

- **Board of Directors**
Engineering and Operations Committee

April 13, 2004 Board Meeting

9-1

Subject

Appropriate \$8.61 million; and award a contract in the amount of \$5.4481 million to ABHE & Svoboda, Inc. for site preparation activities for the Skinner Expansion No. 4 Program (Approp. 15410) and Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program (Approp. 15388)

Description

In July 2003, Metropolitan's Board authorized the final designs of Skinner Expansion No. 4 and the Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program (ORP). Skinner Expansion No. 4 will include the addition of a 110-million-gallons-per-day Module No. 7, a 34-mgd Washwater Reclamation Plant No. 3, and a reclaimed washwater pumping station. It will also provide new and consolidated chemical tank farms and feed systems; expansion of the sludge handling facilities, new water pumping stations, yard piping, and other related work. Construction of Module No. 7 is scheduled for completion in September 2006. The Skinner ORP will retrofit the expanded plant to treat water with an ozone disinfection system. ORP construction is scheduled for completion in September 2007.

Staff has identified the need for several procurement and construction contracts to most efficiently implement the Skinner Expansion No. 4 and ORP programs. In October 2003, Metropolitan's Board authorized pre-purchase of steel pipe for both programs. These pipes have been fabricated and were delivered to the site in March 2004.

Site Preparation for Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP

The initial construction contract for the Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP programs will prepare the Skinner site for the subsequent major construction contracts. Site preparation work must be completed before the start of Module No. 7 and ORP construction, and is on the critical path schedule for both projects.

The site preparation work includes earthwork, offsite disposal of unsuitable materials, installation of the pre-purchased steel pipe, installation of an emergency power generator for the existing reclaimed washwater pumping station, and other appurtenant work.

The site preparation contract was previously bid in January 2004 under Specifications No. 1485. As discussed in the Engineering and Operations Committee meeting of February 2004, all bids were rejected. The work was readvertised on February 13, 2004, under Specifications No. 1485A.

This action appropriates \$8.61 million in budgeted funds and awards a construction contract in the amount of \$5.4481 million to ABHE & Svoboda, Inc. to conduct site preparation work as described in Specifications No. 1485A, Site Preparation for Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Expansion No. 4 and Oxidation Retrofit Program. The engineer's estimate was \$5.1 million. For this project, Metropolitan requires Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation of at least 25 percent of the total construction bid. ABHE & Svoboda, Inc. is a SBE firm and thus achieves 100 percent participation.

In addition to awarding the site preparation construction contract, this action also provides funding for construction management and support; Metropolitan force construction, including the replacement of two existing washwater pumps and installation of an emergency generator; environmental monitoring services, which will be performed under an existing professional services agreement; and administration of the Project Labor Agreement covering this work.

The Skinner Expansion No. 4 Program (Approp. 15410) and the Skinner ORP (Approp. 15388) have been evaluated and recommended by Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Evaluation Team and funds have

been included in the fiscal year 2003/2004 capital budget. See [Attachment 1](#) for the detailed report, [Attachment 2](#) for the abstract of bids, [Attachment 3](#) for the financial statements, and [Attachment 7](#) for the location map.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 5108: Capital Project Appropriation

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 8113: Construction Contract Award

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determinations for Option #1:

Site Preparation for Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP

The environmental effects from the construction and operation of the proposed Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP (collectively referred to as the projects) were evaluated in the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR). The Final PEIR was certified by the Board on July 8, 2003. The Board also approved the Findings of Fact (findings), the Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC), the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and the projects themselves. The present board actions are based on authorizing the funding of a construction contract and carrying out site preparation associated with the projects as described in the Final PEIR. Hence, the previous environmental documentation taken by the Board in conjunction with a majority of the proposed actions fully complies with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. See below for the remainder of the proposed actions with respect to CEQA compliance.

The CEQA determination is: Determine that a majority of the proposed actions have been previously addressed in the certified 2003 Final PEIR, adopted findings, adopted SOC, and adopted MMRP and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required.

Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing Associated with Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP

Subsequent to the certification of the 2003 Final PEIR for the projects, additional activities were found to be required in conjunction with site preparation. These proposed activities include: the additional 10.3-acre construction use area north of Tuculota Creek, the temporary crossing of the creek to the ORP construction site, the additional fencing along Benton Road within the Skinner plant property, and the change in work hours to permit 24-hour shifts during the construction of the projects. To comply with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, Metropolitan as the Lead Agency prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) entitled: "Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing." The MND was distributed for a 30-day public review period beginning on December 19, 2003, and ending on January 17, 2004. The MND includes the Initial Study and Environmental Checklist form (see [Attachment 4](#)). [Attachment 5](#) contains one comment letter received during the public review period along with a response to that comment. As stated in the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15074), the Board is required to review and consider the MND, the Initial Study, and the comment received during the public review period prior to the adoption of the MND. Adoption of the MND is dependent on the finding by the Board that, based on the whole record before it, there is no substantial evidence that, with the mitigation measures required by the MND, the proposed project will have a significant impact on the environment, and that the MND reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis. The MMRP in [Attachment 6](#) is required under CEQA (Section 21081.6) and must also be adopted by the Board prior to project approval. All of the above documentation, including other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Lead Agency decision is based, has been and will be on file at Metropolitan's headquarters located at 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The CEQA determination is: Review and consider the information in the MND, Initial Study, and the comment received during the public review period; find that based on the whole record before the Board that there is no

substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant impact on the environment, and that the MND reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis; adopt the MND for the remaining proposed actions including the additional construction use and creek crossing; and adopt the MMRP.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Appropriate \$8.61 million; and
- b. Award a construction contract in the amount of \$5.4481 million to ABHE & Svoboda, Inc. to perform all work as described in Specifications No. 1485A, Site Preparation for Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Expansion No. 4 and Oxidation Retrofit Program.

Fiscal Impact: \$3.575 million of budgeted funds under Approp. 15410; \$5.035 million of budgeted funds under Approp. 15388.

Option #2

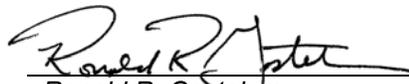
Reject all bids for the Skinner Expansion No. 4 and ORP Site Preparation construction project and attempt to receive more favorable bids.

Fiscal Impact: None for the FY 2003/2004 budget. Re-bidding the project in an attempt to obtain a more favorable bid will delay the Module No. 7 completion date of September 2006.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

 _____ Roy L. Wolfe Manager, Corporate Resources	3/25/2004 Date
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 _____ Ronald R. Gastelum Chief Executive Officer	3/26/2004 Date
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Attachment 1 – Detailed Report

Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids

Attachment 3 – Financial Statements for Skinner Expansion No. 4 Program and Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program

Attachment 4 – Mitigated Negative Declaration, Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing

Attachment 5 – Comment Letters and Responses to Comments

Attachment 6 – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Attachment 7 – Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Location Map

BLA #2602

Detailed Report

The Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant was placed into service in 1976 to supply treated water to Riverside and San Diego counties. Since its original construction, the plant has been expanded three times and now consists of six treatment modules that are operated as two distinct filtration plants (Plants 1 and 2). Plants 1 and 2 have capacities of 240 million gallons per day (mgd) and 280 mgd, respectively, for a total combined rated capacity of 520 mgd. The plant typically treats a blend of State project water and Colorado River water. Plant 1 uses conventional water treatment processes including coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection; Plant 2 is a direct filtration plant similar to Plant 1, but without the sedimentation process.

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) has on file a permit to operate the Skinner filtration plant at a "nameplate" rated capacity of 520 mgd (804 cfs) under normal operating conditions. Metropolitan may request that the Skinner filtration plant be allowed to operate above its rated capacity based on a number of factors including influent water quality, effluent water quality and filter loading rates. Metropolitan's member agencies that receive water from the Skinner filtration plant include Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County (WMWD), and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). With the exception of a small portion of EMWD's service area, which can receive water from the Henry J. Mills Filtration Plant during non-peak flows, the Skinner service area is unable to receive treated water from any other Metropolitan treatment plant within Metropolitan's service area.

Background/Purpose

In July 2003, Metropolitan's Board authorized the final designs of Skinner Expansion No. 4 and the Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program (ORP). The Skinner Expansion No. 4 will include addition of the 110-mgd Module No. 7, a 34-mgd Washwater Reclamation Plant No. 3, a reclaimed washwater pumping station, new and consolidated chemical tank farms and feed systems, sludge handling facilities expansion (one additional belt press and a sludge pump), new water pumping stations, yard piping, and related work. Construction of Module No. 7 is scheduled for completion in September 2006. The Skinner ORP will retrofit the expanded plant to treat water with an ozone disinfection system. ORP construction is scheduled for completion in September 2007.

Staff has identified the need for several procurement and construction contracts to most efficiently implement the Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP work. In October 2003, Metropolitan's Board awarded a contract, as part of the Skinner Expansion No. 4 Program, to pre-purchase approximately 320 linear feet of 79-inch-diameter steel pipe, 930 linear feet of 48-inch-diameter steel pipe and 55 linear feet of 36-inch-diameter steel pipe. The 79-inch-diameter pipe will be part of the Module No. 7 influent piping and the 48-inch and 36-inch-diameter pipes will be used to temporarily re-route reclaimed washwater while other construction takes place. These pipes have been fabricated and were delivered to the Skinner plant in March 2004.

Site Preparation for Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP (\$8.54 million)

Previous Bids Rejected

The site preparation contract was previously bid in January 2004 under Specifications No. 1485. As discussed in the Engineering and Operations Committee meeting of February 2004, all bids were rejected. The work was readvertised on February 13, 2004, under Specifications No. 1485A.

Project Description

Work within the site preparation includes excavation, construction of access roads, rough grading, installation of a temporary engine-generator, demolition and relocation of existing utilities, installation of chain link fence and gates, construction of a slurry wall, and installation of Metropolitan-furnished welded steel pipe. The engine-generator will provide temporary backup power for the reclaimed washwater pumping station during construction.

Bid Results and Business Outreach

As shown in Attachment 2, three bids were received and opened under Specifications No. 1485A for Skinner Expansion No. 4 and ORP Site Preparation. The low bid from ABHE & Svoboda, Inc., in the amount of \$5.4481 million, complies with the requirements of the specifications. The engineer's estimate was \$5.1 million. For this project, Metropolitan requires Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation of at least 25 percent of the total construction bid. ABHE & Svoboda, Inc. is a SBE firm and thus achieves 100 percent participation.

Cost Estimate

Attachment 3 shows the total requested funding of \$8.61 million for the construction phase of this project. This amount will be apportioned between the Skinner Expansion No. 4 and Skinner ORP Programs. Metropolitan staff will perform construction management of this project. The cost of construction inspection and support as a percentage of the total construction cost is approximately 13.1 percent. The Engineering Services goal for inspection of construction contracts of less than \$10 million is 12 to 15 percent.

In addition to awarding the site preparation construction contract, this action also provides funding for construction management and support; Metropolitan force construction, including the replacement of two existing washwater pumps and installation of an emergency generator; environmental monitoring services, which will be performed under an existing professional services agreement; and administration of the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) covering this work. The PLA is structured to provide an agreement acceptable to Metropolitan and trade unions for the settlement of all misunderstandings, disputes or grievances. The PLA helps ensure that the construction work is done in an efficient, economical manner, and to avoid any delays in the project.

Project Milestones

- May 2004 – Issue Notice to Proceed to contractor for site preparation
- September 2004 – Award of construction contract for Module No. 7
- April 2005 – Award of construction contract for remaining Skinner Expansion No. 4 work and Skinner ORP
- May 2005 – Completion of site preparation construction for Skinner ORP
- September 2006 – Completion of Module No. 7 construction
- December 2006 – Completion of all Skinner Expansion No. 4 work
- September 2007 – Completion of Skinner ORP construction

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Abstract of Bids Received on March 18, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.
Specifications No. 1485A

Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Expansion No. 4 and ORP Site Preparation

The contract consists of preparing the Skinner Filtration Plant site for the Expansion No. 4 and ORP programs as specified in Specifications No. 1485A.

Engineer's Estimate: \$5,100,000

Bidder and Location	Total	SBE \$	SBE %	Met SBE*
ABHE & Svoboda, Inc., Prior Lake, Minn	\$5,448,100	\$5,448,100	100%	Yes
L.H. Woods & Sons, Inc., Vista, CA	\$6,544,700	N/A	N/A	N/A
C.W. Poss, Inc., Fullerton, CA	\$6,799,500	N/A	N/A	N/A

* SBE (Small Business Enterprise) Participation set at 25 percent
N/A – Not Applicable

Financial Statement for Skinner Filtration Plant Expansion No. 4 Program

A breakdown of Board Action No. 3 for Appropriation No. 15410 for the Skinner Filtration Plant Expansion No. 4 Program is as follows:

	Previous Total Appropriated Amount (Oct. 2003)	Skinner Expansion No. 4 Reallocation**	Current Board Action No. 3 (Apr. 2004)	New Total Appropriated Amount
Labor				
Studies and Investigations	\$ 0	\$ 580,000	\$ 0	\$ 580,000
Design and Specifications	8,099,000	0	0	8,099,000
Owner Costs (Program management and environmental monitoring)	1,128,200	130,000	137,000	1,395,200
Metropolitan Force Construction	113,000	0	147,000	260,000
Construction Inspection and Support	0	0	326,000	326,000
Materials and Supplies	570,400	60,000	213,000	843,400
Incidental Expenses	150,000	20,000	10,000	180,000
Professional/Technical Services (Environmental monitoring and Project Labor Agreement administration)	2,251,000	650,000	213,000	3,114,000
Equipment Use	20,000	20,000	10,000	50,000
Contracts	372,000	0	2,188,000	2,560,000
Funds reallocated from Approp. 15365	1,460,000	(1,460,000)**	0	0
*Remaining Budget	2,149,000	0	331,000	2,480,000
Total	\$16,312,600	\$ 0**	\$3,575,000	\$19,887,600

Funding Request

Program Name:	Skinner Filtration Plant – Expansion No. 4 Program		
Source of Funds:	Construction Funds (General Obligation, Revenue Bonds, Pay-As-You-Go Fund)		
Appropriation No.:	15410	Board Action No.:	3
Requested Amount:	\$ 3,575,000	Capital Program No.:	15410-I
Total Appropriated Amount:	\$ 19,887,600	Capital Program Page No.:	E-67 (Approp. 15365)
Program Estimate:	\$ 111,498,000*	Program Goal:	I-Infrastructure Reliability

* Total Program Estimate reflects previous reallocation of \$1.76 million (including \$300,000 remaining budget) associated with Skinner Module No. 7 preliminary design from the Skinner Improvements Program (Approp. 15365) to the Skinner Expansion No. 4 Program (Approp. 15410).

** Distribution of \$1.46 million of funds for consistency with the November 2003 Board action for the Skinner Improvements Program (Item 8-3).

Financial Statement for Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program

A breakdown of Board Action No. 3 for Appropriation No. 15388 for the Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program is as follows:

	Previous Total Appropriated Amount (Jul. 2003)	Current Board Action No. 3 (Apr. 2004)	New Total Appropriated Amount
Labor			
Studies and Investigations	\$ 1,540,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,540,000
Design and Specifications	136,000	0	136,000
Owner Costs (Program management and environmental monitoring)	1,647,000	204,000	1,851,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	133,000	221,000	354,000
Construction Inspection and Support	0	490,000	490,000
Materials and Supplies	20,000	213,000	233,000
Incidental Expenses	160,000	10,000	170,000
Professional/Technical Services (Environmental monitoring and Project Labor Agreement administration)	13,280,000	123,000	13,403,000
Equipment Use	35,000	10,000	45,000
Contracts	0	3,269,000	3,269,000
Remaining Budget	<u>2,697,000</u>	<u>495,000</u>	<u>3,192,000</u>
Total	<u>\$19,648,000</u>	<u>\$5,035,000</u>	<u>\$24,683,000</u>

Funding Request

Program Name:	Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program		
Source of Funds:	Construction Funds (General Obligation, Revenue Bonds, Pay-As-You-Go Fund)		
Appropriation No.:	15388	Board Action No.:	3
Requested Amount:	\$ 5,035,000	Capital Program No.:	15388-W
Total Appropriated Amount:	\$ 24,683,000	Capital Program Page No.:	E-68
Total Program Estimate:	\$ 173,000,000*	Program Goal:	WQ/Compliance

* The capital budget for fiscal year 2003/04 states a program estimate of \$197 million. The reduced Total Program Estimate of \$173,000,000 reflects a lower construction cost estimate (refined as a result of preliminary design activities, including value engineering).

Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing Mitigated Negative Declaration



**The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California**

Mitigated Negative Declaration

**Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant
Reliability and Quality Program
Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing**

**For additional information
Regarding this document contact:**

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Environmental Planning Team
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Los Angeles, California 90054-0153**

**Mr. Jeff Ford
(213) 217-5687**

Metropolitan Report No. 1219

December 2003

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SECTION 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is proposing to construct an additional construction use area and temporary creek crossing and change in work schedule associated with the approved 630-mgd Oxidation Retrofit Program (ORP) and filtration Module Number Seven (Module 7) at the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant (Skinner Plant). The environmental impacts from the ORP facilities and Module 7 were addressed as part of an overall improvement program in the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR). The additional construction use area would serve the ORP construction site and access to the ORP site would require the construction of a temporary crossing of Tocalota Creek. The proposed Project also includes new fencing along the Benton Road extension in the plant property west of Washington Street. The fencing would be on both sides of the road with gates to the plant's service roads in the area and the existing gate near Washington Street would be left open to permit access for construction and plant personnel. This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) assesses the potential impacts of the additional construction use area, the temporary creek crossing, new fencing and a change in construction work hours for the approved ORP and Module 7.

1.1 Location

Regionally, the Skinner Plant is located southwest of Lake Skinner in unincorporated southwestern Riverside County approximately ten miles southwest of the city of Hemet, five miles east of the city of Murrieta, and five miles northeast of the city of Temecula (see **Figure 1-1** (Regional Location Map)). Locally, the Skinner Plant is located east of Winchester Road at the east end of Auld Road (see **Figure 1-2** (Local Vicinity Map)).

The 396-acre Skinner Plant is located in an unincorporated area of southwest Riverside County, immediately west of Lake Skinner. The Lake Skinner Dam forms a portion of the eastern boundary of the Skinner Plant. The Skinner Plant is found on Bachelor Mountain 7.5' USGS Quadrangle T7S R2W. **Figure 1-3** (Aerial Photograph of the Skinner Plant) presents an aerial photograph of the Skinner Plant.

The additional construction use area would be located north of the existing plant facilities in the open area north of Tocalota Creek. To access the ORP portion of the Skinner Plant site from the additional construction use area would require that the existing maintenance road crossing of Tocalota Creek be improved. The additional construction use area and the creek crossing are shown in **Figures 1-4** and **1-5** (Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing).

The proposed new fencing would extend along both sides of Benton Road through the plant site. The fencing would be six-foot tall chain-link with gates at four service roads serving the plant. One gate at the end of Benton road would be made of tubular steel and would have a mechanical opener and four light stanchions similar to those currently on the plant site would illuminate the gate.

The additional use area is in the Auld Valley-Tucalota Creek area, in front (west-southwest) of the Lake Skinner Dam. The terrain on the site is relatively flat with a broad open swale along the northern limits of the additional use area. The incised Tucalota Creek drainage borders the site to the south. This drainage usually has some minor year-around flow, being feed by small amounts of water released from the nearby dam.

1.2 Project Background and Tiering of the Environmental Document

1.2.1 Need for the Proposed Project

Metropolitan will be implementing the approved Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program (Program) to expand and upgrade the existing treatment systems at the Skinner Plant. The Skinner Plant treats drinking water that is supplied to Metropolitan's member agencies: Eastern Municipal Water District of Riverside County, Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County, the San Diego County Water Authority, and their subagencies. The approved Program includes numerous individual projects, each occurring within the existing footprint of the Skinner Plant, that will augment the existing treatment processes and expand the plant's total treatment capacity design from 520 mgd to 630 mgd. The overall water supplies will not be different from what exists.

The ORP facilities will be located northeast of Plant 1 where the reclaimed wash water and retention basins (A and B) are currently sited. With the addition of ORP facilities northeast of Plant 1, the reclaimed wash water and retention basins will be demolished. It was conceived in the FPEIR that the construction lay-down area would be located within or immediately adjacent to the construction area for the ORP facilities. As project planning continued it became clear that more contiguous area would be necessary for use as a construction lay-down area for the ORP facilities, and that the area designated for the ORP facilities would not be large enough to allow for construction activities to occur along side a construction lay-down area. In response to this, an additional construction use area was proposed for the ORP facilities. The area proposed for use as the ORP facilities construction lay-down area would be located immediately north of Tucalota Creek. This additional construction use area would be accessed from the ORP facilities construction site by an existing dirt maintenance road that crosses the creek. **Figures 1-4 and 1-5** show the location of the additional construction use area and the creek crossing.

This area of the Skinner Plant is proposed for the additional construction use area because it would be within close proximity to the new service road that will be constructed along the northern flank of the Skinner Plant to provide access to the ORP facilities and because it would be the only area both large enough and close to the ORP site to provide an adequate construction laydown area. A temporary crossing of Tucolota Creek would be constructed to connect the existing service road to the additional construction use area. The additional fencing along Benton Road would be needed to permit access for construction personnel and plant personnel to the ORP construction site and to maintain security for the plant. The construction schedule would need to allow for occasional 24-hour workdays in order to complete to ORP on schedule and to permit concrete placements to begin curing outside of the time of day with peak temperatures.

1.2.2 Tiering of the Environmental Document

On July 8, 2003, Metropolitan's Board of Directors certified the FPEIR for the Program and approved the Program itself. The FPEIR analyzed numerous Program components for the Skinner Plant, including the ORP facilities. On that same date the Board also adopted the Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Considerations regarding significant unavoidable adverse air quality impacts, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

Section 15152(a) of the *State CEQA Guidelines* states "'Tiering' refers to using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR (such as one prepared for a general plan or policy statement) with later EIRs and negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions from the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project." Section 15152(g) of the *State CEQA Guidelines* states "There are various types of EIRs that may be used in a tiering situation. These include, but are not limited to the following: (3) Program EIR (Section 15168)."

The potential impacts of the Program were already analyzed as part of the FPEIR. For this reason, the discussion contained in this MND focuses on those potential impacts that were not assessed previously, making reference to the FPEIR where necessary. This MND document is a second tier document to the FPEIR. This MND analyzes specific changes to the manner in which the approved Program is being implemented that were not known at the time the FPEIR was certified. The specific changes being analyzed are fully described below in Section 1.3 (Project Description).

1.2.3 Incorporation by Reference

Because of their relevance to the current proposed project, the Draft and Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program and all of the studies cited in those documents are hereby incorporated by reference. Also incorporated by reference is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Copies of these documents are available for public review at the offices of the Metropolitan Water District's Reference and Research Center at 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California.

For the convenience of the reader, a statement referring to the relevant sections of the FPEIR is included at the beginning of each discussion for each of the environmental factors addressed in Section 3.

1.3 Project Description

Metropolitan proposes to construct an approximate 10.33-acre (450 feet by 1,000 feet) additional construction use area on the north side of Tualota Creek, as shown in **Figure 1-4** (Additional Construction Use Area). This area would be used for the storage of material and equipment, and for construction worker parking required during the construction of the ORP facilities. At its closest point the additional construction use area would be 50 feet north of the high-water mark of Tualota Creek. The additional construction use area would provide a construction lay-down area for use during the construction of the ORP facilities. As described above, the FPEIR analyzed the construction lay-down area as being within or adjacent to the construction impact area for the ORP

facilities. Relocating the construction lay-down area would increase the available workspace within the ORP construction area, and eliminate potential conflicts between the construction effort and the storage of materials and equipment. Some construction parking for the ORP facilities would be within the additional construction use area. The additional construction use area would have perimeter fencing with two gates at the dirt service road, which dissects the area. This is in addition to the fencing along Benton Road. Temporary lighting would be placed throughout the additional construction use area for safety and security purposes. A minimum 20-foot wide emergency vehicle access way would border the inside fence area. Material delivery trucks and construction workers would access the additional construction use area from the north off of Benton Road. After construction of the ORP facilities is completed, the additional construction use area would be returned to its existing condition, although it would remain relatively level. All improvements made within the additional construction use area would be removed and the area would be allowed to revegetate on its own.

The construction of the additional construction use area would require a moderate amount of grubbing and grading of the surface area to provide a level vegetation free surface. The maximum amount of graded surface that would occur on any day would be six acres. During the maximum workday a total of four heavy pieces of equipment (an excavator, a backhoe, a bulldozer and a grader) and one water truck (for dust control) would be operating. Grading operations, therefore, would be completed within two to three days. Completion of all of the components (grading, fencing, lighting, etc.) of the additional construction use area would take between seven and eleven days.

The proposed project also would include improvements and an expansion of the approximately 17-foot wide access road from the south, which crosses Tualota Creek. **Figure 1-5** (Creek Crossing) shows a preliminary drawing of the proposed creek crossing. This temporary roadway would be needed to connect the additional construction use area to the new northerly service access roadway to the ORP facilities. The temporary roadway across the creek would be designed to accommodate construction trucks that would haul materials between the additional construction use area and the construction site for the ORP facilities. As shown, construction of the temporary roadway would raise the surface of the road by up to approximately ten feet at Tualota Creek using dirt excavated from the new Module 7 and the new additional construction use area. The surface of the temporary roadway would be 40 feet wide, and approximately 329 feet long. The construction of the road would temporarily impact approximately 80 linear feet of Tualota Creek and the base of the temporary roadway would be approximately 60 feet wide within the creek bed. Five 30-inch corrugated metal pipes (CMP) pipes would be placed within the area of the streambed beneath the temporary roadway. The temporary roadway would be compacted, but not paved. To prevent the compacted fill around the five 30-inch CMP pipes from eroding during a storm event, concrete/riprap would be applied to the surface of the sides of the compacted fill. After construction of the ORP facilities is completed the improvements to the access road would be removed, and the dirt roadway would be returned to its existing condition. The vegetation along Tualota Creek would be replaced and allowed to naturally grow back to its existing conditions. The construction of the crossing would require the same amount of equipment and time to complete as the grading and preparation of use of the new construction use area; however, the construction of the crossing would commence after the completion of the new construction use area. The crossing of Tualota Creek would require regulatory permits from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers and the California

Department of Fish and Game. The crossing would be removed, and the additional construction use area abandoned in the summer of 2007.

Typical BMP erosion control measures would be implemented during construction. These would include, but would not be limited to, the use of mulch, plastic sheeting, erosion control blankets, or sandbags to control erosion caused by rainfall, and development of check berms and desilting basins during construction activities would also typically be used to prevent offsite sediment transport. A typical BMP stormwater pollution interception system would include a temporary detention/sedimentation basin and a filter or clarifier device that would remove pollutants from the runoff before it would be released from the property.

Temporary construction electrical power lines would be brought to the additional construction use area from the Skinner Plant via temporary wooden poles installed along the access roadway. Light fixtures would be installed at locations throughout the additional construction use area and along the access roadway to ensure safety and security. All outdoor light fixtures at the Skinner Plant utilize low-pressure sodium vapor (LPSV) lights in accordance with the "Special Lighting Area" requirements for the Mt. Palomar Observatory. Internal and external shielding louvers or baffles would be used on the lights to control light spill.

Northern access to the additional construction use area would be provided off of Benton Road. Construction workers, construction material delivery trucks, and the on-site dam caretaker would use the northern access. The existing sliding gate that is located just east of Washington Street across Benton Road would be opened, and new chain link fencing six feet in height would be installed along both sides of Benton Road between the existing gate location and the eastern terminus of Benton Road (see **Figure 1-6** (New Fencing Along Benton Road)). The existing barbed wire fence on the south side of Benton Road would be removed. Gates would be installed at the two dirt maintenance roads that extend in a northerly direction from Benton Road, and at the one dirt maintenance road that extends in a southerly direction that leads to the additional construction use area. These gates would be locked with padlocks. The existing gate at the eastern terminus of Benton Road would be replaced with a new gate that would be remote controlled. This gate would provide access to the house used by the on-site dam caretaker. Four lights mounted on stanchions would be placed near this gate to provide safety and security. Electrical power is already available at this location.

Metropolitan is proposing to alter the construction working hours schedule of the approved Program as assessed in the FPEIR. Construction work shifts were described in the FPEIR as one shift, five to six days a week (Monday – Saturday). The schedule now requires, during certain periods, that construction be performed 24 hours per day – seven days per week. Construction work occurring during the nighttime hours would require lighting, which would comply with CalOSHA requirements. In order to limit noise impacts to nearby residential land uses, the Riverside County Code limits construction hours to between 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM June through September, and 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, October through May. The new construction schedule would periodically require construction be performed 24 hours per day – seven days per week. This change could occur anytime during the construction of the ORP and Module 7, which is scheduled to last from June 2004 to September 2007. Metropolitan would be required to obtain a variance from the county of Riverside to enable the 24 hours per day – seven days per week schedule.

No aspect of the proposed Project would result in either an increase in population, the number of new employees or staff in the area.

1.3.1 Project Construction

Construction of the fencing along Benton Road would last for approximately two weeks during the spring of 2004. Construction of the additional construction use area, the creek crossing, the extension of temporary construction electrical power poles/lines to the additional construction use area would begin in February 2005. It is assumed that a maximum of six acres of the additional construction use area would be worked at any one time and the construction duration for the proposed project would be between seven to eleven days. A maximum total of four pieces of construction equipment and one truck would be assumed to be operating per day. Soil from the additional construction use area would be used to create a relatively level area and to construct the temporary creek crossing and no export of soil would be required. Grubbed vegetation would be stored/disposed of consistent with the remainder of the material from the ORP. Construction of the ORP facilities is expected to be completed in July 2007. Once the ORP facilities are completed, the additional construction use area and the creek crossing would be returned to their pre-construction condition. The additional construction use area would be allowed to revegetate naturally, and the roadway constructed over the creek would be removed and the current conditions would be restored. Native vegetation along the creek bed would be planted to return natural conditions. The fence along Benton Road would be left in place.

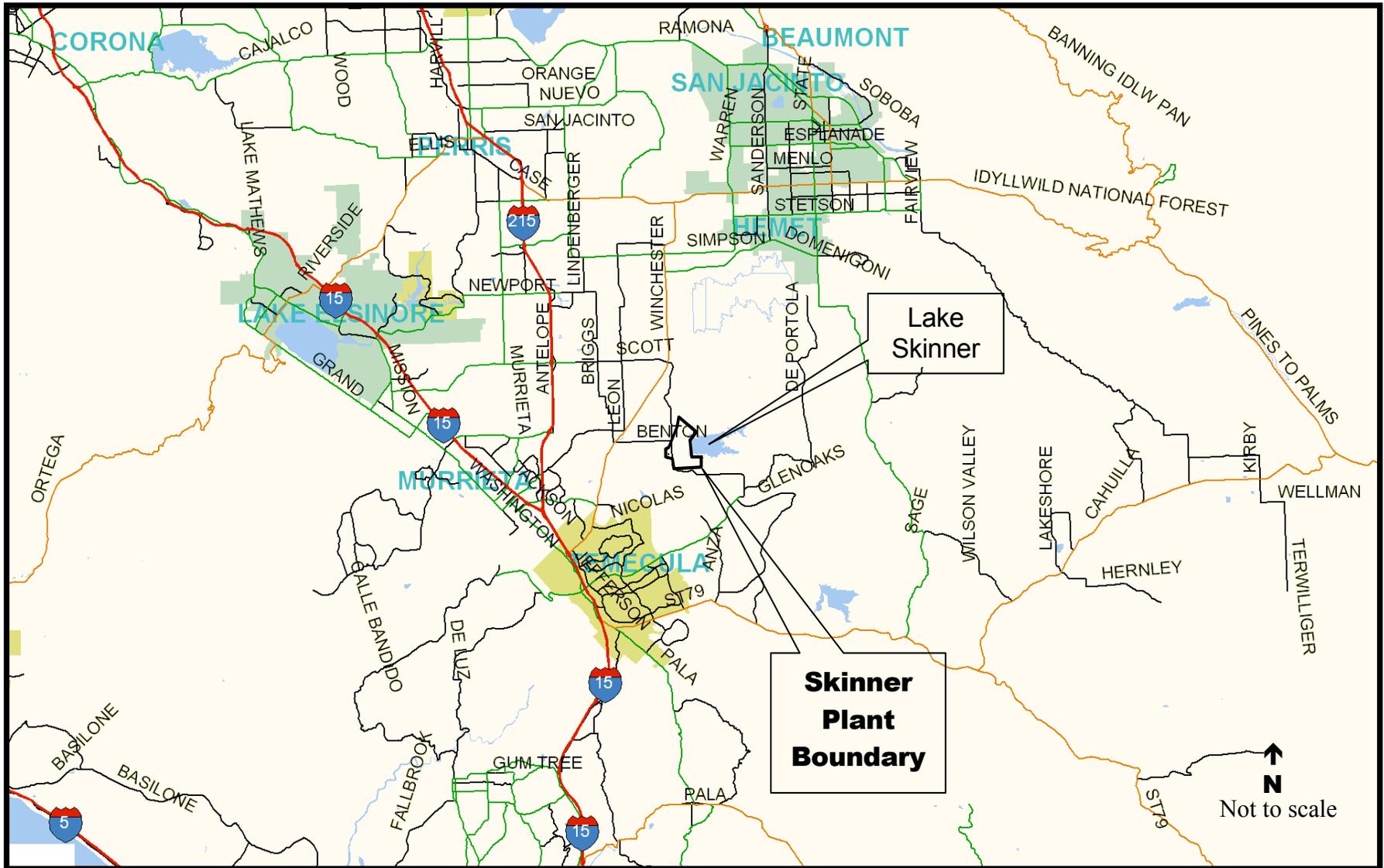
1.4 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The 396-acre Skinner Plant is located in an unincorporated area of southwest Riverside County, immediately west of Lake Skinner. The Skinner Plant is bordered to the north and south by primarily vacant open space land, to the east by the Lake Skinner Dam and Reservoir, to the north and southeast is the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve, and to the west by Washington Street/Borel Road with low-density, single-family residential homes interspersed with open space further to the west. The additional construction use area would be directly bounded by open space to the west, north, and east, and by Tocalota Creek to the south. Further to the south is the main Skinner Plant. The closest residential use is located on the west side of Washington Street just south of Benton Road. The nearest housing development is located further west along Maddalena Road between Auld and Benton Roads.

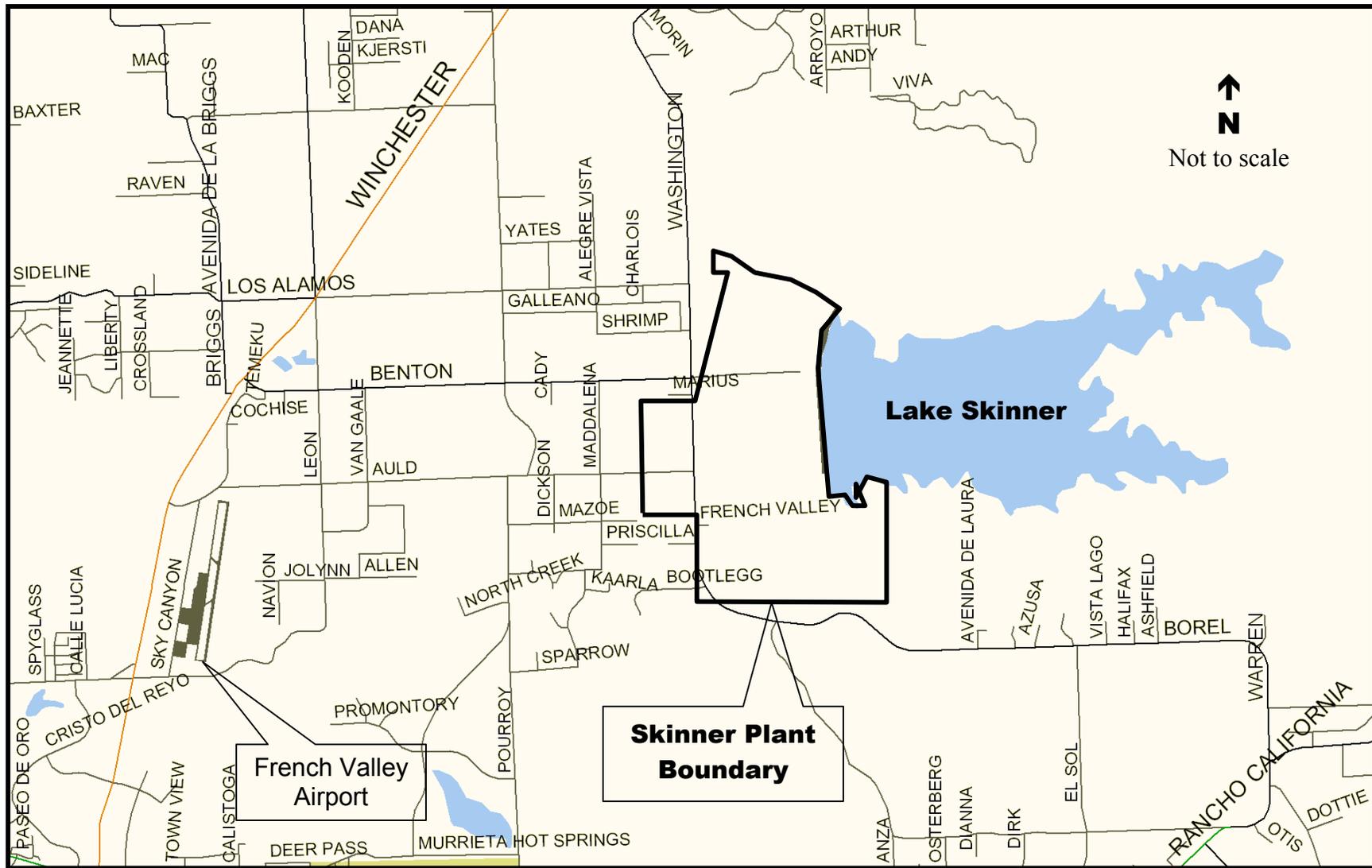
The Skinner Plant is located on a small, dissected plateau over the Auld Valley-Tocalota Creek area. This plateau consists of some small hills dissected by several slight-moderate sloped drainages. The margin of the plateau of the Skinner Plant site consists of steeper, dissected topography as it goes down into the drainage area of Tocalota Creek. The Auld Valley-Tocalota Creek generally consists of a broad flat valley, that contain a series of terraces and small hills, just north and outside the main drainage area. These terraces are dissected by several, steeply sided ephemeral drainages and small knolls.

1.5 General Plan and Zoning

The existing General Plan land use designation for the Skinner Plant is Public Facilities and zoning designation on the Skinner Plant site is Rural Residential (R-R).



**Figure 1-1
Regional Location Map**



**Figure 1-2
Local Vicinity Map**



Figure 1-3
Aerial Photograph of the Skinner Plant

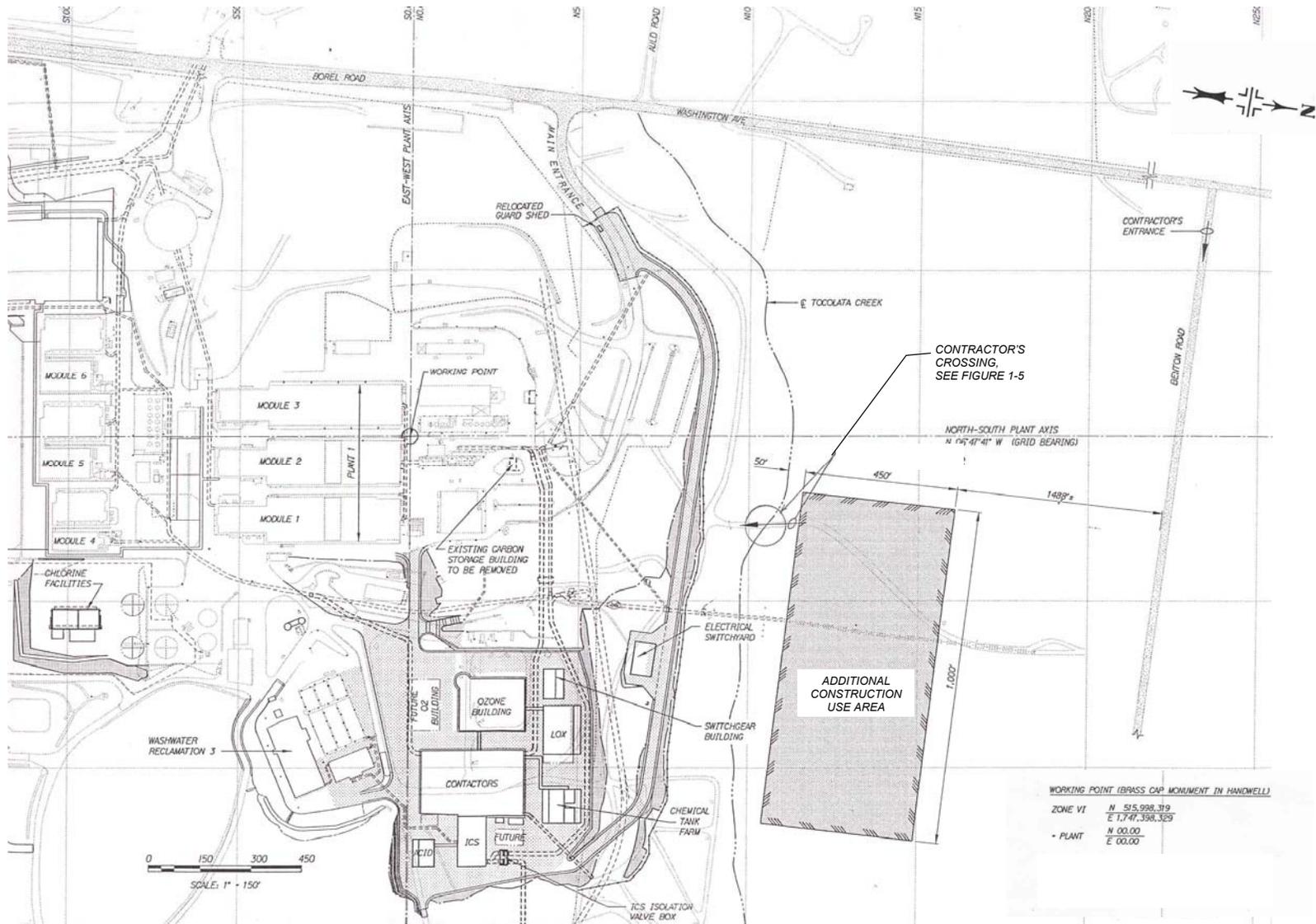


Figure 1-4
Additional Construction Use Area

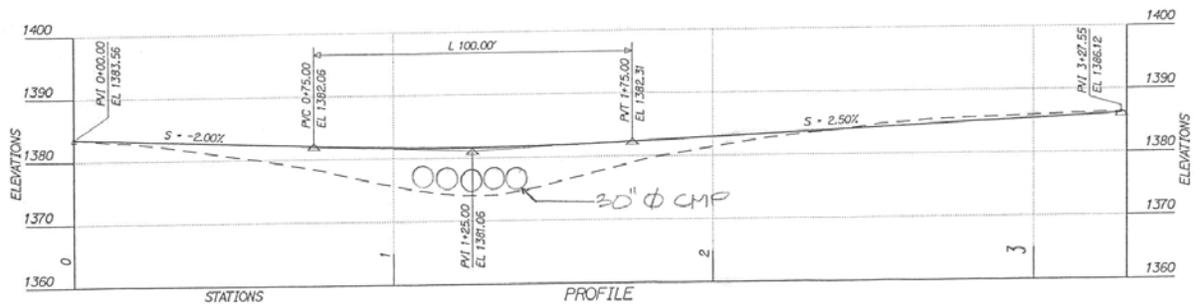
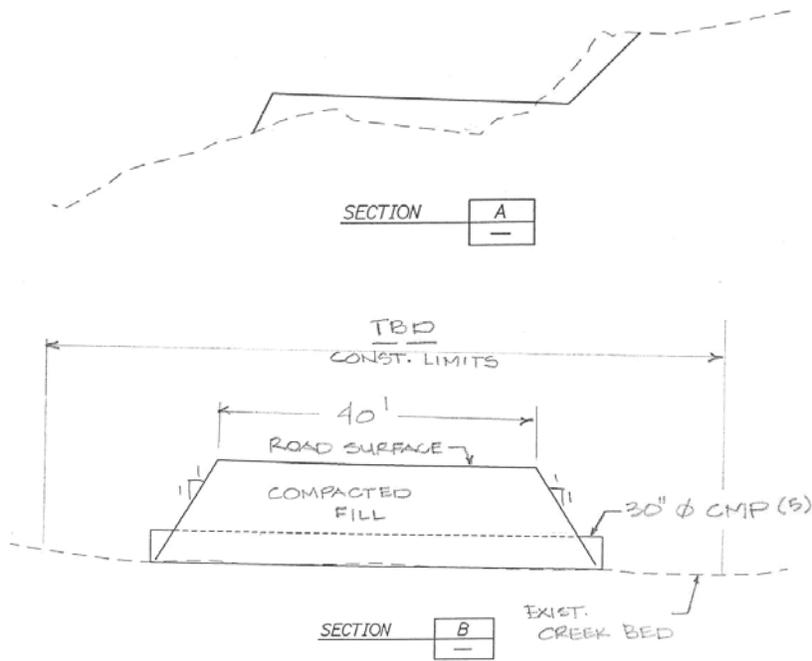
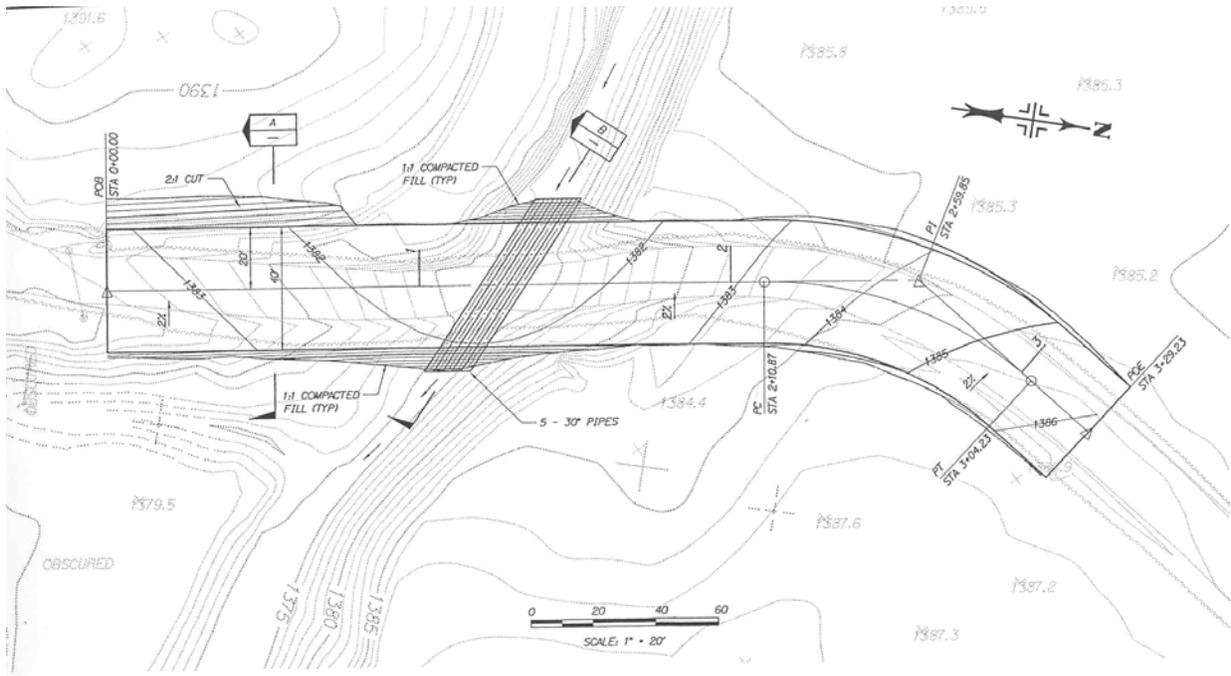


Figure 1-5
Creek Crossing



Figure 1-6
New Fencing Along Benton Road

SECTION 2 INITIAL STUDY

2.1 Introduction

This MND complies with Section 15071 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The following Initial Study, Environmental Checklist, and evaluation of the potential environmental effects were completed in accordance with Section 15063(d)(3) of the *State CEQA Guidelines* to determine if the proposed project could have any potential significant effect on the physical environment. A discussion of previous CEQA documentation for related actions at the Skinner Plant is presented in Section 1 of the MND under “Project Background and Tiering of the Environmental Document.”

An explanation is provided for all determinations, including the citation of sources as listed in Section 5. A “No Impact” or “Less-than-Significant Impact” determination indicates that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the physical environment for that specific environmental category. A “Less-than-Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated” determination indicates that, though an impact could be significant, mitigation measures have been included that reduce the impact to less than significant. No environmental category was found to have a potentially significant adverse impact with implementation of the proposed project.

2.2 Initial Study and Environmental Checklist Form

1. **Project Title:** Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program – Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Mr. Jeff Ford (213) 217-5687
4. **Project Location:** The proposed project site would be located in the Winchester community within the county of Riverside northeast of the cities of Temecula and Murrieta. The project site would be located north of the main plant of the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant, which has its entrance at 33740 Borel Road.
5. **Project Proponent’s Name & Address:** Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

- 6. **General Plan Designation:** Public Facilities¹
- 7. **Zoning:** Rural Residential (R-R)²
- 8. **Description of Project:** See Project Description in Section 1 of the MND
- 9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** See Surrounding Land Uses in Section 1 of the MND

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval and Review Are Required:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region: Issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit; issuance Clean Water Act, Section 401 Certification

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Issuance of Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit

California Department of Fish and Game: Issuance of Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, Section 1601.

County of Riverside, Department of Public Works: Noise Ordinance Variance.

2.3 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by that project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

¹ / Riverside County Integrated Project, October 2003.

² / Riverside County Zoning Ordinance, current.

2.4 Environmental Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because mitigation measures have been incorporated and revisions to the project have been made. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the project, nothing further is required.

Laura J. Simonek
Signature

Laura J. Simonek
Printed Name

December 17, 2003
Date

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
For

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SECTION 3 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>I. AESTHETICS</u> - Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.1 presents a detailed discussion of aesthetic resources in the Program area.

Discussion:

a) *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

No Impact. The additional construction use area and the creek crossing would be located north of the main Skinner Plant facilities in a relatively low-lying valley. The additional construction use area would be set back from Washington Street approximately 1,050 feet, and views along this roadway would not be substantially altered by the temporary placement of the construction equipment, fencing and materials within the additional construction use area at this location. The project would add fencing along Benton Road within the plant, however the plant perimeter has existing chain link fencing along Washington Street in the vicinity of Benton Road. In addition, there are no designated scenic vistas that overlook the additional construction use area. There is only one residential structure adjacent to Washington Street across from the proposed additional construction use area, and there are large trees and shrubs on that property, which shield the view towards the proposed additional construction use area and creek crossing. No impact to scenic vistas would occur.

The proposed changes in work hours within the Module 7 and ORP facilities construction areas would not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista because the only physical change to aesthetics would be increased nighttime lighting. The nighttime lighting issue is evaluated in Item I(d), and no impact would occur.

b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

No Impact. The County of Riverside Southwest Area Community Plan indicates that the Skinner Plant site is not located near or within a state scenic highway. In addition, the proposed Project being would not remove any scenic resources such as buildings, trees, or rock outcroppings. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Less-than-significant Impact. The proposed project would involve the construction of an additional construction use area and a creek crossing north of the main Skinner Plant facilities. These facilities would be consistent with the construction activities that would be ongoing between 2004 and 2007. The additional use area would be visible from the nearby land uses to the west of the project site. The additional use area would require the removal of approximately 10.3 acres of annual non-native grassland, and the creek crossing would require an alteration to the roadway where it crosses Tualota Creek. These two areas would be returned to their pre-construction condition when construction of the ORP facilities is completed in 2007. The removal of the vegetation and the build-up of the roadway across the creek would not be visible from off-site locations. These changes to the existing visual character on the Skinner Plant site would not degrade the public's scenic views within the project area, because the areas undergoing change would not be readily seen from off-site locations due to the intervening changes in the topography. In addition, the changes would be temporary, and the property would be returned to its pre-construction condition upon the completion of the ORP construction activities. The addition of chain link fencing along both sides of Benton Road east of Washington Street within the Skinner Plant property would not degrade the existing visual character of the area, because it would not be readily visible from offsite locations, and the Skinner Plant site already has perimeter chain link fencing. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

The proposed change in work hours within the Module 7 and ORP facilities construction areas would not degrade the existing visual character of the area, because the only physical change would be increased nighttime lighting. The nighttime lighting issue is evaluated in Item I(d), and no impact to the visual character or quality of the site would occur.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less-than-significant Impact. Safety and security lighting would be installed within the additional construction use area and along the roadway that would cross the creek. This impact would be temporary and would be eliminated at the conclusion of construction of the ORP facility. Light spill is created when light shines beyond the area to be illuminated. For light spill to be a significant impact it requires an adjoining land use that would be sensitive to light spill. The portion of the plant site that would have new construction is sufficiently set back from all adjoining land uses (0.20 miles) to assure that light spill from any of the light sources within the additional construction use area would result in no impact.

Pursuant to the policy requirements in the Riverside County Integrated Plan and as part of the proposed project, all outdoor light fixtures would be designed to utilize LPSV lights. The use of

LPSV lights would minimize skyglow that otherwise could affect ability to use the telescope at the Mt. Palomar Observatory and would result in a less-than-significant impact with respect to skyglow and the ability to use the telescope at the observatory.

Lighting was expected to be used during the construction of the Program during the late fall, winter and early spring when daylight hours would be limited. The changes with the proposed project would extend the hours when the lights would be used. The additional light sources within the Module 7 and the ORP construction area due to lengthened working hours would not affect a scenic vista since there are no scenic vistas adjacent to the plant. Orienting the lighting on the active work area so that the direct illumination would not extend beyond the intended lighting area and onto surrounding areas would effectively control light spill to nearby sensitive receptors. Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agricultural farmland. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could individually or cumulatively result in loss of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of agricultural resources in the Program area.

Discussion:

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

No Impact. The Skinner Plant site does not contain any farmland considered to be prime, unique, or of statewide importance, nor does it have unique agricultural resources that would be permanently affected by the proposed project.¹ Therefore, no impacts would occur.

b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

¹ California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Western Riverside County Map, 1998.

No Impact. The Skinner Plant site would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.² The site is currently zoned for water utility use. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c) *Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?*

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the conversion of productive farmland into non-agricultural uses because there are no agricultural resources or active farming on the property.³ Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emission which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.2 presents a detailed discussion of air quality issues in the Program area.

Discussion:

a) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The applicable air quality plan for the project area is the 1999 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).⁴ The AQMP strategy is based on projections from local general plans and regional growth projections developed by the Southern California Association of

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The 2003 AQMP (a revision of the 1999 AQMP) was adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on August 1, 2003, and adoption by CARB is pending.

Governments (SCAG). A project is deemed inconsistent with air quality plans if it would result in population and/or employment growth that exceeds growth estimates included in the applicable air quality plan.

The proposed project would include an additional construction use area for use as a construction material lay-down area required during construction of the ORP facilities, the construction of a creek crossing, the installation of chain link fencing along Benton Road, and longer working hours within the Module 7 and ORP construction areas. The physical changes to the environment proposed by the project would only involve site grubbing, grading and fencing. It would not result in either an increase in population and the number of new employees or staff in the area. Furthermore, the proposed Project would be a relocation of the construction lay-down on the site, and the ORP and Module 7 facilities are not being modified, thereby resulting in no net increase in employment in the region. The change in working hours on the site would also have no effect on population or employment.

Because the Program, including Module 7 and the ORP, was determined to be consistent with the local general plan and the Regional Growth Management Plan, the proposed project is not regionally significant and would be consistent with the 1999 AQMP. Hence, a less-than-significant impact would result with project implementation.

b) *Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

Less-than-significant Impact. Air quality impacts are typically divided into two categories, short-term impacts and long-term impacts. Short-term impacts are associated with construction activities, such as site grading, excavation, building construction, etc. Long-term impacts are associated with the operation of a particular project upon its completion.

The SCAQMD provides thresholds of significance for short-term and long-term air quality impacts in its *1993 CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. **Table 3-1** (SCAQMD Significance Thresholds) presents the emission significance thresholds for criteria pollutants.

Projected air emissions were calculated using the URBEMIS 2002 emissions model approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). URBEMIS 2002 is a computer program that can be used to estimate emissions associated with land development projects in California including the construction of those projects. The URBEMIS 2002 model uses EMFAC2002 emissions factors for vehicle traffic. Specific air emissions calculations worksheets can be found in Appendix A.

Table 3-1
SCAQMD SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

<i>Project Phase</i>	<i>Pollutant Emission Threshold (lbs/day)</i>			
	<i>ROG</i>	<i>NO_x</i>	<i>CO</i>	<i>PM₁₀</i>
Construction	75	100	550	150
Operation	55	55	550	150

ROG = Reactive Organic Gases
 NO_x = Oxides of Nitrogen
 CO = Carbon Monoxide
 PM₁₀ = Particulate Matter < 10 microns in size
 Source: CEQA Air Quality Handbook, SCAQMD, 1993.

Short-term – (Construction) Impacts

The construction of the proposed project would involve site preparation including clearing and grubbing of the vegetation and grading the site. For modeling purposes, it is assumed that a maximum of six acres of the site would be worked at a time and the construction duration at each phase would be between seven to eleven days. A maximum total of four pieces of construction equipment and one truck are assumed to be operating per day. Emissions would result from the use of heavy-duty equipment such as excavator, backhoe, water truck (for dust control), bulldozer and grader. In addition, emissions due to vehicular travel by construction employees to and from the proposed site would also be generated during the construction phase.

The maximum number of equipment required for the construction of the temporary roadway across the creek was assumed to be the same and would result in similar worst-case air quality effects, which would be less-than-significant as shown in **Table 3-2**. It was assumed that the construction of the roadway across the creek would occur after the additional construction use area was graded and prepared for occupation; therefore, there would be no cumulative impact between the two activities, and that the same equipment used to prepare the additional construction use area would then be used in preparing the creek crossing. The placement of fencing on site was not evaluated since there would not be any grading or heavy equipment required to install the fencing, the fencing installation would not occur simultaneously with the construction of the construction use area or creek crossing and the emissions would be substantially less than those of the remainder of the proposed Project.

Emissions of criteria pollutants from the construction activities were estimated using the construction module of URBEMIS 2002. The model-estimated emissions of the project are shown in **Table 3-2** (Maximum Daily Construction Emissions) and compared to SCAQMD’s thresholds of significance.

As shown in **Table 3-2**, the unmitigated maximum daily emissions would be well below the SCAQMD significance thresholds for all criteria pollutants. Therefore, air quality impacts associated with construction of the proposed project would be temporary and less than significant.

The closing of the additional use area and the removal of the roadway across the creek after the ORP facilities are completed would require similar or less equipment than used during their construction, and would result in lower emissions than are shown in **Table 3-2**. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

Table 3-2
MAXIMUM DAILY CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS

	<i>Pollutant Emission (lbs/day)</i>			
	<i>ROGs</i>	<i>NO_x</i>	<i>CO</i>	<i>PM₁₀</i>
Maximum Daily Construction Emissions, unmitigated	11.60	86.62	89.23	14.01
SCAQMD Significance Thresholds	75	100	550	150
Significant?	No	No	No	No

ROG = Reactive Organic Gases
 NO_x = Oxides of Nitrogen
 CO = Carbon Monoxide
 PM₁₀ = Particulate Matter < 10 microns in size
 Source: CEQA Air Quality Handbook, SCAQMD, 1993.

The air quality analysis of the Program provided in the FPEIR indicated that the construction of the Program would result in a significant impact from NO_x and PM₁₀ emissions. The proposed Project would not significantly increase those emissions because the maximum daily emissions of NO_x and PM₁₀, before mitigation are below the significance thresholds. And by incorporating the same mitigation measures identified in FPEIR, the emissions would be further reduced. For modeling purposes, it was assumed that no additional pieces of construction equipment would be used for the construction of the additional construction use area or the temporary roadway across the creek. In addition, the construction of the fencing along Benton Road and the longer work hours for construction workers would not increase the amount of grading required for the proposed project. Therefore, the total emissions, as predicted in the FPEIR, would include the emissions of the proposed project, which would be less-than-significant.

Long-term (Operational) Impacts

There are no long-term emissions associated with the proposed project. The proposed project, except for the fencing along the Benton Road alignment, would be abandoned after construction of the ORP facilities are completed, and the creek crossing removed. Neither the fencing nor the changes in work hours for construction would result in long-term impacts. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- c) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The proposed project site would be located in the South Coast Air Basin, which is designated as a nonattainment area for carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), and particulate matter (PM₁₀). The cumulative air quality impact of the facility was addressed in the FPEIR, which included a determination that the short-term cumulative impacts from CO, NO_x, PM₁₀ and reactive organic gases (ROG) would be significant. As discussed in Item III.b. above, construction emissions would be below SCAQMD significance thresholds for all criteria pollutants, and the proposed Project would occur during a different construction time than the mass grading of the Program site. Therefore, a less-than-significant increase in cumulative emissions would occur. There would not be an increase in operational emissions. Overall, the cumulative impact from construction of the proposed project would not substantially increase the impacts originally evaluated for the approved Program.

The proposed project would not create any new operational air quality impacts other than those analyzed in the FPEIR. Those impacts were determined to be less-than-significant. Therefore, a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant would not occur.

- d) *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Less-than-significant Impact. Sensitive receptors include children, athletes, elderly, and the chronically ill who would be more susceptible to air pollution than the general population. Examples of land uses where substantial numbers of sensitive receptors are often found are: schools, daycare centers, parks, recreational areas, medical facilities, rest homes and convalescent care facilities. No sensitive receptors are located within one-mile of the project site (FPEIR). No aspect of the proposed project would generate substantial pollutant concentrations (see Item III.b.). Installing the fencing along Benton Road would not generate substantial pollutant concentrations because the work would primarily be done by hand and there would not be any significant sources of pollution. Extending the working hours during the day would also not generate substantial pollutant concentrations since the evaluation of the impacts from Program construction was evaluated for in the FPEIR and was determined to be less than significant. The change in work hours would only alter the time of those impacts and not change their quantity and there are no nearby uses that would be more susceptible to emissions in the evening or early morning hours. Therefore, no sensitive receptors would be exposed to pollutant concentrations associated with the construction of the proposed project and less-than-significant impacts would occur.

- e) *Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?*

No Impact. Potential odors associated with exhaust emissions from construction equipment and vehicles would occur during the grading and construction activities of the proposed project. These odors would be temporary, short-term and localized within the project site. There are only three residences within one-mile of the project site, and there are no other uses with persons within one-

mile of the project vicinity. No operational aspect of the proposed project would increase odors. No impact to a substantial number of people would result from odors from the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) either individually or in combination with the known or probable impacts of other activities through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.3 presents a detailed discussion of biological resources in the Program area.

Discussion:

- a) *Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The additional construction use area, fencing and creek crossing, and the ORP and Module 7 construction areas lie within the area studied within the FPEIR; therefore, the baseline data used in the analysis of impacts will incorporate by reference the results of those previous studies.

A field assessment of the proposed additional construction use area was conducted on October 15, 2003⁵. The survey consisted of a reconnaissance of the 10.33-acre (450 feet by 1,000 feet) proposed additional construction use area to identify biological resource elements occurring on the site and to determine the presence or absence of Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) (*Dipodomys stephensi*). For a detailed listing of plant and animal species found within the proposed additional construction use area and temporary creek crossing please refer to Appendix B.

No sensitive plant species were observed during the current survey. However, the Draft Program EIR identified a single smooth tarplant (*Centromadia [Hemizonia] pungens* ssp. *laevis*), a federal Species of Concern, within or in close proximity (north) to the additional construction use area. This plant species would most likely occur in the open swale area along the northern limits of the additional construction use area, as this species is generally found in more mesic soils than those in the proposed additional construction use area. The proposed additional construction use area would be established with a 50-foot setback from the open swale north of the current proposed boundary along the northern limits of the additional construction use area. This setback would minimize disturbance to mesic vegetation associated with the adjacent Alkali Meadow community, and suitable habitat for smooth tarplant. Therefore, the impacts to these plants would be less than significant.

One special status wildlife species, SKR, a federally listed endangered species, was detected by sign within the additional construction use area during the October 2003 field assessment. Evidence of SKR was observed within and adjacent to the dirt access road bisecting the proposed additional construction use area (see Appendix B). Although trapping was not conducted, the sign observed is believed to be that of the SKR. Identification is based on the habitat type occupied by SKR (i.e., annual grasslands and open bare ground) and field sign (e.g., scat, burrows, tracks, and dust bathing sites). Active burrows and sign were noted within the dirt access road and to some extent outward from the road approximately 65-100 feet. Inactive burrows were noted throughout most of the additional construction use area, but in trace densities. The dense grassland and ruderal vegetation likely exclude most of the site from being inhabited at this time. Based on the walkover survey, the SKR density within and immediately adjacent to the dirt road is estimated to be medium. Elsewhere throughout the site the density (under current conditions) would be unoccupied to trace abundance. Some SKR would be directly impacted by the grading and vegetation clearing required for the additional construction use area and a maximum 10.3 acres of suitable SKR habitat would be temporarily lost during the construction phase for the ORP facilities. SKR impacts shall be offset in accordance with The Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency's (RCHCA) long-term Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Federal Endangered Species Act Section 10(a) permit for incidental take of SKR. The HCP is designed to insure the long-term survival of the species through the establishment of reserves in the project area and mitigates the impacts to SKR. The RCHCA shall be notified of the impacts from construction of the additional construction use area. Therefore, the impacts to SKR would not be significant.

Although undetected during the current survey, several avian species would be expected to seasonally utilize the site as foraging habitat, including northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), white-

⁵ Wagner Biological Consulting, Biological Assessment for the Lake Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program Work Laydown Area, October 23, 2003.

tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), short-eared owl (*Asio otus*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Although suitable habitat occurs on the site, no burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) were observed during the current survey or known to have previously inhabited the proposed additional construction use area. Foraging habitat for raptor species that seasonally utilize the site would be unavailable for these species during use of the site as a construction lay-down area. However, half of the Program area analyzed in support of the FPEIR is composed of annual non-native grassland (198.6 acres), and the additional construction use area would temporarily impact only six percent of this non-native grassland plant community, leaving ample suitable foraging habitat in the immediate vicinity, and would be allowed to return to its current vegetative state at project completion. Therefore, the impacts to foraging raptor species would be less-than-significant.

Vegetation at the proposed Tualota Creek Road crossing consists of a dense riparian scrub in the stream channel upstream of the existing crossing and ungrouted rip rap material on the slopes. The scrub is dominated by mulefat with small populations of willows occurring in the more mesic portions of the creek bottom. Vegetation is less dense on the downstream portion of the existing road crossing and consists of scattered populations of mulefat and non-native grasses including dense-flowered sprangle top (*Leptochloa univervia*) and rabbit's foot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*). Several shrubs also occur on the banks of the creek, including Mexican elderberry and the invasive non-native tree tobacco. The construction of the road would temporarily impact approximately 80 linear feet of Tualota Creek and remove the vegetation on either side of the existing crossing. No sensitive animal species were observed during the surveys performed for the crossing⁶.

The proposed fencing for Benton Road would be placed immediately adjacent to the road on the shoulder in an area that is highly disturbed as a result of road activity and maintenance. Temporary construction power poles and lines would run to the additional construction use area from the plant site which would impact areas mainly to the south of Tualota Creek which is in the more developed areas of the plant site. These poles would be removed at the conclusion of the construction of the ORP. The longer work hours may require night lighting for longer periods, however this lighting would be directed on to the active work areas of the site and not onto the surrounding open space where wildlife might be impacted. Therefore, no sensitive species would be impacted by the installation of the fencing, power poles, or the longer work hours.

Mitigation Measure

IV-1 Prior to the use of the additional construction use area its limits shall be fenced to avoid adverse impacts to sensitive plants, riparian habitat and alkali meadow area outside the construction lay down site.

⁶ Aspen Environmental. Draft Environmental Impact Assessment, November 2003.

- b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less-than-significant Impact. Approximately 0.07 acre of riparian habitat, subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and to Section 1601 of the State Fish and Game Code, administered by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), would be impacted as a result of construction of a temporary road across Tualota Creek. The base of the temporary roadway would be approximately 60 feet wide within the creek bed. Five 30-inch diameter CMP pipes would be placed within the area of the creek bed beneath the temporary roadway to allow water-flow to continue to flow within the existing base of the creek. The construction of the temporary roadway would require the removal of all the vegetation within the construction zone. After construction of the ORP facilities is completed the improvements to the access road would be removed, and the dirt roadway would be returned to its existing condition. The riparian vegetation along the side of road in Tualota Creek would also be planted to naturally grow back to its existing conditions.

Additionally, as part of the design of the construction use area, a 50-foot setback at the closest point was established from the northern bank of Tualota Creek along the southern limits of the additional construction use area. This setback would ensure that no encroachment into riparian habitat, other than at the creek crossing discussed above, would occur.

This impact to riparian habitat would be mitigated by replacement, restoration, or other measures consistent with the permitting requirements of the Corps and the CDFG. Metropolitan would comply with the permitting requirements of the Corps and the CDFG, both of which have a “no net loss” wetland policy. Metropolitan shall coordinate with these agencies during the permitting process to ensure that no net loss of functions and values would be achieved for the 0.07 acre of impacted habitat. Therefore, the temporary loss of less than 0.07 acre subject to CDFG jurisdiction, 0.04 of which are subject to Corps jurisdiction, of this habitat would be less-than-significant.

- c) *Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

No Impact. Construction of the temporary creek crossing (see Item IV.b. above) would not impact areas identified as federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The federal wetland delineation criteria were tested at several locations along Tualota Creek⁷. These criteria evaluate the hydrology, soils, and vegetation to make a determination if wetlands are present. Tualota Creek does not possess any wetlands in the area of the proposed project based on these criteria. However, the section of Tualota Creek where the temporary roadway crossing would be placed would be “Waters of the United States” subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the Corps. The Corps has created a series of nationwide permits that authorize certain activities within waters of the U.S. provided that the proposed activity demonstrates

⁷ Ibid.

compliance with standard conditions. The Corps would consult with the USFWS with regards to nationwide permit applications that have the potential to impact threatened or endangered species.

Metropolitan shall comply with the permitting requirements of the Corps, which has a “no net loss” wetland policy. Metropolitan shall coordinate with the Corps during the permitting process to ensure that no net loss of functions and values would be achieved for the 0.07 acre of temporarily impacted habitat. After the construction of the ORP facilities is completed, the improvements to the access road would be removed, and the dirt roadway would be returned to its existing condition. The additional construction use area design would pull back the area to prevent any additional impacts to jurisdictional waters. The riparian vegetation along Tualota Creek would also be planted to naturally grow back to its existing conditions. Hence, project implementation would not have an impact to federally protected wetlands.

- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The plant site is located west (outside) of the existing Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve and north of the W. Ruel Johnson Ecological Reserve. Construction of the additional construction use area would occur approximately 500 feet north of existing Skinner Plant. The proposed additional construction use area would not serve as a connection between the reserves and would not be an animal movement corridor. The placement of fencing along Benton Road and the fencing around the perimeter of the additional construction use area to avoid habitat impacts for the duration of the use of the area would reduce the ability of wildlife to move in a north-south direction. However, a fence already exists along the northern boundary of the plant, which limits north-south wildlife movement through the area. The fencing along the face of the dam is set back and would allow for wildlife movement; this area also connects with Tualota Creek, which is not fenced. The proposed project would not alter the current wildlife movement corridor along the face of the dam, and the five 30-inch CMP pipes being placed under the temporary roadway creek crossing would maintain wildlife movement along Tualota Creek. Wildlife moving through the area could also go over the crossing if necessary since slopes on the sides of the crossing are not steep enough to prevent animals from moving over the road.

The lighting of the additional construction use area would be directed into the area itself and not on the surrounding area. In addition, the construction use area would be set back a minimum of 50 feet from Tualota Creek. The lengthened working hours and lighting for the Program would be within the developed plant premises and would not impact wildlife movement through the open space areas adjacent to the plant site. Therefore, the impacts to wildlife movement would be less than significant.

e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

No Impact. Changes on the Skinner Plant site due to the proposed project would be temporary in nature, and the affected land would be returned to current conditions upon the completion of construction of the ORP facilities. The use of the site as a water filtration plant is consistent with the General Plan land use and zoning designations for the county of Riverside. The proposed project would not require the removal of any mature trees. Therefore, no impacts to local ordinances or policies would occur.

f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

No Impact. The additional construction use area would not lie within any habitat conservation areas as designated by outside agencies. Though adjacent to both the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve and the W. Ruel Johnson Ecological Reserve, covering the former Johnson Ranch parcel, the operations area of the Skinner Plant has been specifically excluded from the Reserves. The proposed Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, which has been adopted by the county of Riverside but not approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also excludes the Skinner Plant. The additional construction use area would be constructed adjacent to the central and largely developed portions of the Skinner Plant and within the operations area. Therefore, no impact to a conservation plan would result during the construction or operation of the additional construction use area or the creek crossing, or change in work hours.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> - Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.4 presents a detailed discussion of cultural resources, and section 5.9 presents a detailed discussion of paleontological resources in the Program area.

Discussion:

- a) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?*

No Impact. The project would not require the removal or modification of any existing structures. Metropolitan brought the Skinner Plant into service in 1976. None of the buildings or structures on the Skinner Plant site would be considered historic and no indirect impact to a historic resource would occur. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- b) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The additional construction use area would be located within an area of the Skinner Plant property that has been disturbed by grading in the past. The area was surveyed in 2001 and no cultural resources were found in the area⁸. However, unknown archaeological sites may be encountered during grading and therefore, impacts to archaeological resources could be a potentially significant impact in this area.

Mitigation Measure

V-1 For all ground disturbances in previously undisturbed Holocene-age soils, work shall be monitored as appropriate by a qualified archaeologist. For any cultural materials that are observed during ground disturbance, all construction activity at the location shall be immediately suspended and the area shall be clearly staked and flagged. The materials shall be evaluated for potential significance in accordance with the *State CEQA Guidelines*. If determined not to be significant, construction shall be allowed to resume. If determined to be significant, a treatment plan shall be prepared and implemented as described in mitigation measure CR-2 in the adopted MMRP for the FPEIR prior to resuming construction.

- c) *Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The additional construction use area would be located within an area of the Skinner Plant property that has been disturbed by grading in the past. However, the soil in the area is alluvium, which may result in some fossils being encountered during construction and therefore, impacts to paleontologic resources could be a potentially significant impact in this area.

⁸ Applied Earthworks, Inc. Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Recommendations for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Lake Skinner Filtration Plant Operations Area. July 31, 2002.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Although paleontologic resources are not known to occur on the Skinner Plant site, the following mitigation measures from the adopted MMRP for the FPEIR are to be implemented should buried unique paleontologic resources be discovered.

- V-2 All excavation within previously undisturbed alluvium will be monitored for paleontologic resources.
- V-3 If fossils are identified during construction activities, the area will be flagged for evaluation and recovery of specimens by a professional paleontologist.
- V-4 All recovered specimens will be documented, analyzed, and prepared to a point of identification and permanent storage.
- V-5 All recovered specimens will be permanently stored in a repository, with retrievable storage and access for research and interpretation.

d) *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The additional construction use area was subject to an archeological survey in 2001 and no human remains were found⁹. The following mitigation measure from the adopted MMRP for the FPEIR will be implemented should undiscovered buried human remains be exposed.

Mitigation Measure

- V-6 For the discovery of human remains during construction, notification of the coroner and designated Native American representatives shall proceed in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and *State CEQA Guidelines*.

⁹ Applied Earthworks, Inc. Cultural Resources Inventory and Management Recommendations for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Lake Skinner Filtration Plant Operations Area. July 31, 2002.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iv) Landslides?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Note: FPEIR section 5.5 presents a detailed discussion of soils and geology in the Program area.

Discussion:

a) *Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:*

i) *Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42)?*

No Impact. The Skinner Plant site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and there are no known or mapped active faults that pass through the proposed project site. The additional use area would not be crossed by any regional active faults, as mapped by the California Geological Survey (formerly the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG)). As shown on **Figure 5.5-2** in the FPEIR, at their closest approach, the San Jacinto and Elsinore Fault zones pass approximately 12 miles and eight miles, respectively, from the Skinner Plant site. **Figure 5.5-3** in

the FPEIR from the Riverside County Land Planning Department, also shows that no active faults project toward or cross the site area. A number of faults are located in the Perris Block; however, these faults are usually of local extent and seldom are more than a few miles in length and are not considered to be active. The proposed project, including the altered work schedule, would not involve the construction of any structures that might expose people to risk of loss, injury, or death. Therefore, no impact would occur.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

No Impact. Like much of Southern California, the additional construction use area and creek crossing, and the ORP and Module 7 construction area is located in a seismically active region, and may be subject to ground shaking and other geologic hazards while they are in operation. The proposed project, including the altered work schedule, does not involve any structures that might expose people to risk of loss, injury, or death. Therefore, no impact would occur.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact. Generally, seismic-induced liquefaction occurs when saturated granular soil deposits of low relative density are subject to extreme shaking and loses strength or stiffness because of increased pore water pressure. The potential for liquefaction depends on the levels of shaking, groundwater conditions, the relative density of the soils, and the age and extent of the geologic units. This would not be affected by the changed work schedule. Given the site would not be prone to liquefaction according to the analysis in the FPEIR, and the fact that there are no permanent structures located within the additional construction use area or the creek crossing, there is no impact due to ground failure.

iv) Landslides?

No Impact. The additional use area and surrounding area are relatively flat and no potential for landslides exists. Therefore, no impact would occur. The creek crossing would occur within an existing indentation through Tualota Creek. The temporary roadway would be built up to be level with the land at both its north and south ends. Therefore, no impact from landslides would occur.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less-than-significant Impact. The additional use construction use area currently drains to the north away from Tualota Creek. The creek crossing is susceptible to erosion because of the potential for runoff to pass under the temporary roadway. The banks of the temporary roadway would be covered with shot rock/riprap to limit potential erosion and culverts would be placed under the crossing to pass flows downstream. The proposed project would be subject to the requirements of the NPDES permit obtained for the Program. The NPDES permit program, administered through the RWQCB, requires that an erosion control plan utilizing Best Management Practices (BMP) be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of the permit. Compliance with the requirements of the NPDES permit would necessitate the use of erosion control measures and a stormwater pollution interception system during construction activities. Typical BMP erosion control measures would include, but would not limited to, the use of mulch, plastic sheeting, erosion control blankets, or

sandbags to control erosion caused by rainfall, and development of check berms and desilting basins during construction activities would also typically used to prevent offsite sediment transport. A typical BMP stormwater pollution interception system would include a temporary detention/sedimentation basin and a filter or clarifier device that would remove pollutants from the runoff before it would be released from the property. The implementation of the BMPs established in the NPDES permit for the proposed project would reduce to a less-than-significant level any erosion impacts at the project site.

c) *Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

No Impact. The additional construction use area and the creek crossing are located in areas previously investigated in geotechnical studies for the plant¹⁰. No unstable geologic features have been identified at the project site. No significant impacts would result from implementation of the proposed project, including the altered work schedule, with respect to on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse since it would not require substantial earth movement. No structures are proposed with the project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) *Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?*

No Impact. The proposed project, including the altered work schedule, does not involve the construction of structures that might result in a substantial risk to life or property. In addition, available geotechnical studies conclude that the alluvium and man-made fills at the Skinner Plant site are not generally expected to be subject to collapse or substantial consolidation. Geotechnical studies indicate that the expansion potential of native soils is very low-to-low (Geomatrix, 1996 and 2003), and therefore, soil expansion would not represent a hazard to the planned additional use area and the temporary roadway across Tualota Creek. Therefore, no impact would occur.

e) *Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

No Impact. No septic tank or alternative on-site wastewater disposal system would be installed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

¹⁰ Geomatrix Consultants, 1996. MWD Engineering Report Number 1118, Geologic and Geotechnical Investigation Report, Modification of Robert A. Skinner Filtration Facility for the Oxidation Retrofit Program. Unpublished report for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. August 14, 1996.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.6 presents a detailed discussion of hazards and hazardous materials in the Program area.

Discussion:

- a) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

No Impact. While hazardous materials are currently used, stored, and transported to and from the Skinner Plant for various plant operations, the proposed project would not result in any increase in routine use, storage, or transportation of such materials. Potential hazardous material use from construction activities on the site were addressed in the FPEIR. No additional use of hazardous materials would be required to construct the proposed project, including the altered work schedule. The new additional construction use area, temporary creek crossing and change in work hours would

not interfere with any access route to the Skinner Plant or to adjacent parcels. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a hazard to the public or the environment. Accordingly, no impact would occur.

- b) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

No Impact. See the response to Item VII.a.

- c) *Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

No Impact. No schools are located within one-quarter mile of the plant site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- d) *Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

No Impact. The additional construction use area and the Skinner Plant as a whole has not been previously identified on any lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The Skinner Plant facility is in compliance with current regulations for hazardous substances, sites, and underground storage tanks. Because the proposed project would not provide for the additional handling or storage of hazardous materials, the temporary installation and operation of the additional use area, temporary roadway creek crossing, and fencing would not create a substantial hazard to the public or the environment. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?*

No Impact. The additional construction use area, fencing, the altered work schedule and the creek crossing would not be located within two miles of a public airport or within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The closest airport is French Valley Airport, which is located approximately 5.75 miles to the west/southwest of the additional use area (see Figure 1-2). Therefore, no impact would occur.

- f) *For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?*

No Impact. See the response to Item VII.e.

- g) *Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

No Impact. The proposed additional construction use area, fencing, the altered work schedule or creek crossing project would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan since local roads would not be altered nor access to any location blocked. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- h) *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wild land fires, including where wild lands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wild lands?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The additional use area would be located within an annual non-native grassland that contains combustible vegetation. Construction activities within the additional use area with a perimeter of 2,900 feet may increase the potential of accidental fires in this area of the Skinner Plant site. The additional use area would be cleared and grubbed in a manner that would remove all of the existing vegetation within the work/lay-down area including a perimeter buffer. The additional use area would have perimeter fencing, and a minimum 20-foot wide clear area around the exterior for fire equipment access. Implementation of the mitigation measures in conjunction with the clear perimeter area would reduce the potential impact below a level of significance. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated would occur.

Mitigation Measure

- VII-1 During construction and occupation of the additional construction use area, all parts of the work shall be connected with the Metropolitan's Contractor water supply system and adequately protected against damage by fire. Hose connections and hose, water casks, chemical equipment, and other equipment required by local jurisdictions shall be provided for fighting fires.
- VII-2 During construction and occupation of the additional construction use area, the exhaust pipes of internal combustion engines used in the work shall be equipped with approved spark arresters.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (i.e., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems to provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Place housing within a 100-year floodplain, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Place within a 100-year floodplain structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.7 presents a detailed discussion of hydrology and water quality in the Program area.

Discussion:

a) *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The proposed additional construction use area and temporary creek crossing and fencing would not discharge any waste of water to the surrounding area. Construction within the additional use area, creek crossing and fencing area has the potential to result in runoff that could carry erosion material downstream. The change in work schedule would not affect water

quality. The additional use area currently drains to the north away from Tocalota Creek. The creek crossing is susceptible to erosion because of the potential for runoff to pass under the temporary roadway. The proposed project would be subject to the requirements of the NPDES permit obtained for the Program. The NPDES permit program, administered through the RWQCB, requires that an erosion control plan utilizing BMP be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of the permit. Compliance with the requirements of the NPDES permit would necessitate the use of erosion control measures and a stormwater pollution interception system during construction activities. Typical BMP erosion control measures would include, but would not be limited to, the use of mulch, plastic sheeting, erosion control blankets, or sandbags to control erosion caused by rainfall, and development of check berms and desilting basins during construction activities would also typically used to prevent offsite sediment transport. A typical BMP stormwater pollution interception system would include a temporary detention/sedimentation basin and a filter or clarifier device that would remove pollutants from the runoff before it is released from the property. The implementation of the BMPs established in the NPDES permit for the project would reduce to a less-than-significant level the potential for the proposed project to violate any water quality standards.

b) *Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?*

No Impact. The proposed project would not be located within a groundwater storage or recharge area. The proposed project would not consume groundwater, as the supply would come from the plant's domestic water system. The proposed project would not interfere with groundwater recharge since it would not involve pumping and would not increase impermeable surface area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The additional use area would not affect Tocalota Creek since this area naturally drains to the north away from the creek. The change in work schedule would not affect site drainage patterns. The creek crossing portion of the proposed project could potentially have an effect since it is altering the creek bed of Tocalota Creek. The proposed project would involve a temporary roadway improvement between the new northerly access roadway to the ORP facilities and the additional use area. This improvement is shown in **Figure 1-5**. As shown in this figure, compacted fill would be placed within the streambed to form the base of the roadway. Five 30-inch CMP pipes would be placed within the area of the streambed beneath the temporary roadway to allow flows to continue downstream. To prevent the compacted fill around the five 30-inch CMP pipes from eroding during a storm event, shot rock/riprap shall be applied to the surface of the sides of the compacted fill. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

- d) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The additional use area would not affect the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. The creek crossing portion of the proposed project could potentially affect the existing drainage pattern of the site or area by placing compacted fill within the Tualota Creek drainage. The design of the temporary roadway would include five 30-inch CMP pipes that would be placed within the area of the streambed beneath the temporary roadway to allow flows to continue downstream. Once the proposed project would be completed, the temporary roadway would be removed and the existing drainage conditions restored. The existing drainage pattern and rates for the Skinner Plant site would remain the same as with the proposed program, and the potential for on-site or off-site flooding would not change. No other aspect of the proposed project would affect drainage. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

- e) *Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The proposed project would not increase the amount of impermeable surface on the Skinner Plant site and would not result in a net increase in stormwater flows. Please see response to Item VIII.a., which describes the required NPDES permit. Runoff generated on the additional construction use area and the creek crossing would be controlled on the site in a manner that would remove pollution from the runoff before it would be allowed to discharge from the Skinner Plant property. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

- f) *Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The proposed project would not have any sources of wastewater that would impact water quality. As a result of grading for the construction use area and the temporary crossing exposed dirt areas will be created which could be eroded and carry sediment into adjacent channels. Please see response to Item VIII.a., which describes the required NPDES permit. A typical BMP stormwater pollution interception system would include a temporary detention/sedimentation basin and a filter or clarifier device that would remove pollutants from the runoff before it is released from the property. After the construction of the ORP facilities is completed, both the additional construction use area and the creek crossing would be returned to their current state. The implementation of the BMPs established in the NPDES permit for the proposed project would reduce to a less-than-significant level the potential for the proposed project to violate any water quality standards.

- g) *Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?*

No Impact. No housing would be built for this proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- h) *Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood*

flows?

Less-than-significant Impact. The additional use area would not place any structures in a flood hazard area, which could impede or redirect flood flows. The creek crossing would place a temporary roadway within the streambed of Tualota Creek. The design of the temporary roadway includes five 30-inch CMP pipes that would be placed within the area of the streambed beneath the temporary roadway, which would be designed to handle storm runoff in Tualota Creek. The creek crossing and the five 30-inch CMP pipes would be removed after construction of the ORP facilities is completed. The overall existing drainage pattern for the Skinner Plant site would remain, and the potential for on-site or off-site flooding would not change. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

i) *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?*

No Impact. The additional construction use area and the creek crossing would be located immediately west of the Lake Skinner Dam. A breach of the dam could result in flooding in the area of the proposed project. This potential impact would be reduced, as the proposed project would not include any permanent structures and the temporary roadway would be removed upon construction completion of the ORP facilities. The dam has been designed and constructed with review and approval of the California Division of Safety of Dams and a chance of catastrophic failure is remote. Therefore, no impact would occur.

j) *Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?*

No Impact. The project site would not be in a coastal area subject to a tsunami and would not be within or adjacent to a hillside area subject to mudflows. The additional use area and creek crossing would be located just west of Lake Skinner and could be subject to seiche wave inundation during a seismic event. This potential impact would be reduced, as the dam would have substantial freeboard even when the lake is full. The uses would be temporary and therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of land use and planning in the Program

area.

Discussion:

a) *Physically divide an established community?*

No Impact. The Skinner Plant site has a general plan designation of Public Facilities, which permits the construction of water treatment facilities. The additional use area, fencing, altered work schedule and the creek crossing would occur within the boundaries of the Skinner Plant site. The proposed Project would not have any temporary or permanent features that might physically divide an established community. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) *Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

No Impact. The Skinner Plant site has a general plan designation of Public Facilities, which permits the construction of water treatment facilities. The additional construction use area, change in work schedule, fencing and the creek crossing would not create any uses that are not consistent with the general plan and zoning designations on the Skinner Plant site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c) *Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?*

No Impact. The additional construction use area does not lie within any habitat conservation areas as designated by outside agencies. Though adjacent to both the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve and the Assessment District 161 Subregional Habitat Conservation Plan Reserve, covering the former Johnson Ranch parcel, the operations area of the Skinner Plant has been specifically excluded from the Reserves. The proposed Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, which has been adopted by the county of Riverside but not approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also excludes the Skinner Plant. The additional use area would be constructed adjacent to the central and largely developed portions of the Skinner Plant and would be within the operations area. Therefore, no impact to a conservation plan would result during the construction or operation of the additional construction use area, the temporary creek crossing or the change in working hours.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of mineral resources in the Program area.

Discussion:

a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

No Impact. According to the *County of Riverside General Plan Map*, no mineral deposits of statewide or regional importance currently exist in project site area. The proposed project would not permanently alter the land and would not affect the availability of, or accessibility to, any mineral resources. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) *Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

No Impact. See Response for Item X.a.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. NOISE - Would the project result in:				
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.8 presents a detailed discussion of noise in the Program area.

Discussion:

- a) *Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Less-than-significant Impact. An evaluation of ambient noise levels at the project site was prepared to determine whether the proposed project, either by itself or cumulatively, would result in any significant impacts related to noise levels¹¹.

Several rating scales have been developed to analyze the adverse effect of community noise on people. These noise levels are stated in terms of decibels on the A-weighted scale (dBA). Noise levels stated by dBA reflect the response of the human ear by filtering out the low and high frequency ranges that the ear does not detect well.

The County of Riverside uses CNEL, the Community Noise Equivalent Level, as the noise measuring scale to determine consistency with the General Plan. CNEL is a 24-hour average L_{eq} (equivalent noise level) that adds a 5-dB penalty for evening noise events (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), as well as the 10-dB nighttime penalty. This weighting takes into account the increased human

¹¹ Ultrasonics Environmental. November 2003.

sensitivity to noise in the evening and nighttime hours.

The purpose of these measurements is primarily to protect sensitive land uses from high levels of noise exposure. Noise-sensitive receptors are generally considered to be human activities or land uses that may be subject to the stress of substantial interference from noise. Land uses associated with sensitive receptors include residential dwellings, hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes, education facilities, and libraries. Sensitive receptors may also be threatened or endangered noise-sensitive biological species. The acceptable exterior noise level for sensitive receptors in the Noise Element of the Riverside County General Plan is 60-dBA CNEL.

Ordinance 457 of the Riverside County Code (County Code), Section 1.G.1, indicates the allowable hours of construction. According to Ordinance 457, Section 1.G.1, if a proposed project is within a quarter-mile of residential or other noise-sensitive land uses, construction hours are limited to between 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM June through September, and 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM October through May. The nearest residential units to the proposed additional construction use area and temporary crossing would be located approximately 0.2 miles to the northwest. The nearest residences to the location of the proposed Module 7 are about 1000 feet to the west. Exceptions to the construction hours standards shall be allowed only with the written permit from the County.

Short-Term Impacts

Construction and operation of the additional use area and the creek crossing would generate intermittent high noise levels on and adjacent to the site during the construction phase of the ORP facilities. Construction noise levels would fluctuate depending on construction activity, equipment type and duration of use, and the distance between noise source and receiver. Average (equivalent) construction noise levels projected at the nearest residence from the project site are presented in **Table 3-3** (Project Construction Noise Levels at Nearest Receiver). This table lists the loudest types of equipment operating at the construction site, the typical noise level generated by these equipment at a distance of 50 feet and at the nearest receiver, and the composite averages (equivalent site noise levels) of the noise from all equipment.

Table 3-3
PROJECT CONSTRUCTION NOISE LEVELS AT NEAREST RECEIVER (dBA)

Location	Loudest Equipment	Noise Level @ 50 ft	Noise Level at Receiver	Composite Noise Level
Receiver at 1000 ft	Dozer	85	50.4	58.2
	Grader	85	50.4	
	Dump Truck	91	56.4	
Receiver at 1500 ft	Dozer	85	45.7	53.5
	Grader	85	45.7	
	Dump Truck	91	51.7	

As shown in **Table 3-3**, the proposed project would not result in construction noise levels at the closest residences exceeding the exterior noise threshold standard of 60-dBA CNEL for sensitive receptors. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

As indicated in the Noise section of the FPEIR, predicted maximum noise level at the nearest residential unit, due to construction of Module 7, which is the closest portion of the Program to adjacent residences, would be about 57 dBA, which is below the General Plan noise standard. However, construction activities need to be occasionally performed 24 hours per day - seven days per week from June 2004 through June 2007. According to the County's noise control ordinance, a variance needs to be obtained from the County to enable this schedule. Obtaining the required variance and having noise levels lower than the General Plan standard would result in the short-term construction impacts being less-than-significant.

Long-term Impacts

The additional construction use area and the creek crossing would be removed upon completion of the ORP facilities. The 24-hour work shifts for construction would not continue during the operation of the OPR and Module 7. Operational impacts for the Program would be consistent with those described in the FPEIR, therefore, there would not be any long-term operational noise impacts from the proposed project.

b) Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No Impact. Vibration is sound radiated through the ground. The rumbling sound caused by the vibration of building interior surfaces is called groundborne noise. The ground motion caused by vibration is measured as particle velocity in inches per second and is referenced as vibration decibels (VdB). Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground-borne vibration are construction equipment and traffic on rough roads.

Construction and operation of the additional construction use area, temporary creek crossing, fencing and longer working hours would not produce excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. All of the construction characteristics would be the same as analyzed in the FPEIR without the proposed project; just the location of the additional construction and the time of day for some of the construction would change. Moreover, the nearest residences (sensitive receptors) would be more than 1,000 feet away from the project site. Based on the estimations provided in **Table 3-4** (Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment), vibration levels would be less than 54 VdB at the nearest residential units. This would be well below the significance threshold of 80 VdB used by the federal government,¹² and would only occur for short periods during construction. No vibration would be generated by the proposed project after completion. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of project implementation.

¹² Office of Planning – FTA, U.S. Department of Transportation, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*. April 1995.

Table 3-4
VIBRATION SOURCE LEVELS FOR CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Approximate VdB</i>			
	<i>25 Feet</i>	<i>50 Feet</i>	<i>500 Feet</i>	<i>1000 Feet</i>
Loaded Truck	86	80	60	54
Jackhammer	79	73	53	47
Small Bulldozer	58	52	32	26

Source: Federal Railroad Administration 1998.

- c) *Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

No Impact. A significant impact may occur if a project would introduce substantial new sources of noise or would substantially add to existing sources of noise within the vicinity of a project site during the operation of a project. The additional construction use area, and creek crossing would be in operation only during the construction of the ORP facilities, changes in the ORP and Module 7 construction schedule would also be temporary. The new fencing would not have any operational noise impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity and no impact would occur.

- d) *Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Less-than-significant Impact. As discussed in Response XI.a., the proposed project would potentially generate high noise levels during the short-term grading and site preparation activities as a result of heavy machinery and equipment use. However, construction noise impacts associated with the proposed project would be temporary and intermittent in nature, and because of the distance effect to the nearest residential receptor, would not exceed 60dBA CNEL which is the General Plan noise standard for residential uses. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

No Impact. The proposed project site would not be located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- f) *For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

No Impact. The project site would not be in the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and business) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of population and housing.

Discussion:

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

No Impact. The proposed additional construction use area, temporary creek crossing, fencing and change in work schedule would have no characteristics that would result in population growth, as it would not require additional employees, but would change the location and times when workers would be on the site during construction. The creek crossing would involve a temporary roadway across creek crossing, but no roadway extensions would occur. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) *Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact. No housing would be located on the project site. As no existing housing occurs on site, none would be displaced by the implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c) *Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact. No residential uses occur on the project site, nor would any persons be displaced by the implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.8 presents a detailed discussion of public services – fire protection in the Program area. FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities in the Program area.

Discussion:

a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:*

Fire Protection?

Less-than-significant Impact. In the event of a fire or hazardous material release at the Skinner plant, the fire station closest to the Skinner Plant (French Valley Fire Station, 37500 Sky Canyon Drive, Murrieta, CA 92563) would initially respond, and is equipped to handle emergency calls. The proposed project would not have any characteristic that would increase the need for fire protection, other than a possible increase in risk of wildfire due to the new addition construction use area having a large perimeter area (2,900 feet) located adjacent to native vegetation. This potential impact would be reduced to less than significant due to the incorporation of mitigation measures (please refer to Response VII.h. for information on wildland fires). Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

Police Protection

No Impact. Construction and operation of the additional construction use area, temporary creek crossing and fencing or the change in construction work hours would not result in any significant adverse impacts on police protection. The proposed project would not create additional demands on existing police response services because there would not be an increase in workers or equipment on the site during construction. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Schools

No Impact. The proposed project would not add any residences, and therefore would not be subject to any development fees levied by school districts as no student generation or impact on school facilities would occur. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Parks

No Impact. No significant impacts on existing parks would occur as a result of implementing the proposed project, because the project would not result in new residents or employees and would not create additional demands on park services. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Other Public Facilities

No Impact. Construction and operation of the additional construction use area and temporary creek crossing, fencing and change in work hours would not result in any new demand for other public facilities. The proposed project would not result in new residents or employees, and would be temporary. Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XIV. RECREATION</u>				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of recreation facilities in the Program area.

Discussion:

a) *Cause an increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

No Impact. The proposed new additional construction use area, the temporary creek crossing, fencing and the change in work hours would not generate new demands for public parks or recreational services since they would not generate new residents or employees in the area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

No Impact. Please see the response to Item XIV.a.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:				
a. Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Conflict with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of transportation/traffic in the Program area.

Discussion:

- a) *Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?*

No Impact. The construction traffic that would be directed to the new additional construction use area was accounted for in the FPEIR. The change in working hours would shift the vehicle trips associated with the construction of the ORP and Module 7 to different hours of the day. No new traffic trips would be generated by the proposed project. The construction trips that would go to the new additional construction use area would have otherwise been directed to staging areas within the main Skinner Plant site. Some of the construction trips would be rerouted to use the Benton Road access to the new additional construction use area; this would reduce the potential for congestion at the main entrance to the Skinner Plant. The truck trips between the new additional construction use area and the ORP facilities would use the temporary creek crossing roadway; thereby they would avoid using the public streets adjacent to the Skinner Plant site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- b) *Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?*

No Impact. See Response XV.a. Since the proposed project would not generate any vehicle trips, it would not change the level of service at any intersection.

- c) *Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?*

No Impact. The proposed project would not have any features that could cause any changes to air traffic patterns. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- d) *Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*

No Impact. The proposed project would not make any changes in road design or introduce incompatible uses on local streets. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- e) *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

No Impact. Please refer to the response in Item VII.g. The new additional construction use area, temporary creek crossing, fencing and change in work hours would not interfere with any access route to the Skinner Plant or to adjacent parcels. Some of the construction traffic would use Benton Road as opposed to the main plant entrance, but this would not restrict emergency personnel from accessing the site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

f) *Result in inadequate parking capacity?*

No Impact. Adequate parking would be provided on the project site for the construction workers, some of who may park in the new additional construction use area. No aspect of the proposed project would increase the demand for parking. Therefore, no impact would occur.

g) *Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?*

No Impact. The proposed Project would take place entirely within the boundaries of the Skinner Plant property and would not affect the construction of alternative transportation facilities. The proposed Project would not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs. Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</u> - Would the project:				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project determined that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: FPEIR section 5.11 presents a detailed discussion of utilities and service systems – wastewater treatment and solid waste in the Program area. FPEIR Appendix A presents a detailed discussion of the other utilities and service systems in the Program area.

Discussion:

- a) *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

No Impact. The proposed project would not generate any new demand for wastewater treatment since there would be no new sewers or sources of wastewater. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- b) *Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

No Impact. See response to Item XVI.a. The proposed project would not require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- c) *Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

Less-than-significant Impact. The proposed additional construction use area, fencing and change in work hours would not require or result in the construction of new storm water facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. The proposed creek crossing project would install five 30-inch CMP pipes within the area of the streambed beneath the temporary roadway. The creek crossing would temporarily impact the existing dip crossing and surrounding riparian vegetation. These impacts would be mitigated by compliance with requirements for permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game (see Section IV.c.). The creek crossing and culverts would be removed when the new ORP facilities have been completed, and the Tualota Creek drainage would be returned to its existing condition. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

- d) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?*

No Impact. Construction on the project site would use plant water and no new entitlements would be required for the proposed project, since no housing or development would be built. Required water connections exist on the site and, if necessary, would be extended to the new construction use area. The proposed Project would not result in the need for expanded facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- e) *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

No Impact. The proposed project has would have no aspect that would generate any increase in wastewater flow. Also, refer to responses in Items XVI.a. and XVI.b. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- f) *Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?*

No Impact. The proposed project would have the potential to generate solid waste during construction, but not during operation. Solid waste generation during construction would be consistent with that of the ORP and Module 7 construction. This effect was evaluated in the FPEIR and determined to be less-than-significant. Generation of solid waste during operation of the proposed project would not exceed the generation rates established in the FPEIR, since the only portion of the proposed project that would not be temporary is the fencing along Benton Road. That fencing would not generate any solid waste. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- g) *Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

No Impact. The proposed project would not generate any solid waste that could not be disposed of consistent with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, no impact would occur.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion:

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

Less-than-significant Impact with Mitigation. The additional use area would remove a maximum of 10.33 acre of annual non-native grassland. No sensitive plant species were observed during the current survey. A single smooth tarplant has been identified near the northern edge of the additional construction use area, but it would not be disturbed by the proposed project since it is outside of the area to be directly impacted. One special status wildlife species, Stephens’ kangaroo rat (SKR), a federally listed endangered species, was detected by sign within the additional constructional use area. The grading and vegetation clearing required for the new additional construction use area would impact some SKR. The impacts to the SKR are temporary in that the additional construction use area would be returned to its existing state when the construction of the ORP facilities is completed. Because of the Habitat Conservation Plan for SKR impacts to SKR would be less-than-significant. The temporary creek crossing would remove approximately 0.07 acre of riparian habitat. This potentially significant impact to riparian habitat would be reduced by replacement, restoration, or other measures consistent with the permitting requirements of the Corps and the CDFG. The site would be restored at the completion of the construction of the ORP. Therefore, the temporary loss of less than 0.07 acre of this habitat would be less-than-significant. The change in working hours would not have any effects on biological resources. No known cultural, historical, or paleontologic resources would be impacted by the proposed project and the potential impacts due to the disturbance of unknown resources has been reduced to less-than-significant by the incorporation

of mitigation measures from the FPEIR. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

Less-than-significant Impact. As provided in more detail in the individual impact discussions of this Mitigated Negative Declaration, the implementation of the identified project-specific mitigation measures would reduce the proposed project potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level. The proposed project’s impacts would all temporary with the exception of the fencing that would be installed along Benton Road. However, the fencing would not have any long-term impacts that would add to those of other projects in the area. As determined in the FPEIR, the Program would have significant short-term cumulative air quality impacts as a result of construction. The proposed project would not substantially add to the cumulative impacts, since the construction of the new additional construction use area and the temporary creek crossing would precede the remaining construction of the ORP and Module 7. Additionally, the construction of the new additional construction use area and the temporary creek crossing would not have significant air quality impacts themselves (see Item III.). Therefore, the short-term cumulative air quality impacts would not be made substantially worse. No other category of impact in the checklist or the FPEIR had a potentially significant impact. For these reasons, the proposed project’s impacts would not be cumulatively considerable. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

- c) *Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

No Impact. Construction of the proposed project would result in temporary minor increases in noise and air pollution. These impacts would be less than significant. These effects would not be substantially adverse to human beings, either directly or indirectly. The only permanent component of the proposed project would be the fencing along the Benton Road extension, which would also not cause substantial adverse impacts on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, no impact would occur.

SECTION 4 LIST OF MITIGATION MEASURES

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

IV-1 Prior to the use of the additional construction use area its limits shall be fenced to avoid adverse impacts to habitat outside the construction lay-down site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Unknown archaeological sites may be encountered during construction and therefore, impacts to archaeological resources could be a potentially significant impact in this area.

V-1 For all ground disturbances in previously undisturbed Holocene-age soils, work shall be monitored as appropriate by a qualified archaeologist. For any cultural materials that are observed during ground disturbance, all construction activity at the location shall be immediately suspended and the area shall be clearly staked and flagged. The materials shall be evaluated for potential significance in accordance with the *State CEQA Guidelines*. If determined not to be significant, construction shall be allowed to resume. If determined to be significant, a treatment plan shall be prepared and implemented as described in mitigation measure CR-2 in the in the adopted MMRP for the FPEIR prior to resuming construction.

Although human remains are not known to occur on the Skinner Plant site, the following mitigation measure is to be implemented should buried human remains be discovered.

V-6 For the discovery of human remains during construction, notification of the coroner and designated Native American representatives shall proceed in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and *State CEQA Guidelines*.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Although paleontologic resources are not known to occur on the Skinner Plant site, the following mitigation measures from the adopted MMRP for the FPEIR are to be implemented should buried unique paleontologic resources be discovered.

- V-2 All excavation within previously undisturbed alluvium will be monitored for paleontologic resources.
- V-3 If fossils are identified during construction activities, the area will be flagged for evaluation and recovery of specimens by a professional paleontologist.
- V-4 All recovered specimens will be documented, analyzed, and prepared to a point of identification and permanent storage.
- V-5 All recovered specimens will be permanently stored in a repository, with retrievable storage and access for research and interpretation.

WILDLAND FIRES

Construction activities within the additional use area would increase the potential of accidental fires in this area of the Skinner Plant site.

- VII-1 During construction and occupation of the additional construction use area, all parts of the work shall be connected with the Metropolitan's Contractor water supply system and adequately protected against damage by fire. Hose connections and hose, water casks, chemical equipment, and other equipment required by local jurisdictions shall be provided for fighting fires.
- VII-2 During construction and occupation of the additional construction use area, the exhaust pipes of internal combustion engines used in the work shall be equipped with approved spark arresters.

**SECTION 5
REFERENCES**

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**SECTION 6
LIST OF PREPARERS**

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APPENDIX A
AIR EMISSIONS CALCULATIONS SHEETS

Page: 1

URBEMIS 2002 For Windows 7.4.2

File Name: G:\00 Open Projects\5161 MWD Lake Skinner Plant MND\Working docs\5161
Project Name: MWD - Construction Laydown Area for Skinner Plant
Project Location: South Coast Air Basin (Los Angeles area)
On-Road Motor Vehicle Emissions Based on EMFAC2002 version 2.2

SUMMARY REPORT
(Pounds/Day - Summer)

CONSTRUCTION EMISSION ESTIMATES

*** 2004 ***	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10 TOTAL	PM10 EXHAUST	PM10 DUST
TOTALS (lbs/day, unmitigated)	11.60	86.62	89.23	0.00	14.01	4.00	10.01
TOTALS (lbs/day, mitigated)	11.02	65.88	84.87	0.00	6.10	3.80	2.30

Page: 2

URBEMIS 2002 For Windows 7.4.2

File Name: G:\00 Open Projects\5161 MWD Lake Skinner Plant MND\Working docs\5161 -
 Project Name: MWD - Construction Laydown Area for Skinner Plant
 Project Location: South Coast Air Basin (Los Angeles area)
 On-Road Motor Vehicle Emissions Based on EMFAC2002 version 2.2

DETAIL REPORT
 (Pounds/Day - Summer)

Construction Start Month and Year: January, 2004
 Construction Duration: 0.5
 Total Land Use Area to be Developed: 0 acres
 Maximum Acreage Disturbed Per Day: 1 acres
 Single Family Units: 0 Multi-Family Units: 0
 Retail/Office/Institutional/Industrial Square Footage: 263000

CONSTRUCTION EMISSION ESTIMATES UNMITIGATED (lbs/day)

Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10 TOTAL	PM10 EXHAUST	PM10 DUST
*** 2004***							
Phase 1 - Demolition Emissions							
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00
Off-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
On-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maximum lbs/day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phase 2 - Site Grading Emissions							
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	10.00
Off-Road Diesel	11.51	86.40	87.16	-	4.00	4.00	0.00
On-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worker Trips	0.09	0.22	2.07	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Maximum lbs/day	11.60	86.62	89.23	0.00	14.01	4.00	10.01
Phase 3 - Building Construction							
Bldg Const Off-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bldg Const Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Arch Coatings Off-Gas	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arch Coatings Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asphalt Off-Gas	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asphalt Off-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asphalt On-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asphalt Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maximum lbs/day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Max lbs/day all phases	11.60	86.62	89.23	0.00	14.01	4.00	10.01

Phase 3 - Building Construction Assumptions: Phase Turned OFF

Phase 2 - Site Grading Assumptions
 Start Month/Year for Phase 2: Jan '04
 Phase 2 Duration: 0.5 months
 On-Road Truck Travel (VMT): 0
 Off-Road Equipment

No.	Type	Horsepower	Load Factor	Hours/Day
1	Excavators	180	0.580	8.0
1	Graders	174	0.575	8.0
1	Off Highway Trucks	417	0.490	8.0
1	Rubber Tired Dozers	352	0.590	8.0
1	Tractor/Loaders/Backhoes	79	0.465	8.0

CONSTRUCTION EMISSION ESTIMATES MITIGATED (lbs/day)

Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10 TOTAL	PM10 EXHAUST	PM10 DUST
*** 2004***							
Phase 1 - Demolition Emissions							
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00
Off-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
On-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maximum lbs/day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phase 2 - Site Grading Emissions							
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	2.29	-	2.29

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Off-Road Diesel	10.93	65.66	82.80	-	3.80	3.80	0.00
On-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worker Trips	0.09	0.22	2.07	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Maximum lbs/day	11.02	65.88	84.87	0.00	6.10	3.80	2.30
Phase 3 - Building Construction							
Bldg Const Off-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bldg Const Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Arch Coatings Off-Gas	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arch Coatings Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asphalt Off-Gas	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asphalt Off-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asphalt On-Road Diesel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asphalt Worker Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maximum lbs/day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Max lbs/day all phases	11.02	65.88	84.87	0.00	6.10	3.80	2.30

Construction-Related Mitigation Measures

Phase 2: Soil Disturbance: Apply soil stabilizers to inactive areas
 Percent Reduction(ROG 0.0% NOx 0.0% CO 0.0% SO2 0.0% PM10 30.0%)
 Phase 2: Soil Disturbance: Replace ground cover in disturbed areas quickly
 Percent Reduction(ROG 0.0% NOx 0.0% CO 0.0% SO2 0.0% PM10 15.0%)
 Phase 2: Soil Disturbance: Water exposed surfaces - 2x daily
 Percent Reduction(ROG 0.0% NOx 0.0% CO 0.0% SO2 0.0% PM10 34.0%)
 Phase 2: Off-Road Diesel Exhaust: Use diesel oxidation catalyst
 Percent Reduction(ROG 0.0% NOx 20.0% CO 0.0% SO2 0.0% PM10 0.0%)
 Phase 2: Unpaved Roads: Water all haul roads 2x daily
 Percent Reduction(ROG 0.0% NOx 0.0% CO 0.0% SO2 0.0% PM10 3.0%)
 Phase 2: Unpaved Roads: Reduce speed on unpaved roads to < 15 mph
 Percent Reduction(ROG 0.0% NOx 0.0% CO 0.0% SO2 0.0% PM10 40.0%)
 Phase 2: Off-Road Diesel Exhaust: Properly maintain equipment
 Percent Reduction(ROG 5.0% NOx 5.0% CO 5.0% SO2 5.0% PM10 5.0%)
 Phase 3 - Building Construction Assumptions: Phase Turned OFF

Phase 2 - Site Grading Assumptions

Start Month/Year for Phase 2: Jan '04

Phase 2 Duration: 0.5 months

On-Road Truck Travel (VMT): 0

Off-Road Equipment

No.	Type	Horsepower	Load Factor	Hours/Day
1	Excavators	180	0.580	8.0
1	Graders	174	0.575	8.0
1	Off Highway Trucks	417	0.490	8.0
1	Rubber Tired Dozers	352	0.590	8.0
1	Tractor/Loaders/Backhoes	79	0.465	8.0

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Changes made to the default values for Land Use Trip Percentages

Changes made to the default values for Construction

- Phase 2 mitigation measure Soil Disturbance: Apply soil stabilizers to inactive areas has been changed from off to on.
- Phase 2 mitigation measure Soil Disturbance: Replace ground cover in disturbed areas quickly has been changed from off to on.
- Phase 2 mitigation measure Soil Disturbance: Water exposed surfaces - 2x daily has been changed from off to on.
- Phase 2 mitigation measure Off-Road Diesel Exhaust: Use diesel oxidation catalyst has been changed from off to on.
- Phase 2 mitigation measure Unpaved Roads: Water all haul roads 2x daily has been changed from off to on.
- Phase 2 mitigation measure Unpaved Roads: Reduce speed on unpaved roads to < 15 mph has been changed from off to on.
- Phase 2 mitigation measure Off-Road Diesel Exhaust: Properly maintain equipment has been changed from off to on.

APPENDIX B
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY

**WILLIAM D. WAGNER
WAGNER BIOLOGICAL CONSULTING
61116 DEVILS LADDER ROAD
MOUNTAIN CENTER, CA 92561**

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23 October 2003

TO: Jeff Ford
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Corporate Resources Group
Engineering Services Section

SUBJECT: Biological Assessment for the Skinner Filtration Plant Oxidation Retrofit Program
Additional Construction Use Area and Tualota Creek Crossing

This letter report provides the results a field assessment of biological resources within a proposed expanded construction work laydown area required during development of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Lake Skinner Oxidation Retrofit Program. The proposed laydown site is located north of the Lake Skinner Filtration Treatment Plant (between the plant and the Lake Skinner Dam) within natural vegetation north of the Tualota Creek drainage.

A field survey was conducted on October 15, 2003 in the vicinity of the proposed additional construction use area encompassing approximately 12.6 acres (550'x1,000'). Figure 1 provides a map of the proposed laydown area. Photographs 1 and 2 provide an overview of the plant communities occurring on the site.

The field survey was conducted to identify biological resource elements occurring on the site and determine the presence or absence of Stephens' Kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) within the proposed expanded laydown area.

The results of the field surveys will provide initial baseline data required to evaluate potential impacts to sensitive habitats, plants and animals, and/or assist project engineers during the planning phase so as to avoid or minimize impacts to the greatest extent feasible.

Project Description

Metropolitan is improving and expanding the existing water treatment facilities, including a new treatment module, an ozone retrofit project and a new washwater reclamation plant. The

approved Program area is southwest of the Lake Skinner Dam, and found on the Bachelor Mtn. California 7.5' USGS quadrangle at R.2W T.7S, in Section 3 and 10. Latitude ranges from approximately 33°34'22" to 33°35'27" N and Longitude from 117°03'58" to 117°04'57"W.

Initial baseline field assessment studies and overall project description is presented in the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program - Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Report No. 1198, May 2003).

This letter report only addresses the expanded work limits proposed for an additional construction laydown area required during construction and proposed widening of the dirt road crossing at the Tusalota Creek drainage.

Survey Results

Vegetation

The proposed additional construction work laydown site is in the Auld Valley-Tusalota Creek area, in front (west-southwest) of the Lake Skinner Dam. The terrain onsite is relatively flat with a broad open swale along the northern limits of the proposed laydown area. The incised Tusalota Creek drainage borders the site to the south. This drainage usually has some minor year-around flow, being feed by small amounts of water released from the nearby dam. Vegetation along the narrow linear drainage consists of dense stands of mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and uncommonly Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), Mediterranean tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and black willow (*Salix goodingii*). Other lesser components within the riparian scrub community include arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), Emory's baccharis (*Baccharis emoryi*), and Indian tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*).

Vegetation within the immediate vicinity (i.e., 75 meters up and downstream) of the proposed Tusalota Creek road crossing consist primarily of Mediterranean tamarisk and summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), with a single Mexican elderberry along the upper lip of the incised channel (north of the channel and east of the creek crossing). Scattered small clusters of mulefat and Emory's baccharis also occur along the drainage up and downstream from the proposed creek crossing.

North from the incised Tusalota Creek drainage the proposed additional construction laydown area is composed of a disturbed non-native annual grassland community admixed with ruderal (weedy) vegetation components. This community is characterized by a predominance of annual grass and forb species. Grasses commonly noted include ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), and foxtail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*).

Forbs in the disturbed grassland community consist of summer mustard, London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), Russian thistle (*Salsoa tragus*), annual sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus indica*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), tocalote (*Centarurea melitensis*), vinegar weed (*Trichostemma lanceolatum*), smooth cat's ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), hare's ear cabbage

(*Sisymbrium orientale*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), Australian saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*), heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*), Mojave silver scale (*Atriplex argentea*), Spanish clover (*Lotus unifolius*), rattlesnake spurge (*Chamaesyce albomarginata*), narrow-leaved filago (*Filago gallica*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), grab lotus (*Lotus hamatus*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and fascicled tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*). A small amount of scattered shrubs were also found in the grassland including interior flat-topped buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*) and Palmer's goldenbush (*Ericameria palmeri*).

Wildlife

Wildlife species encountered during the field survey, primarily by sign, are common and widespread residents expected to be found within the grassland community or periodically traversing over the site. Mammalian species observed during the field survey included Audubon's cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*). Animals detected by sign (e.g., tracks, scats, etc.) included Stephens' kangaroo rat, Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). A single set of mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) tracks was observed within the dirt access road.

Bird species observed flying overhead, expected to forage on and adjacent to the site, included common raven (*Corvus corax*), lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicana*), savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). A resident pair of red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) was also observed flying throughout the area. This species, along with great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*), nest in the eucalyptus trees at the base of the Lake Skinner Dam.

The only herpetofauna encountered within the project area included the ubiquitous side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*).

For a complete list of wildlife species encountered during the baseline field assessment studies, see the Biological Resources Section and associated appendices in the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program - Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Report No. 1198, May 2003).

Sensitive Plant Species and Communities of Special Interest

An Alkali Meadow community occurs north and west of the proposed additional laydown area. However, this community is not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed laydown area (see recommendations). A riparian scrub community borders the linear Tocalota Creek drainage.

No sensitive plant species was observed during the current survey. However, the Draft Program EIR identifies a single smooth tarplant (*Centromadia [Hemizonia] pungens* ssp. *laevis*) within or in close proximity (north) to the proposed expanded construction laydown area. This plant species would most likely occur in the open swale area along the northern limits of the proposed laydown area, as this species is generally found in more mesic soils.

Special Status Wildlife Species

The only special status fauna observed or detected by sign within the proposed laydown area included the Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), a federally listed endangered species. Although undetected during the current survey, several avian species would be expected to seasonally utilize the site as foraging habitat, including northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), short-eared owl (*Asio otus*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Although suitable habitat occurs onsite, no burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) was observed during the current survey or known to have previously inhabited the proposed laydown area.

No suitable riparian habitat occurs at or in the vicinity of the proposed Tualota Creek crossing for any sensitive obligate riparian species including the federally-endangered least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) or southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*).

Special Status Wildlife Species – Stephens' Kangaroo Rat

Evidence of Stephens' kangaroo rat was observed within and adjacent to the dirt access road bisecting the proposed expanded laydown site (See Photographs 3 thru 6). Although trapping was not conducted, the sign observed is believed to be that of the Stephens' kangaroo rat. Identification is based on the habitat type occupied by Stephens' kangaroo rats (i.e., annual grasslands and open bare ground) and field sign (e.g., scat, burrows, tracks, and dust bathing sites). Active burrows and sign were noted within the dirt access road and to some extent outward from the road approximately 20-30 meters. Inactive burrows were noted throughout most of the proposed construction laydown area but in trace densities. The dense grassland and ruderal vegetation (as noted in photographs 1 and 2) probably exclude most of the site from being inhabited at this time. Based on the walkover survey the SKR density within and immediately adjacent to the dirt road is estimated to be medium. Elsewhere throughout the site the density (under current conditions) would be unoccupied to trace abundance. The SKR densities identified here are based on visual counts and follow the density categories formulated by Dr. Michael O'Farrell in 1994 (high >30 SKR/ha, medium 10-30 SKR/ha, low 2-10 SKR/ha, trace <2 SKR/ha).

Impact Evaluation

Foraging habitat for raptor species that seasonally utilize the site would be unavailable for these species during use of the site as a construction laydown area. Some Stephens' kangaroo rat would be directly impacted by the grading and vegetation clearing required for the laydown site. Additionally, approximately 12 ½ acres of suitable SKR habitat would be temporarily lost during the construction phase for the Lake Skinner improvements. The single smooth tarplant, and possibly others, would be impacted by vegetation clearing for the laydown area.

Recommendations

Minimize overall temporary construction limits to the greater extent feasible. This is particularly important along the southern and northern boundary of the proposed additional construction use area. A 50-foot setback from the top of the incised Tocalota Creek drainage is recommended. Additionally, a 50-foot setback from the proposed northern limits is recommended. The 50-foot setback would remove the construction use area from the open swale north of the current proposed boundary, thereby avoiding or minimizing disturbance to mesic vegetation associated with the adjacent Alkali Meadow community, and suitable habitat for smooth tarplant. The additional construction use area limits should be fenced to avoid adverse impacts outside the construction use area.

If you have questions or require additional information, please let me know.

William D. Wagner
Biological Consultant

**LAKE SKINNER OXIDATION RETROFIT PROGRAM
ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION USE AREA
PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. Annual Non-Native Grassland Community within the proposed additional construction use area. View from dirt access road towards the east, facing the Lake Skinner Dam.



Photo 2. Annual Non-Native Grassland Community within the proposed additional construction use area. View from dirt access road towards the south, facing the Lake Skinner Filtration Plant.



Photo 3. Stephens' Kangaroo Rat burrow in dirt access road within the proposed additional construction use area. View from dirt access road towards the south, facing the Lake Skinner Filtration Plant.



Photo 4. Stephens' Kangaroo Rat dust bath and tail drags in dirt access road within the proposed additional construction use area.



Photo 5. Stephens' Kangaroo Rat burrows in dirt access road within the proposed additional construction use area.



Photo 6. Stephens' Kangaroo Rat tail drags in dirt access road within the proposed additional construction use area. Note vehicle tracks in road.

Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant
Reliability and Quality Program
Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing

Mitigated Negative Declaration

Responses to Comments

SCH #2002121111
Report No. 1219

February 2004



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

1.0 RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**1.1 INTRODUCTION**

Public review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing began on December 19, 2004, and ended on January 19, 2004. Only a single comment letters was received, from a public agency. The letter, its written comments, together with the Metropolitan response to those comments, is included immediately following this page.

1.2 LIST OF AGENCIES COMMENTING ON THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**STATE AGENCIES**

- A. Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

**OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE,
LETTER DATED JANUARY 20, 2004**

Response 1: Comment noted. As clarification, the environmental document circulated for public review was a Mitigated Negative Declaration, not a Negative Declaration.



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

Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

Jan Boel
Acting Deputy
Director

January 20, 2004

Jeff Ford
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program
SCH#: 2002121111

Dear Jeff Ford:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on January 19, 2004, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. 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 call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Director, State Clearinghouse

} 1

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2002121111
Project Title Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program
Lead Agency Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Type Neg Negative Declaration
Description The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant (Skinner Plant) Reliability and Quality Program Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing (Project). Metropolitan proposes to construct an additional construction use area, temporary creek crossing, add fencing and change the work schedule associated with the approved 630-mgd Oxidation Retrofit Program (ORP) and filtration Module Number Seven (Module 7) at the Skinner Plant located in Winchester, an unincorporated area.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Jeff Ford
Agency Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Phone 213-217-5687 **Fax**
email
Address 700 N. Alameda Street
City Los Angeles **State** CA **Zip** 90012

Project Location

County Riverside
City Hemet
Region
Cross Streets Washington Street/ Borel Road and Auld Road
Parcel No. 958040024,958110001
Township 7S **Range** 2W **Section** 3&10 **Base** SB

Proximity to:

Highways 79
Airports French Valley
Railways
Waterways Tocalota Creek
Schools Alamos School
Land Use Filtration Plant/ W-1 (Water Course, Watershed and Conservation Area) GP: Rural/Outlying

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Public Services; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 6; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Integrated Waste Management Board; State Water Resources Control Board, Clean Water Program; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9; Caltrans, District 8; Department of Health Services; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

Date Received 12/19/2003 **Start of Review** 12/19/2003 **End of Review** 01/19/2004

Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant
Reliability and Quality Program
Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing

Mitigated Negative Declaration

Mitigation Monitoring
And Reporting Program

SCH #2002121111
Report No. 1219

February 2004



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires all state and local agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring programs when adopting a mitigated negative declaration (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6). This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) satisfies the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant Reliability and Quality Program, Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing (Project) prepared by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). The MMRP will be used by Metropolitan staff responsible for ensuring compliance with mitigation measures associated with the Project.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project proposed feasible mitigation measures designed to reduce or avoid potentially significant effects of the project with respect to biological resources, cultural resources, paleontologic resources and wildland fires. Section 2.0 of this document identifies the specific monitoring and reporting requirements, including the party responsible for monitoring mitigation implementation and the implementation phase.

Section 3.0 of this document describes project elements and regulatory/permit requirements that are not part of the MMRP but are included herein to convey how the Project will comply with government codes, ordinances, or regulations and reduce further the less-than-significant project effects. The environmental categories detailed in this section are air quality, biological resources, hydrology and water quality, and hazards and hazardous materials.

2.0 MITIGATION MEASURES, CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS, AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ADVERSE IMPACT There is potential for significant impacts on the habitat near the Project site.

***MITIGATION
MONITORING AND
REPORTING PLAN***

Mitigation: IV-1 Prior to the use of the additional construction use area its limits shall be fenced to avoid significant impacts to habitat outside the construction lay-down site.

**Party Responsible
for Monitoring
Mitigation
Implementation:** Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Implementation Phase: Construction

CULTURAL RESOURCES

ADVERSE IMPACT

Potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources due to construction activities associated with the Project.

**MITIGATION
MONITORING AND
REPORTING PLAN**

Mitigation:

V-1 For all ground disturbances in previously undisturbed Holocene-age soils, work shall be monitored as appropriate by a qualified archaeologist. For any cultural materials that are observed during ground disturbance, all construction activity at the location shall be immediately suspended and the area shall be clearly staked and flagged. The materials shall be evaluated for potential significance in accordance with the *State CEQA Guidelines*. If determined not to be significant, construction shall be allowed to resume. If determined to be significant, a treatment plan shall be prepared and implemented as described in mitigation measure CR-2 in the adopted MMRP for the Final Program Environmental Impact Report prior to resuming construction.

Although human remains are not known to occur on the Skinner Plant site, the following mitigation measure is to be implemented should buried human remains be discovered.

V-6 For the discovery of human remains during construction, notification of the coroner and designated Native American representatives shall proceed in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and *State CEQA Guidelines*.

**Party Responsible
for Monitoring
Mitigation
Implementation:**

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Implementation Phase: Construction

PALEONTOLOGIC RESOURCES

ADVERSE IMPACT

Potentially significant impacts to paleontologic resources due to construction activities associated with the Project.

***MITIGATION
MONITORING AND
REPORTING PLAN***

Mitigation:

- V-2 All excavation within previously undisturbed alluvium will be monitored for paleontologic resources.
- V-3 If fossils are identified during construction activities, the area will be flagged for evaluation and recovery of specimens by a professional paleontologist.
- V-4 All recovered specimens will be documented, analyzed, and prepared to a point of identification and permanent storage.
- V-5 All recovered specimens will be permanently stored in a repository, with retrievable storage and access for research and interpretation.

**Party Responsible
for Monitoring
Mitigation
Implementation:**

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Implementation Phase: Construction

WILDLAND FIRES

ADVERSE IMPACT

Potentially significant risk of accidental fires due to construction activities associated with the Project.

***MITIGATION
MONITORING AND
REPORTING PLAN***

Mitigation:

VII-1 During construction and occupation of the additional construction use area, all parts of the work shall be connected with the Metropolitan's Contractor water supply system and adequately protected against damage by fire. Hose connections and hose, water casks, chemical equipment, and other equipment required by local jurisdictions shall be provided for fighting fires.

VII-2 During construction and occupation of the additional construction use area, the exhaust pipes of internal combustion engines used in the work shall be equipped with approved spark arresters.

**Party Responsible
for Monitoring
Mitigation
Implementation:**

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Implementation Phase: Construction

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND REGULATORY/PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes those elements of the Project that will be incorporated into the Project description or implemented to comply with previously approved environmental documents government codes, ordinances, or regulations. These elements are not part of the MMRP but are presented here to convey information about other commitments made as part of the Project that will further reduce Project effects.

3.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION ELEMENTS BY TOPIC

3.2.1 Air Quality

- The construction of the elements of the Robert A. Skinner Reliability and Quality Program Additional Construction Use Area and Creek Crossing will have emissions controlled by mitigation measures described in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Program.

3.2.2 Biological Resources

- Impacts to Tocalota Creek will be reduced through the permitting requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game. These agencies have a “no net loss” wetland requirement and seek to retain habitat function and values through the permitting process.

3.2.3 Hydrology and Water Quality

- The Project will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit because of potential construction impacts to stormwater. The permit will require the implementation of Best Management Practices approved by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to decrease the amount of pollution in stormwater leaving the site.

3.2.4 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Construction activities will follow applicable safety laws to ensure safe working conditions for construction workers, including the requirements of the California Occupation Health and Safety Agency (Cal/OSHA), California Code of Regulations Construction Safety Order (CSO) and General Industry Safety Orders (GISO) that are applicable to the work. Appropriate health and safety procedures will be implemented.

3.3 LIST OF PERMIT REQUIREMENTS BY AGENCY

In addition to the mitigation measures described in the MMRP, the MND identified the following permits or approvals, that would be required from other agencies.

- County of Riverside, Noise Ordinance Variance;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit;
- California Department of Fish and Game, Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, Section 1600 et seq. of the State of California Fish and Game Code; and
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for construction related stormwater impacts and Clean Water Act, Section 401 Certification.

