if an ITP is necessary.

4. **Impacts to Streams.** The Project, as proposed, would have effects to streambeds in the Santa Anita Watershed. The Department has regulatory authority with regard to activities occurring in streams and/or lakes that could adversely affect any fish or wildlife

4

<sup>2</sup> Harris, J. 2000. "Life History Account for Townsend's Big Eared Bat." Updated by CWHR Program Staff, May 2000. California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System, California Department of Fish and Game Interagency Wildlife Task Group. Accessed November 24, 2014. <https://nrmsecure.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentVersionID=2347>

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resource. For any activity that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) or a river or stream or use material from a streambed, the Project applicant (or "entity") must provide written notification to the Department pursuant to Section 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code. Based on this notification and other information, the Department then determines whether a LSAA Agreement is required. The Department's issuance of a LSAA may be a project that is subject to CEQA. To facilitate our issuance of the LSAA the Department as a Responsible Agency under CEQA may consider the local jurisdiction's (Lead Agency) document for the project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to all stream and riparian resources and any listed species and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSAA. Early consultation is recommended, since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. The Department may condition further measures in the LSAA that are designed to mitigate for unavoidable project impacts to riparian resources. These measures may include on site or off site preservation and protection in perpetuity under a conservation easement of riparian habitat to be managed by a local land conservancy.

Further information on the Department's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program and initiating a Department streambed jurisdiction determination may be found at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/>. LSAA Agreement Notification forms and form completion instructions may be found at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/forms.html>.

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cont.

5. **Inundation Effects on Nesting Birds.** Sudden changes to water levels during the avian nesting season may have a significant impact on breeding birds, in particular water fowl (protected by Fish and Game Code 3503), due to the sudden loss of ponded water or a sudden increase in water levels within nesting habitat. The Department recommends the MND include measures to minimize the effects of a sudden diversion of water that may be seasonally utilized by wildlife behind the Debris Dam. The Department recommends drastic surface water reductions be avoided, to the extent feasible from February 1 through August 31, to reduce impacts to nesting avian species.

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6. **General Native Bird Avoidance.** MM BIO-3, MND page 4-53 describes measures to reduce impacts to nesting birds and describes the nesting season from March 15 to September 15 and for nesting raptors from February 1 to June 30. Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13). Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of all birds and their active nests including raptors and other migratory nongame birds (as listed under the Federal MBTA).

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Proposed project construction activities (including, but not limited to, staging and disturbances to native and nonnative vegetation, structures, and substrates) should occur outside of the avian breeding season, which generally runs from February 1-August 31 (as early as January 1 for some raptors) to avoid take of birds or their eggs. Take means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill (Fish and Game Code Section 86), and includes take of eggs and/or young resulting from disturbances that cause abandonment of active nests. Depending

Mr. Matthew Frary  
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on the avian species present, a qualified biologist may determine that a change in the breeding season dates is warranted.

If avoidance of the avian breeding season is not feasible, the Department recommends that, beginning thirty days prior to the initiation of project activities, a qualified biologist with experience in conducting breeding bird surveys conduct weekly bird surveys to detect protected native birds occurring in suitable nesting habitat that is to be disturbed and (as access to adjacent areas allows) any other such habitat within 300 feet of the disturbance area (within 500 feet for raptors). The surveys should continue on a weekly basis with the last survey being conducted no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of project activities. If a protected native bird is found, the Project proponent should delay all Project activities within 300 feet of on and off-site suitable nesting habitat (within 500 feet for suitable raptor nesting habitat) until August 31. Alternatively, the qualified biologist could continue the surveys in order to locate any nests. If an active nest is located, Project activities within 300 feet of the nest (within 500 feet for raptor nests), or as determined by a qualified biological monitor, must be postponed until the nest is vacated, juveniles have fledged, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Flagging, stakes, and/or construction fencing should be used to demarcate the inside boundary of the buffer of 300 feet (or 500 feet) between the Project activities and the nest. Project personnel, including all contractors working on site, should be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. The LACFCD should retain the results of the recommended protective measures described above to document compliance with applicable State and Federal laws pertaining to the protection of native birds.

If the biological monitor determines that a narrower buffer between the Project activities and observed active nests is warranted, he/she should submit a written explanation as to why (e.g., species-specific information, ambient conditions and birds' habituation to them, and the terrain, vegetation, and birds' lines of sight between the Project activities and the nest and foraging areas) to the LACFCD project manager and, upon request, the Department. Based on the submitted information, the LACFCD Project manager should determine whether to allow a narrower buffer.

The Department recommends a biological monitor be present on site during all grubbing and clearing of vegetation to ensure that these activities remain within the Project footprint (i.e., outside the demarcated buffer) and that the flagging/stakes/fencing is being maintained, and to minimize the likelihood that active nests are abandoned or fail due to Project activities. The biological monitor should send weekly monitoring reports to the LACFCD during the grubbing and clearing of vegetation, and should notify the LACFCD immediately if Project activities damage active avian nests.

7. **General impacts to Bat Species.** The MND concludes that the Project has potential to directly impact roosting bats, (MND pg. 1-16) and considers this a significant impact requiring mitigation (see MND MM-BIO4). However, in regards to direct loss of roosting habitat from the Project, the MND considers this less than significant because other suitable roosting habitat is present in the vicinity of the Project. The MND should clarify how this conclusion was supported. The loss of roosting habitat is considered one of the primary conservation issues facing bat populations. Some populations may or may not have adequate alternative roosts. The Department would consider loss of a maternity roost a significant impact and recommend mitigation for the loss of maternal roosts. The

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cont.

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Mr. Matthew Frary  
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importance of non-maternal roosts to health and survivorship should be evaluated by a qualified bat biologist based on the species being affected. The assessment of roost sensitivity and importance should consider scale of the impacts on site, regionally, and cumulatively at the species level by a qualified bat biologist.

The Department recommends the final MND modify MM BIO-4 to commit to applicable mitigation measures only after appropriate surveys are complete enough to provide the needed information on specific bat populations in the Project Area. This usually requires surveys conducted to locate day, night, and hibernating roosts along with foraging areas. MM BIO-4 should commit to mitigation for unavoidable loss of maternity/day roosts and avoid mortality of young unable to fly (spring) and adults in torpor (winter). The Project should exclude bats from directly affected work areas utilizing appropriate methods and exclusion devices, ideally installed between October 1 and November 30, within the twelve month period prior to construction when chances of directly impacting juveniles and individuals in hibernation are the lowest. The selection and installation of the devices should be under the direction of a qualified bat biologist. Exclusion should be done selectively, and only to the extent necessary, to prevent morbidity or mortality to the bats. Bat exclusion devices should be inspected at least weekly between March 1 and May 31 and monthly thereafter, and any deficiencies shall be corrected or devices shall be modified to function appropriately. The Department recommends LACFCD consult with Department if occupancy is noted during May inspections to determine if construction should proceed at that location. Exclusionary devices should be removed at the end of construction. The Department recommends a monthly report summarizing materials, methods, inspection results, and exclusionary device effectiveness be submitted to LACFCD's Project manager by a qualified bat biologist.

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cont.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the MND for the project and to assist in further minimizing and mitigating project impacts to biological resources. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Matt Chirdon by telephone (805) 640-1165 or email at [matthew.chirdon@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:matthew.chirdon@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

  
for Betty J. Courtney  
Environmental Program Manager I  
South Coast Region

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## 2.2.2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW)

December 3, 2014

### Response CDFW-1

See Responses USFWS-2 through USFWS-9.

### Response CDFW-2

See Response USFWS-2 and USFWS-9.

### Response CDFW-3A

See Response USFWS-12.

### Response CDFW-3B

The surveys that were conducted for bats were not focused surveys specifically for Townsend's big-eared bat, they were surveys for bat roost locations of any bat species in the Project Work Areas. The roosting bat survey methodology was approved by Matt Chirdon with CDFW prior to the surveys being conducted. The roosting bat methodology included exit counts (i.e., visual observation) and acoustical recording from prior to sunset to three hours after sunset.

Townsend's big-eared bat was detected more than an hour after sunset, which indicates that the individual(s) likely flew to the Santa Anita Dam's reservoir to forage from an offsite, but likely nearby (within one kilometer), roost in the surrounding forest lands. Townsend's big-eared bats typically roost in congregations in caves (or similar structures) that are subject to minimal human disturbance for day-roosting, maternity-roosting, and winter-torpor activities. Neither the Dam nor other structures within the Project Work Areas provide cave-like structures with minimal human disturbance. Additionally, no caves or cave-like structures were observed immediately adjacent to Project Work Areas during the roosting bat survey effort. However, suitable roosting habitat is likely present within the surrounding areas of Santa Anita Canyon where the canyon walls and associated rocky outcroppings support varying structural complexity and potentially cave-like features. These canyon walls and outcroppings were not surveyed in detail as part of the roosting bat survey effort, however, the abundance of large, isolated, open, rocky features in the surrounding vicinity was noted during the roosting bat survey. Thus, the Biologist that conducted the surveys concluded that the Townsend's big-eared bat individual(s) detected during the survey forage at the reservoir, but likely roost somewhere within the surrounding forest lands. It is not considered necessary to determine exactly where the Townsend's big-eared bat is roosting, as long as it is not roosting within the Project Work Area, as appears to be the case.

The following text has been revised (see **bold** and ~~strikeout~~ text) on page 4-42 of the MND to clarify this finding. These revisions result in the same finding as was originally made in the MND, but provides more background and justification to address the CDFW comment. These revisions are included in Section 4.0, Errata.

Townsend's big-eared bat typically roosts in caves **or similar structures that are subject to minimal human disturbance. No caves or cave-like structures that would be subject to minimal human disturbance were observed in Project Work Areas;** and is therefore, **Townsend's big-eared bat** is not expected to roost in the Dam or other structures **in Project Work Areas. While suitable roosting habitat is likely**

**present within the surrounding areas of Santa Anita Canyon where the canyon walls and rocky outcroppings provide cave-like features**, ~~Additionally, no caves or cave-like structures were observed immediately adjacent to Project Work Areas during the roosting bat survey.~~ **Based on the lack of suitable roosting habitat on the Dam and the timing of the first recorded call (i.e., more than one hour after sunset),** ~~acoustical surveys indicated that the Townsend's big-eared bat that was observed foraging at the Dam likely roosted some distance from~~ **outside of the Project Work Area, somewhere within the surrounding forest, based on the timing of the first recorded call after dusk and traveled to Dam to forage.** Therefore, the Project is not expected to impact roosting Townsend's big-eared bat or any of its roosts.

The MND includes the requirement for pre-construction surveys and exclusionary measures to ensure that no roosting bats or maternal roosts are directly impacted by Project activities (MM BIO-4). MM BIO-4 is revised per CDFW comments under Response CDFW-7 below and in the Errata. Based on the findings of the surveys for bat roost locations in the Project Work Areas conducted to support the analysis within the MND, and with the incorporation of MM BIO-4, no additional surveys were determined to be necessary. However, CDFW has requested the conduct of an additional survey to confirm the absence of Townsend's big-eared bat roosting in Project Work Areas. Because there is no adopted CDFW protocol survey standards for Townsend's big-eared bat, LACFCD will coordinate directly with CDFW to determine acceptable survey site-specific protocols, which will be completed prior to the commencement of construction activities at the Santa Anita Dam.

#### **Response CDFW-4**

The MND analyzes impacts on stream and riparian resources and any listed species (see pages 4-45 through 4-49 and 4-40 through 4-44, respectively). MM BIO-5 of the MND requires that the LACFCD obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA).

#### **Response CDFW-5**

See Response USFWS-9. The Debris Dam would continue to operate as it currently does; inundation would occur primarily during the storm season (i.e., October to April) for periods of ten days or less depending on the size of the storm. Inundation events would occur when storms occur, primarily during the storm season, which is mostly outside the breeding season; however, there may be some late season storms at the beginning of the breeding season (i.e., March/April) that could affect nesting as noted on page 4-46 of the MND. Since the Debris Dam's basin typically doesn't pond water for an extended period of time during the beginning of the breeding season, waterfowl that prefer nesting near ponds would be unlikely to choose to nest in the Debris Dam's basin. If they did, they would be unlikely to be affected by a "drastic surface water reduction" because water percolates into the Debris Dam's basin or is released to the spreading grounds gradually over a period of a few days; releasing the water gradually maximizes water conservation.

#### **Response CDFW-6**

The following has been added to MM BIO-3 (see **bold** and ~~strikeout~~ text) on pages 1-14 to 1-15 and 4-54 to 4-55 of the MND. These revisions result in mitigation with the same or more stringent requirements and would be equally or more effective in reducing the significant impact. These revisions are included in Section 4.0, Errata.

**MM BIO-3:** The Project shall be conducted in compliance with the conditions set forth in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and *California Fish and Game Code* with methods



approved by USFWS and CDFW to protect active bird/raptor nests. The nature of the Project requires that work would be initiated during the breeding season for nesting birds (~~March 15–September 15~~) and nesting raptors (February 1–~~June 30~~**August 31**). The LACFCD, in consultation with a qualified Biologist, may employ bird exclusionary measures (e.g., mylar flagging) prior to the start of bird breeding season to minimize opportunities for birds to nest within established boundaries of the Project. In order to avoid direct impacts on active nests, a pre-construction survey **for nesting birds and raptors** shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist (**i.e. one with experience conducting nesting bird surveys**) ~~for nesting birds and/or raptors~~ within 3 days prior to clearing of any vegetation or any work near existing structures (i.e., within 50 feet for nesting birds, **within 300 feet for nesting special status birds**, and within 500 feet for nesting raptors). If the Biologist does not find any active nests within or immediately adjacent to the impact area, the vegetation clearing/construction work shall be allowed to proceed. **A letter report shall be prepared and submitted to LACFCD to document the survey findings and recommended protective measures.**

If the Biologist finds an active nest within or immediately adjacent to the construction area and determines that the nest may be impacted or breeding activities substantially disrupted, the Biologist shall delineate an appropriate buffer zone (at a minimum of 25 feet **for common birds, 300 feet for special status birds, and 500 feet for nesting raptors**) around the nest depending on the sensitivity of the species and the nature of the construction activity. **If the Biologist determines that a narrower buffer area is warranted, he/she shall submit a written explanation as to why (e.g., species-specific information, ambient conditions and birds' habituation to them, and the terrain, vegetation, and birds' line of sight between the Project and the nest/foraging areas) to the LACFCD Project Manager, and upon request to CDFW. Based on the submitted information, the LACFCD Project Manager shall determine whether to allow a narrower buffer. A letter report or memorandum shall be prepared by the Biologist to document the protective measures and to document compliance with applicable federal and State laws pertaining to the protection of nesting birds.**

Any nest found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. The active nest shall be protected until nesting activity has ended. To protect any nest site, the following restrictions to construction activities shall be required until nests are no longer active, as determined by a qualified Biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a buffer around any occupied nest (the buffer shall be 25–100 feet for nesting birds, **and 300 feet for special status birds, and 500 feet for nesting raptors**), unless otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within the buffer of any occupied nest, unless otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist. Encroachment into the buffer area around a known nest shall only be allowed if the Biologist determines that the proposed activity would not disturb the nest occupants. **Flagging, stakes, and/or construction fencing shall be used to demarcate the buffer around the nest and construction personnel shall be instructed as to the sensitivity of the area.** Construction can proceed when the qualified Biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest or the nest has failed.

The following has been added to PDF BIO-1 (see **bold** text) on pages 1-5 and 4-39 of the MND. These revisions result in mitigation with the same or more stringent requirements and would be equally or more effective in reducing the significant impact. These revisions are included in Section 4.0, Errata.

**PDF BIO-1:** A Biological Monitor will be on site during vegetation clearing in Project Work Areas (e.g., limits of disturbance). The Biological Monitor will confirm that the limits of Project Work Areas **and any Environmentally Sensitive Areas (e.g., nesting birds)** are clearly marked. The Biological Monitor shall provide environmental awareness training to the Contractor; the training will include a discussion of native habitat types, special status species that may occur in the Project Work Areas, direction for what to do if a special status species is observed, and an overview of applicable permit conditions. Prior to construction, the Biological Monitor will conduct a pre-clearing sweep of the Project Work Area and will flush or move wildlife outside the Project Work Area to the extent practicable. **The Biological Monitor shall send weekly monitoring reports to the LACFCD during vegetation clearing and shall notify LACFCD immediately if construction damages any active nests and/or if any Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect biological resources require repair.**

#### Response CDFW-7

The Project Study Area consists of a total of 115.50 acres, of which approximately 25.88 acres is considered woodland or rocky outcroppings that would be potentially utilized by roosting bats. It should be noted that the study area has been arbitrarily defined to include a suitable buffer around Project Work Areas to evaluate indirect effects; however, the Project Study Area is surrounded by the Angeles National Forest. Page 4-43 of the MND evaluates the loss of 0.57 acre of roosting habitat as a result of the Project. This is a 2% loss of habitat within the Project Study Area and a vastly smaller fraction when considering the amount of suitable roosting habitat throughout the Angeles National Forest. No maternal roosts were detected during the roosting bat survey, which was conducted during the breeding season. The assessment described within the MND was made by a qualified bat Biologist. Additionally, the MND includes pre-construction surveys and exclusionary measures to ensure that no roosting bats or maternal roosts are directly impacted by Project activities (MM BIO-4).

Upon review of this section of the MND, it was discovered that the loss of roosting habitat calculation should be 0.61 acre of habitat, as shown below. This revision (on page 4-43 of the MND) results in the same finding (i.e., 2% loss of roosting habitat in the study area and less regionally). Additionally, Townsend's big-eared bat should not have been included in this list of roosting species since it is not expected to roost on the Dam as explained under Response CDFW-3; this was not appropriately revised after the Project Work Areas were evaluated by a qualified bat Biologist. These revisions (see **bold** and ~~strikeout~~ text) are included in Section 4.0, Errata.

As shown in Table 4-8 and mapped on Exhibit 4-3, the total combined loss of ~~0.57~~**0.61** acre of southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, sycamore alluvial woodland/southern riparian forest, and coast live oak woodland would remove potential roosting habitat for bat species that roost in trees (i.e., silver-haired bat, western red bat, and hoary bat); bat species that roost on cliffs and rocky outcroppings could be affected by repair of gunite adjacent to the Dam and/or construction on structures at the Dam and Headworks (i.e., pallid bat, ~~Townsend's big-eared bat~~, fringed myotis, western mastiff bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, and big free-tailed bat).

LACFCD has incorporated recommended language into MM BIO-4 as follows (see **bold** and ~~strikeout~~ text) on pages 1-16 and 4-55 of the MND. These revisions result in mitigation with the same or more stringent requirements and would be equally or more effective in reducing the significant impact. These revisions are included in Section 4.0, Errata.

**MM BIO-4:** Water shall be drained or re-routed around Project Work Areas at least one month prior to construction to deter bats from roosting in the vicinity of the Work Areas.

~~If exclusionary measures have not already been installed on all potential roost structures within the Project Work Area, a~~ **A** pre-construction follow-up roosting bat survey (including both day and evening efforts) shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist ~~within two weeks prior to~~ **installation of exclusionary measures** ~~the initiation of construction~~ to ensure that no active day-roosts would be impacted. The day survey will involve inspecting the structures for sign of bat roosting. The evening survey will involve monitoring each potential roost site for evening emergence, conducting exit counts, and acoustic monitoring (from a half an hour before sunset to at least ~~one~~ **three** hours after sunset) near potential roosts **locations**. If active bat day-roosts, **maternity-roosts, or hibernating-roosts** occur within the Project Work Area, bat exclusion devices shall be installed under the supervision of a qualified biologist **between October 1 and November 30 (when the chance of impacting juveniles and individuals in hibernation is the lowest) within the 12-month period** prior to the start of construction. **Exclusion shall be done selectively, and only to the extent necessary to prevent bat injury and mortality.**

If active bat ~~day~~-roosts occur within structures proposed for removal/repair (including gunite repair on hill slopes), **or within an area that would be indirectly impacted by Project activities**, then exclusionary measures, such as barriers with one-way doors or ~~permanent~~ **other** exclusion (e.g., caulking or wire mesh), shall be installed under the supervision of a qualified Biologist. **Bat exclusion devices shall be inspected weekly by a qualified bat Biologist from March 1 through May 31 and monthly thereafter; any deficiencies shall be corrected or devices shall be modified to function appropriately. The Biologist shall prepare monthly reports to summarize the inspections and to report on the effectiveness of the exclusionary measures; the reports shall be submitted to LACFCD's Project Manager. If roosting bats are noted within any of the Project Work Areas during the breeding season, LACFCD shall contact CDFW to determine whether construction should proceed in that area. Temporary exclusionary measures shall be removed at the completion of construction.**

If active bat day-roosts occur within trees proposed for removal, then either tree removal shall be conducted between ~~September~~ **October 1** and November **30** (to avoid the bat maternity and the bat hibernation season), or the tree removal will occur under the supervision of a qualified Biologist and will utilize phased tree trimming. If avoidance of bat hibernation and bat maternity season is not feasible, then exclusionary measures, such as netting or phased tree trimming, shall be implemented after the evening roost emergence under the supervision of a qualified Biologist. Once bats have been excluded from the trees to be removed, then tree removal can proceed.

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Ken Alex  
Director

November 19, 2014

Matthew Frary  
Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

Subject: Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project  
SCH#: 2014101044

Dear Matthew Frary:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on November 18, 2014, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044  
TEL (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2014101044  
**Project Title** Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project  
**Lead Agency** Los Angeles County Flood Control District

**Type** MND Mitigated Negative Declaration  
**Description** The Project would modify existing flood management and water conservation facilities along the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed, including the Santa Anita Dam, the Santa Anita Headworks, the Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing, and the Santa Anita Debris Dam. The LACFCD facility improvements would: (1) reduce flood risk to downstream communities; (2) enhance sustainability of the local water supply and increase recharge to the groundwater basin by over 500 acre-feet per year; (3) improve all-weather access to the Arcadia Wilderness Park by constructing a new culvert crossing.

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Matthew Frary  
**Agency** Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
**Phone** 626 458 6111 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 900 South Fremont Avenue  
**City** Alhambra **State** CA **Zip** 91803

**Project Location**

**County** Los Angeles  
**City** Arcadia, Monrovia  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long** 34° 10' 16.03" N / 118° 1' 21.96" W  
**Cross Streets** Elkins Ave. and Lower Clamshell Truck Route  
**Parcel No.** 5765-001-900  
**Township** 1N **Range** 11W **Section** 15 **Base**

**Proximity to:**

**Highways** I-210  
**Airports** No  
**Railways** No  
**Waterways** Santa Anita Canyon Wash  
**Schools** Highland Oaks ES  
**Land Use** USFS - Back Country Motorized Use Restricted; Arcadia - Residential Mountainous; Monrovia-Hillside Wilderness Preserve

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

**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Caltrans, District 7; Air Resources Board; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; Department of Toxic Substances Control; Native American Heritage Commission

**Date Received** 10/17/2014 **Start of Review** 10/20/2014 **End of Review** 11/18/2014

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
DISTRICT 7—OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
PHONE (213) 897-9140  
FAX (213) 897-1337  
www.dot.ca.gov

CLEAR  
11-18-14  
E



Serious drought.  
Help save water!

November 18, 2014

Mr. Matthew Frary  
Los Angeles County, Flood Control District  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803



RE: Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management  
and Seismic Strengthening Project  
Mitigated Negative Declaration  
SCH#2014101044, IGR#141045FL  
Vic. LA/ 210/ PM R31.9

Dear Mr. Frary:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project would modify existing flood management and water conservation facilities along the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed.

Caltrans acknowledge RR TRA-1 on page 4-112 that oversize-transport vehicles on State highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. Also, we would like to remind you that any work to be performed within the State Right-of-way will need an Encroachment Permit. We recommend that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods. In addition, a truck/traffic construction management plan is needed for this project.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Please be mindful that projects need to be designed to discharge clean run-off water. Additionally storm water run-off is not permitted to discharge onto State highway facilities.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at (213) 897 – 9140 or project coordinator Frances Lee at (213) 897-0673 or electronically at [frances.lee@dot.ca.gov](mailto:frances.lee@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DIANNA WATSON  
Branch Chief, Community Planning & LD IGR Review

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system  
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

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## **2.2.3 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT (SCH)**

**November 19, 2014**

### **Response SCH-1**

This comment letter acknowledges the receipt of MND and confirms that the LACFCD has complied with the SCH review requirements. The attached letter from the Department of Transportation- District 7 is addressed in Section 2.2.1 of this document.

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### **2.3 LOCAL AGENCIES**

- County of Los Angeles, Fire Department (LACFD), November 14, 2014
- City of Arcadia, Public Works Services Department (Arcadia), December 3, 2014

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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

November 14, 2014

Jemellee Cruz, Staff Member  
Department of Public Works  
Water Resources Division  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Jemellee Cruz:

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, "SANTA ANITA STORMWATER FLOOD  
MANAGEMENT AND SEISMIC STRENGTHENING PROJECT," IT WOULD MODIFY  
EXISTING FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION FACILITIES  
ALONG THE SANTA ANITA CANYON WATERSHED, ANGELES NATIONAL  
FOREST, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (FFER #201400199)**

The Mitigated Negative Declaration has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The following are their comments:

**PLANNING DIVISION:**

1. The subject property is not within the Los Angeles County Fire Department (also known as the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County) jurisdictional boundaries; therefore, this project does not appear to have any impact on the emergency responsibilities of this Department.

} 1

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

AGOURA HILLS	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HICOEN HILLS	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INGLISTRY	LAKEWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	COMMERCE	GLENORA	IRWINDALE	LAWNOALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	CUOAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA HABRA	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAG
BRADBURY							WHITTIER

Jemellee Cruz, Staff Member  
November 14, 2014  
Page 2

**LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:**

1. The Land Development Unit does not have any comments at this time for this project. If there are any questions regarding the Land Development Unit's response, please contact FPEA Wally Collins at (323) 890-4243 or [wally.collins@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:wally.collins@fire.lacounty.gov). } 2

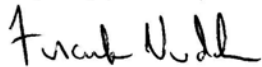
**FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:**

1. The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. } 3

**HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:**

1. The Health Hazardous Materials Division has no objection to the proposed project. } 4
- If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,



FRANK VIDALES, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION  
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

FV:jl

### **2.3.1 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT (LACFD)**

**November 14, 2014**

#### **Response LACFD-1**

As stated on page 4-106 of the MND, fire protection for the Project area is currently provided by the City of Arcadia Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The LACFD's concurrence with the MND is noted.

#### **Response LACFD-2**

The LACFD's concurrence with the MND is noted.

#### **Response LACFD-3**

As stated in the MND, compliance with RR HYD-1 and RR HYD-2 would prevent erosion and ensure that any discharge from the Project would not conflict with the applicable water quality standards or requirements. All potentially significant impacts related to biological resources, including oak trees, are adequately addressed through MMs BIO-1 through BIO-5, including revisions set forth in the Errata. Project implementation would not affect fuel modification, as the locations of the Project improvements would be within the same development area as the current facilities. As stated in the MND, compliance with RR CUL-1 and RR CUL-2 would prevent impacts to cultural resources.

#### **Response LACFD-4**

The LACFD's concurrence with the MND is noted.

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# City of Arcadia

## Public Works Services Department

Tom Tait  
*Public Works Services Director*

December 3, 2014

Mr. Matthew Frary, P.E.  
Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Water Resources Division  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California 91803-1331

**RE: Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic  
Strengthening Project**

Dear Mr. Frary:

The City of Arcadia thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project (Project). The document has been circulated to all applicable City Departments for their comments. It is our understanding that the proposed project would modify three existing flood management and water conservation facilities along the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed which are operated and maintained by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). These facilities include the Dam, the Headworks, and the Debris Dam, which serve to control and conserve the stormwaters of the Santa Anita Canyon Watershed.

The City agrees that the Project is both timely and necessary, and acknowledges that the construction of the Project has the potential to produce certain environmental challenges. The City agrees with the determination that these challenges can be properly mitigated as identified and detailed in the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and would therefore have less than a significant impact. However, the City would like the following comments to be considered in the final preparation of this document.

### COMMENTS

#### Section 1.1.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS – Headworks

1. City requests the County review proposed alternative temporary access road alignments at the culvert crossing to avoid removing the two sycamore trees downstream of the crossing. } 1
2. It is the City's understanding that the sewer forced main and water main will need to be realigned both horizontally and vertically to accommodate the raising of the culvert crossing and that this work will be included as part of the Project. } 2

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Post Office Box 60021  
Arcadia, CA 91066-6021  
(626) 256-6554  
(626) 359-7028 Fax  
www.ci.arcadia.ca.us

Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management  
and Seismic Strengthening Project  
Page 2 of 2

Section 1.3.1 PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

- PDF-AES-1 City recommends using existing rocks stored at the Santa Anita SPS in order to reduce the need to import material through local streets. } 3
- PDF-TRA-1 City requests that the queuing of all trucks on residential streets be minimized to every extent possible } 4
- RR-NOI-1 The City of Arcadia Municipal Code (4261) limits the hours of work to the hours of 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM on weekdays and 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Saturdays (see also Section 3.2 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION) } 5

1.3.3 MITIGATION MEASURES

- MM-AES-1 Replacement of trees shall utilize 36" boxed trees } 6
- MM-BIO-1 The City requests that the Public Works Services Department be included in the protection and monitoring of oak trees in the Project area } 7

Section 2.2.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND NEED

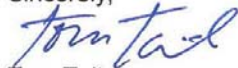
- 1. It should be noted that the Project will benefit the cities of Sierra Madre and Arcadia by providing increased groundwater recharge to the East Raymond Basin } 8

Section 3.2 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION – Dam, Headworks and Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing, and Debris Dam

- 1. The City strongly encourages that materials removed in the course of excavations and demolition should be recycled onsite to every extent practicable in order to reduce the number of truck trips required to export and import materials used in construction. This includes, but is not limited to, soil and backfill material, concrete, crushed miscellaneous base, boulders, and rip-rap. } 9

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on this document. If you have any questions regarding the comments provided, please feel free to contact me at 626-305-1386.

Sincerely,



Tom Tait  
Public Works Services Director

c: Jason Kruckeberg, Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director

## **2.3.2 CITY OF ARCADIA, PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ARCADIA)**

**December 3, 2014**

### **Response Arcadia-1**

As stated on pages 3-3 and 3-4 of the MND, the assembly of a temporary bypass crossing located north of the existing Culvert Crossing could require the removal of a sycamore tree located on the eastern shore of the Wash (north of the Culvert Crossing). In order to provide a conservative analysis for impacts to Biological Resources in the MND, the removal of this tree has been assumed and assessed, to account for the event that the temporary crossing is used.

The two sycamore trees located south of the crossing are also conservatively assessed in the MND as being removed to accommodate the new Culvert Crossing. Any changes to the alignment of the Culvert Crossing in order to avoid sycamore trees would require engineering considerations at the discretion of LACFCD. The LACFCD is committed to minimizing impacts to the sycamore trees and has therefore considered multiple alternatives, but has anticipated potential impacts of their removal in the MND to be conservative in the case that avoidance is not possible.

### **Response Arcadia-2**

As stated on page 3-4 of the MND, in the Project Description, the existing water and sewer lines that run through the current Culvert Crossing would need to be relocated to the new height and alignment of the structure. Additionally, the fire hydrant, vault, water valve and standpipe would be demolished and relocated approximately 15 feet to the north in the case that the temporary bypass crossing is utilized. These improvements are included as a part of the proposed Project.

### **Response Arcadia-3**

PDF AES-1 as currently written pertains only to work at the Dam for the purposes of aesthetics. The City's suggestion to use existing rocks from the Santa Anita Sediment Placement Site (SPS) to reduce the need for imported materials is in accordance with the LACFCD's intent to utilize materials from the SPS. As stated on page 3-7 of the MND, it is anticipated that approximately half of the 65,000 cubic yards of fill material used for the structural buttressing at the Debris Dam will be obtained from the adjacent Santa Anita SPS, thereby reducing the number of trucks needed for the import of fill material.

### **Response Arcadia-4**

RR TRA-2 in the MND requires the implementation of temporary traffic control in accordance with the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (Greenbook). The Contractor shall provide temporary traffic control in accordance with the Greenbook during construction activities. PDF TRA-1, which requires that heavy-duty diesel trucks avoid school crosswalks at Highland Oaks Elementary School during peak drop-off hours between 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and pick-up hours between 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM and also be scheduled to avoid peak hours and holidays, would also reduce queuing of trucks on residential streets.

### **Response Arcadia-5**

The City's Noise Ordinance regarding nighttime construction (Arcadia Municipal Code, Article IV, Chapter 2, Part 6) was amended on May 6, 2014, which is after the commencement of the preparation of the MND. As such, the text referring to the City's noise standards refers to the

previous standards. RR NOI-1 and associated text has been revised accordingly (see **bold** and ~~strikeout~~ text) on pages 4-93, and 4-94 of the MND.

#### 4261. PROHIBITED HOURS DEFINED.

The term “prohibited hours” as used in this Part shall mean any time after the hour of ~~7:00~~ **6:00** p.m. of any **weekday**; **any time after the hour of 5:00 p.m. of any Saturday**; any time before the hour of ~~7:00~~ **8:00** a.m. of any ~~Sunday~~ **Saturday**; any time on any Sunday; and any time on any of the following holidays: ~~January 4~~ New Year's Day; ~~May 30~~ Memorial Day; ~~July 4~~; **Independence Day**; Labor Day; ~~November 11~~ Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving Day; and ~~December 25~~ Christmas Day; provided that if in any calendar year any such holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall constitute the holiday.

RR NOI-1 In compliance with the County Code and consistent with the **more restrictive** City of Arcadia Municipal Code, Project construction activities at the ~~Dam~~, Headworks, Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing, and Debris Dam that generate substantial noise, such as the operation of construction equipment and mechanical equipment, shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to ~~7:00~~ **6:00** PM Monday through ~~Saturday~~ **Friday, and 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday. Construction at the Dam shall be in compliance with the County Code, which prohibits construction noise between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM on weekdays (including Saturday).**

#### Response Arcadia-6

MM AES-1 and associated text has been revised accordingly (see **bold** and ~~strikeout~~ text) on pages 4-9 of the MND.

MM AES-1 Any removal of sycamore trees located at the Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing shall be replaced at a minimum 1:1 ratio with a minimum box size of **24 36** inches, within a 100-foot radius of their original location.

#### Response Arcadia-7

Per the City’s request, in the Project’s Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program included in Section 3 of this document, the City of Arcadia has been included as a “Monitoring Party” for overseeing the implementation of MM BIO-1, with shared responsibility for monitoring along with the LACFCD and CDFW.

#### Response Arcadia-8

The Project’s benefits for groundwater recharge into the East Raymond Basin (that supplies the cities of Sierra Madre and Arcadia) is noted. The benefits of the Project are outlined in Section 1-1 of the MND, which includes a summary of groundwater supply benefits.

#### Response Arcadia-9

As stated on page 3-7 of the MND, removal of the existing outlet tower would result in 80 cubic yards of concrete export, but most of the concrete from the tower would be reused on site. As stated on page 4-113 of the MND, in order to minimize the export of waste, it is anticipated that most of the excavated material and demolished concrete would be reused/recycled on site as backfill at the Debris Dam. Additionally RR UTL-1 requires that construction activities are conducted in compliance with Chapter 20.87 (Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling

and Reuse) of the Los Angeles County Code, which requires at least 50 percent of all Collection and Demolition (C&D) debris, soil, rock, and gravel removed from the Project site to be recycled or reused unless a lower percentage is approved by the Los Angeles County Director of Public Works.

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### **SECTION 3.0 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Section 21081.6 of CEQA and Section 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines require a public agency to adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for assessing and ensuring the implementation of required mitigation measures applied to proposed projects. Specific reporting and/or monitoring requirements that will be enforced during project implementation shall be adopted simultaneously with final Project approval by the responsible decision making body.

The MMRP for the Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project consists of Project Design Features (PDFs) that would be incorporated into the Project and would avoid or minimize environmental impacts, and Mitigation Measures (MMs) that are required to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects associated with Project implementation. The PDFs and MMs presented in the MMRP reflect any errata presented in Section 4.0 of this Final MND. The PDFs and MMs for the Project are listed in the first column in Table 3-1, with the applicable Project component in the second column; the timeframe for implementation in the third column; the agency or party with primary responsibility for implementation in the fourth column; and the agency or party with responsibility for monitoring compliance in the last column. Compliance monitoring of the MMRP would primarily be the responsibility of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), as the Lead Agency under CEQA.

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**TABLE 3-1  
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<b>Project Design Features</b> – Independent commitments during the design phase that are not a part of the mitigation requirements necessary to reduce project impacts to less than significant levels				
<b>PDF AES-1:</b> The material used to re-armor the downstream canyon walls and the toe of the Dam will match the color of the existing armoring.	Santa Anita Dam	Prior to commencement of gunite application and repair.	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<b>PDF BIO-1:</b> A Biological Monitor will be on site during vegetation clearing in Project Work Areas (e.g., limits of disturbance). The Biological Monitor will confirm that the limits of Project Work Areas and any Environmentally Sensitive Areas (e.g., nesting birds) are clearly marked. The Biological Monitor shall provide environmental awareness training to the Contractor; the training will include a discussion of native habitat types, special status species that may occur in the Project Work Areas, direction for what to do if a special status species is observed, and an overview of applicable permit conditions. Prior to construction, the Biological Monitor will conduct a pre-clearing sweep of the Project Work Area and will flush or move wildlife outside the Project Work Area to the extent practicable. The Biological Monitor shall send weekly monitoring reports to the LACFCD during vegetation clearing and shall notify LACFCD immediately if construction damages any active nests and/or if any Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect biological resources require repair.	All Project Components	During construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<b>PDF GEO-1:</b> The Project shall be designed and constructed in compliance with the Standard Specifications For Public Works Construction (Greenbook), Construction Specifications Institute, and DSOD guidelines for seismic stability to ensure the structural integrity of proposed site improvements against seismic shaking.	All Project Components	Prior to commencement of construction activities	LACFCD and LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<b>PDF GEO-2:</b> A detailed geotechnical investigation shall be conducted to assess potential geotechnical issues at the Debris Dam. This investigation shall conform with all applicable County requirements and other pertinent criteria, including DSOD and Greenbook standards. Specific issues to be evaluated in the Project geotechnical investigation shall include seismic-related ground rupture, ground acceleration, and liquefaction, as well as	Debris Dam	Prior to commencement of construction activities	LACFCD and LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>expansive/corrosive soils; other types of soil/geologic instability (including subsidence, oversized materials and excavations); and any other issues deemed appropriate by the LACFCD and/or the Geotechnical Engineer.</p> <p>The geotechnical investigation shall be submitted to the LACFCD for review and approval prior to commencement of construction. All applicable requirements and recommendations identified in the approved geotechnical investigation shall be incorporated into the Project design and/or construction specifications as appropriate.</p>				
<p><b>PDF TRA-1:</b> Heavy-duty diesel truck vehicle (with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 10,000 lbs. or heavier) trips shall be scheduled to avoid school crosswalks at Highland Oaks Elementary School during peak drop-off hours between 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and pick-up hours between 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Heavy-duty diesel truck vehicle trips will be scheduled to avoid peak hours and holidays. As required by State Commercial Vehicle Idling Regulations, trucks shall be prohibited from idling for more than 5 minutes if queuing within 100 feet from any residential area.</p>	All Project Components	Ongoing throughout construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>				
<p><b>MM AES-1:</b> Any removal of sycamore trees located at the Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing shall be replaced at a minimum 1:1 ratio with a minimum box size of 36 inches, within a 100-foot radius of their original location.</p>	Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing	Within 6 months of the completion of the Culvert Crossing.	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<p><b>MM BIO-1:</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Replacement shall occur for the western sycamores (Tree Numbers 220-222) that are removed by construction of the Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing. At a minimum, impacted sycamore trees at the Culvert Crossing shall be replaced at no less than a 1:1 ratio, and the minimum box size of replacement trees shall be 24 inches. The replacement trees shall be incorporated into the Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP), as set forth in MM BIO-5, or a separate Tree HMMP shall be prepared and shall contain the same required components.</p> <p><b>B.</b> The oak tree adjacent to the Wilderness Park Culvert</p>	All Project Components	Prior to the initiation of construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD, City of Arcadia, and CDFW

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>Crossing (Tree Number 219) shall not be removed. This tree shall be protected as described in subsection “C” below. However, the protective fencing for this tree shall be placed at the edge of the canopy to allow for construction to occur immediately outside its canopy. When initial vegetation removal/ground disturbance is occurring within 1.5 times the dripline/root protection zone, the work shall be monitored by a Certified Arborist who shall oversee any removal/cutting of roots necessary and shall determine if trimming of the canopy is necessary to protect the health of the tree. The Certified Arborist shall monitor the health of this tree a minimum of once per month during construction of the Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing and once per month for a period of six-months following completion of construction. Photographs shall be taken monthly to compare the overall vigor of the tree over time. The tree shall be considered “impacted” if its health rating declines two or more rating levels as referenced in the Biological Technical Report (Appendix B, see Tree Survey Report). If this occurs, in coordination with CDFW and the City of Arcadia, the tree shall be mitigated at no less than a 1:1 ratio, and the minimum box size of replacement trees shall be 24 inches. If Tree Number 220 is also preserved, protection shall follow the same requirements that are specified herein for Tree Number 219.</p> <p><b>C.</b> To protect native trees adjacent to Project Work Areas, the following shall be implemented within each Project Work Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brightly-colored construction fencing shall be placed around all native trees to be preserved that are located within 50 feet of Project Work Areas. The fencing shall be placed at 1.5 times the dripline/root protection zone (defined as the outer canopy edge, at least 15 feet from the trunk). These areas shall be labeled as “Tree Protection Areas” and shall be regarded as Environmentally Sensitive Areas on construction plans. If an existing access road is within the Tree Protection Area, the Tree Protection Area may be adjusted to allow for access along the existing roadway.</li> <li>• Stockpiling of materials or vehicle operation shall be prohibited within the Tree Protection Areas. If a Tree</li> </ul>				

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>Protection Area has been adjusted to allow for an existing access road, no stockpiles or materials shall be allowed within 1.5 times the dripline/root protection zone of the native tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limbs of native trees can be pruned if necessary to allow construction equipment access. Small branches (less than three inches diameter) can be trimmed without the supervision of a Certified Arborist if less than ten percent of the total canopy is removed. If larger branches need to be removed or if more than ten percent of the total canopy would be affected, these activities shall be supervised by a Certified Arborist.</li> <li>• Changes to the grade or drainage patterns in the areas surrounding a Tree Protection Area shall be avoided so that excess water does not drain to native trees, unless otherwise approved by a Certified Arborist.</li> <li>• Any activities (e.g., vehicle operation) occurring within a Tree Protection Area shall be coordinated with a Certified Arborist to ensure that activities would not affect the health of the tree(s). If construction would damage or remove any trees, the Certified Arborist shall contact the appropriate jurisdiction(s) to determine mitigation and permitting requirements before the tree is impacted.</li> <li>• An on-site pre-construction field meeting shall be held to inform all construction personnel of tree restrictions prior the initiation of work.</li> </ul> <p><b>D.</b> A subset of the 20 native trees located within the increased inundation area shall be monitored for health over the course of 5 years following completion of the Debris Dam construction. A Certified Arborist shall monitor these trees annually each spring following the rainy season for a period of 5 years for signs of any potential negative health effects from flooding (e.g., yellowing leaves, lack of new growth, trunk decay, etc.) using the same health rating scale described to evaluate baseline conditions. Monitoring will distinguish if any changes in health may be from other outside factors. Each monitoring event shall measure and track the dbh of the trees</p>				

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>to determine growth patterns, and other trees outside of the future inundation areas shall also be measured to compare growth rates. Photographs shall be taken annually to compare the overall vigor of each tree's crown over time. Monitoring events shall assess whether a tree has been "affected" by determining if a tree's health rating declines two or more rating levels. Any affected trees shall be monitored for a two year period, which may be in addition to the original 5 year monitoring period, to determine if their health condition subsequently improves. If an affected tree shows improvement in the health rating during this two year period, it shall be considered a "recovered" tree and would not require mitigation. If an affected tree's health condition does not improve during this 2-year period, then the tree would be considered "impacted" and would require mitigation. If this occurs, in coordination with CDFW, the tree shall be mitigated at no less than a 1:1 ratio. The replacement trees shall be incorporated into the Riparian HMMP, as set forth in MM BIO-5, or a separate Tree HMMP shall be prepared and shall contain the same required components.</p>				
<p><b>MM BIO-2:</b> At least 7 days prior to the initiation of the lowering of the water surface at the Dam and Headworks (and Debris Dam if ponded water is present at the time of construction), a five-day/four-night pre-construction trapping for the Pacific pond turtle shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist. Concurrently with the trapping effort, the Biologist shall also visually search for and capture two-striped garter snakes and any other special status species in the Project Work Areas. If any Pacific pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, or other special status species are captured, they shall be relocated to a suitable site along Santa Anita Wash outside of the construction area. Prior to relocating any of these species, the USFS and the CDFW shall approve the potential relocation site(s) and methods for transferring the turtles/snakes to the relocation sites. Any non-native animal species encountered during pre-construction surveys shall be permanently removed from the reservoir.</p> <p>Additionally, a qualified Biologist shall be present during the latter stages of dewatering of the reservoir to ensure that no Pacific pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, or other special status species are stranded. If any of these species are observed during monitoring, they shall be captured by a qualified Biologist (i.e., one with the necessary approvals to handle these species) and released at the</p>	<p>Dam, Headworks, and Debris Dam</p>	<p>Prior to the initiation of dewatering and construction activities at the Dam and Headworks</p>	<p>LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor</p>	<p>LACFCD, USFS, CDFW</p>

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>approved relocation site. Any non-native animal species encountered during dewatering of the reservoir shall be permanently removed from the reservoir. A Letter Report shall be prepared to document the results of the pre-construction surveys and monitoring; the Report shall be provided to the USFS and the CDFW within 30 days of conclusion of the survey effort.</p>				
<p><b>MM BIO-3:</b> The Project shall be conducted in compliance with the conditions set forth in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code with methods approved by USFWS and CDFW to protect active bird/raptor nests. The nature of the Project requires that work would be initiated during the breeding season for nesting birds and raptors (February 1 to August 31). The LACFCD, in consultation with a qualified Biologist, may employ bird exclusionary measures (e.g., mylar flagging) prior to the start of bird breeding season to minimize opportunities for birds to nest within established boundaries of the Project. In order to avoid direct impacts on active nests, a pre-construction survey for nesting birds and raptors shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist (i.e. one with experience conducting nesting bird surveys) within 3 days prior to clearing of any vegetation or any work near existing structures (i.e., within 50 feet for nesting birds, within 300 feet for nesting special status birds, and within 500 feet for nesting raptors). If the Biologist does not find any active nests within or immediately adjacent to the impact area, the vegetation clearing/construction work shall be allowed to proceed. A letter report shall be prepared and submitted to LACFCD to document the survey findings and recommended protective measures.</p> <p>If the Biologist finds an active nest within or immediately adjacent to the construction area and determines that the nest may be impacted or breeding activities substantially disrupted, the Biologist shall delineate an appropriate buffer zone (at a minimum of 25 feet for common birds, 300 feet for special status birds, and 500 feet for nesting raptors) around the nest depending on the sensitivity of the species and the nature of the construction activity. If the Biologist determines that a narrower buffer area is warranted, he/she shall submit a written explanation as to why (e.g., species-specific information, ambient conditions and birds' habituation to them, and the terrain, vegetation, and birds' line of sight between the Project and the nest/foraging areas) to the LACFCD Project Manager, and upon request to CDFW. Based on the submitted information, the LACFCD Project Manager shall determine whether to allow a</p>	<p>All Project Components</p>	<p>During the breeding season for nesting birds (March 15–September 15) and nesting raptors (February 1–June 30), surveys shall occur within 7 days prior to clearing of any vegetation or any work near existing structures (i.e., within 50 feet for nesting birds and within 500 feet for nesting raptors)</p>	<p>LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor</p>	<p>LACFCD, CDFW</p>

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>narrower buffer. A letter report or memorandum shall be prepared by the Biologist to document the protective measures and to document compliance with applicable federal and State laws pertaining to the protection of nesting birds.</p> <p>Any nest found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. The active nest shall be protected until nesting activity has ended. To protect any nest site, the following restrictions to construction activities shall be required until nests are no longer active, as determined by a qualified Biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a buffer around any occupied nest (the buffer shall be 25–100 feet for nesting birds, and 300 feet for special status birds, and 500 feet for nesting raptors), unless otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within the buffer of any occupied nest, unless otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist. Encroachment into the buffer area around a known nest shall only be allowed if the Biologist determines that the proposed activity would not disturb the nest occupants. Flagging, stakes, and/or construction fencing shall be used to demarcate the buffer around the nest and construction personnel shall be instructed as to the sensitivity of the area. Construction can proceed when the qualified Biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest or the nest has failed.</p>				
<p><b>MM BIO-4:</b> Water shall be lowered or re-routed around Project Work Areas at least one month prior to construction to deter bats from roosting in the vicinity of the Work Areas.</p> <p>A pre-construction roosting bat survey (including both day and evening efforts) shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist prior to installation of exclusionary measures to ensure that no active day-roosts would be impacted. The day survey will involve inspecting the structures for sign of bat roosting. The evening survey will involve monitoring each potential roost site for evening emergence, conducting exit counts, and acoustic monitoring (from a half an hour before sunset to at least three hours after sunset) near potential roosts locations. If active bat day-roosts, maternity-roosts, or hibernating-roosts occur within the Project Work Area, bat exclusion devices shall be installed under the supervision of a qualified biologist between October 1 and November 30 (when the chance of impacting juveniles and individuals in hibernation is the lowest) within the 12-month period prior to the start of construction. Exclusion shall be done selectively, and only to the extent necessary</p>	All Project Components	Prior to habitat removal during bat hibernation (generally December through February) or the bat maternity season (April through August)	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD, CDFW

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>to prevent bat injury and mortality.</p> <p>If active bat roosts occur within structures proposed for removal/repair (including gunite repair on hill slopes), or within an area that would be indirectly impacted by Project activities, then exclusionary measures, such as barriers with one-way doors or other exclusion (e.g., caulking or wire mesh), shall be installed under the supervision of a qualified Biologist. Bat exclusion devices shall be inspected weekly by a qualified bat Biologist from March 1 through May 31 and monthly thereafter; any deficiencies shall be corrected or devices shall be modified to function appropriately. The Biologist shall prepare monthly reports to summarize the inspections and to report on the effectiveness of the exclusionary measures; the reports shall be submitted to LACFCD's Project Manager. If roosting bats are noted within any of the Project Work Areas during the breeding season, LACFCD shall contact CDFW to determine whether construction should proceed in that area. Temporary exclusionary measures shall be removed at the completion of construction.</p> <p>If active bat day-roosts occur within trees proposed for removal, then either tree removal shall be conducted between October 1 and November 30 (to avoid the bat maternity and the bat hibernation season), or the tree removal will occur under the supervision of a qualified Biologist and will utilize phased tree trimming. If avoidance of bat hibernation and bat maternity season is not feasible, then exclusionary measures, such as netting or phased tree trimming, shall be implemented after the evening roost emergence under the supervision of a qualified Biologist. Once bats have been excluded from the trees to be removed, then tree removal can proceed.</p>				
<p><b>MM BIO-5:</b> Prior to initiation of Project activities, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) shall obtain all necessary permits for impacts to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW jurisdictional areas. Mitigation for the loss of jurisdictional resources shall be negotiated with the resource agencies during the regulatory permitting process. Potential mitigation options shall include one or more of the following: (1) payment to a mitigation bank or regional riparian enhancement program (e.g., invasive plant or wildlife species removal) and/or (2) restoration of riparian habitat either on site or off site at a ratio of no less than 1:1, determined through consultation with the above-listed resource agencies. If in-lieu</p>	<p>All Project Components</p>	<p>Prior to the initiation of construction activities</p>	<p>LACFCD</p>	<p>LACFCD, USACE, CDFW, RWQCB</p>



Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>mitigation fees are required, prior to the initiation of any construction-related activities, the LACFCD shall pay the in-lieu mitigation fee to a mitigation bank/enhancement program for the in-kind (equivalent vegetation type and acreage) replacement of impacted jurisdictional resources. If a Restoration Program is required, prior to the initiation of any construction-related activities, LACFCD shall prepare and submit a Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Program (HMMP) for USACE and CDFW approval. If a Riparian HMMP is required, it shall contain the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Responsibilities and qualifications of the personnel to implement and supervise the plan. The responsibilities of the Landowner, Specialists, and Maintenance Personnel that would supervise and implement the plan shall be specified.</li> <li>J. Site selection. The mitigation site shall be determined in coordination with the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB. The site shall either be located in a dedicated open space area on County land, USFS land, or off-site land shall be purchased.</li> <li>K. Seed source. Seeds (or plantings) used shall be from local sources (within ten miles of the Project area) to ensure genetic integrity.</li> <li>L. Site preparation and planting implementation. Site preparation shall include (1) protection of existing native species; (2) trash and weed removal; (3) native species salvage and reuse (i.e., duff); (4) soil treatments (i.e., imprinting, decompacting); (5) temporary irrigation installation; (6) erosion-control measures (i.e., rice or willow wattles); (7) seed mix application; and (8) container species planting.</li> <li>M. Schedule. A schedule shall be developed which includes planting in late fall and early winter, between October 1 and January 30.</li> <li>N. Maintenance Plan/Guidelines. The Maintenance Plan shall include (1) weed control; (2) herbivory control; (3) trash removal; (4) irrigation system maintenance; (5) maintenance training; and (6) replacement planting.</li> <li>O. Monitoring plan. The Monitoring Plan shall include (1) qualitative monitoring (i.e., photographs and general</li> </ul>				

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>observations); (2) quantitative monitoring (i.e., randomly placed transects); (3) performance criteria, as approved by the above-listed resource agencies; (4) monthly reports for the first year and reports quarterly thereafter; and (5) annual reports for five years, which shall be submitted to the resource agencies on an annual basis. The site shall be monitored and maintained for five years to ensure successful establishment of riparian habitat within the restored and created areas.</p> <p><b>P.</b> Long-term preservation. Long-term preservation of the site shall also be outlined in the conceptual Mitigation Plan to ensure the mitigation site is not impacted by future development.</p> <p>Any areas of native riparian vegetation that would be temporarily disturbed by the Project's construction activities shall be maintained free of non-native vegetation for a period of five years or until native riparian species have become reestablished in the impact area. Removal of non-native vegetation shall occur at least one time per year over the five-year period in order to facilitate the establishment of native species.</p>				
<p><b>MM HAZ-1:</b> Prior to commencement of any construction activities, the LACFCD shall require that the Contractor prepare a Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan for review and approval. The Plan shall be implemented throughout the construction activities. The Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan shall be prepared in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) Safety and Health Regulations for Construction (29 Code of Federal Regulations 1926) and shall include a Site Health and Safety Officer; an Access and Evacuation Plan; identification of site hazards; and response protocols in the event of an earthquake or landslide.</p>	All Project Components	Prior to the initiation of construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<p><b>MM HAZ-2:</b> Prior to commencement of any construction activities, a Fire Protection Plan shall be prepared that includes emergency reporting procedures; emergency notification, evacuation, and/or relocation of all persons on site; procedures for "hot work" operations; management of hazardous materials and removal of combustible debris; maintenance of emergency access roads; identification of exit routes and assembly areas; and identification of fire apparatus. The Fire Protection Plan shall be distributed to involved parties at least two weeks prior to commencement of any</p>	All Project Components	Prior to the initiation of construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD, USFS, and City of Arcadia

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
construction activities.				
<p><b>MM NOI-1:</b> Even though measures set forth in this mitigation are not required to reduce noise to less than significant levels at either the Culvert Crossing or the Debris Dam, these measures will be implemented at these construction sites to further reduce noise impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards.</li> <li>• The construction contractors shall place all stationary construction equipment so that the equipment is as far as feasible from the noise-sensitive receptors and so that emitted noise is directed away from the noise-sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• The construction contractors shall locate equipment staging in areas that will create the greatest distance between staging area noise sources and noise-sensitive receptors during all Project construction.</li> <li>• The construction contractors shall limit haul truck deliveries to the same hours specified for operation of construction equipment.</li> </ul>	Culvert Crossing and the Debris Dam	Prior to the initiation of construction activities and during construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<p><b>MM NOI-2:</b> Even though measures set forth in this mitigation are not required to reduce noise to less than significant levels at either the Culvert Crossing or the Debris Dam, these measures will be implemented at these construction sites to further reduce noise impacts.</p> <p>At least two weeks before, but not more than one month prior to the start of noise-generating construction activities, notification shall be mailed to owners and occupants of all developed land uses within 300 feet of the Culvert Crossing and Debris Dam providing a schedule for major construction activities that will occur through the duration of the construction period. The notification shall include the identification and contact number for a designated Construction Manager that would be available on site to monitor construction activities. Contact information for the Construction Manager shall also be located at the Arcadia City Hall and the Arcadia Police Department.</p>	Culvert Crossing and the Debris Dam	Prior to the initiation of construction activities and during construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD

Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures	Applicable Project Component	Timing	Implementing Party	Monitoring Party
<p>Complaints may be made during construction hours and a response shall be made within one work day. The Construction Manager shall document all complaints and resolutions and shall provide copies to the LACFCD within three working days of the complaint.</p> <p>The Construction Manager, upon observation of excessive noise occurring near adjacent homes or upon receipt of a complaint about excessive noise shall do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that construction equipment is properly muffled according to industry standards, and</li> <li>• Modify operations to reduce the number of pieces of equipment operating near noise sensitive receptors or operating concurrently, unless the modification would prevent completion of the task, or</li> <li>• Implement corrective or additional noise-attenuation measures considered appropriate to address the complaint, which may include, but are not limited to, noise barriers or noise blankets.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>MM NOI-3:</b> Prior to the start of grading or similar heavy equipment operation on the downstream side of the Debris Dam, the County shall erect a temporary noise barrier between the structural buttressing work area and the residences to the southwest. The barrier shall be located along the southwest edge of the site access road, but the horizontal location may be adjusted as necessitated by geographical or topographical constraints or to avoid trees. The barrier shall be 16 feet high and solid from the ground to the top. The barrier shall be plywood of at least 0.75-inch thickness or other material with a noise transmission loss of 22 dBA or more.</p> <p>When equipment is working on the downstream site of the Debris Dam within 50 feet of residences, only one piece of equipment shall be at full power at any time; other equipment shall be shut down or at low idle.</p>	Debris Dam	Prior to the initiation of construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD
<p><b>MM NOI-4:</b> Large bulldozers and large loaded trucks shall not be operated on the Project site within 140 feet of an occupied residence. Consistent with the County Code, this restriction does not apply to trucks on a public right-of-way.</p>	All Project Components	During construction activities	LACFCD's Construction Manager/Contractor	LACFCD

## SECTION 4.0 ERRATA

The following text changes are made to the Initial Study and incorporated as part of the Final IS/MND. These changes further substantiate conclusions and/or clarify aspects of the previously circulated document. None of these changes reflect a determination of a new or more significant environmental impact than disclosed in the Draft IS/MND. Pursuant to Section 15073.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, no changes are included in this Errata that would constitute a “substantial revision” to the Draft IS/MND or otherwise require recirculation of the Draft IS/MND. Additionally, pursuant to Section 15074.1 of the CEQA Guidelines, the revisions to mitigation measures set forth below do not constitute deletions or substitutions of mitigation measures that would require a public hearing. Changes to the text are noted with **bold** (for added text) or ~~strikeout~~ type (for deleted text).

MM AES-1 on pages 4-9 of the MND has been revised as follows:

MM AES-1 Any removal of sycamore trees located at the Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing shall be replaced at a minimum 1:1 ratio with a minimum box size of **24 36** inches, within a 100-foot radius of their original location.

PDF BIO-1 on pages 1-5 and 4-39 of the MND has been revised as follows.

**PDF BIO-1:** A Biological Monitor will be on site during vegetation clearing in Project Work Areas (e.g., limits of disturbance). The Biological Monitor will confirm that the limits of Project Work Areas **and any Environmentally Sensitive Areas (e.g., nesting birds)** are clearly marked. The Biological Monitor shall provide environmental awareness training to the Contractor; the training will include a discussion of native habitat types, special status species that may occur in the Project Work Areas, direction for what to do if a special status species is observed, and an overview of applicable permit conditions. Prior to construction, the Biological Monitor will conduct a pre-clearing sweep of the Project Work Area and will flush or move wildlife outside the Project Work Area to the extent practicable. **The Biological Monitor shall send weekly monitoring reports to the LACFCD during vegetation clearing and shall notify LACFCD immediately if construction damages any active nests and/or if any Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect biological resources require repair.**

The first paragraph of MM BIO-2 on pages 1-13 and 4-53 of the MND has been revised as follows.

**MM BIO-2** At least 7 days prior to the initiation of ~~dewatering~~**construction the lowering of the water surface** at the Dam and Headworks (and Debris Dam if ponded water is present at the time of construction), a five-day/four-night pre-construction trapping for the Pacific pond turtle shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist. Concurrently with the trapping effort, the Biologist shall also visually search for and capture two-striped garter snakes and any other special status species in the Project Work Areas. If any Pacific pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, or other special status species are captured, they shall be relocated to a suitable site along Santa Anita Wash outside of the construction area. Prior to relocating any of these species, the USFS and the CDFW shall approve the potential relocation site(s) and methods for transferring the turtles/snakes to the relocation sites. Any non-native animal species encountered during pre-construction surveys shall be permanently removed from the reservoir.

MM BIO-3 on pages 1-14 to 1-15 and 4-54 to 4-55 of the MND has been revised as follows.

**MM BIO-3:** The Project shall be conducted in compliance with the conditions set forth in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and *California Fish and Game Code* with methods approved by USFWS and CDFW to protect active bird/raptor nests. The nature of the Project requires that work would be initiated during the breeding season for nesting birds (~~March 15–September 15~~) and nesting raptors (February 1–~~June 30~~**August 31**). The LACFCD, in consultation with a qualified Biologist, may employ bird exclusionary measures (e.g., mylar flagging) prior to the start of bird breeding season to minimize opportunities for birds to nest within established boundaries of the Project. In order to avoid direct impacts on active nests, a pre-construction survey **for nesting birds and raptors** shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist (**i.e. one with experience conducting nesting bird surveys**) ~~for nesting birds and/or raptors~~ within 3 days prior to clearing of any vegetation or any work near existing structures (i.e., within 50 feet for nesting birds, **within 300 feet for nesting special status birds**, and within 500 feet for nesting raptors). If the Biologist does not find any active nests within or immediately adjacent to the impact area, the vegetation clearing/construction work shall be allowed to proceed. **A letter report shall be prepared and submitted to LACFCD to document the survey findings and recommended protective measures.**

If the Biologist finds an active nest within or immediately adjacent to the construction area and determines that the nest may be impacted or breeding activities substantially disrupted, the Biologist shall delineate an appropriate buffer zone (at a minimum of 25 feet **for common birds, 300 feet for special status birds, and 500 feet for nesting raptors**) around the nest depending on the sensitivity of the species and the nature of the construction activity. **If the Biologist determines that a narrower buffer area is warranted, he/she shall submit a written explanation as to why (e.g., species-specific information, ambient conditions and birds' habituation to them, and the terrain, vegetation, and birds' line of sight between the Project and the nest/foraging areas) to the LACFCD Project Manager, and upon request to CDFW. Based on the submitted information, the LACFCD Project Manager shall determine whether to allow a narrower buffer. A letter report or memorandum shall be prepared by the Biologist to document the protective measures and to document compliance with applicable federal and State laws pertaining to the protection of nesting birds.**

Any nest found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. The active nest shall be protected until nesting activity has ended. To protect any nest site, the following restrictions to construction activities shall be required until nests are no longer active, as determined by a qualified Biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a buffer around any occupied nest (the buffer shall be 25–100 feet for nesting birds, **and 300 feet for special status birds, and 500 feet for nesting raptors**), unless otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within the buffer of any occupied nest, unless otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist. Encroachment into the buffer area around a known nest shall only be allowed if the Biologist determines that the proposed activity would not disturb the nest occupants. **Flagging, stakes, and/or construction fencing shall be used to demarcate the buffer around the nest and construction personnel shall be instructed as to the sensitivity of the area.** Construction can proceed when the qualified Biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest or the nest has failed.

MM BIO-4 has been revised on pages 1-16 and 4-55 of the MND as follows:

**MM BIO-4:** Water shall be ~~drained~~ **lowered** or re-routed around Project Work Areas at least one month prior to construction to deter bats from roosting in the vicinity of the Work Areas.

~~If exclusionary measures have not already been installed on all potential roost structures within the Project Work Area, a~~ **A** pre-construction follow-up roosting bat survey (including both day and evening efforts) shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist ~~within two weeks~~ prior to **installation of exclusionary measures** ~~the initiation of construction~~ to ensure that no active day-roosts would be impacted. The day survey will involve inspecting the structures for sign of bat roosting. The evening survey will involve monitoring each potential roost site for evening emergence, conducting exit counts, and acoustic monitoring (from a half an hour before sunset to at least ~~one~~ **three** hours after sunset) near potential roosts **locations**. If active bat day-roosts, **maternity-roosts, or hibernating-roosts** occur within the Project Work Area, bat exclusion devices shall be installed under the supervision of a qualified biologist **between October 1 and November 30 (when the chance of impacting juveniles and individuals in hibernation is the lowest) within the 12-month period** prior to the start of construction. **Exclusion shall be done selectively, and only to the extent necessary to prevent bat injury and mortality.**

If active bat ~~day~~-roosts occur within structures proposed for removal/repair (including gunite repair on hill slopes), **or within an area that would be indirectly impacted by Project activities**, then exclusionary measures, such as barriers with one-way doors or ~~permanent~~ **other** exclusion (e.g., caulking or wire mesh), shall be installed under the supervision of a qualified Biologist. **Bat exclusion devices shall be inspected weekly by a qualified bat Biologist from March 1 through May 31 and monthly thereafter; any deficiencies shall be corrected or devices shall be modified to function appropriately. The Biologist shall prepare monthly reports to summarize the inspections and to report on the effectiveness of the exclusionary measures; the reports shall be submitted to LACFCD's Project Manager. If roosting bats are noted within any of the Project Work Areas during the breeding season, LACFCD shall contact CDFW to determine whether construction should proceed in that area. Temporary exclusionary measures shall be removed at the completion of construction.**

If active bat day-roosts occur within trees proposed for removal, then either tree removal shall be conducted between ~~September~~ **October 1** and November **30** (to avoid the bat maternity and the bat hibernation season), or the tree removal will occur under the supervision of a qualified Biologist and will utilize phased tree trimming. If avoidance of bat hibernation and bat maternity season is not feasible, then exclusionary measures, such as netting or phased tree trimming, shall be implemented after the evening roost emergence under the supervision of a qualified Biologist. Once bats have been excluded from the trees to be removed, then tree removal can proceed.

The following has been added to MM BIO-5 on pages 1-19 and 4-56 of the MND:

**MM BIO-5:** Prior to initiation of Project activities, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) shall obtain all necessary permits for impacts to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW jurisdictional areas. Mitigation for the loss of jurisdictional resources shall be negotiated with the resource agencies during the regulatory permitting process. Potential mitigation

options shall include one or more of the following: (1) payment to a mitigation bank or regional riparian enhancement program (e.g., invasive plant or wildlife species removal) and/or (2) restoration of riparian habitat either on site or off site at a ratio of no less than 1:1, determined through consultation with the above-listed resource agencies. If in-lieu mitigation fees are required, prior to the initiation of any construction-related activities, the LACFCD shall pay the in-lieu mitigation fee to a mitigation bank/enhancement program for the in-kind (equivalent vegetation type and acreage) replacement of impacted jurisdictional resources. If a Restoration Program is required, prior to the initiation of any construction-related activities, LACFCD shall prepare and submit a Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Program (HMMP) for USACE and CDFW approval. If a Riparian HMMP is required, it shall contain the following items:

- Q.** Responsibilities and qualifications of the personnel to implement and supervise the plan. The responsibilities of the Landowner, Specialists, and Maintenance Personnel that would supervise and implement the plan shall be specified.
- R.** Site selection. The mitigation site shall be determined in coordination with the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB. The site shall either be located in a dedicated open space area on County land, USFS land, or off-site land shall be purchased.
- S.** Seed source. Seeds (or plantings) used shall be from local sources (within ten miles of the Project area) to ensure genetic integrity.
- T.** Site preparation and planting implementation. Site preparation shall include (1) protection of existing native species; (2) trash and weed removal; (3) native species salvage and reuse (i.e., duff); (4) soil treatments (i.e., imprinting, decompacting); (5) temporary irrigation installation; (6) erosion-control measures (i.e., rice or willow wattles); (7) seed mix application; and (8) container species planting.
- U.** Schedule. A schedule shall be developed which includes planting in late fall and early winter, between October 1 and January 30.
- V.** Maintenance Plan/Guidelines. The Maintenance Plan shall include (1) weed control; (2) herbivory control; (3) trash removal; (4) irrigation system maintenance; (5) maintenance training; and (6) replacement planting.
- W.** Monitoring plan. The Monitoring Plan shall include (1) qualitative monitoring (i.e., photographs and general observations); (2) quantitative monitoring (i.e., randomly placed transects); (3) performance criteria, as approved by the above-listed resource agencies; (4) monthly reports for the first year and reports quarterly thereafter; and (5) annual reports for five years, which shall be submitted to the resource agencies on an annual basis. The site shall be monitored and maintained for five years to ensure successful establishment of riparian habitat within the restored and created areas.
- X.** Long-term preservation. Long-term preservation of the site shall also be outlined in the conceptual Mitigation Plan to ensure the mitigation site is not impacted by future development.

**Any areas of native riparian vegetation that would be temporarily disturbed by the Project's construction activities shall be maintained free of non-native vegetation for a period of five years or until native riparian species have become reestablished in the impact area. Removal of non-native vegetation shall occur at least one time per year over the five-year period in order to facilitate the establishment of native species.**



The following text has been revised on page 4-42 of the MND to clarify this finding:

Townsend's big-eared bat typically roosts in caves **or similar structures that are subject to minimal human disturbance. No caves or cave-like structures that would be subject to minimal human disturbance were observed in Project Work Areas;** and ~~is therefore,~~ **Townsend's big-eared bat is** not expected to roost in the Dam or other structures in Project Work Areas. **While suitable roosting habitat is likely present within the surrounding areas of Santa Anita Canyon where the canyon walls and rocky outcroppings provide cave-like features,** Additionally, ~~no caves or cave-like structures were observed immediately adjacent to Project Work Areas during the roosting bat survey.~~ **Based on the lack of suitable roosting habitat on the Dam and the timing of the first recorded call (i.e., more than one hour after sunset),** acoustical surveys indicated that the Townsend's big-eared bat **that was** observed foraging at the Dam likely roosted ~~some distance from~~ **outside of** the Project Work Area, **somewhere within the surrounding forest,** ~~based on the timing of the first recorded call after dusk and traveled to Dam to forage.~~ Therefore, the Project is not expected to impact roosting Townsend's big-eared bat.

Page 4-43 of the MND has been revised as follows:

As shown in Table 4-8 and mapped on Exhibit 4-3, the total combined loss of ~~0.570.61~~ acre of southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, sycamore alluvial woodland/southern riparian forest, and coast live oak woodland would remove potential roosting habitat for bat species that roost in trees (i.e., silver-haired bat, western red bat, and hoary bat); bat species that roost on cliffs and rocky outcroppings could be affected by repair of gunite adjacent to the Dam and/or construction on structures at the Dam and Headworks (i.e., pallid bat, ~~Townsend's big-eared bat,~~ fringed myotis, western mastiff bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, and big free-tailed bat).

Page 4-93 and 4-94 of the MND has been revised as follows:

#### 4261. PROHIBITED HOURS DEFINED.

The term "prohibited hours" as used in this Part shall mean any time after the hour of ~~7:00~~ **6:00** p.m. of any **weekday; any time after the hour of 5:00 p.m. of any Saturday;** any time before the hour of ~~7:00~~ **8:00** a.m. of any ~~Sunday~~ **Saturday;** any time on any Sunday; and any time on any of the following holidays: ~~January 1~~ New Year's Day; ~~May 30~~ Memorial Day; ~~July 4;~~ **Independence Day;** Labor Day; ~~November 11~~ Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving Day; and ~~December 25~~ Christmas Day; provided that if in any calendar year any such holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall constitute the holiday.

RR NOI-1 In compliance with the County Code and consistent with the **more restrictive** City of Arcadia Municipal Code, Project construction activities at the ~~Dam,~~ Headworks, Wilderness Park Culvert Crossing, and Debris Dam that generate substantial noise, such as the operation of construction equipment and mechanical equipment, shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to ~~7:00~~ **6:00** PM Monday through ~~Saturday~~ **Friday, and 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday. Construction at the Dam shall be in compliance with the County Code, which prohibits construction noise between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM on weekdays (including Saturday).**

Page 4-112 of the MND has been revised as follows:

**PDF TRA-1** Heavy-duty diesel truck vehicle (with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 10,000 lbs. or heavier) trips shall be scheduled to avoid school crosswalks at Highland Oaks Elementary School during peak drop-off hours between 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and pick-up hours between 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. **Heavy-duty diesel truck vehicle trips will be scheduled to avoid peak hours and holidays.** As required by State Commercial Vehicle Idling Regulations, trucks shall be prohibited from idling for more than 5 minutes if queuing within 100 feet from any residential area.

**RR TRA-1** The movement of large equipment on public roadways shall be made in compliance with the Los Angeles County Code (Title 16, Highway), ~~which requires a moving permit and which includes provisions regarding the size of vehicles/equipment; night moves; moving in inclement weather; parking on streets; travel outside peak hours and holidays; over-length, over-height, and over-width requirements; lighting; signs; and restricted routes.~~ Oversized transport vehicles on State highways, if required, would need to obtain a transportation permit from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Oversized transport vehicles on local roadways, if required, would need to obtain a transportation permit from the Cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre.